

224.453 Research and Development

2015, College of Creative Arts, Spatial Design
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Spatial Design Research and Development is an intensive research-oriented paper which integrates theoretical investigations and design experiments.

*“A **text, whether a book, paper, film, painting, or building**, can be thought of as a kind of **thief in the night**. Furtive, clandestine, and always complex, it steals ideas from all around, from its own milieu and history, and, better still, from its outside, and disseminates them elsewhere...A text is not the repository of knowledges or truths... so much as a process of scattering thought, scrambling terms, concepts and practices, forging linkages, becoming a form of action. A text is not simply a tool or an instrument...Rather, it is explosive, dangerous, labile, with unpredictable consequences ...**Texts, like concepts, do things, make things, perform actions, create connections, bring about new alignments...** Deleuze’s project ... is in part about thinking, about **how to think, to think while making or rather while doing: to think as doing.**”*

Grosz, E. (2001). *Architecture from the Outside: Essays on Virtual and Real Space*. Cambridge & London: The MIT Press. pp. 57-62

This project allows for a range of approaches to research, but does privilege a research mode that integrates design and theory. It offers the potential of rethinking theory, considering it as active: 'thinking while making, thinking as doing'. You may therefore **use your design makings as a way-finding device, a means by which to track across your conceptual territory. Your project will unfold as you work into it, but there is some utility in considering Semester Two and whether you may develop a design method or performative process, or drawing, mapping or fabrication technique for use within the second half of the year.** The overarching intent is that your work throughout Semester One will give rise to a significant research question to which you will respond in Semester Two.

Your documentation of this research may also be strongly inflected by the design process or theory underpinning the work. Such a design-driven process helps to establish a research trajectory that takes you into Semester Two with a strong sense of the spatial implications of your research topic or question. This will result in a research paper suitable for presentation in a symposium forum and accompanying print publication. What is required is a balance between text, image, and artefact that is appropriate to the chosen topic and to your particular research methodology. The research project relies on self-direction throughout this process, and you will be expected to organise and engage in regular consultations with your lecturers and with other academics working in your chosen field.

THE PROCESS:

For the duration of the semester you will engage in a reflexive process of practicing theory and theorising your practice. You will:

_develop an ongoing design process of making, experimenting, or constructing as a means of critically exploring a spatial idea or process

_reflect upon, analyse and theorise this work in a text-based research document that grows incrementally

The design work should:

_generate design experiments or outputs that critically reflect upon or highlight an issue or topic relevant to spatial design and have potential for use within your semester two project

The writing should:

_outline your proposed field of research, idea/topic, process and/or emerging question and discuss how this relates to your design makings

_locate your topic within a theoretical field and methodological framework [and should quote specific theorists]

_locate it also within a discipline or practice [spatial/art/performance etc] and in reference to the work of practitioners in that field [designers/artists/crafts people etc]

PROJECT REQUIREMENTS

You will be required to hand in:

part 1: Present & Submit Week 4

- 'field map' and initial annotated bibliography
- research snapshot (see below)
- images of makings (exploratory design material)
- initial writing
- reflection/summary

[research snapshot]: an A4 proposal which locates your key IDEA/TOPIC/PROCESS; identifies the FIELD (spatial/performance/exhibition/art practice etc); outlines key THEORY (include quotes)

Communicating your research: THE RESEARCH SNAPSHOT

working title of research project: *(an encapsulation of your theoretical position)*

WHY [motivation]

WHERE/WHEN/WHO [context]

field *(eg spatial design, performance design, exhibition design etc)* - cluster & individual
key literature/precedents/theorists/practitioners
site/situation *(if applicable)*

WHAT [content]

research statement or proposition *(eg this research project explores a pervasive architecture of air)*

HOW [research method/process]

research methods
design strategy *(eg making paper darts / mapping their flight / developing spatial designs from this)*

initial explorations, findings, anticipated direction and emerging questions

part 2: Submit Week 6

As a cluster:

- symposium presentation proposal
- guest speaker invitations
- updated 'field map'

As individuals:

- updated research snapshot
- abstract
- key images
- updated annotated bibliography

part 3a: Submit Week 8

- first draft

part 3b: Submit Week 10

- final draft

FINAL SUBMISSION - Week 11/12

FINAL A: Submit Week 11

Digital version of your publication document, to include:

3000 word academic paper, published as part of a set of symposium proceedings

checklist: have you covered/discussed

- key IDEA/PROCESS/QUESTION
- FIELD (spatial/performance/exhibition/art practice etc)
- key THEORY (include quotes)
- DESIGN INVESTIGATIONS (include images)
- KEY FINDINGS.

500 word abstract

images (key precedents and documentation of own research makings)

annotated bibliography

cluster introduction (co-written by group and/or invited guest)

FINAL B: Present Week 12

15-20 minute paper presentation in symposium setting as part of research cluster session

checklist: we will be looking for

- emphasis on clarity of argument specific to your topic/strategy/approach
- supported by evidence from situational analysis, literature/precedent review, experimental making (research-through-design)
- polished presentations: This is an important part of the process of articulating and drawing out your ideas. **Please practice and time your presentations for the critiques.**

FINAL C: Submit Week 12

Hard copy of publication document

Documentation of Symposium/presentations

Final reflection document, to include an annotated diagram or image that outlines how your investigation could manifest in relation to spatial ideas or processes, site, and program (in preparation for the second semester project).

Submission protocol:

ALL TEXT [ESSAYS/RESEARCH SNAPSHOTS] submitted as **googledoc**.

Naming convention: **<paper number>_<lastname-firstname>_<part>_<year>**

eg **453_Foster-Stuart_part1_2015**

ALL POWERPOINTS etc submitted as dropboxed **PDFs**

FINAL SUBMISSION TO INCLUDE **3-4 HERO IMAGES** of work for publication, plus **PDF** of work,
ALL DROPBOXED

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA & LEARNING OUTCOMES

The project will be assessed in relation to whether it:	On successful completion of this paper students should be able to:
1. Demonstrates an understanding of design research methods, processes and practices relevant to Spatial Design.	1. Demonstrate an understanding of design research methods, processes and practices relevant to Spatial Design.
2. Identifies an area of focus for research and formulate a design research proposal, utilising appropriate methods, processes and practices.	2. Identify an area of focus for research and formulate a design research proposal, utilising appropriate methods, processes and practices.
3. Contextualises the chosen design research topic within an existing field of literature and creative practice	3. Contextualise the chosen design research topic within an existing field of literature and creative practice
4. Engages in design research with critical analysis, self-reflection, risk-taking and innovation	4. Engage in design research with critical analysis, self-reflection, risk-taking and innovation
5. Identifies and employs media appropriate to the topic and its articulate communication.	5. Identify and employ media appropriate to the topic and its articulate communication.

Note: Projects are assessed and moderated by the Spatial Design team. There will be a written pass/fail assessment following the formal critique and abstract/proposal submission but you are also expected to arrange for notes to be taken for you as *the verbal critique is the primary feedback mechanism*.

SCHEDULE _s1 2015

WEEK ONE: REFLECTION & RESEARCH CLUSTERS		
MONDAY	personal reflection	IND. STUDY create reflection map
FRIDAY	discuss reflections & establish research clusters	IND. STUDY set up blog, write summary reflection
WEEK TWO: REVIEW OF LITERATURE & PRECEDENTS		
MONDAY	shared literature & precedent review	IND. STUDY gather literature & precedents, establish position in relation to cluster, create map of field & relative position
FRIDAY	discuss literature/precedent/field maps	IND. STUDY write up annotated bibliography, write up summary of critical position in relation to cluster
WEEK THREE: MAKING IN RESPONSE		
MONDAY	share inspiration, start making > ethics discussion > Massey researchers / invitations to WK4 presentation	IND. STUDY continue making
FRIDAY	making and talking, writing in response	IND. STUDY continue making, writing in response
WEEK FOUR: CLUSTER PRESENTATION		
MONDAY	making and talking (in clusters), responding to each others work, planning presentation	IND. STUDY prepare for presentation
FRIDAY	PRESENTATION As a cluster, present your initial makings and findings. As a cluster, you should have: - a summary/map of the field - a collective presentation format - an invited guest As individuals, you should have: - your research snapshot - initial makings - writing in response	IND. STUDY SUBMIT [part 1]: - 'field map' & initial annotated bibliography - research snapshot - images of makings - intitial writing - reflection/summary

WEEK NINE: PEER REVIEW & PLANNING, REVISED DRAFT		
MONDAY	workshop - Symposium planning	IND. STUDY revised draft
FRIDAY	1 on 1's with revised draft > symposium marketing	IND. STUDY final draft
WEEK TEN: FINAL DRAFT		
MONDAY	1 on 1's	IND. STUDY prepare for Friday submission
FRIDAY	SUBMIT [part 3b]: final draft	IND. STUDY peer editing
WEEK ELEVEN: EDITING & PUBLISHING		
MONDAY	1 on 1's & cluster meetings	IND. STUDY prepare final papers for publication
FRIDAY	SUBMIT [final A]: digital version of publication	IND. STUDY prepare for Symposium (presentation version of paper)
WEEK TWELVE: SYMPOSIUM		
MONDAY	cluster meetings, paper presentation rehearsals	IND. STUDY prepare for Symposium
FRIDAY 29 May	SYMPOSIUM	SUBMIT [final B] - documentation of Symposium - final reflection - hard copy of publication

REFERENCES:

Borden, I. & Rüedi, K. (2000) *The Dissertation: an architecture student's handbook*. Oxford, U.K.: Architectural Press.

Doloughan, F.J. (2002) The Language of Reflective Practice in Art and Design. *Design Issues*, 18(2), 57- 64.

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