

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 behaviour, and thus can change society. I, as a designer, feel responsible for contributing in creating the future society. Our current society and daily life depends more and more on the use of intelligent digital technologies, disconnecting us from our physical living environment. Because we are constantly focused on our digital environment, we do not let us amaze anymore by our surroundings, and therefore our experiences are getting more superficial. These superficial experiences do not have a memorable value anymore, which makes life hasty and impersonal.

As I feel all around me, people do not longer accept the coldness and speed of this complex society and thereby they realize that well-being of people is most important. To create more calmness and personal values, I believe we have to make people aware of their living environment. To do this, the sensory modality in design is important. I believe I only can design personal experiences when the look and feel of the design are perfectly right. Using light and sound as most important building blocks, I believe it is possible to make people amaze themselves again about their surroundings.

IDENTITY

I grew up in a small village close by nature. I love to live outside and I am always impressed by my surroundings. I think that it is important to take care of your living environment. Your living environment is a big part of your identity and therefore a part of you. Therefore 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 surroundings and lifestyles, to broaden their view on their living environments. I feel that when you have a good look around you and take the time to let your surroundings act upon you, you will look at things from different perspectives. Thereby you see much more things you can enjoy.

Because I want to design situations that grab your attentions and keep it for a while, all aspects of the design should come together in a logical way. I can only do this when I have a clear view on what people need, how they behave and how they interact with technology. The competency areas of Form and Senses, Socio Cultural Awareness and User Focus and Perspective are therefore the most important directions of my development as a designer

LEARNING GOALS

Gathering information through reading

From the time I went to primary school I had difficulties with reading. Often this did not bother me and I neglected my reading practice. But now I clearly see the result of these years; I now find it hard to read any text. This limits my development, not only as a designer within my studies, but also as a person. To overcome this I consequently need to practice reading.

Within my studies I want to be able to read and understand scientific articles. This will give me a clear view on my design landscape and I want to use literature to underpin design decisions.

Reading will also enlarge my vocabulary, which is helpful while reflecting, writing down my thoughts and communicating my ideas.

Activities:

Within my project I want to read 10 scientific articles. During my USE learning line I need to be able to read the courses' literature. To develop my vision, I am going to read the book 'In the bubble', by John Thackara.

Digital technology

To design for this data-driven society, knowledge and understanding of digital technology (coding and digital networks) is crucial. Just like speaking a language, programming is the language of digital technology. Therefore I have to learn programming Arduino and processing. This will offer me more freedom in prototyping and will help me to visualise ideas. I also believe that the abstract thinking method of programming is a valuable mind stretcher, which can be used when modelling complex systems.

Activities:

During the first quartile, I am going to start programming Arduino in my project. I want to program 1 prototype in the first quartile. Within the bachelor course 'Design Engineering', I want to be able to understand all programming of the prototype.

During the second quartile I am going to attend the elective 'creative programming', where I will learn the basics of processing.

Professional skills

Time management

I still feel that I am sometimes drowning in the work I have to do. I usually do not plan my activities, but just start when a deadline is coming, or when group work has to be done. I do not have a clear working rhythm, which makes studying sometimes quite stressful. The solution for this is to improve my time management. Last semester I worked on this goal, but not systematically. There are several aspects of this problem I need to improve: working rhythm, distribute the workload and prioritize the work. I want to get everything under control and running smoothly, so I will have the confidence that I can handle all responsibilities and work in a professional way.

Activities:

I am going to try two different planning methods to find out how I can work most efficiently. Within the project I want to plan our activities, and evaluate and adjust our planning every month.

Presenting

Last semester I found it sometimes hard to explain my ideas and clarify my thoughts while presenting. I want to be able to stand in front of a group and present a coherent story. To gain more confidence, I need to practice this.

Activities:

Within the project, I want to video tape a presentation, then I want to analyse the video with my group members and reflect on the way I present.

In the role of student assistant giving workshops at TU/e Junior, I will practice presenting and communicating in a different setting. My job will be to give workshops at primary and secondary schools. I am going to keep track of the workshops I give and reflect on them.

Working as a student assistant for the department of industrial design, I am going to give orientation days to small groups of potential students.

Responsibility and communication

To develop a professional work attitude, I want to take responsibilities for certain tasks, and be able to carry them. Learning how to function within a committee, and organize activities in a structured way are things I want to learn. Last year I did not attend any committees, because I did not want any responsibilities next to my studies. This year I want to develop my abilities to be a reliable member of a committee.

Activities:

I will be the treasurer of this year's gala committee of Lucid and a member of the Lucid.Bartenders. I also will be a member of the Encie, the committee of the symphony orchestra of Quadrivium that keeps the orchestra running smooth.

I will also practice a professional working attitude in the role of student assistant.

Teamwork

The major developments I made last semester had to do with teamwork. I learned that meta communication is essential to work without difficulties. Also, discussing the expectations of all group members is important to have the same work ethos. Last semester I took over quite some tasks of others, because otherwise they weren't done. This semester I am going to stick to my own work.

Another thing I saw last semester is that I can be a group leader. I have a clear overview on the project and I think I can distribute the personal sources in a team.

Activities:

I want be a group leader in my project team or my use learning line assignment. After the project I want to reflect on my role with my team members.

Aesthetics

The aesthetics of interaction is an important element of my vision. I know that I have a critical aesthetic eye, but I never learned any theoretical background as morphology or colour theory.

Activities:

I am going to attend the elective basic form giving skills. Within my project I am going to focus on interaction design. I want to read 3 articles on interaction design.

Vision

I got useful assessment feedback on my vision. This semester I want to improve my vision by the directions given. As I mentioned before, I am going to read the book 'In the Bubble' by John Thackara. I also am going to ask feedback on my vision from 3 bachelor graduated students.