STAY IN THE LOOP

APD1
Design Methodology

APD2
Technological Innovation

BA1
Design Presentation 1

BA2
Hot Team 3

BA3
Hot Team 3

IDI
Project 3: Ergonomics

IxD1
Project 1: Professional Product

IxD2
Project 3: Interaction Concept

TD1
CAID - Advanced level for TD

TD2
Project 3: Vehicle Interior

Single subject courses
Product design: Semantics and form
Behaviour and aesthetics in the planning
Swedish for Industrial Designers

Kitchen cleaning: IxD1
Workshop cleaning: TD 1 & 2

CREDITS
Thanks for your contributions.
Future articles & photos can be sent to:
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by Thursday evenings.
We love hearing from you!!
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INSPIRATION

http://www.novastructura.net/ - Giuseppe Randazzo’s site with some great
eamples of generative graphics
http://infosthetics.com/ - A weblog which explores the symbiotic relationship
between creative design and the field of information visualization
http://bravecadet.com/ - The blog of Chicago-based Designer, Publisher and
Tech Enthusiast Matt Marrocco

Do you have any inspirational sites or blogs that you want to share with the
rest of the school? Send them in to wozzop@gmail.com

Weekly TED video

Designing electronics is generally cumbersome and expensive -- or was, until
Leah Buechley and her team at MIT developed tools to treat electronics just
like paper and pen. In this talk from TEDYouth 2011, Buechley shows some
of her charming designs, like a paper piano you can sketch and then play.

Watch it here: http://on.ted.com/bFIV

Christmas market at Gammlia

As the light slow by slow is disappearing and snow is (hopefully) just around
the corner the Christmas market at Gammlia is coming up in a few weeks.
There will be more extensive information about this in the upcoming weeks,
but for now I would already book in the 8th and/or 9th of December to take a
deep dive into Swedish culture.

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vimeo.com/uid & vimeo.com/ixdumea
Our final player for this round of EC is Peter Kjaer, the founder and current dean of Umeå University’s Architecture School. Peter Kjaer has an interesting view on both the architecture and the design world. He has worked as an architecture professor, an architecture consultant, and has also collaborated on projects with IDEO. We sat down together to discuss how he ended up here in Umeå, and his views on the similarities between architecture and design.

So Peter, where are you from? I’m from Denmark, I lived my whole life there, then I was invited by the University of Umeå to create an architecture program for the school, set to start in September 2009, and I did.

How did you get started in architecture? I thought I should be a medical doctor. Just like Allan. Yes Allan did that! I was thinking that I should either be a doctor, or something with philosophy, or a landscape architect. These were my three choices. I did none of them. But some philosophy really touched upon architecture, and I heard a lecturer say that architecture in a way is embodied philosophy, and if you go back in history, if you take the Greek or Roman city, it is an embodied philosophy of how life is, how an empire is constructed. So then I went to the school of architecture, found that it was quite easy to attend, and then I said, here I might have a possibility to combine my interests: for humans, for philosophy, and for landscapes. When I graduated, I became employed as a teacher at my university, and I have been teaching ever since. Outside the school I work on side projects. I established my own university, and I have been teaching ever since. Outside the school, I collaborate on projects with IDEO. We sat down together to discuss how he ended up here in Umeå, and his views on the similarities between architecture and design.

Do you see any similarities between architecture and design? Where I can see the collaboration: there was a guy in IDEO named Bankroft, an HR director, and we were talking about a situation where architecture and design are becoming the same. Let’s say that we should create emergency housing that could be used in places where big earthquakes or flooding occur. It would be impossible to say who, the architect or the designer, should design what. There is no distinction. Designers could create the exterior, architects could create the infrastructure with water and electricity, the designers could create the lighting fixtures, the interfaces, how to purify water. Everything could and have been designed by both architects and designers. There are strengths in both professions which are different, but both contribute in all aspects of that type of project. For me, this is really interesting, because it demonstrates to me that in our practice, there could be strong relations. If you are looking for similarities, they are there. I do not see that many joint activities in the programs of education as it is now, unfortunately.

What is an interesting project the Architecture School is now involved in? We are now working in Mumbai, one of the most densely populated places in the world. Families are living in flats of only ten square meters, no infrastructure but electricity. If you need to use the toilet, you can go to one of the public toilets at a cost of one rupee, a tenth of a Swedish Kroner, but for them that money is a fortune. The poorest of these people cannot afford it, so they go to the local dumps. And for women, if they go at night, there is danger from rats and there is also, unfortunately, the danger of rape. It creates a lot of infections, and 18 000 people in India every year die from infection and diarrhea. So here hygiene is the big issue. We do not have the finances to restructure, we cannot take them out of the slum because they are proud of their homes, but we want to improve their lives. So what do we do? We cannot design the big architectural dream, but we can provide a small scale solution to improve the most needed things. We cannot put a toilet in every flat or establish a sewage system, the city is built upon a swamp, a very wet area. So what can we create to solve this problem? And therein lies the new architecture: the new architecture lies in between design and new architecture. The solution is dictated by the project and the culture, not by the architect’s or the designer’s preexisting way of thinking. The new solutions will be small scale.

What is something that I would not know about you, unless I were to ask specifically? It’s a little bit embarrassing, but before I became rector of my old university in 1998, I had been running marathons for three years, and I did that for two years as rector. I really enjoy these long runs, because after a while the body begins to produce endorphins, and it’s fantastic. It gives a mental space. The first three kilometers are always a struggle, and the body works to get a rhythm. After eight or nine kilometers the body begins to release hormones, by the fifteenth kilometer you are relaxed. Now, my kids have challenged me, they said I need to prove I can still do it, so next year I will be running the marathon in Berlin.

We should go running together sometime! I would love that!
CONTEXT
BEAUTY
MEANING