Assignment Description – Portfolio of Mini-design Challenges
Sustainable Design 2014

"Enlightened trial and error outperforms the planning of flawless intellects"
- David Kelley, CEO of international design firm IDEO

"If you think you can't draw, too bad. Do it anyway"
- Tim Brown in 'Change by Design'

The purpose of this assignment is to stimulate you to start thinking visually, practice sketching and idea generation skills, and to explore the different theories and methods of sustainable design in a practical way. Mini challenges will require you to think on your feet and create ideas for design problems/sustainability problems under time constraints and with partial information. These skills will be crucial during the group project later in the course.

Assignment

- Each week, from the first introduction lecture in January until the second seminar in April, you will receive 1 or 2 mini-design challenges. Challenges will be given to you by either the guest lecturers or the course coordinators. They will be distributed in class, included in the course reader or posted on the course portal.

- Try to quickly solve the challenge, try not to spend more than 10 – 15 minutes on one challenge.

- Create quick and simple visuals for all mini-challenges. Get creative here and try to play with different visualization forms. For example you can sketch on post-its, flip-overs, make a mind map, draw on photos from newspapers, make a quick paper 3D model, or… anything else you can think of. Remember, the aim is to solve the challenge, not make a beautiful picture.

- In this assignment 'more is more' so if you can make 10 quick solutions instead of 1 in 15 minutes that is strongly encouraged.

- Document the outcome of all your mini-challenges: either in a physical way (e.g. keep sketches, diagrams, etc) or make pictures of everything.

Submission

- Gather all your mini-design challenges in one well-prepared portfolio; this can also be either physical or digital.

- During the course, there will be 10 weeks in which you will be given mini challenges to complete. In order to pass this assignment, you must submit pieces of work for a minimum of 8 out of 10 of the weeks.

- It must be clear to the reader which of the mini-challenges each piece you submit is supposed to solve. On each piece, write the date of that week's class. For example, for the

first week's mini-challenges you would write "22nd January" somewhere on each piece of work you create. This way we will be sure know what challenge you were answering.

- Include your name, date and name of the assignment in your portfolio. Include your name on all individual pieces.

- Please submit your portfolio to sdesign@csduppsala.uu.se or in physical form no later than Tuesday, the 25th of March, 2014.

Assessment

- Please note that this assignment will not be assessed on the quality of your visualizations, instead you will be assessed on the effort and creativity that you have put in the assignment.

- These are the requirements to pass the course:

    - Your attempt to solve each mini-challenge includes a visual component
    - You submit pieces of work for a minimum of 8 out of 10 of the weeks of challenges
    - When you submit work for a particular week, you answer all the challenges given that week (it may be one or two mini-challenges, depending on the lecturer that week).
    - Your portfolio is organized in a way in which the reader can clearly understand which challenge you are answering with each piece of work you submit

If you have any questions, feel free to contact the course coordinators through email or come talk to us!

Good luck with the assignment,

Lakin & Heleen