

KONSTFACK

Department of Design, Interior architecture and Visual communication

Master's programme in Design

Course code: MDE104

Course name: Introduction and broadening of perspectives, 30hp

Test code: IP12

Valid for: HT19

COURSE MODULE DESCRIPTION

Explorations 2 (Intentions)

6 credits of total 30

This description concerns the students participating in the specialisation Individual Study Plan in Design, fall 2019.

Responsible teacher: Looove Broms

Participating teachers: Looove Broms, Martin Avila, guest teachers and lecturers.

General

This module within the course 'Introduction and broadening of perspectives' is concerned with research through design; making prototypes, constructing and carrying out explorations in specific situations and contexts. The student articulates a focus which results in material and immaterial proposals within the framework of design. Approaches, techniques, methods and terminology are constantly tested and reformulated.

The student gathers the material in their ATLAS, the academic portfolio and pursues and develops their individual study plans.

Activities, include tutoring, workshops, seminars, lectures, field trips, etc.

This module is an extension of Explorations 1. Explorations 2 further explores work to date but with a more articulated focus on the design intention, the design experiment, and its relations to surrounding contexts.

INTENTIONS

How do things in the wild echo their designer's intentions? Certain types of artefacts are rarely reflected on or even noticed while other seem to provoke strong emotions or even feed controversies. What happens when a new thing enters existing networks of people, products and their associated practices? What are the designers goals and when does a design proposal count as a success or a failure? Can intentions be communicated through things?

Focusing on the design experiment as an approach for opening up relations between humans and things (other-than-humans in general), this second exploration will approach the topic of 'intentions'. You will reflect on your own intentions as a designer in relation to the existing social practices that have been formed by humans and artefacts. The designer is always, in one way or another, part of these processes, manifesting social order and directing how activities are carried out through the production of products, services and systems.

After this exploration you should be more able to critically examine designed artifacts, articulate different aspects of their constitution and (re-)design in a more conscious and reflective way. You should also be more apt in reflecting on your own design process in relation to different contexts and situations. In other words, you should be more comfortable in using design as a mean for critical reflection.

Learning outcomes

(see course syllabus "MDE104 Introduction and broadening of perspective")

Module requirements

To get a passing grade the students must do all of the following;

- Partake in workshops, reviews, seminars, lectures, pin-ups, and other scheduled events,
- show that the project has been autonomously planned and performed the project and created a proposals with relevance to the intended context and use, level of precision, or articulation,
- have used methods and approaches that have been suitable for a the project and argue for the choice,
- judge the quality of a his/her own and others students' work and design proposals in relation to the relevance for an intended end recipient,
- explain and justify her/his own proposal in such a way that the intended experiences are clear and make sense,
- position their practice with the help of three projects in the field of design, three examples from other practices, and three readings/texts,
- develop and create an Individual study plan.

present and document revised a ATLAS including iterations

- demonstrate your ATLAS/academic portfolio

Module structure and teaching methods, including assignment:

During this course module you will situate yourself as a designer in a chosen context and get acquainted with theoretical concepts that can act as inspiration when conducting an explorative design process. Reflect on the differences and where you would like to position yourself and your work.

Choose one (or more that you combine into one) of your nine design experiments (that you developed in Explorations 1) and develop it further into a more articulated design proposal* For your design considerations, motivate your choices. Reflect on what ideas and traditions you intend to inscribe in your proposal and how it could be interpreted. Where do you want to position yourself in your design space in relation to your original product of choice? What impact would you like your design proposal to have? These questions along with your design experiment should act as your vehicle for the continuing exploration.

You will have to choose a context and prototype a design intervention. It can be in urban ecologies or agroecosystems, to name two possible ones – choose a context that you think will resonate well with your intentions around your experiment. We encourage you to arrange interventions in all sorts of contexts.

During the rest of the course module, you will continue to experiment and iterate your design interventions working towards a refined and articulated design proposal. Exhibit your final proposal in a group exhibition that you plan and execute together with your peers.

Even though you have to present your own work, we encourage you to collaborate, discuss and help each other. Help each other doing your design interventions!

* If you find your chosen product problematic you can also continue your exploration based on more general insights from Exploration 1 that you manifest in a new object. Talk to us before you do this.

Examination:

The assessment of your work is done continuously. Apart from this you will:

- participate in the exhibition at the end of the module
- demonstrate your ATLAS/academic portfolio
- demonstrate as well as critically reflect on exhibited work at the end of the module.

Please check Student Guide.

Grade criteria

Work is continuously assessed based on presentation and exhibition of the work produced, and as incorporated into the ATLAS. To be assessed in the following three criteria:

- 1) Relevance for the design professions and disciplines.
- 2) Academic and artistic approach
- 3) Communicability

To receive a passing grade for this module you need to demonstrate:

- how all the work done fulfils the learning outcomes
- that your ATLAS contains material necessary to show that you have reached the learning outcomes

Also:

- your ATLAS and the work done in relationship to the assignments during this module has to be presented in appropriate/arguable ways in an exhibition in the therefore provided space at the end of the module.

More specifically you must do the following:

- show that you have planned and performed the project and created a design proposal that has a high and relevant level of precision, or articulation
- have used methods and approaches that have been suitable for a the project and argue for the choices
- judge the quality of a your own and other students' work and design proposals in relation to the relevance for the intended "end users" and other stakeholders,
- explain and justify the design proposal in such a way that the relevant stakeholders' intended experiences are clear and make sense, and
- actively participate in classes, tutoring and presentations throughout the course.

Your work must continuously advance your individual study plan.

You are encouraged to update your ATLAS continuously. Your ATLAS and Individual Study Plan will be part of an Examination during Explorations 2.

Course literature and other teaching aids

Latour, Bruno, (1992) Where are the Missing Masses? The sociology of a few Mundane Artifacts, in Bijker, Wiebe E., Law, John (eds) *Shaping Technology/Building Society*, Cambridge, Mass. : MIT Press pp 225-258

The students will also propose own literature and other materials relevant to their exploration. There will also be readings and other references provided during the course.

Schedule will be distributed separately

Document updated up by:

Loove Broms, Martin Avila

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