

PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Vision

Design is everywhere. Everything we use in our daily lives, everything that is made by human hands is design. Therefore we as designers design the world and influence people's behavior, changing society. And I, as a designer, feel responsible for contributing in creating the future society. I believe that our current society based on consumption and making money, is coming to an end. As I feel all around me, people are getting sick of the coldness, speed and indolence of this society. In my view we have to create a society in which sensing and wellbeing of people is most important. By using new technology in sustainable designs, we can create a more pleasant living environment.

Identity

I grew up in a small village close by nature. I love to live outside and I am always impressed by the nature around me. I think that it is very important to take care of your living environment. Your living environment is a big part of your identity and therefore a part of you. So I believe people should feel responsible and take care of their living environment in the same way they take care of themselves. I want to make people aware of their lifestyles, to broaden their view on their living environments. I feel that when you have a good look around you, and look at things from different perspectives, you see much more things you can enjoy. I show this in products and projects that bring people together.

Core Competencies

Ideas and concepts

I want to learn to brainstorm in a much more open minded way and let all conventions go. I also want to regulate the flood of ideas that sometimes spontaneous come popping up when I don't need them, and stay away when I am pressurized to come up with something. In my project I try to stimulate my group members to criticize less, and think more out of the box. I am going to an expert for information about different brainstorm techniques. Then I want to set up a brainstorm session within my project group, using at least two different brainstorm techniques. Afterwards I want to reflect on the session and I want my group members to reflect on me. Since we have to brainstorm a lot during our project I want to do another brainstorm session to try to put in practice what we have learnt.

Integrating Technology

This competency I definitely want to develop during this project. I want to find out what kind of technology we can use in our project and I want to build a working prototype. Therefore I want to learn soldering. I'm going to attend a workshop of Studium Generale. Afterwards I want my workshop leader to assess my soldering so I can improve my soldering skills even further while building the prototype. I also want to learn the basics of Arduino programming. Within our project group there are two members who are attending an Arduino-workshop. I want to work together with them by programming one Arduino for our prototype. We are going to show our prototype on the Demo Days. There we will ask for feedback. To deliver a showcase I want to learn Web programming. To gain information I'm going to watch online courses. I want to use this course to write my own showcase. I will ask my coach for feedback on my showcase. Every semester I want to improve my showcase.

User focus and perspective

I find this competency really important to my development. I am interested in psychology and why people behave the way they do. And, as I can imagine the feelings of others quite well, I wonder if I can use this characteristic to develop this competency. Or maybe developing this will be less difficult for me than for others. This project I want to do at least one user test. I'm going to ask an expert on how to set up the user test, and afterwards give feedback on the results. To put in practice what we have learnt, I want to do another user test, which we will reflect on in our project group.

Socio-cultural awareness

To improve society, you first have to understand society. For me this means to look at the contexts of certain aspects of society. Analyze it, think about it, and only then you can start to design. That's why I believe socio-cultural awareness is a really important competency to me. During this project I want to do literature research about the sociocultural aspects of awkwardness, which we will use in our project.

Designing business processes

I do not have any knowledge about designing business processes. And at this point I do not see an opportunity, nor the desire to develop this competency area during my project. I plan on choosing future projects or assignments to develop this competency area, and I want to use these developments in my design process.

Form and senses

During the last year of my primary school, I attended a workshop 'working with clay' at an art institute. This workshop was the base of a hobby, making pottery. So I do have experience in 3D form design, and in working with ceramic materials. I also made some of my clothing by my own, so I already have experience in sewing and knitting. During secondary school I attended the subject 'art' where I learned

to be very critic about aesthetics. I think I can improve this quality in this competency area. During this project I want to deliver a working prototype. That means that the interaction between our product and the user should be right. Therefore I need to learn about form, movement and the interaction. I want to read articles about these subjects to gain information and I want to do a user test. This information I want to use to improve our concept and prototype. I also want to ask an expert to give feedback on our concept and our prototype.

Descriptive and mathematical modeling

During my secondary school I attended extra mathematical classes. The mathematics I learned there are very useful in the subject Calculus. I am very determined to pass my calculus class during the first 8 weeks of my study. Within my project I want to develop this competency area by understanding a mathematical model which describes the behavior of our design and I want to be able to write at least one simple mathematical model. To achieve this I want to go to an expert to gain information about these models, and ask feedback on the simple models I wrote.

Meta Competencies

Design and Research Processes

A great design is based on great research, so this research it is very important to my development as a designer. I want to learn which research processes fit my project this semester. As I have written in my Core Competencies, I want to do several researches. This semester I want to get familiar with the research processes user tests, expert interviews and literature research. The only way to develop this competency area is to do research in practice. I am going to collect all the research I did during this project and ask my coach to reflect on it.

A great design also depends on a great design process. And as this project is the first design process go through, every experience is a development in this competency area. I want to keep track of my design process so I can reflect on it afterwards. I also want to ask my coach to reflect on my design process either.

Teamwork

As person I really like to work in a team. You have to help each other and you learn from each other. You have to adapt to your teammates and work together towards the same goal. This project I want to find out what my strengths and weaknesses are while working in a group. I want to keep track of the work I do and which role I take in my project group. Afterwards I want my teammates and me to reflect on our teamwork and the roles my team members and I took during this project.

Communication

As a designer I want people to recognize me through my products. Therefore I have to develop my own, personal style in communication. I want to look at the styles of different designers and see how their work reflect their personalities. Then I want to look at myself and develop my own style. I believe my own style will partly develop its own by the projects I do. The parts that rest I have to find out by myself, by looking at styles that I like and that fit me. At the end of this semester, I want to create a showcase in my own style, that reflect me.

But there are many more aspects of communication then only a personal style. This semester I want to keep track of all my developments that have to do with communication. Afterwards I want to reflect on this and ask my coach for feedback. At last I want to write my showcase. Not only writing my showcase will be developing this competency area, but my showcase has to contain my development in this competency area either.