

ux design competitive analysis template

UX Design Competitive Analysis Template: A Guide to Outperforming Your Rivals

ux design competitive analysis template is an invaluable tool for user experience designers aiming to create products that not only meet user needs but also stand out in a crowded marketplace. Whether you're launching a new app, redesigning a website, or improving an existing digital product, having a clear framework to analyze competitors' UX strategies can provide critical insights that drive smarter design decisions. In this article, we'll explore how to build and use a UX design competitive analysis template effectively, unpacking its components, benefits, and tips for maximizing its impact.

Why Use a UX Design Competitive Analysis Template?

When crafting any user experience, understanding the competitive landscape is essential. A UX design competitive analysis template helps you systematically evaluate your competitors' strengths and weaknesses, uncovering opportunities to enhance your own product. This structured approach ensures you don't rely on guesswork but instead base your design choices on concrete data and observed trends.

By comparing features, usability, visual design, and overall user engagement, you gain a holistic view of what works in your industry and what users expect. Moreover, this analysis can highlight gaps in the market, allowing your team to innovate rather than imitate.

Key Components of a UX Design Competitive Analysis Template

A comprehensive UX design competitive analysis template typically includes several critical sections, each focusing on different aspects of the competitor's user experience. Here's a breakdown of the main elements you should consider incorporating:

1. Competitor Overview

Start by listing your main competitors. This can include direct competitors offering similar products or services, as well as indirect competitors who solve the same user problems in different ways. For each competitor, note essential details such as:

- Company name and website
- Product or service description
- Target audience
- Market positioning

This foundation sets the stage for deeper analysis.

2. Feature Comparison

Next, evaluate the features offered by each competitor. This includes core functionalities, unique selling points, and any advanced capabilities. A feature matrix can be helpful here, allowing you to quickly see which competitors have certain features and how they implement them.

Consider questions like:

- What essential features do users expect?
- Are there any innovative features that stand out?
- Which features seem underdeveloped or missing?

These insights inform your product roadmap and prioritization.

3. Usability and Interaction

Usability is at the heart of UX design. Evaluate how intuitive and seamless the user interactions are on competitors' platforms. Pay attention to:

- Navigation structure and clarity
- Loading times and responsiveness
- Accessibility considerations
- Onboarding process for new users

You might conduct heuristic evaluations or perform user testing to gather qualitative data, highlighting pain points or moments of delight.

4. Visual Design and Branding

Visual appeal and brand consistency greatly influence user perception. Analyze competitors' use of color schemes, typography, imagery, and overall design language. Ask yourself:

- Does the design align with the brand's identity?
- How does the visual hierarchy guide users' attention?
- Are there any standout aesthetic trends?

This can inspire your own creative direction while ensuring differentiation.

5. Content and Messaging

Effective UX isn't just about how things look and work; it's also about what is communicated. Review the clarity, tone, and relevance of competitors' content, including:

- Headlines and copywriting style
- Help and support resources
- Calls to action (CTAs)
- User feedback and testimonials

Strong, user-focused messaging can significantly enhance the overall experience.

6. User Feedback and Reviews

Gathering insights from actual users is crucial. Look for reviews, ratings, and social media mentions about competitors to understand common complaints and praises. This real-world feedback can reveal hidden UX issues or confirm successful design choices.

How to Create Your Own UX Design Competitive Analysis Template

If you're wondering how to get started, building your own UX design competitive analysis template is easier than you might think. Here are some practical steps:

1. **Identify your competitors:** Use market research and tools like SimilarWeb or App Annie to find relevant players.
2. **Define evaluation criteria:** Based on the components above, list the factors you want to assess.
3. **Choose a format:** Spreadsheets, presentation slides, or specialized UX tools like UXPressia or Miro can all work well.
4. **Collect data:** Spend time interacting with competitors' products, documenting your findings thoroughly.
5. **Analyze and summarize:** Highlight patterns, unique features, and areas where your product can

excel.

Remember, a template should be flexible and adaptable. As your project evolves, so might your analysis needs.

Tips for Making the Most of Your UX Design Competitive Analysis Template

To truly leverage your competitive analysis, consider these expert tips:

Focus on User-Centered Metrics

While it's tempting to get caught up in technical specs and flashy features, always keep user goals and pain points at the forefront. Analyze how competitors solve real problems and how your design can do it better.

Use Visuals to Communicate Findings

Heatmaps, screenshots, flowcharts, and annotated images can make your analysis more engaging and easier to digest for stakeholders. Visual storytelling helps align teams around UX priorities.

Update Regularly

The digital landscape changes rapidly. Set a schedule to revisit your competitive analysis template

periodically, ensuring your knowledge stays current and your product remains competitive.

Collaborate Across Teams

Invite input from marketing, product management, and customer support. Diverse perspectives enrich the analysis and uncover insights you might miss on your own.

Common Pitfalls to Avoid

Even with a robust template, certain mistakes can undermine your competitive analysis:

- **Overemphasizing Features Over Experience:** Feature lists alone don't guarantee good UX; focus on how features serve users.
- **Ignoring Context:** Understand each competitor's business model and audience to interpret their UX choices correctly.
- **Being Too Narrow in Scope:** Look beyond direct competitors to emerging startups or alternative solutions.
- **Failing to Act:** The best analysis is useless if it doesn't inform your design strategy and product development.

By steering clear of these traps, your use of a UX design competitive analysis template will be more productive and impactful.

Final Thoughts on Using a UX Design Competitive Analysis Template

Integrating a UX design competitive analysis template into your workflow empowers you to make thoughtful, data-driven design decisions. It fosters a deeper understanding of the competitive environment, helping you craft experiences that resonate with users and differentiate your product. Remember, the goal is not to copy others but to learn from them—taking inspiration while innovating beyond what's already out there.

Incorporating this structured analysis early and often in your design process can be the difference between a product that merely fits in and one that truly stands out. Whether you're a solo designer or part of a larger team, investing time in creating and maintaining your UX design competitive analysis template is a smart move toward delivering exceptional user experiences.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is a UX design competitive analysis template?

A UX design competitive analysis template is a structured document or framework used by UX designers to evaluate and compare the user experience aspects of competitor products or services. It helps identify strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats in the competitive landscape.

Why is a competitive analysis template important in UX design?

A competitive analysis template streamlines the process of gathering, organizing, and analyzing data about competitors' UX. It ensures consistency, saves time, and helps designers make informed decisions to improve their own product's user experience.

What key elements should be included in a UX design competitive analysis template?

Key elements typically include competitor product overview, target audience, UX features comparison, usability strengths and weaknesses, visual design aspects, user flow evaluation, accessibility, pricing models, and user feedback.

How can I create an effective UX design competitive analysis template?

Start by defining your goals, identify key competitors, list UX criteria to evaluate, create a comparison matrix, gather data through user testing or research, and include sections for insights and recommendations. Tools like spreadsheets or UX software can help organize the template.

Are there any free UX design competitive analysis templates available?

Yes, many UX communities, blogs, and design platforms offer free downloadable templates in formats like Excel, Google Sheets, or PDFs. Websites like UX Collective, Nielsen Norman Group, and Canva often provide useful templates.

How often should a UX competitive analysis be updated using the template?

It's recommended to update the competitive analysis regularly—typically quarterly or bi-annually—to account for changes in competitor products, new market entrants, and evolving user expectations.

Can a UX design competitive analysis template be customized for different industries?

Absolutely. While the core structure remains similar, the template should be customized to focus on industry-specific UX factors, user behaviors, and unique market dynamics relevant to the product domain.

What are common challenges when using a UX design competitive analysis template?

Challenges include gathering accurate and unbiased data, keeping the analysis up-to-date, avoiding subjective judgments, and ensuring that insights translate into actionable UX improvements.

How does a competitive analysis template improve collaboration within UX teams?

A well-structured template provides a shared framework and language for team members, facilitates clear communication, aligns goals, and makes it easier to share findings and prioritize UX enhancements collaboratively.

Additional Resources

UX Design Competitive Analysis Template: A Strategic Approach to User Experience Excellence

ux design competitive analysis template serves as an essential tool for UX professionals seeking to understand market positioning, user expectations, and design opportunities within a competitive landscape. As businesses increasingly invest in creating seamless digital experiences, the need to systematically evaluate competitors' UX strategies has become paramount. This article delves into the critical components of an effective UX design competitive analysis template, exploring how it informs decision-making, improves user satisfaction, and ultimately drives business growth.

Understanding the Role of a UX Design Competitive Analysis Template

A UX design competitive analysis template is more than a simple checklist; it is a structured framework

that enables UX teams to dissect and compare the user experience elements of competing products or services. By capturing detailed insights into competitors' design choices, user flows, interaction patterns, and accessibility measures, designers can identify gaps and opportunities for innovation.

This template typically encompasses a variety of dimensions, including usability, visual design, content strategy, and feature sets. It acts as a diagnostic tool, helping teams to avoid reinventing the wheel and instead build upon proven design principles. From startups to established enterprises, leveraging a well-crafted competitive analysis template ensures that UX efforts are aligned with market realities and user expectations.

Key Components of an Effective UX Design Competitive Analysis Template

When crafting or selecting a UX design competitive analysis template, several critical elements should be considered to maximize its utility:

- **Competitor Identification:** Clearly listing direct and indirect competitors to ensure comprehensive market coverage.
- **User Demographics and Personas:** Understanding who the users are for each competitor and how their needs differ.
- **Usability Metrics:** Evaluating factors such as ease of navigation, error rates, and task completion times.
- **Visual and Interaction Design:** Assessing aesthetic appeal, consistency, and interactive elements like buttons and animations.
- **Content Quality and Strategy:** Reviewing clarity, tone, and relevance of content presented to

users.

- **Technical Performance:** Analyzing load times, responsiveness, and mobile compatibility.
- **Accessibility Compliance:** Checking adherence to standards such as WCAG to ensure inclusivity.
- **Feature Comparison:** Highlighting unique functionalities or missing features relative to competitors.
- **User Feedback and Reviews:** Incorporating insights from customer reviews and ratings to gauge user sentiment.

Including these categories in a UX design competitive analysis template provides a holistic view of the competitive landscape, allowing teams to prioritize design enhancements grounded in data and user needs.

Benefits of Using a UX Design Competitive Analysis Template

Employing a competitive analysis template in UX design offers numerous advantages that extend beyond mere comparison. It systematically structures research efforts, driving efficiency and clarity in understanding competitive positioning.

Data-Driven Decision Making

By collating quantitative and qualitative data on competitors' UX, teams can make informed choices rather than rely on intuition. For instance, if analysis reveals that competitors have optimized checkout flows reducing abandonment rates, this insight can inform redesign priorities.

Identifying Market Differentiators

A well-constructed template reveals not only what competitors are doing but also where they fall short. These gaps represent opportunities for innovation and differentiation. For example, if none of the competitors prioritize accessibility, a company can capitalize on this by designing inclusive experiences that appeal to underserved user groups.

Streamlining Stakeholder Communication

Templates serve as standardized documents that facilitate communication among cross-functional teams and stakeholders. Presenting competitive insights in a structured format helps align product managers, designers, developers, and marketers around shared goals.

How to Customize a UX Design Competitive Analysis Template for Your Project

While many templates exist online, customizing one to fit your project's unique context is crucial. Several factors influence the adaptation process:

Industry and Market Specifics

UX considerations vary significantly across industries. An e-commerce platform's competitive analysis template should emphasize checkout processes and product discovery, whereas a SaaS tool might prioritize onboarding flows and dashboard usability.

User Behavior and Expectations

Understanding the target audience's behavior and preferences allows the template to focus on relevant criteria. For example, a mobile-first user base demands thorough assessment of mobile UX and app performance.

Project Scope and Resources

Depending on available resources, teams might choose to conduct a high-level overview or a detailed audit. A scalable template can accommodate both, enabling incremental depth as the project evolves.

Popular Formats and Tools for UX Design Competitive Analysis Templates

Various formats exist to capture and present competitive analysis findings effectively. Commonly used templates range from spreadsheets to interactive dashboards.

- **Spreadsheet Templates:** Excel or Google Sheets offer flexibility for tabular comparisons across multiple criteria. They facilitate sorting, filtering, and easy updates.
- **Presentation Decks:** PowerPoint or Google Slides allow the integration of visual elements such as screenshots, user flow diagrams, and charts, making insights accessible to stakeholders.
- **Specialized UX Tools:** Platforms like UXPressia, Airtable, or Miro provide collaborative environments tailored for UX research and competitive analysis, often including customizable templates.

Selecting the right format depends on team preferences, collaboration needs, and the complexity of the analysis.

Challenges and Considerations When Using a UX Design Competitive Analysis Template

Despite its benefits, relying on a competitive analysis template also presents challenges that UX professionals must navigate.

Data Overload and Analysis Paralysis

A comprehensive template can sometimes become overwhelming, leading to difficulty in prioritizing insights. It's important to focus on actionable data that aligns with project goals rather than attempting to cover every possible metric.

Rapidly Changing Market Conditions

Competitors continuously update their digital products, meaning that analysis can quickly become outdated. Regular reviews and template updates are necessary to maintain relevance.

Bias and Subjectivity

Evaluating UX often involves qualitative judgments that can introduce bias. Incorporating multiple perspectives and user testing data can mitigate this risk.

Integrating a UX Design Competitive Analysis Template into the Design Process

For maximum impact, the competitive analysis should be integrated early and iteratively throughout the design lifecycle.

- **Initial Research Phase:** Use the template to benchmark competitors and set design objectives.
- **Design and Prototyping:** Reference competitive insights to inform wireframes and interaction models.
- **User Testing:** Validate assumptions drawn from competitor analysis and refine based on feedback.
- **Post-Launch Evaluation:** Continuously monitor competitors to identify emerging trends and adapt accordingly.

This cyclical approach ensures that UX strategies remain competitive and user-centric over time.

By leveraging a carefully structured ux design competitive analysis template, organizations can systematically evaluate their position within the market and craft superior user experiences. Its role as both a research and communication tool makes it indispensable for UX teams aiming to deliver products that resonate with users while outperforming rivals.

[Ux Design Competitive Analysis Template](#)

ux design competitive analysis template: The UX Careers Handbook Cory Lebson,

2021-12-15 This second edition of The UX Careers Handbook offers you all the great advice of the first edition—freshly updated—plus a new chapter on critical soft skills, much more on becoming a UX leader, and a 17th user experience (UX) career pathway. The UX Careers Handbook, Second Edition, offers you an insider's advice on learning, personal branding, networking skills, building your resume and portfolio, and actually landing that UX job you want, as well as an in-depth look at what it takes to get into and succeed in a UX career. Whether your interests include design, information architecture, strategy, research, UX writing, or any of the other core UX skillsets, you'll find a wealth of resources in this book. The book also includes: Insights and personal stories from a range of industry-leading UX professionals to show you how they broke into the industry and evolved their own careers over time Activities and worksheets to help you make good decisions and build your career Along with the book, you can explore its companion website with more resources and information to help you stay on top of this fast-changing field. Not only for job seekers, The UX Careers Handbook, Second Edition, is a must-have for Employers and recruiters who want to better understand how to hire and keep UX staff Undergraduate and graduate students thinking about their future careers Professionals in other careers who are thinking about starting to do UX work Cory Lebson has been a UX consultant and user researcher for over two decades. He is Principal and Owner of a small UX research consultancy, a builder of UX community, and a past president of the User Experience Professionals Association (UXPA). Not only a practitioner of UX, Cory teaches and mentors to help professionals grow their UX skills and conducts regular talks and workshops on topics related to both UX skills and career development.

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ux design competitive analysis template: Fixing Bad UX Designs Lisandra Maioli, 2018-02-27 A practical guide filled with case studies and easy solutions to solve the most common user experience issues Key Features Understand and fix the pain points of a bad UX design to ensure greater customer satisfaction. Correct UX issues at various stages of a UX Design with the help of different methodologies for fixing bad UXs See best practices and established principles in UX with case studies illustrating these practices and principles Book Description Have your web applications been experiencing more hits and less conversions? Are bad designs consuming your time and money? This book is the answer to these problems. With intuitive case studies, you'll learn to simplify, fix, and enhance some common, real-world application designs. You'll look at the common issues of simplicity, navigation, appearance, maintenance, and many more. The challenge that most UX designers face is to ensure that the UX is user-friendly. In this book, we address this

with individual case studies starting with some common UX applications and then move on to complex applications. Each case study will help you understand the issues faced by a bad UX and teach you to break it down and fix these problems. As we progress, you'll learn about the information architecture, usability testing, iteration, UX refactoring, and many other related features with the help of various case studies. You'll also learn some interesting UX design tools with the projects covered in the book. By the end of the book, you'll be armed with the knowledge to fix bad UX designs and to ensure great customer satisfaction for your applications. What you will learn

- Learn about ROI and metrics in UX
- Understand the importance of getting stakeholders involved
- Learn through real cases how to fix bad UX
- Identify and fix UX issues using different methodologies
- Learn how to turn insights and finding into practical UX solutions
- Learn to validate, test and measure the UX solutions implemented
- Learn about UX refactoring

Who this book is for This book is for anyone confronted with a poorly designed UX. It is ideal for UX professionals who want to solve problems with existing UX designs, and UX designers who want to enhance their designs or analyze and rectify where they went wrong.

ux design competitive analysis template: A Simple Guide to User Experience in the AI World Dela Rostami, Are you ready to unlock the potential of AI through exceptional user experience design? UX for AI demystifies the complex world of user experience in the burgeoning field of artificial intelligence. This book is crafted for beginners and provides a thorough introduction to the essentials of UX, tailored specifically for AI applications. In this guide, you'll discover:

- Fundamentals of UX: Learn what UX is, how it differs from UX research, and why it's crucial in AI.
- History and Theory: Explore the evolution of UX design thinking and how psychological principles apply to user-centered design.
- Practical Approaches: Gain insights into defining design problems, conducting effective research, and employing AI-specific design strategies.
- Ethics and Accessibility: Tackle critical issues such as ethical design, bias in AI, and creating inclusive experiences.
- Career Guidance: Understand the landscape for UX careers in AI, including skills needed and potential career paths.

Whether you're a budding designer, a tech professional looking to shift into UX, or simply AI-curious, UX for AI offers the tools and knowledge you need to create impactful, user-friendly AI systems. Embark on your UX journey today and start designing the future of AI!

ux design competitive analysis template: UX Strategy Jaime Levy, 2021-03-12 User experience (UX) strategy lies at the intersection of UX design and business strategy, but until now, there hasn't been an easy-to-apply framework for executing it. This hands-on guide introduces lightweight product strategy tools and techniques to help you and your team devise innovative digital solutions that people want. Author Jaime Levy shows UX/UI designers, product managers, entrepreneurs, and aspiring strategists simple to advanced methods that can be applied right away. You'll gain valuable perspective through business cases and historical context. This second edition includes new real-world examples, updated techniques, and a chapter on conducting qualitative online user research. Define value propositions and validate target users through provisional personas and customer discovery techniques Explore marketplace opportunities by conducting competitive research and analysis Design experiments using rapid prototypes that are focused on the business model Conduct online user research to gain valuable insights quickly on any budget Test business ideas and validate marketing channels by running online advertising and landing page campaigns

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their teams to create more impactful research outcomes that deliver the much needed value to key stakeholders. This is a practical guide on what exactly research operations is and how it can benefit your research by streamlining your administration so the research team can focus on delivering more impactful insights with more frequency on time and to budget. This guide takes mid-career professionals through how you can reduce waste by increasing the capability of reusing past research and minimizing the potential for doing unnecessary research, how to plan your research to ensure the best outcome and how to choose the best tools for your research and business needs. It covers the incredibly practical, from considerations of GDPR, how to recruit participants and how to set up research projects so they run smoothly, as well as providing insight into how AI can be used as part of the research process, how to democratize research and how to adapt to changing needs and requirements.

ux design competitive analysis template: *Winning the Game with UX Design & CRO*

Alexander Rådahl Benz, 2021-11-15 "If I had 1 hour to solve a problem [...] I would spend the first 55 minutes determining the proper question to ask, for once I know the proper question, I could solve the problem in less than 5 minutes." — Albert Einstein In *Winning the Game with UX Design & CRO*, Author and website design authority Alexander Rådahl Benz draws on years of experience in high-end website development to offer you time-tested methods that any website developer can use to optimize your website's user experience, in order to significantly improve conversion rate, click-through percentages and customer engagement metrics. In this invaluable user experience and CRO guide, you will learn 'real-world' tested methods that can be effectively applied around the globe by website designers, with any level of prior experience: How to build websites that convert at optimum levels using CRO and UI UX Design, in a perfect marriage of web design, target audience identification and engagement How to use the 5 main principles that will maximize your website conversion rate: clarity, simplicity, credibility, urgency and social proof. Insider secrets about how CRO is used by tech giants like Uber, Airbnb, and Shopify... and how you can use the same approaches to exponentially expand your engagement. The Top 3 CRO strategies that top website designers use to stimulate sales and visibility - UX research and optimization, sales funnel analysis and A/B testing. The CRO tools that tech professionals use and how even beginning e-commerce business owners can use them to increase sales - Google Analytics, Google Search, Heap Analytics, Hotjar and more. Whether you want to start experimenting with an upgraded website design, or need some inspiration for your next project, *Winning the Game with UX Design & CRO* has something for everyone. Get ready to take your web designs to another level by implementing these simple changes!

ux design competitive analysis template: Successful User Experience: Strategies and Roadmaps Elizabeth Rosenzweig, 2015-08-03 *Successful User Experience: Strategy and Roadmaps* provides you with a hands-on guide for pulling all of the User Experience (UX) pieces together to create a strategy that includes tactics, tools, and methodologies. Leveraging material honed in user experience courses and over 25 years in the field, the author explains the value of strategic models to refine goals against available data and resources. You will learn how to think about UX from a high level, design the UX while setting goals for a product or project, and how to turn that into concrete actionable steps. After reading this book, you'll understand: - How to bring high-level planning into concrete actionable steps - How Design Thinking relates to creating a good UX - How to set UX Goals for a product or project - How to decide which tool or methodology to use at what point in product lifecycle This book takes UX acceptance as a point of departure, and builds on it with actionable steps and case studies to develop a complete strategy, from the big picture of product design, development and commercialization, to how UX can help create stronger products. This is a must-have book for your complete UX library. - Uses strategic models that focus product design and development - Teaches how to decipher what tool or methodology is right for a given moment, project, or a specific team - Presents tactics on how to understand how to connect the dots between tools, data, and design - Provides actionable steps and case studies that help users develop a complete strategy, from the big picture of product design, development, and commercialization, to

how UX can help create stronger products - Case studies in each chapter to aid learning

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ux design competitive analysis template: The UX Design Field Book Doug Collins, 2022-01-18 Whether you're new to the User Experience field or just want to refresh your UX knowledge, The UX Design Field Book is your go-to quick reference guide for everything about User Experience Design. This essential guide provides fast-access, high-level overviews of the core knowledge of UX Design, including: The UX Design Process Usability Research Visual Design Interaction Design Information Architecture Usability Testing UX Writing Accessibility Ethical Design Principles UX and Design Terminology Essential UX Design Reading Lists No matter your experience level, The UX Design Field Book is a must-have for anyone interested in User Experience. It's the perfect book to keep close-at-hand when you need fast information, quick guidance, or a crash course in any of the core elements of UX Design. Doug Collins, author of The UX Design Field Book, is an internationally recognized UX Design expert. He has lead User Experience design practices at E*TRADE, Western Union, and CACI. He currently serves as the Director of UX/UI for ALC Schools. His work has been published on Adobe.com, UX Booth, UXMastery, UXNewsMag, UXMas, and The Ecomm Manager.

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ux design competitive analysis template: Teaching and Learning Design Doctor Gjoko Muratovski, Craig Vogel, 2019-05-15 Just as the term design has been going through change, growth and expansion of meaning, and interpretation in practice and education – the same can be said for design research. The traditional boundaries of design are dissolving and connections are being

established with other fields at an exponential rate. Based on the proceedings from the 2017 International Association of Societies of Design Research conference, *Re:Research* is an edited collection that showcases a curated selection of 83 papers – just over half of the works presented at the conference. With topics ranging from the introduction of design in the primary education sector to designing information for Artificial Intelligence systems, this book collection demonstrates the diverse perspectives of design and design research. Divided into seven thematic volumes, this collection maps out where the field of design research is now. Opening a Design Education Pipeline from University to K-12 and Back • Peter Scupelli, Doris Wells-Papanek, Judy Brooks, Arnold Wasserman To prepare students to imagine desirable futures amidst current planetary-level challenges, design educators must think and act in new ways. In this paper, we describe a pilot study that illustrates how educators might teach K-12 students and university design students to situate their making within transitional times in a volatile and exponentially changing world. We describe how to best situate students to align design thinking and learning with future foresight. Here we present a pilot test and evaluate how a university-level Design Futures course content, approach, and scaffolded instructional materials – can be adapted for use in K-12 Design Learning Challenges. We describe the K-12 design-based learning challenges/experiences developed and implemented by the Design Learning Network (DLN). The Design Futures course we describe in this paper is a required course for third-year undergraduate students in the School of Design at Carnegie Mellon University. The “x” signifies a different type of design that aligns short-term action with long-term goals. The course integrates design thinking and learning with long-horizon future scenario foresight. Broadly speaking, we ask how might portions of a design course be taught and experienced by teachers and students of two different demographics: within the university (Design Undergraduates) and in K-12 (via DLN). This pilot study is descriptive in nature; in future work, we seek to assess learning outcomes across university and K-12 courses. We believe the approach described is relevant for lifelong learners (e.g., post-graduate-level, career development, transitional adult education).

Re-Clarifying Design Problems Through Questions for Secondary School Children: An Example Based on Design Problem Identification in Singapore Pre-Tertiary Design Education • Wei Leong, Leon Loh, Hwee Mui, Grace Kwek, Wei Leong Lee It is believed that secondary school students often define design problems in the design coursework superficially due to various reasons such as lack of exposure, inexperience and the lack of research skills. Questioning techniques have long been associated with the development of critical thinking. Based on this context and assumption, the current study aimed to explore the use of questioning techniques to enable pre-tertiary students to improve their understanding of design problems by using questions to critique their thinking and decision-making processes and in turn, generate more effective design solutions. A qualitative approach is adopted in this study to identify the trajectories of students during design problem identification and clarification process. Using student design journals as a form of record for action and thoughts, they are analyzed and supplemented by hearing survey with the teacher-in-charge. From the study, the following points can be concluded: (1) questions can be a useful tool to facilitate a better understanding of the design problem. (2) The process of identification and clarification of design problem is important in the development of critical thinking skills and social-emotional skills of the students. (3) It is important that students are given time and opportunity to find out the problems by themselves. (4) Teachers can be important role models as students may pick up questioning techniques from teacher-student discussions. (5) Departmental reviews and built-in professional development time for weekly reviews on teaching and learning strategies are necessary for the continual improvement D&T education.

Surveying Stakeholders: Research Informing Design Curriculum • Andrea Quam Fundamental to design education is the creation and structure of curriculum. Neither the creation of design curriculum, nor the revaluation of existing curriculum is well documented. With no clear documentation of precedent, best practices are left open to debate. This paper and presentation will discuss the use of a survey as a research tool to assess existing curriculum at Iowa State University in the United States. This tool allowed the needs and perspectives of the program’s diverse stakeholders to be better understood. Utilizing

survey methods, research revealed the convergence and divergence of stakeholders' philosophies, theories and needs in relation to design curriculum. Accreditation and professional licensing provide base level of guidelines for design curriculum in the United States. However, each program's curricular structure beyond these guidelines is a complicated balance of resources, facilities, faculty and the type of institution in which it is housed. Once established, a program's curriculum is rarely reassessed as a whole, but instead updated with the hasty addition of classes upon an existing curricular structure. Curriculum is infrequently re-addressed, and when it is, it is typically based on the experience and opinions of a select group of faculty. This paper presents how a survey was developed to collect data to inform curricular decision-making, enabling the reduction of faculty bias and speculation in the process. Lessons learned from the development of this research tool will be shared so it might be replicated at other institutions, and be efficiently repeated periodically to ensure currency of a program's curriculum.

New Challenges when Teaching UX Students to Sketch and Prototype • Joep Frens, Jodi Forlizzi, John Zimmerman In this paper we report on new challenges when teaching User Experience (UX) students how to sketch and prototype their designs. We argue that UX students sketch and prototype differently than other design students, and we discuss how changes in the field necessitate a response in education. We describe sketching and prototyping as a continuum that students successfully traverse when they follow a process of "double loop learning." We highlight three new challenges: (1) New computational design materials, (2) new maker tools and (3) changes within the tech industry. We explore these three challenges through examples from our students, and we outline strategies for sketching and prototyping in this new reality. We conclude that this is a starting point for further work on keeping education up to speed with practice.

How to Teach Industrial Design?: A Case Study of College Education for Design Beginners • Joomyung Rhi Industrial design education has existed for a long time as part of the university system, but the curriculum and contents of each subject vary considerably from school to school. In recent years, the introduction of new concepts that change the definition of design has blurred the boundaries of design, making the curriculum different. Establishing a standard curriculum to address these challenges is an important task, but it is necessary to fully understand how design education actually takes place and to share content with educators. This paper aims to contribute to the debate on industrial design education by fully disclosing the process and results of the first stage of industrial design education of a university by autobiographical method. The first course, Product Design Practice 1, is a studio class based on a task feedback iteration system. Students are required to submit assignments showing weekly progress. The instructor reviewed the assignments submitted before the class and gave written comments in class. In addition, details of the design process and method that are difficult to identify as novice students are learned through twelve case studies and applied to the project. This Task Feedback Repeating Class system gives students the opportunity to implement design ability while gaining detailed skills with a comprehensive view. Through this process, the researcher got a reflection on the class and implications for the improvement of the class.

Preliminary Study on the Learning Pressure of Undergraduate Industrial Design Students - Wenzhi Chen Learning pressure affects students' learning process and performance. Industrial design education emphasizes that operations on real design problems that have heavy working loads may cause learning pressure. The purpose of this study is to explore the issues causing learning pressure and the pressure management strategies of undergraduate industrial design students. There were 297 students who participated in the questionnaire survey. The main findings are as follows: First, learning pressure includes academic pressure, peer pressure, self-expectations, time pressure, financial pressure, pressure from instructors, external pressure, future career, pressure from parents, resource pressure, achievement and situational pressure. In addition, the main learning pressure is caused by finance, time, resources, external issues and future career. Second, the pressure management strategies include problem solving, procrastination and escape, help seeking, leisure, emotional management and self-adjustment. The most useful strategy for managing pressure is leisure, and procrastination and escape is the least useful strategy. Third, all learning pressures are significantly correlated with

procrastination and escape strategy, but the coefficients are low. The results can be a reference for industrial design education and related research.

Rewarding Risk: Exploring How to Encourage Learning that Comes from Taking Risks • Dennis Cheatham High-stakes testing that became the norm after the “No Child Left Behind Act” of 2001 helped condition students to strive for correct answers for clear problems, all on the first try. However, the iterative process inherent in designing requires risk-taking to conduct a trial-and-error process of defining problems and exploring possible solutions. This design research project was operated with Miami University Graphic Design students to test their willingness to take risks in their coursework to achieve their self-defined measures of success. Students identified that improving their skills was how they defined success. An interaction design assignment involving front-end coding was modified to test students’ comfort taking risks to grow their skills. Most students took risks in the assignment to grow their interaction design skills. The project revealed that closer attention to student motivation when developing learning experiences could help students make the transition to practicing design as an iterative process fraught with risk.

An Analysis of the Educational Value of PBL Design Workshops • Ikjoon Chang, Suhong Hwang The purpose of this study is to plan and operate design-workshops based on project-based learning (PBL), and examine their educational value for students. The PBL workshop encourages direct participation from students and produces educational value, and it is important to raise the interest level of workshops to elicit proactive participation. The workshop in this study was carried out over 2 weeks in January 2017 at Korea’s Yonsei University. The workshop was composed of eight teams of students from three countries, including Korea, China and Japan, and the course was primarily divided into two sessions. The workshop participants examined in this thesis were notably satisfied with the elements of the course meant to garner interest. In the questionnaire results, participants also indicated that they obtained ample educational value through the workshop. An important element of the workshop was to connect the participants with businesses, which is also an important component of design education. Despite this, participants expressed a relatively lower level of satisfaction compared to other elements of the workshop. The results and analysis of this study will hopefully become a meaningful resource for educators when designing workshops in the future.

Collaborative Design Education with Industry: Student Perspective by Reflection - Nathan Kotlarewski, Louise Wallis, Michael Lee, Gregory Nolan, Megan Last This study suggests that student reflection on academic and industry collaborative projects can enhance student’s understanding on the design process to solve live industry problems. It contributes to the body of design literature to support students learning of explicit and implicit knowledge. A 2017 learning by-making (LBM) unit in the School of Architecture and Design, at the University of Tasmania, Australia, developed a unit for students to collaborate with Neville Smith Forest Products Pty. Ltd (NSFP). NSFP is a local Tasmanian timber product manufacturer who currently stockpiles out-of-grade timber that has limited market applications. Undergraduate design students from second- and third-year Furniture, Interior and Architecture degrees collaborated with NSFP to value-add to their out-of-grade resource in the LBM unit. A series of design challenges, observations of industry practice and access to out-of-grade timber from NSFP exposed students to live industry problems and provided them the opportunity to build professional design skills. Students reflected on the collaborative LBM unit in a reflection journal, which was used to provide evidence of their learning experiences. The collaborative environment between academia and industry allowed students to acquire an understanding of timber product manufacturing that helped them develop empathy toward the industry problem and influence the development of new products. This study presents how student reflections influenced a change in their design process as they progressed through sequential design challenges to address an industry problem by adopting Valkenburg and Dorst reflective learning framework.

Interdisciplinary Trends in Design Education: The Analysis of Master Dissertation of College of Design and Innovation, Tongji University • Lisha Ren, Yan Wang This paper expounds the background of Chinese design education as well as the orientation of the design education of Tongji University in the new times, it also collects 458 Master Thesis of College of Design and Innovation during 2010-2016 as analyzed sample. Based on the coding of subject

classification, quantitative analysis and content analysis are made in order to understand the interdisciplinary education status of College of Design and Innovation from the two perspectives: the overall cross-disciplinary performance and the relationship between different cross-disciplinary directions. From ANT to Material Agency: A Design and Science Research Workshop • Anne-Lyse Renon, A. De Montbron, Annie Gentes, Julien Bobroff This paper studies a design workshop that investigates complex collaboration between fundamental physics and design. Our research focuses on how students create original artifacts that bridge the gap between disciplines that have very little in common. Our goal is to study the micro-evolutions of their projects. Elaborating first on Actor Network Theory we study how students' projects evolved over time and through a diversity of inputs and media. Throughout this longitudinal study, we use then a semiotic and pragmatic approach to observe three "aesthetical formations": translation, composition and stabilization. These formations suggest that the question of material agency developed in the field of archeology and cognitive science need to be considered in the design field to explain metamorphoses from the brief to the final realizations.

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that this book explores, including: - The fundamentals of design research and UX development - Classic visual design topics such as colour, image, layout and typography - Essential media-specific topics such as working with data, interactivity, motion and sound - Important guidance on how to present your work For this new editions there are brand new chapters on Motion and Sound (including storyboarding, sonic interaction and UX storytelling), Data (including data as a material, AI and anticipatory design) and Interactivity (including accessibility, gesture control and voice UI). With over 150 inspirational examples from a diverse range of leading international creatives and award-winning agencies, this is a must-have guide for budding designers. In addition, industry perspectives from key design professionals provide fascinating insights into this exciting creative field. Each chapter concludes with a workshop tutorial to help you put what you've learnt into practice.

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