


A (Brief) Walk

WEEK 1

WEEK 2

M T W T F S S M T W T F S S



part 0: introductions

thursday 5th march

introduction

Iman Raza Khan

first

Studied Architecture at the University of Auckland

4 years teaching + research:
Uoa and AUT

then

practice: Bull O'Sullivan

practice + research + teaching:
community builds and activations |
mosque interior fit outs

now

Lecturer at Unitec

PhD at Monash University



2024-2025, Design Studio 1 work at Unitec.

introduction

Oliver Ray-Chaudhuri

first

Studied Architecture at the University of Auckland

research

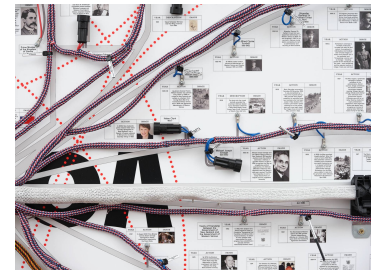
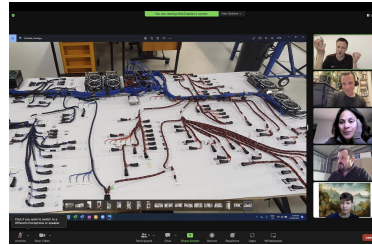
then

bypass

now

Teaching at UoA

Practicing at W10 + Studio Precht



2020-2022, Research Assistant for *Creation Stories* by Simon Denny and Karamia Müller

introduction

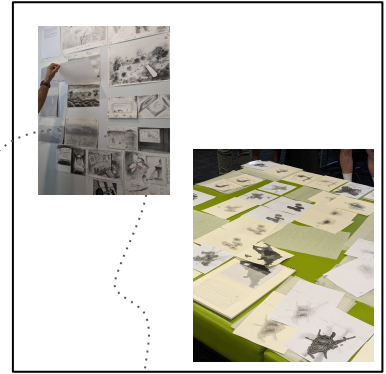
side___walk



AUT

academia

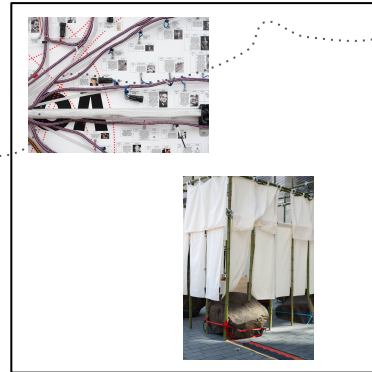
Unitec



iman

side___walk

oliver



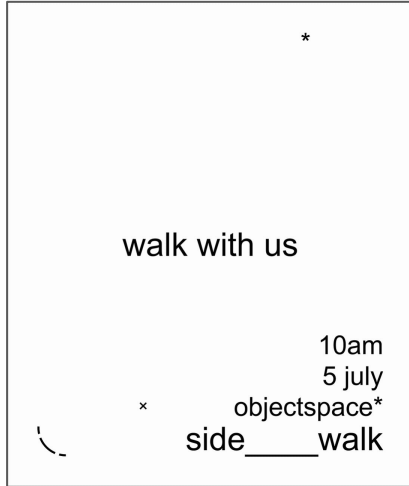
jack

practice

UoA

introduction

side____walks




introduction

side____walks



*
walk with us
10am
5 july
* objectspace*
side____walk



introduction

side____walks



Walking guided by
instinct, curiosity and
chance encounter

Recording our discoveries
through photography,
drawing and conversation

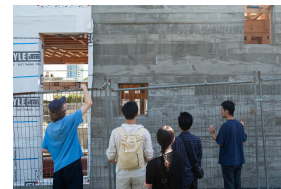
walk with us

*

10am
5 july

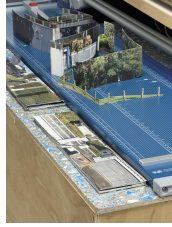
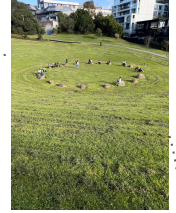
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objectspace*
side____walk



introduction


side _____ walks



Side Walk contribution to the *Material Acts* exhibition at Objectspace, 2025

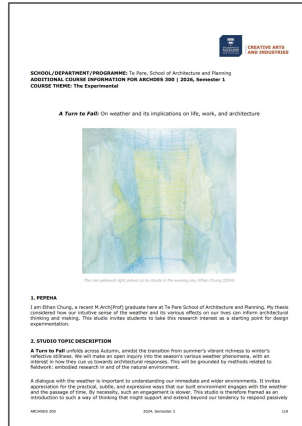


part 1: gathering

 thursday 5th march

oli

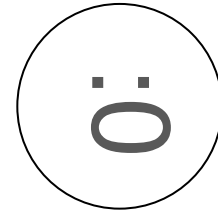
what does it mean to receive a brief?



The tutor proposes an idea, concept, theory, approach or a way of working that might be new to you

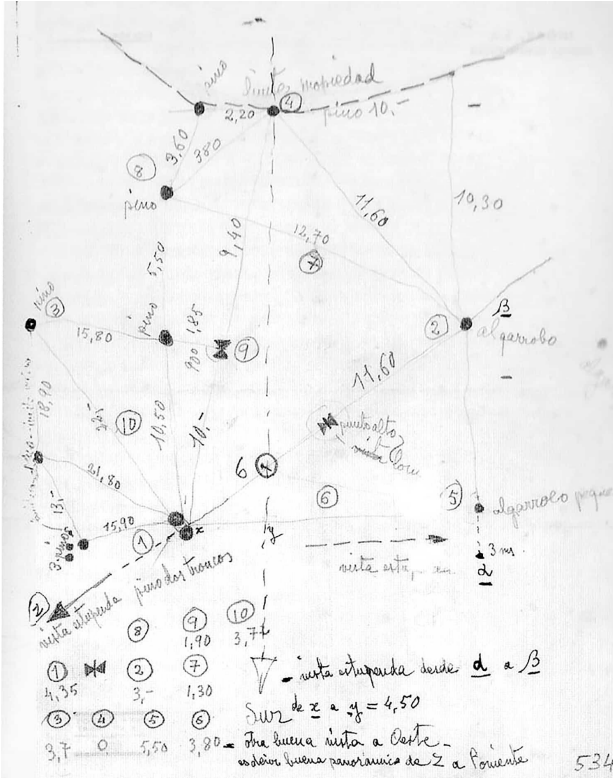


Each brief is an opportunity to 'try out' being a certain type of designer for a semester



design 5: the brief

the ground on which you will spend the semester working



Coderch, Josep Antoni. Initial Sketch for Casa Ugalde, 1951.

“...The drawing consists of pencil points that demarcate the position of specific trees, circled numbers, dimensions describing heights, other scribbled notes [...] and dashed lines that seem to indicate something of the topography of the ground. In this sketch, Coderch is bringing together his key observations that will inform his evolving idea for a house that was radically organic in its character, becoming part of the landscape. [...] I have always enjoyed that sketch, not just as a record of the creative process but also for what it represents – the architect marking the ground, as with tent poles, staking out a territory of places to work, and in-between places where to linger. As if charting out an architectural position, the poles indicate a line of thought: marking out new poles or moving those which were previously important and now feel less so. recording the evolution of one’s work, as it gains momentum by thinking, then making, reflecting, then making again.”

Bates, Stephen. *Tent Poles in the Ground*. Lucerne: Quart Verlag, 2025.

wandering through the brief

Adopting the analogy of walking, the goal of this one week exercise is to familiarise yourself with the brief you will respond to during the semester. Our intention is not to reach conclusions but to generate possibilities through experimental modes of research, thinking and making.

It is more about questions than answers.

wandering through the brief

Adopting the analogy of walking, the goal of this one week exercise is to familiarise yourself with the brief you will respond to during the semester. Our intention is not to reach conclusions but to generate possibilities through experimental modes of research, thinking and making.

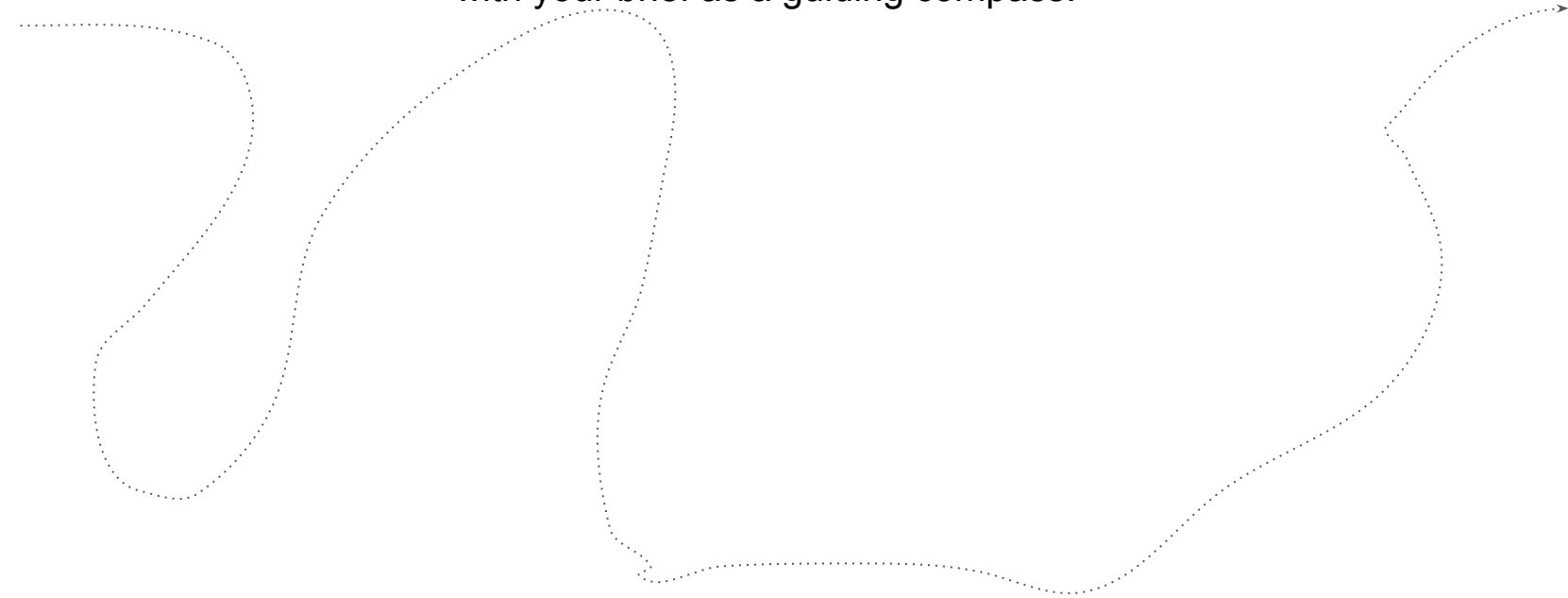
It is more about questions than answers.

Over the two classes, you will produce a series of ≥ 8x A4 expanded drawings/diagrams/maps that suggest points of departure or first responses to your Design 5 brief. These are due on Thursday 12th March for discussion with your tutor during your first studio class.

See the back of your task sheet for a note from your tutor about what they would like you to focus on during this activity.

gathering possibilities

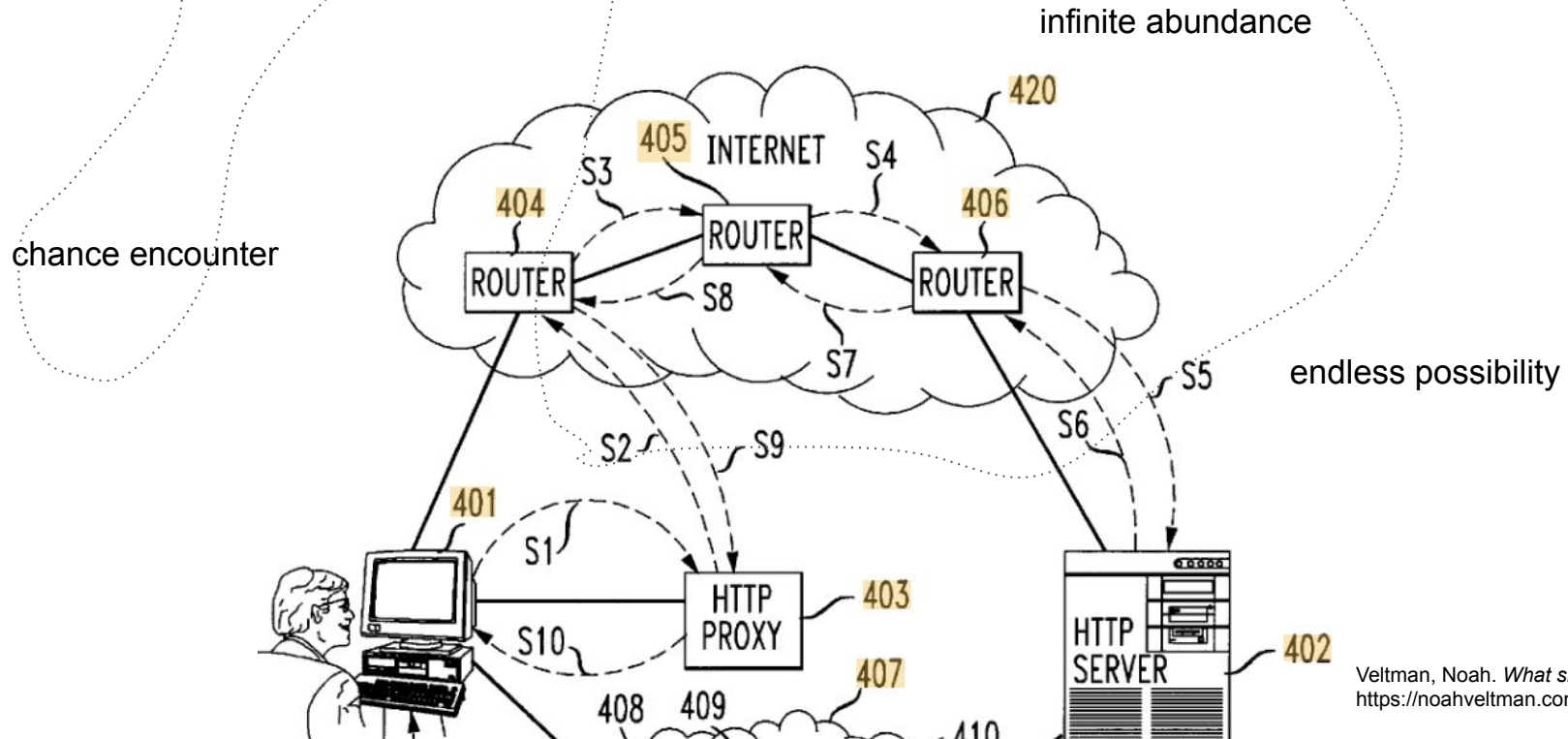
We would like you to take a walk through the web,
with your brief as a guiding compass.



gathering possibilities

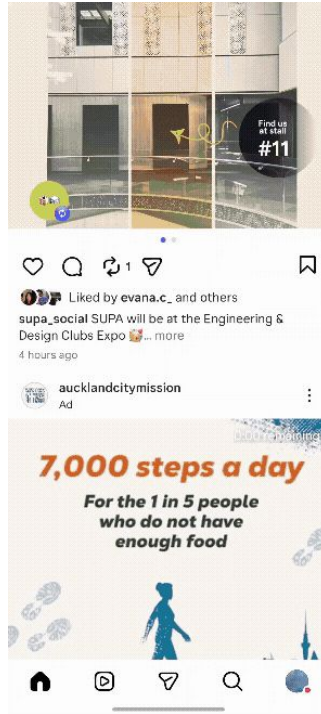
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FIG. 4



gathering possibilities

We would like you to take a walk through the web,
with your brief as a guiding compass.



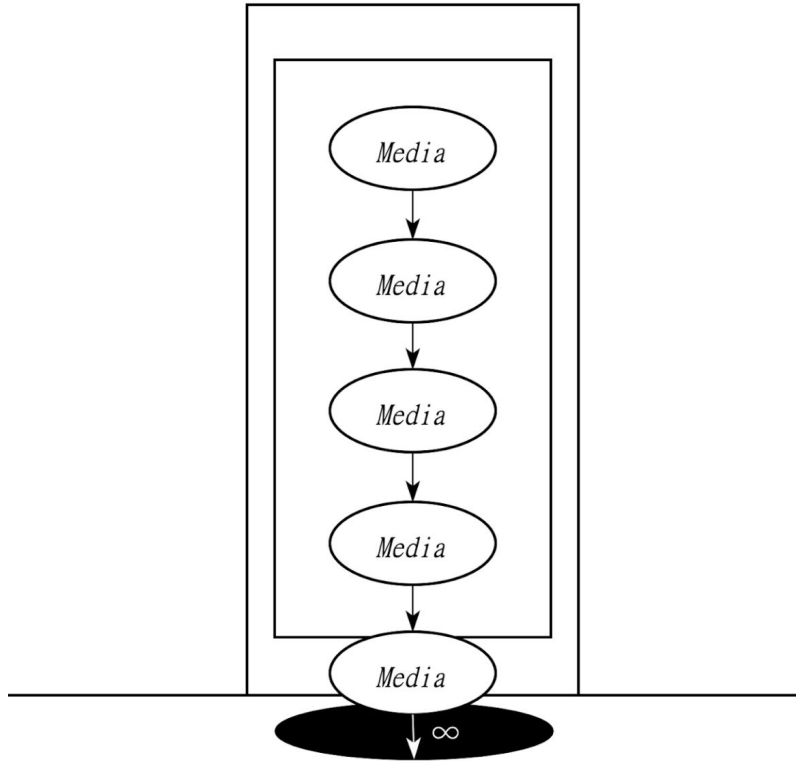
infinite abundance

endless possibility

gathering possibilities

User

We would like you to take a walk through the web,
with your brief as a guiding compass.

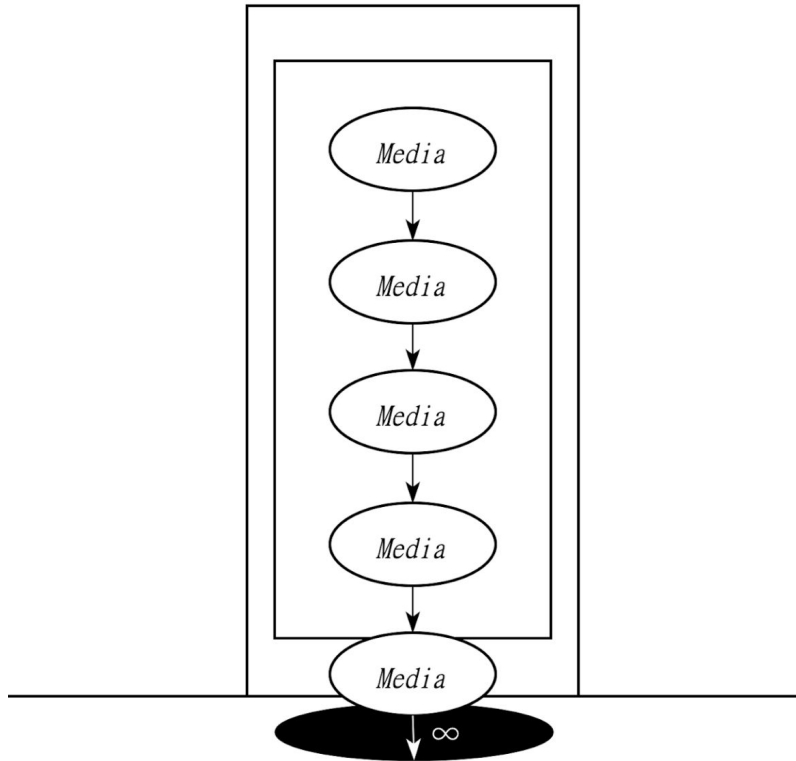


The internet's abundance risks
overwhelming. Our experience of
the web today is defined heavily by
profit-driven algorithms that
encourage passive consumption

gathering possibilities

User

We would like you to take a walk through the web,
with your brief as a guiding compass.



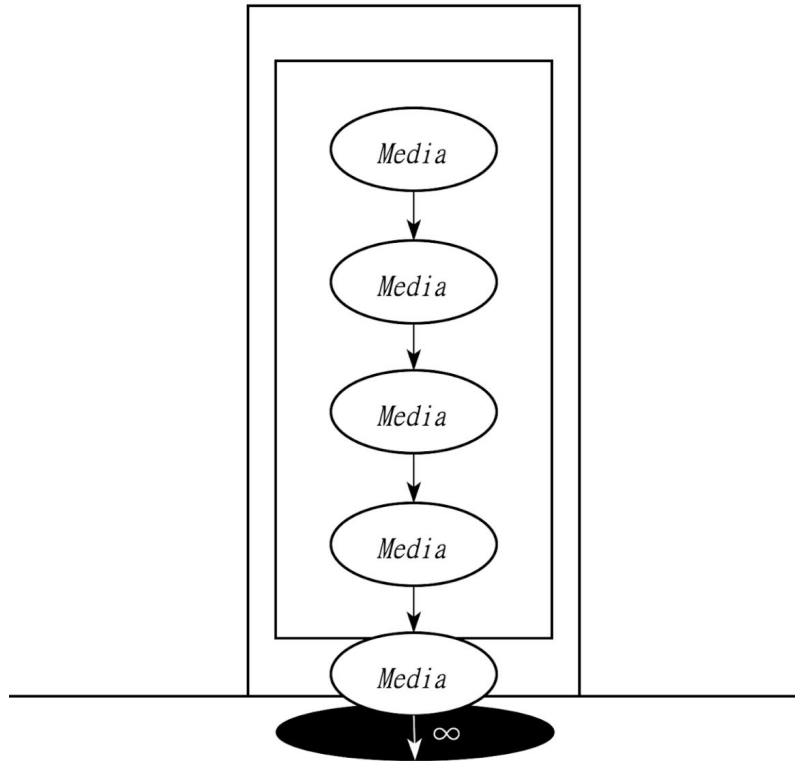
The internet's abundance risks overwhelming. Our experience of the web today is defined heavily by profit-driven algorithms that encourage passive consumption:

“The person who touches its screen is hemmed into a narrow corridor in which they consume, or are fed, from a “feed” of media content. [...] One traverses this scroll in a downwards direction of potentially great but unknowable depth: a *rabbit hole*.”

gathering possibilities

User

We would like you to take a walk through the web,
with your brief as a guiding compass.



The internet's abundance risks
overwhelming.

How can we make sense of it all?
How might a passive experience
become active? Generative?

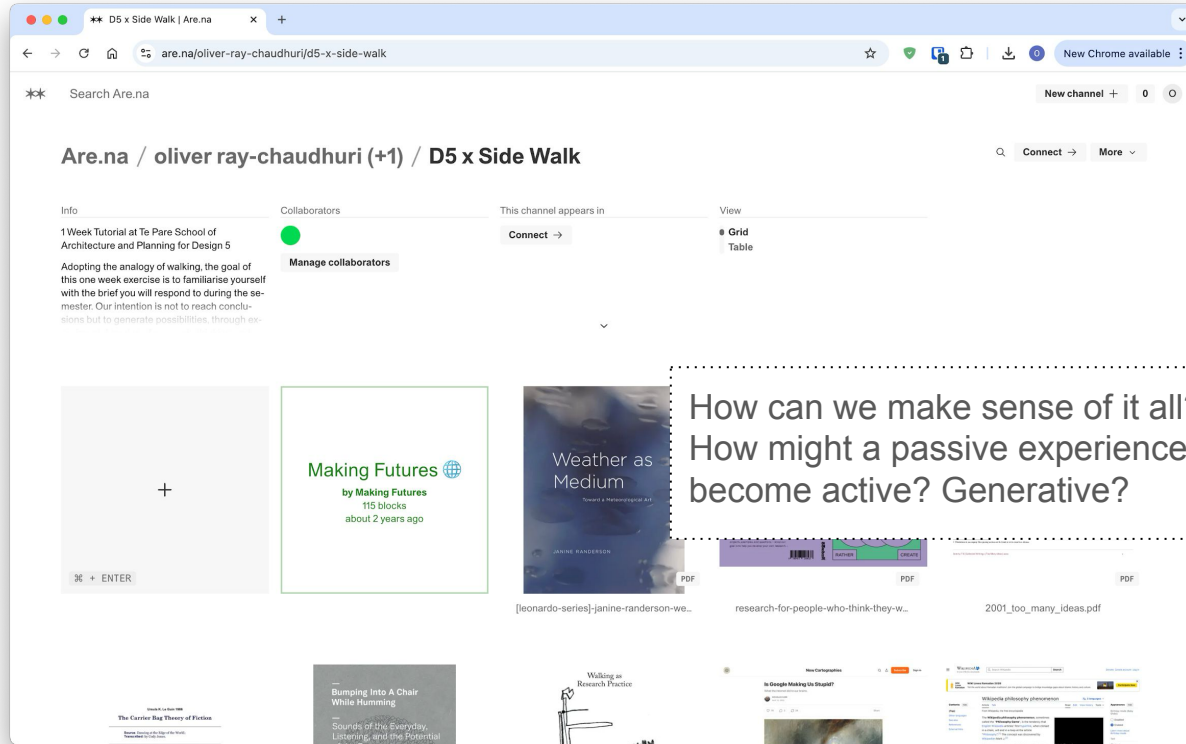
gathering possibilities

are.na



“a place to structure your ideas and build new forms of knowledge together.”

are.na/about

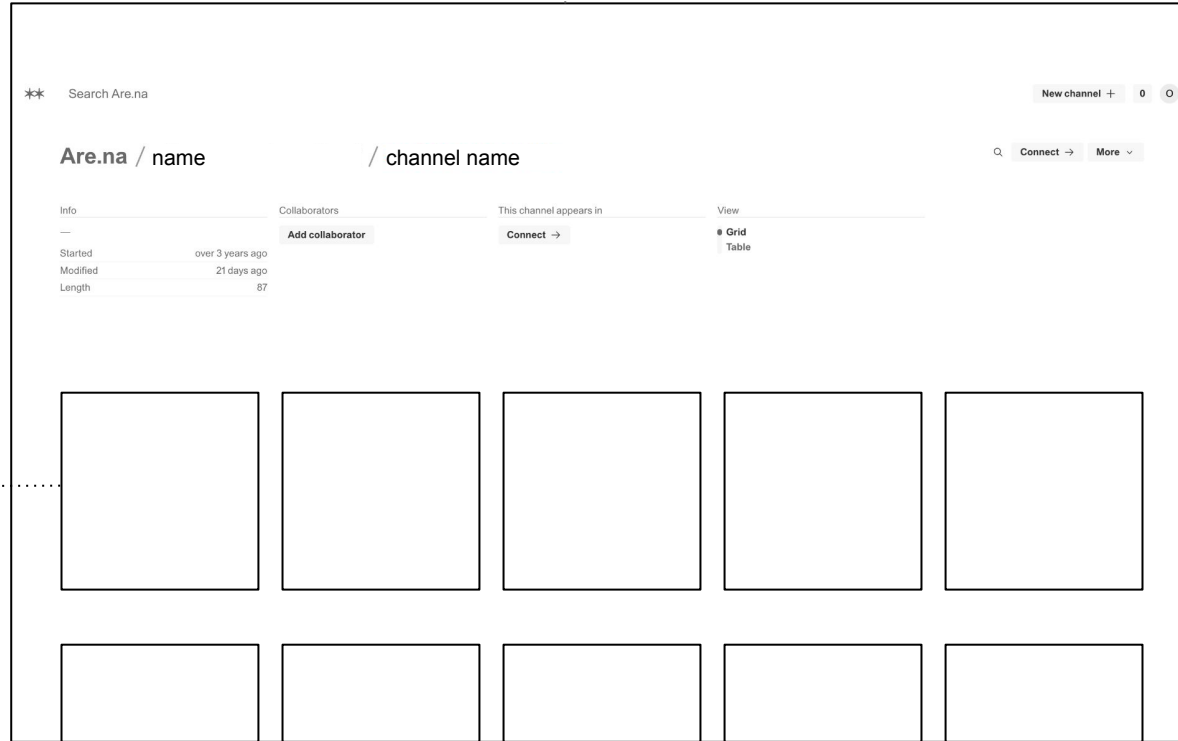


are.na/oliver-ray-chaudhuri/d5-x-side-walk

gathering possibilities

are.na

channel



block

are.na is made up of channels made of blocks

gathering possibilities

are.na

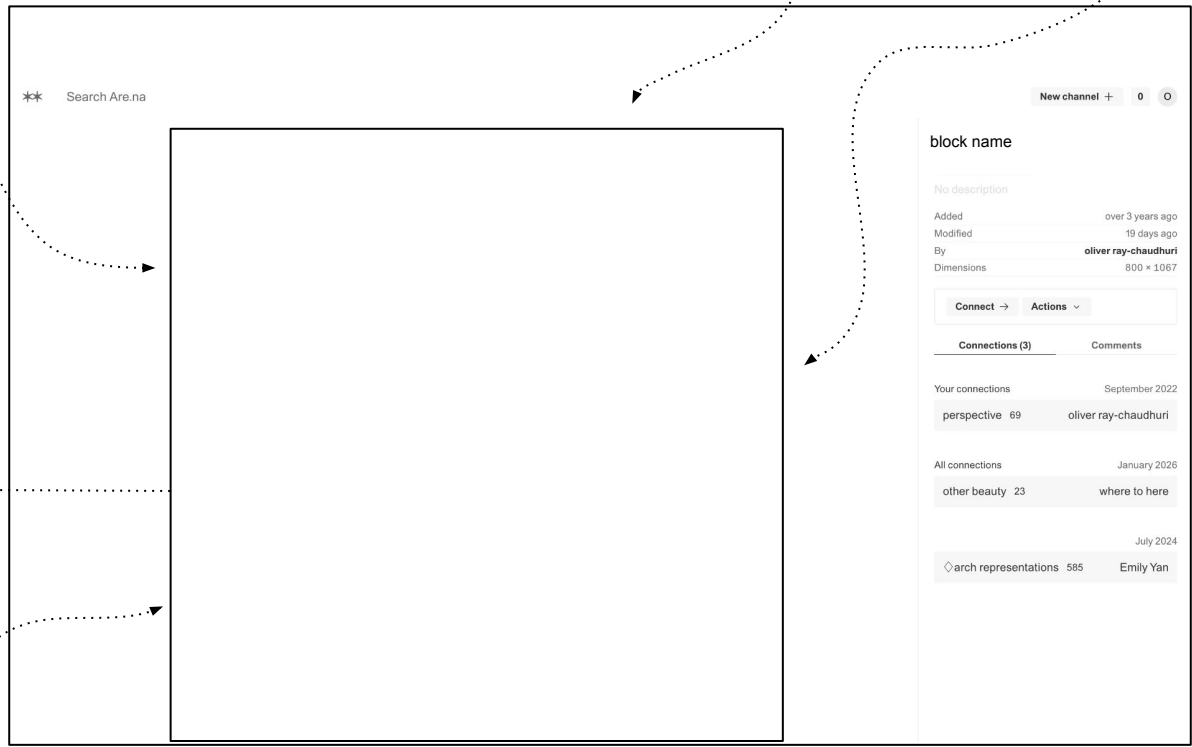
image

link

text

block

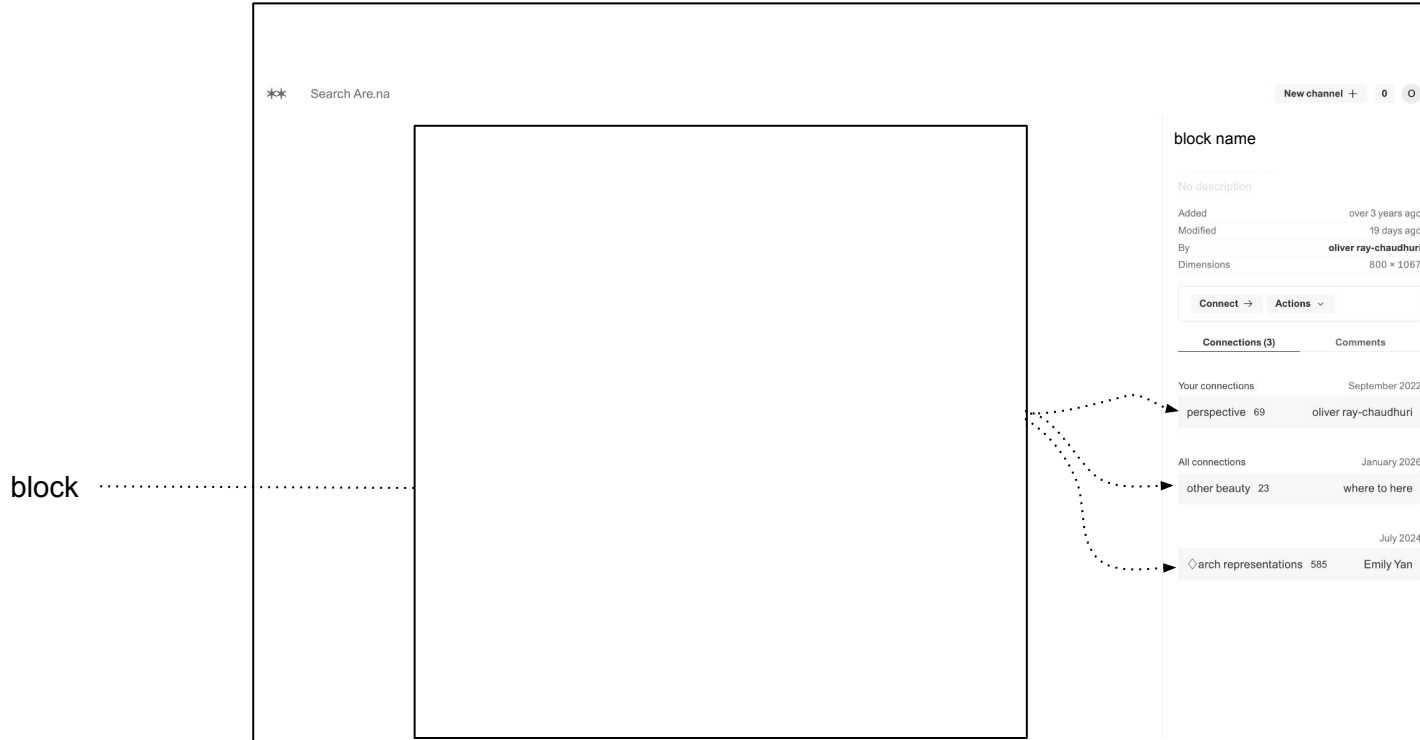
pdf



blocks can be anything (images, links, pdfs, text, etc), from anywhere

gathering possibilities

are.na



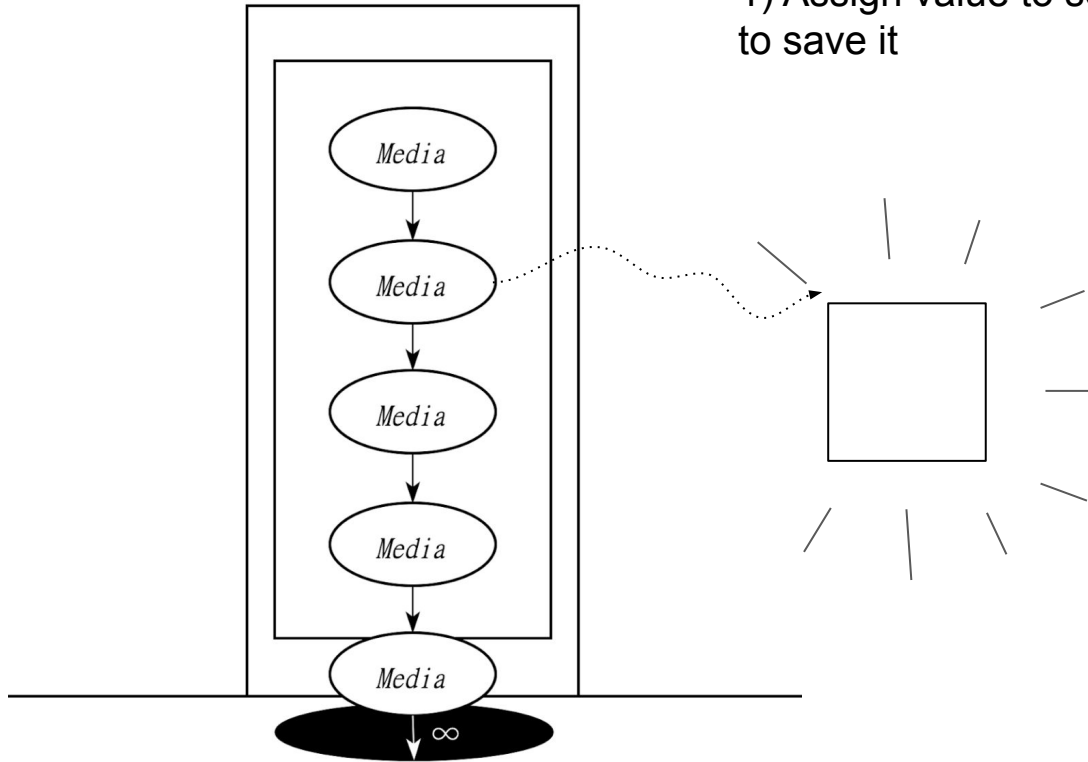
and can be connected to any channel

gathering possibilities

are.na

asks you to:

- 1) Assign value to selected found content by choosing to save it

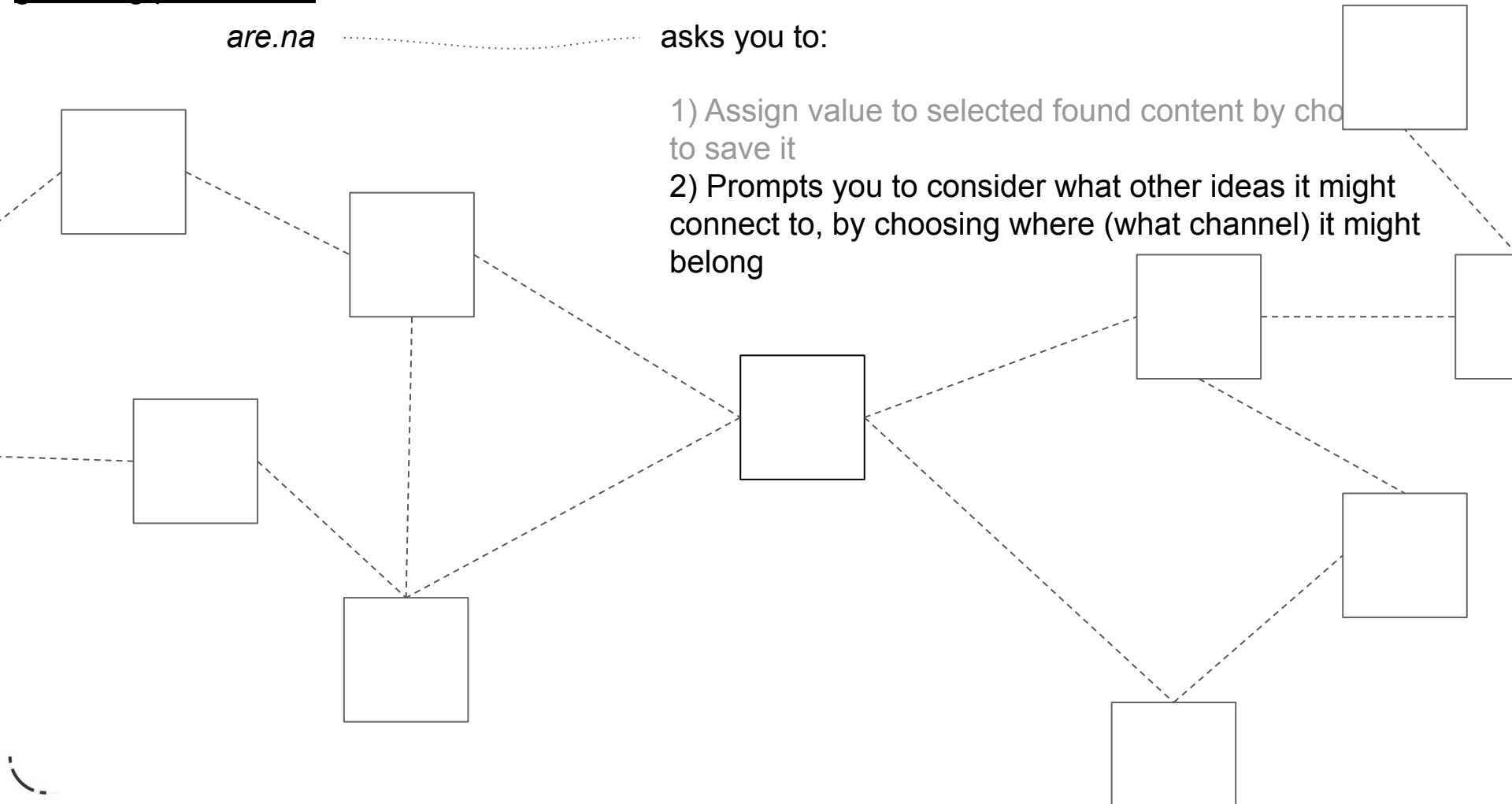


gathering possibilities

are.na

asks you to:

- 1) Assign value to selected found content by choosing where to save it
- 2) Prompts you to consider what other ideas it might connect to, by choosing where (what channel) it might belong



gathering possibilities

are.na

asks you to:

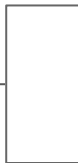
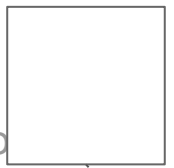
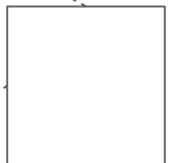
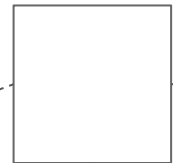
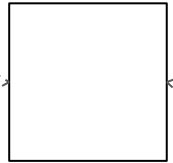
“A connection is a little more conceptually difficult than something like a ‘like,’ because you have to think of something in two different contexts at the same time. You’re like, Oh that fits [here], but it also fits there.”

“It Doesn’t Produce Anxiety”: Meet Are.na, a Social Network Created by Artists.” Art News

“...when you see a piece of information and ask yourself, “Where does it go?” For [most software developers], that friction is something to minimize. But to us, removing that friction would be detrimental, because you’d stop having a relationship to the information you’re working with.”

“Are.na Is Where We Go to Find Ourselves Online.”

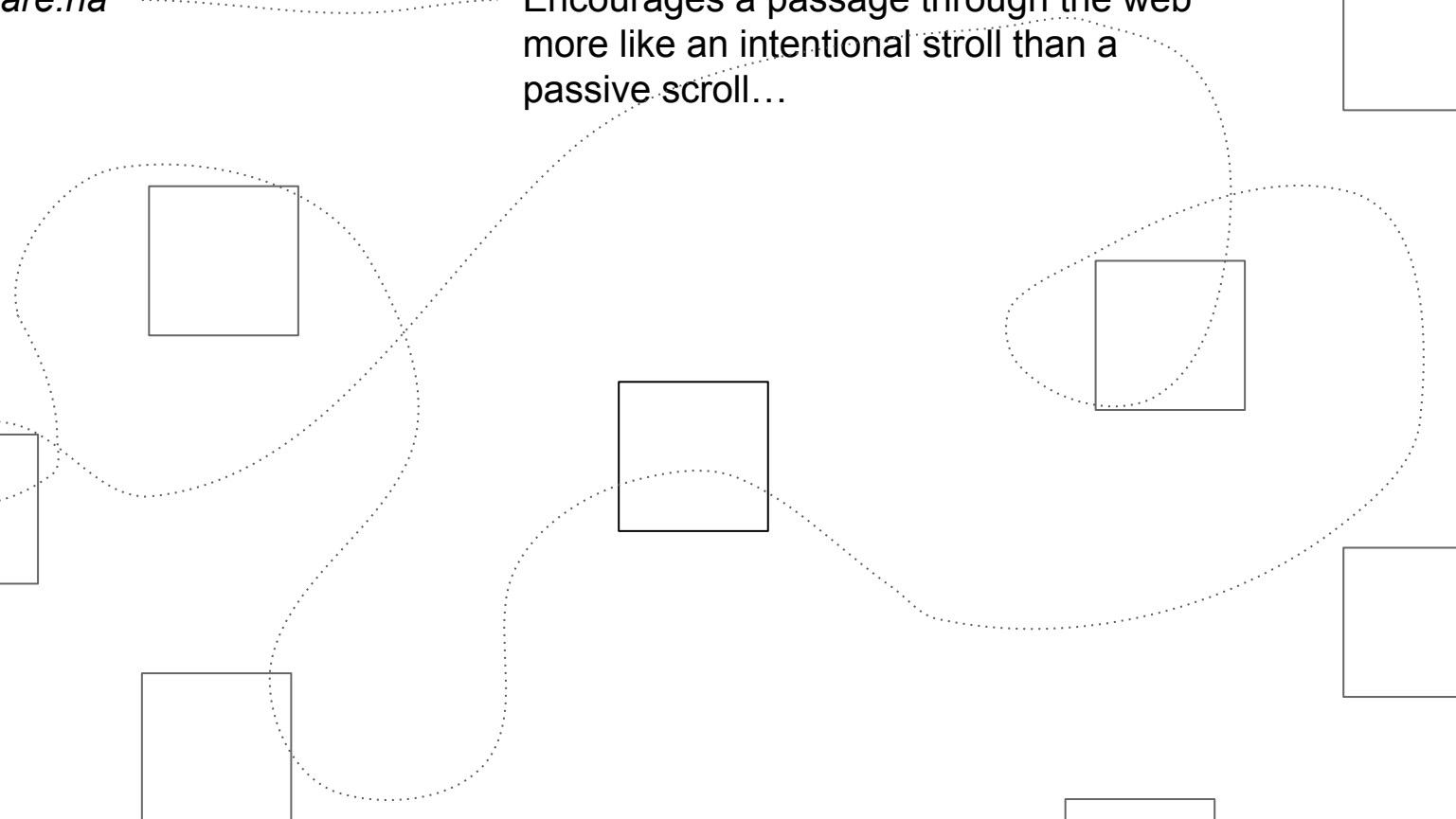
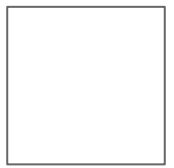
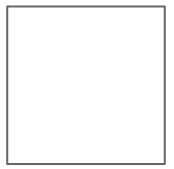
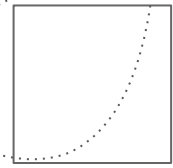
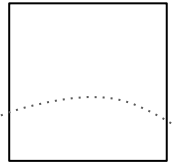
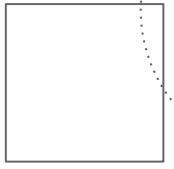
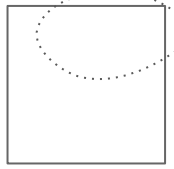
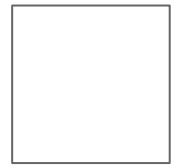
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gathering possibilities

are.na

Encourages a passage through the web
more like an intentional stroll than a
passive scroll...



part 1: task

Read your brief and gather key words, concepts and ideas

highlight, underline or scribble in margins

Make an account and take a walk through are.na, collecting resources that resonate with these key elements of the brief.

follow connections between blocks, embrace detours and dead ends. you may gather resources from other places as well (your brief, social media, google, the library, etc.)

As you 'walk', assemble your found objects by connecting them to channels. How can you create constellations of similar ideas?

part 2: generating

thursday 5th march

jack

who was their precedent come back to it... stare at it...

what is missing? what ideas underpin this? why how was it constructed?

what is *vibe*-culture?

Pinterest and social media scrolling
Aestheticised image collecting
Short info consumption

take a walk around the info for a bit where could it lead? why does this work?



Making of "Clouds" from I Spy, (1994)

Gardner's multiple intelligence

we all process and generate ideas differently.

howard g. >



Linguistic Intelligence

thinking through writing,
reading, verbal
expression

Visual Intelligence

thinking through images,
diagrams, spatial
relationships

Bodily Intelligence

thinking through touch,
textures, making,
materials

Naturalist Intelligence

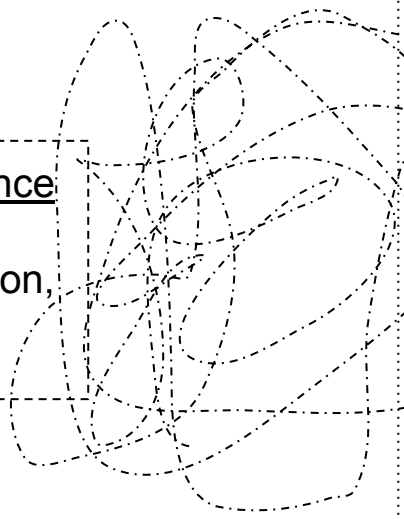
thinking through climate,
other living things, decay,
ecology

Logical Intelligence

thinking through
reasoning, systems,
structures, facts

Musical Intelligence

thinking through rhythm,
pattern, pace, layering



Interpersonal Intelligence
thinking through
discussion, collaboration,
social processes

Intrapersonal Intelligence

The capacity for self-knowledge— understanding one's own feelings, motivations, strengths, and ways of thinking. In a design context this is enormously undervalued: the student who knows how they think, what draws their attention, why certain ideas excite them, and what their instincts are telling them, has a significant creative advantage.

Generative (artificial) Intelligence



Ways of Being — James Bridle (2022)

side walk's summary

GenAI emerged from a specific cultural and technological moment — shaped by Western research institutions, large-scale digital infrastructure, and the vast corpus of human-produced text and image available online.

It was trained on what was abundant and legible in digital form. This is not a flaw — it is simply a reflection of what existed and what could be captured.

As Bridle argues, intelligence takes many forms across living systems. GenAI represents one powerful expression of that — optimised for pattern, language, and image.

Which intelligences does GenAI draw from?

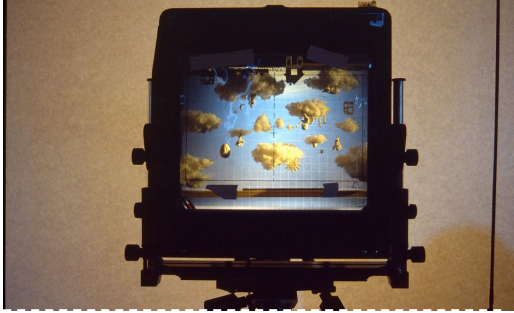
(Source: ChatGPT)

- Linguistic + Logical — deeply embedded in its training
- Visual-Spatial — increasingly present through image models
- Bodily-Kinesthetic — not yet part of its repertoire
- Naturalistic — present as data, but not as lived experience
- Intrapersonal — it can reflect language about the self, but has no interiority of its own
- Interpersonal — it can model social exchange, but does not participate in it

The point is not that GenAI is lacking — it is extraordinarily capable within its domain.
The point is that it opens a question: what do the other intelligences offer that this one cannot? And that is exactly where your work begins.

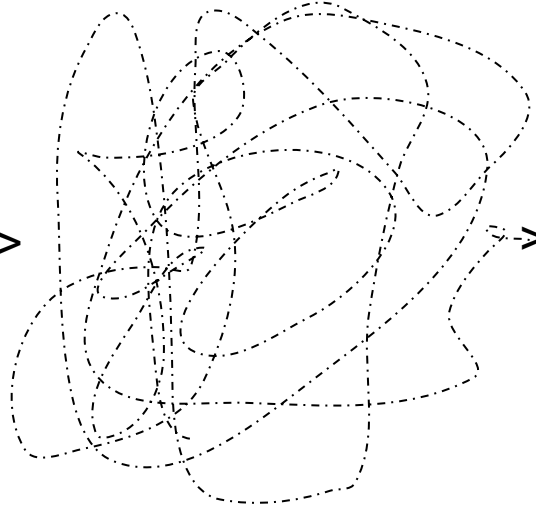


Making of "Clouds" from I Spy, (1994)



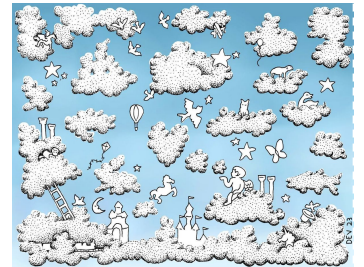
Making of "Clouds" from I Spy, (1994)

✧✧ **Are.na** >



n e w i d e e (s) >

ok, part 2 of the exercise today.



clouds, big clam tattoo (2023)



From your digital resources, precedents, images...

Pull out: key ideas, words, misreadings, likes, things that stand out, **WHY** it works

(in any medium) draw/diagram/write/collage — *be generative, thinking about the intelligence modes.*

Force new connections, abstract concepts, create what wasn't there before.

Output: x8 minimum, 1 per back of brief page

DON'T EDIT YET - Abundance first, let ideas flow without judgment

DRAW FAST - Sketches, diagrams, annotations—make your thinking visible

WRITE FAST - Keywords, connections, questions—capture the 'why'

MIS-READ - Your misinterpretations are often more interesting than 'correct' readings

ABSTRACT - Pull out underlying principles, not just surface aesthetics

FORCE COMBINATIONS - What happens when you smash two ideas together?

USE YOUR INTELLIGENCES - Don't just draw if you think in words, or write if you think spatially

HAPTIC THINKING - Your hand knows things your mind doesn't yet understand

SLOWER = DEEPER - The friction of drawing forces engagement that clicking can't

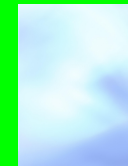
VISIBLE PROCESS - Trace marks show your thinking evolution, not just the output

EMBODIED COGNITION - Moving your body activates different neural pathways

MISTAKES ARE GENERATIVE - 'errors' create unexpected possibilities

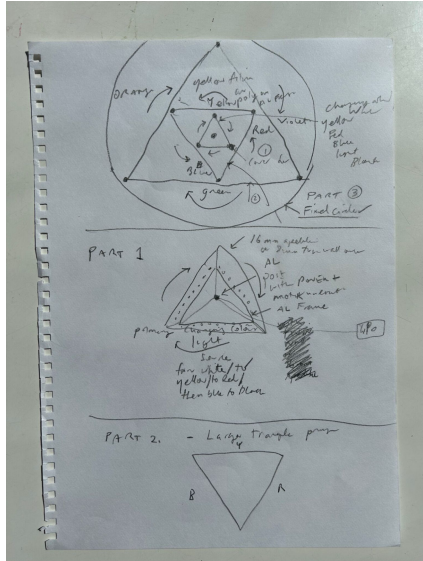
PRESENCE - Being physically present with ideas changes your relationship to them

TANGIBLE SYNTHESIS - You can spread drawings out, group them, see patterns emerge

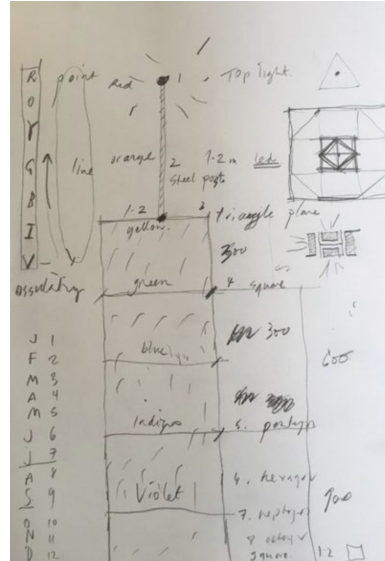


accidental photo
by jack when he
dropped his
phone (2026)

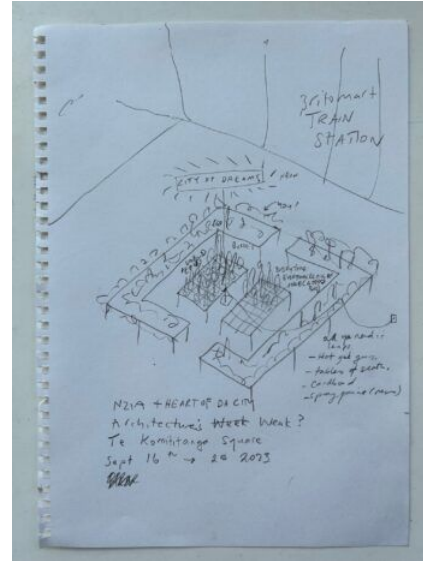
examples



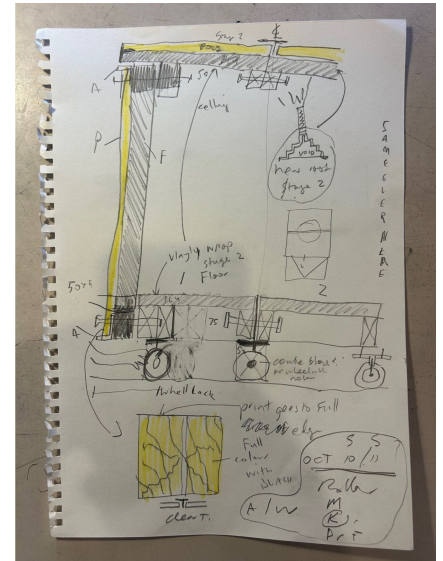
<https://www.ligginsmatt.com/colour-theory-colab-with-amd-2024/>



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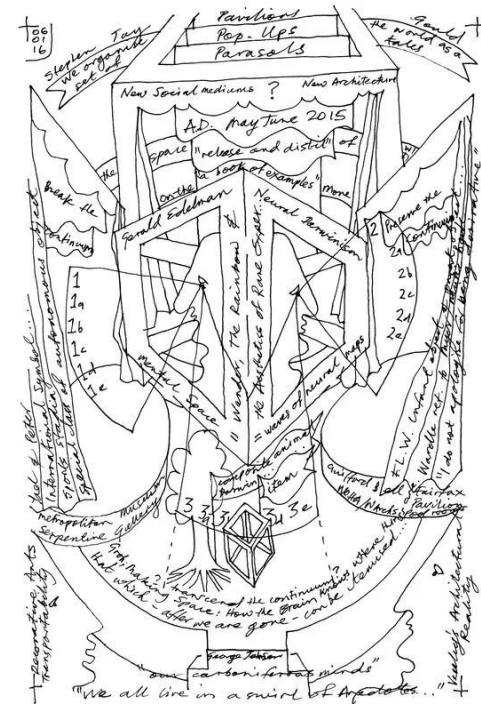
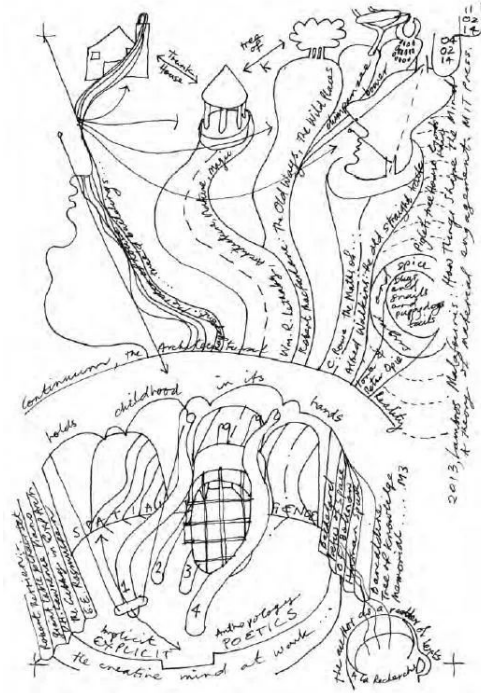
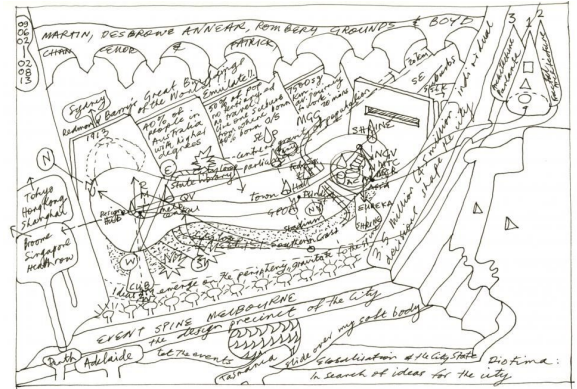
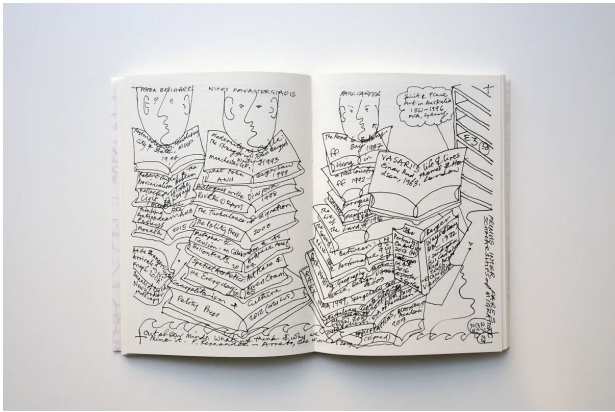


<https://www.ligginsmatt.com/city-of-dreams/>

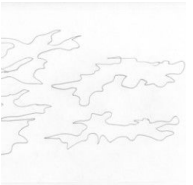
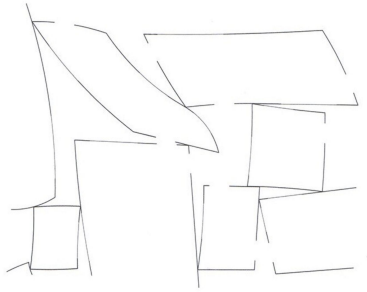
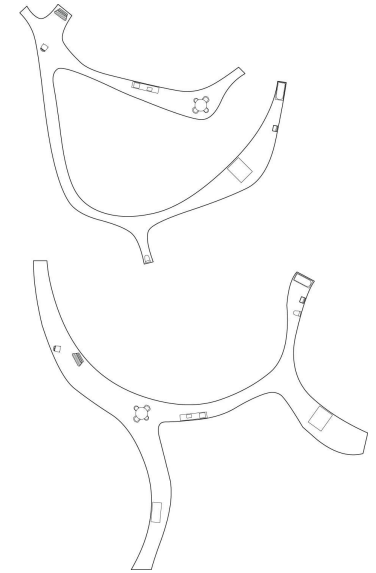
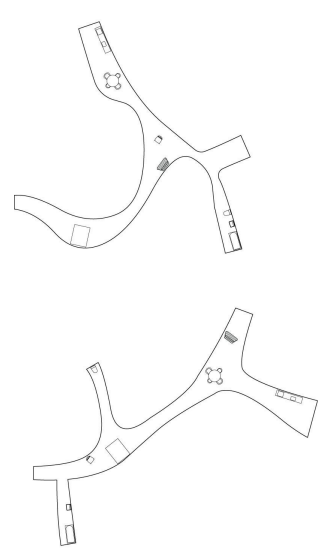
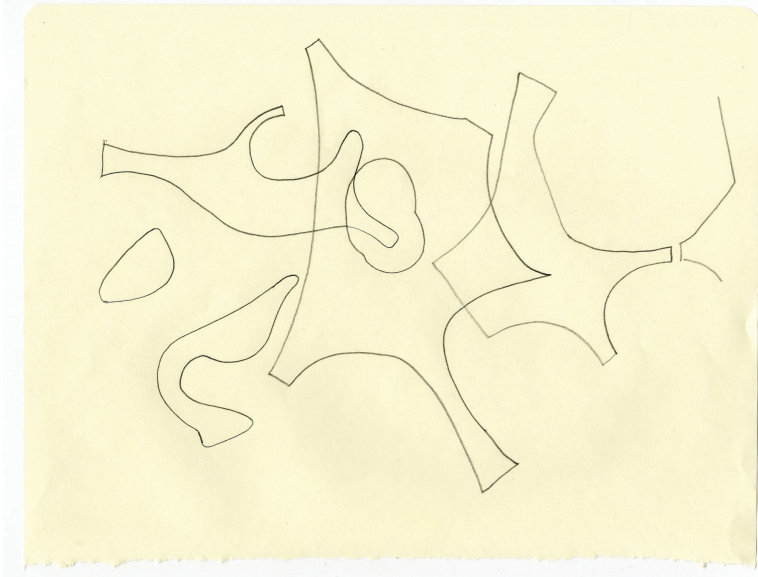


<https://www.ligginsmatt.com/double-pout-ama-2025/>

examples

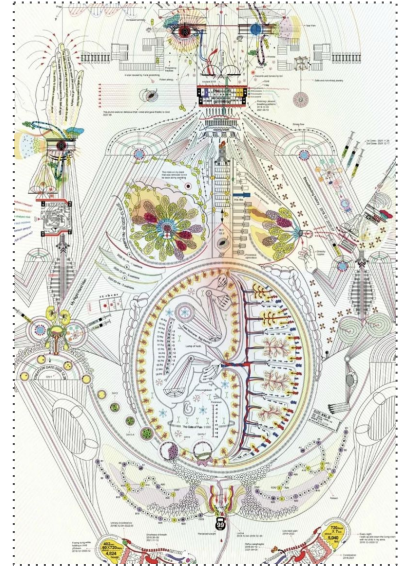
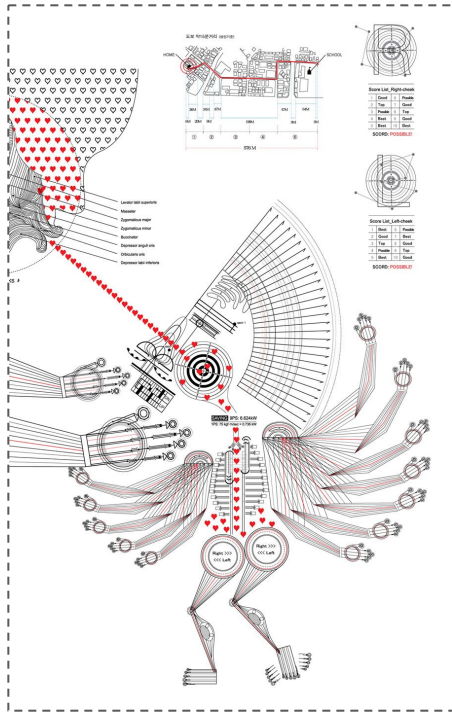
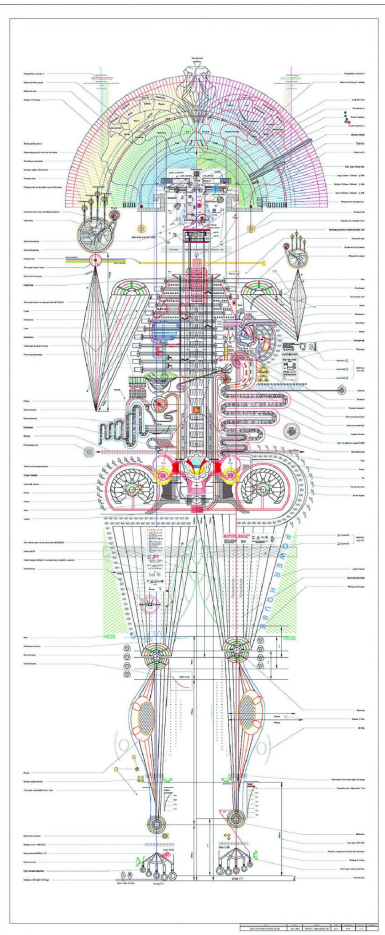


examples

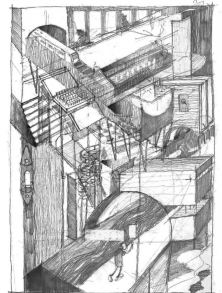
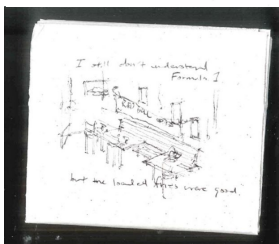
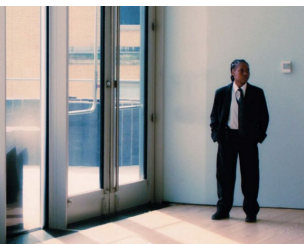
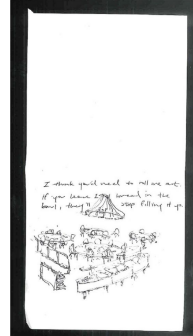
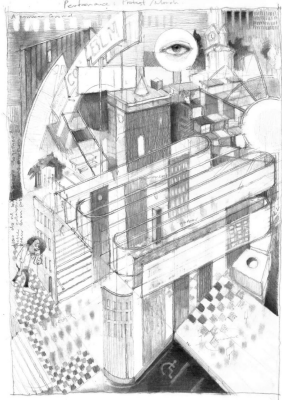
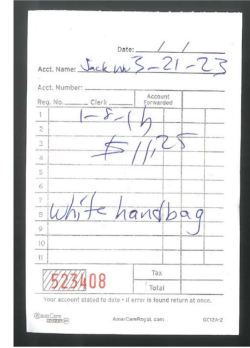
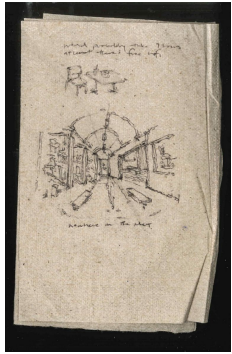


anne holtrop

examples

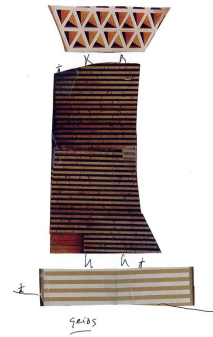
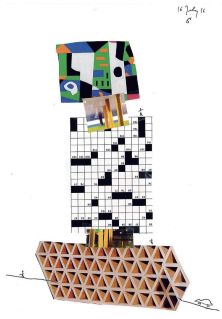
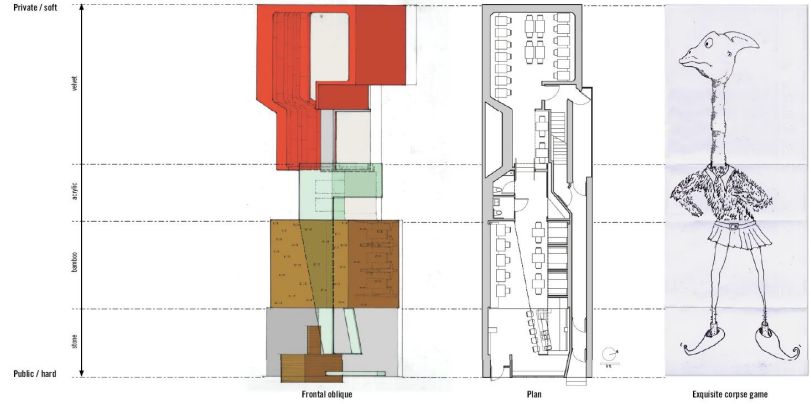
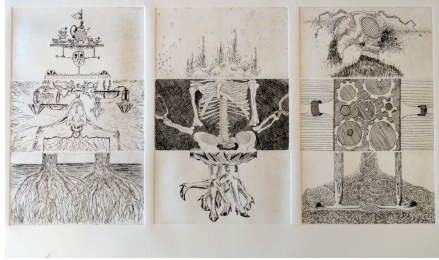


examples




jack wu

examples



e.q

part 3: assembling

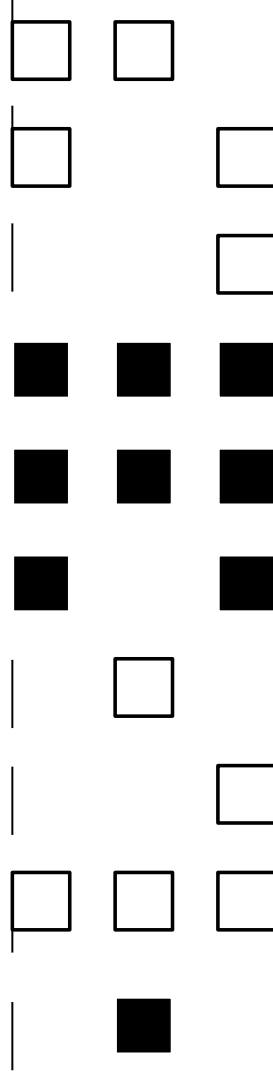
 monday 9th march

iman

turning your own intelligence and creating
an [arena.na](https://www.arena.na) channel specific to you...

part 1

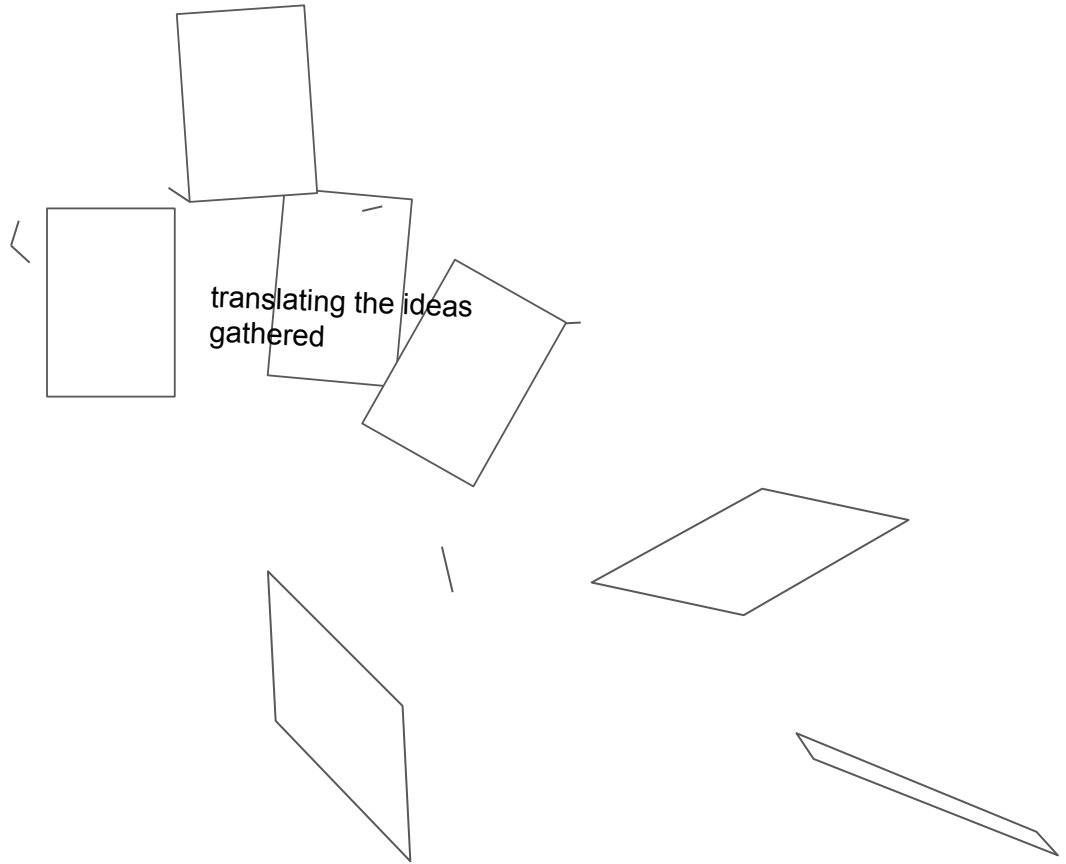
collecting possibilities

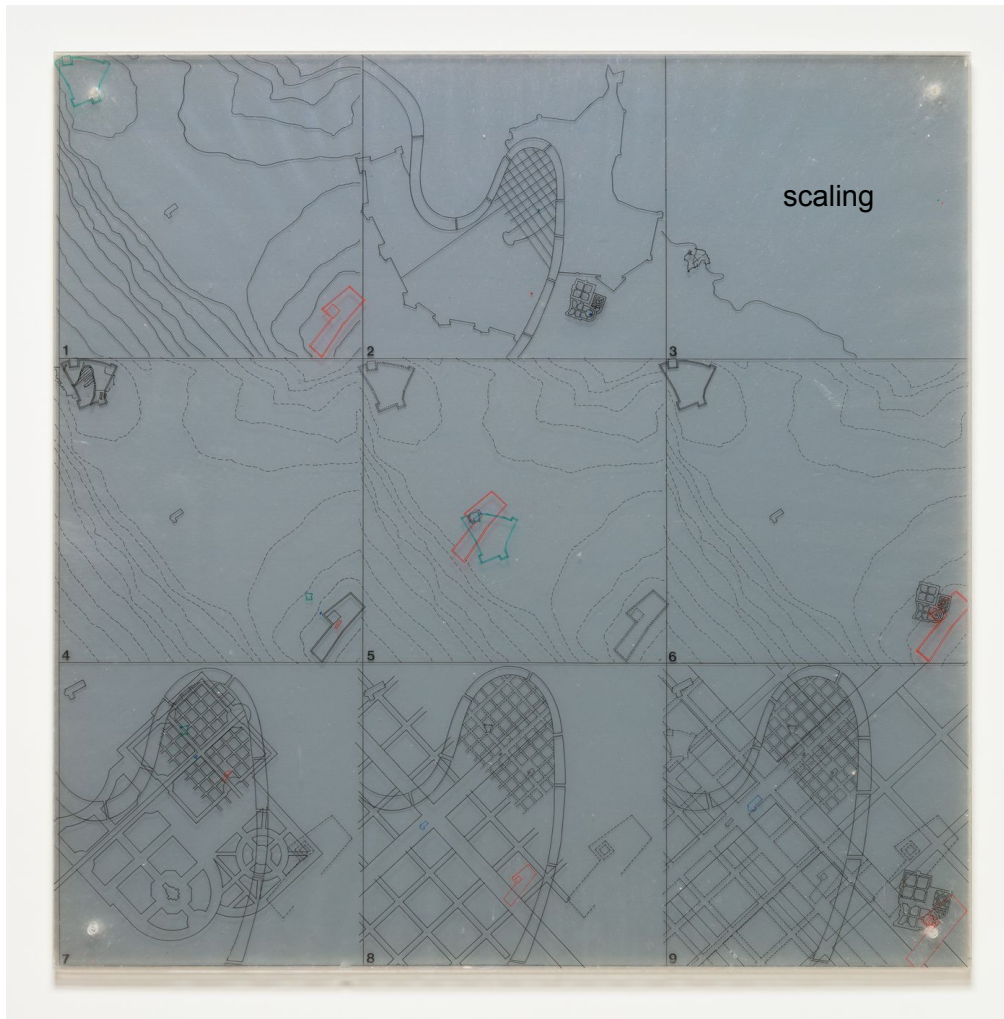


creating dialogue between
you and your tutor

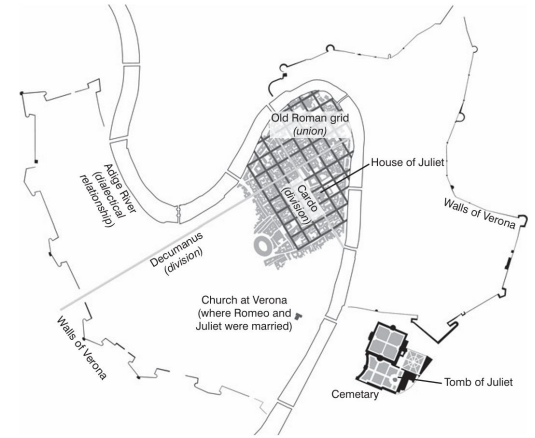
generating

part 2



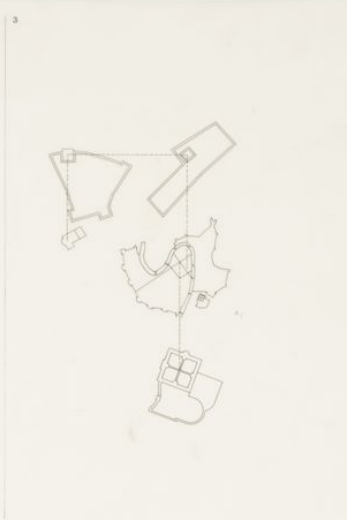
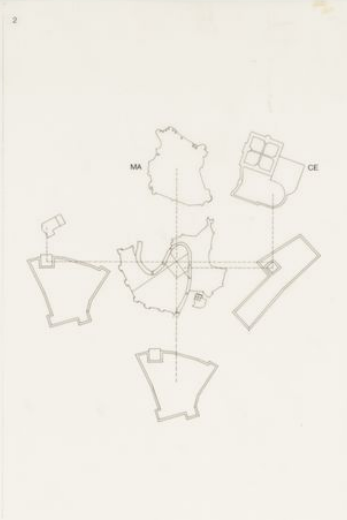
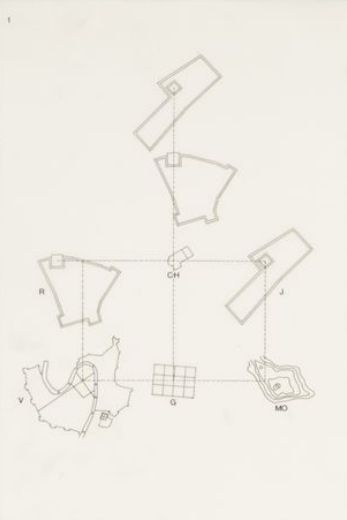


a speculative project diagramming three of the versions (Da Porto, Bandello and Shakespeare) of the story of Romeo and Juliet

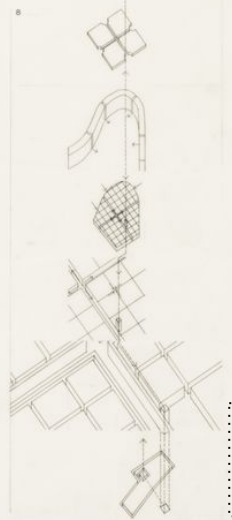
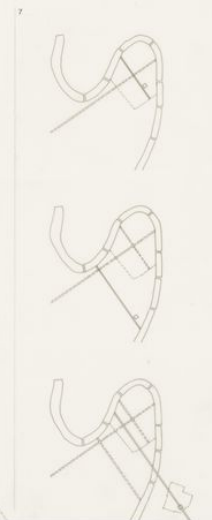
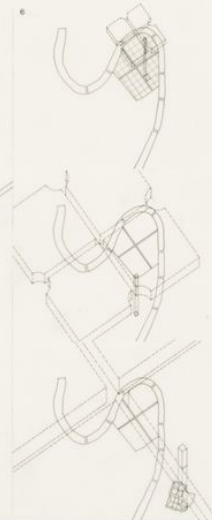


Peter Eisenman, "Moving Arrows, Eros, and Other Errors," 1932.

Edge of
Phase
24"x24"

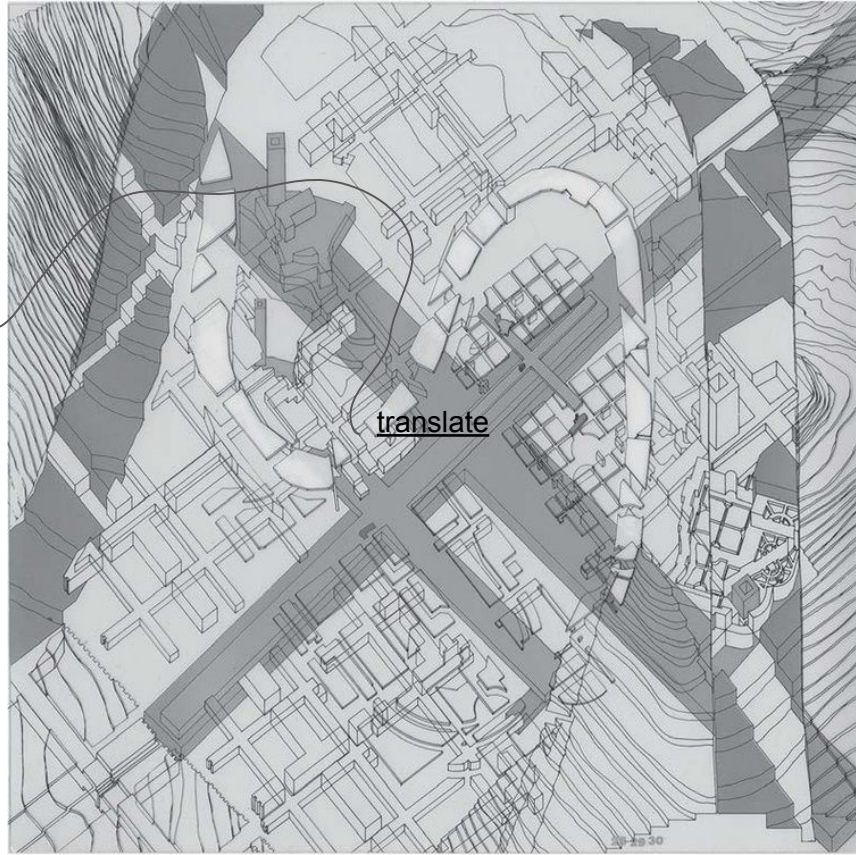


Edge of
Phase
24"x24"



Process work by Peter Eisenman, "Moving Arrows, Eros, and Other Errors," 1932.

gather



translate

represent

Peter Eisenman, "Moving
Arrows, Eros, and Other
Errors," 1932.

where do your ideas
touch?

is

o

!

o

to

collective wandering

*we are now collectively
wandering as islands of
thoughts across the red
carpet. Pair up with those
from your studio group to
complete todays exercise*

·
·

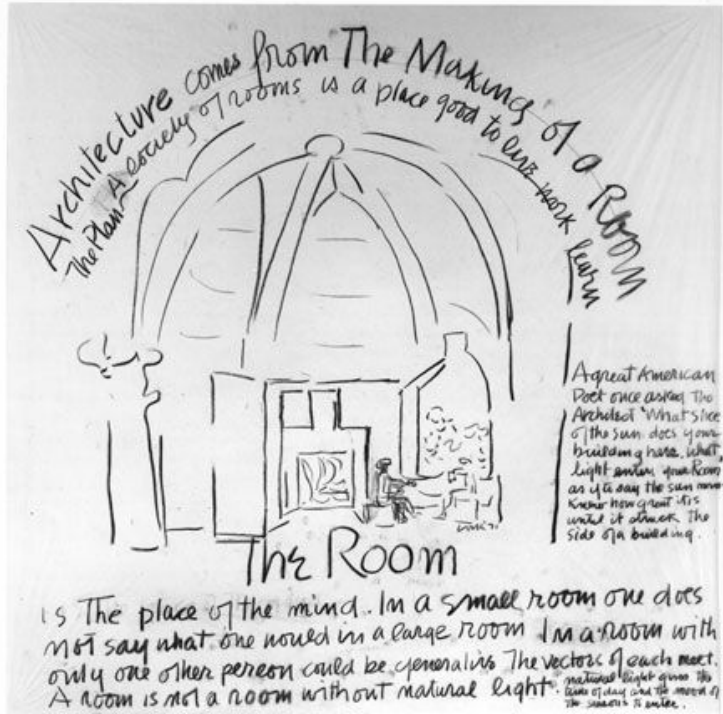
today

we

start

wandering

together



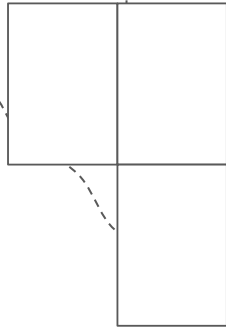
*"The room is a place of the mind.
A room is not a room without natural light.
Architecture comes from the making of the room."*

knowledge exchange

Think of the work produced during this workshop so far as a collective body of knowledge shaped by the conversations, interactions and bodies present in the room along with you.

Through chance encounters of casually bumping into a friend, glancing over someone else's shoulder or overhearing an intriguing conversation taking place elsewhere...

part 2



assemble your pages
as a studio group

do these ideas
speak of a similar narrative?

is this a lone
idea on the
table?

assemblage

It is a multiplicity which is made up of many heterogeneous terms and which establishes liaisons, relations between them, across ages, sexes and reigns – different natures.

Thus, the assemblage's only unity is that of a co-functioning: it is a symbiosis.

Gilles Deleuze and Félix Guattari
Assemblage Theory

relations of exteriority or extrinsic relations

the process of
assembling actively
establishes
relations between
unlinked parts

diagramming

relations of interiority
or
intrinsic relations

"a collection or
gathering of things
or people"

assembling

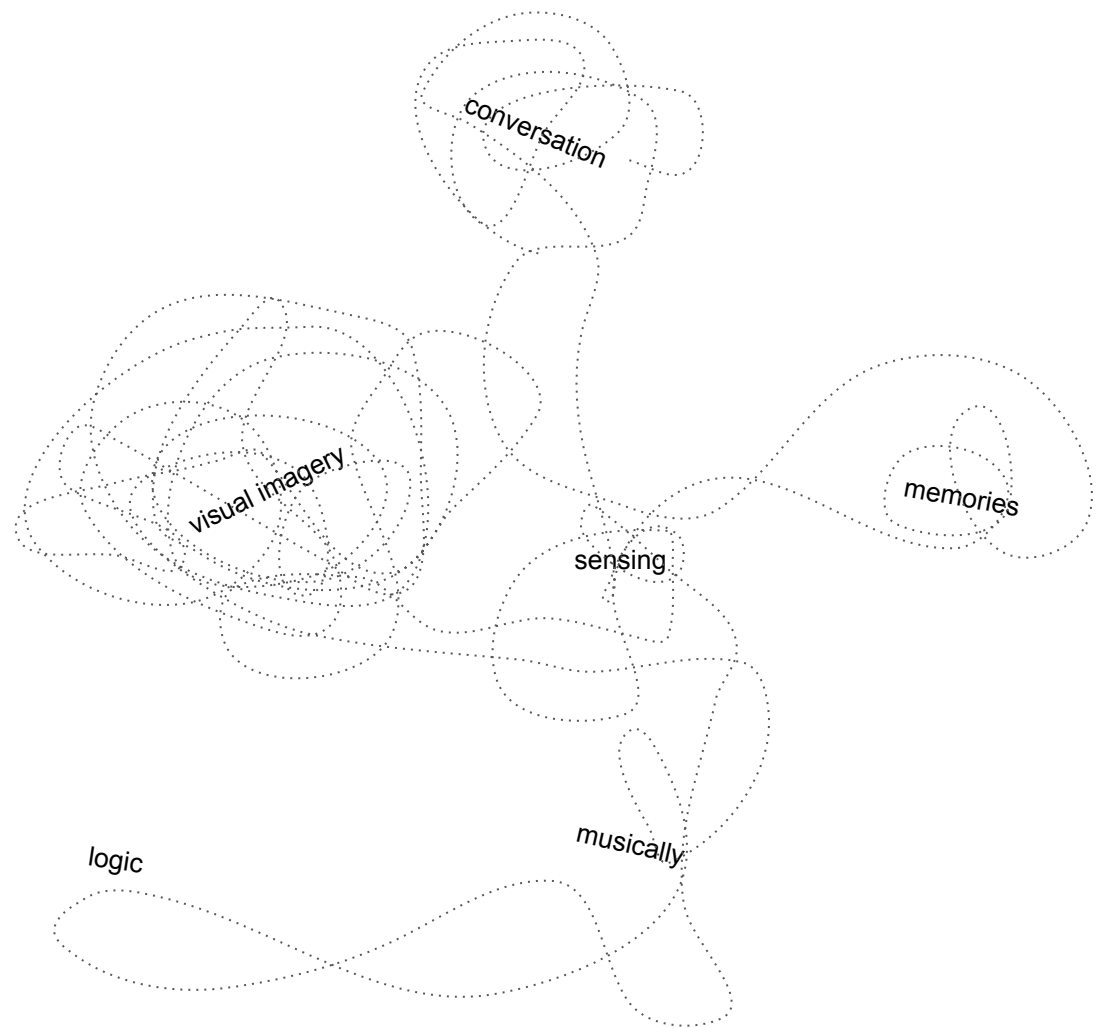
collaging

assembling “generatively”:

“the act of creating, producing, or originating something, often involving the growth or development of new ideas, content, or life”

ai generated

Referring back to Gardner’s multiple intelligence, assemblages are also constructed differently based on our predispositions towards a particular way of working.



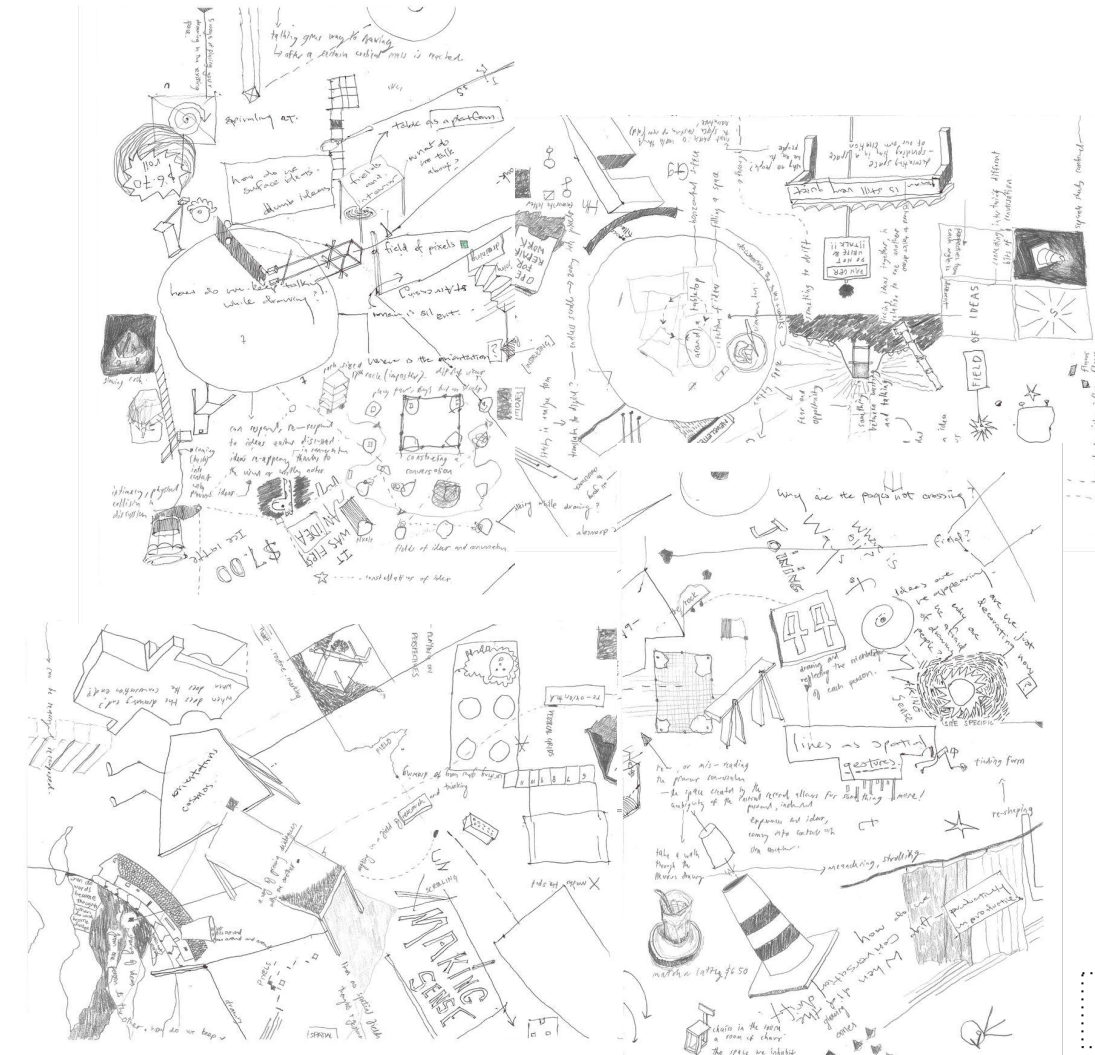
through walking

assembling photos
through



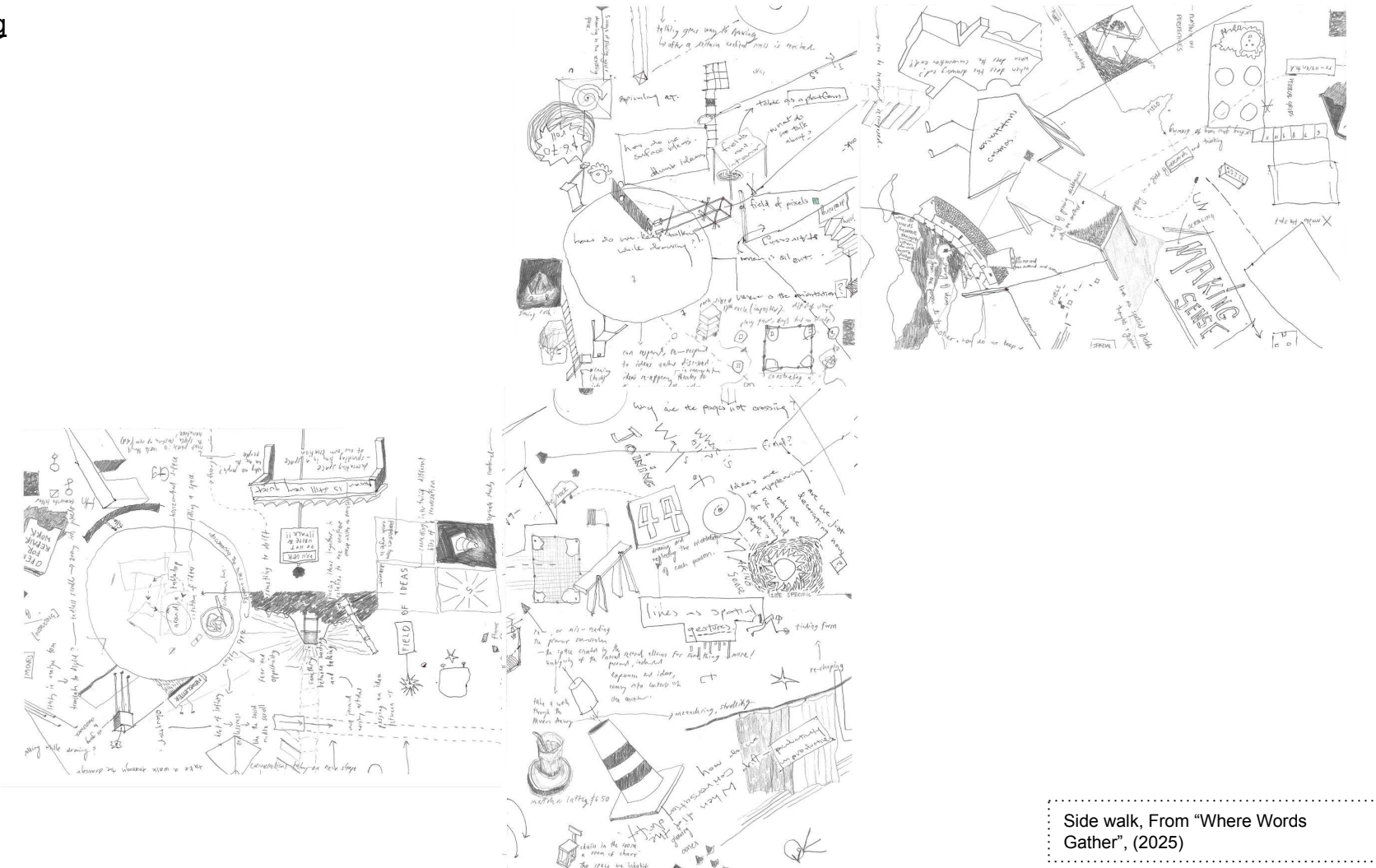
Side walk, From walk_3, (2025)

through talking



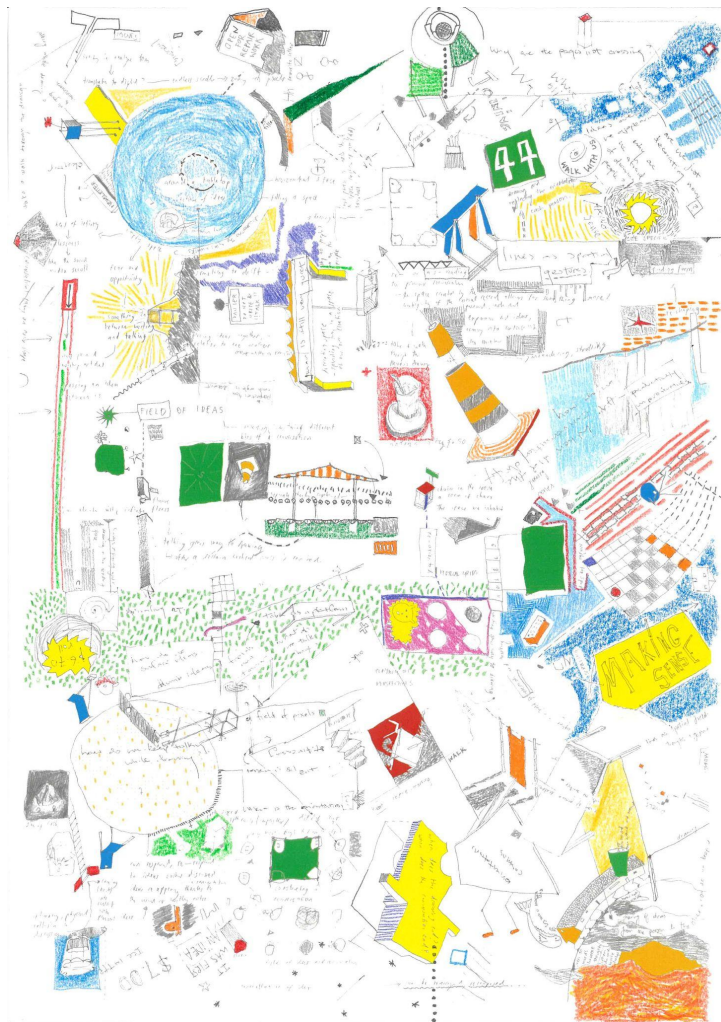
Side walk, From "Where Words Gather", (2025)

through talking



Side walk, From "Where Words Gather", (2025)

through talking



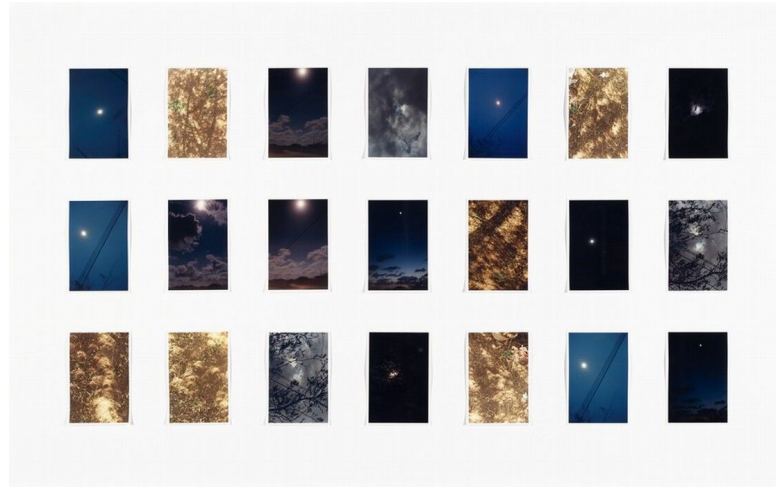
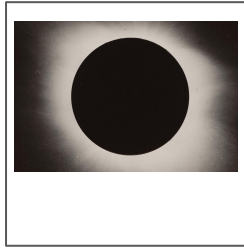
Side walk, From "Where Words Gather", (2025)

through revisiting a memory



Daniel Ho, (Your) My Bedroom, (2022)

through logic



“the place between knowing and not knowing”
Wolfgang Tillmans

Wolfgang Tillmans, Total Solar Eclipse
Grid, (1998)

task 3

Gather the material you generated in Part 2 and begin carefully observing emerging ideas, concepts, questions and resources. You will find a prompt from your tutor at the back of this page to respond to...

Assemble your collective ideas in your tutor groups - imagining where ideas touch. Across three iterations of grouping ideas as islands of knowledge, you will be walking through these islands and reflecting on questions to ask your briefs.

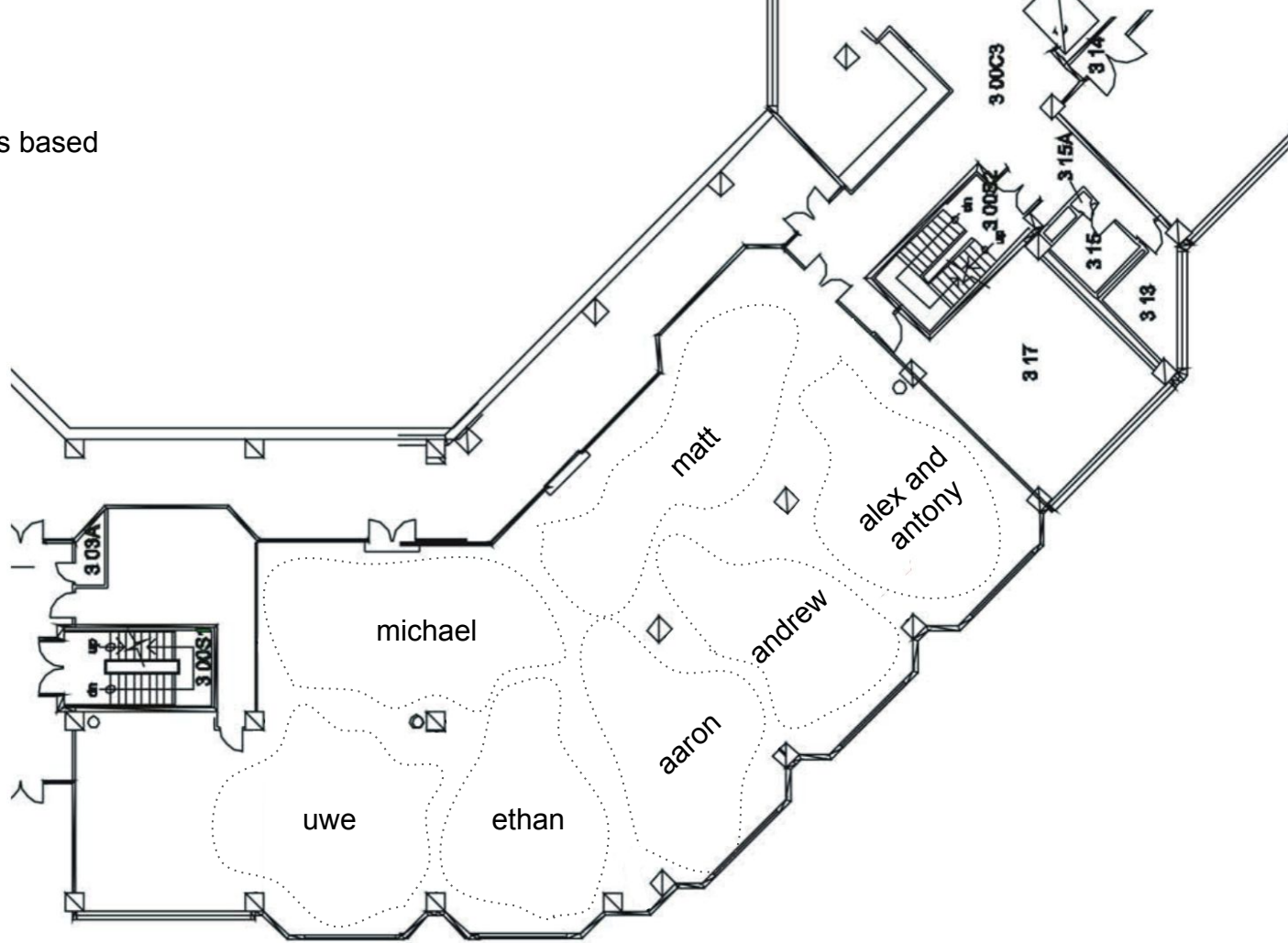
think of this as a rubik's cube - where the edges of the pages fold out into each other

ON CAREFUL OBSERVATION



step 1 [5mins]

Organise yourselves into groups based on the floor plan

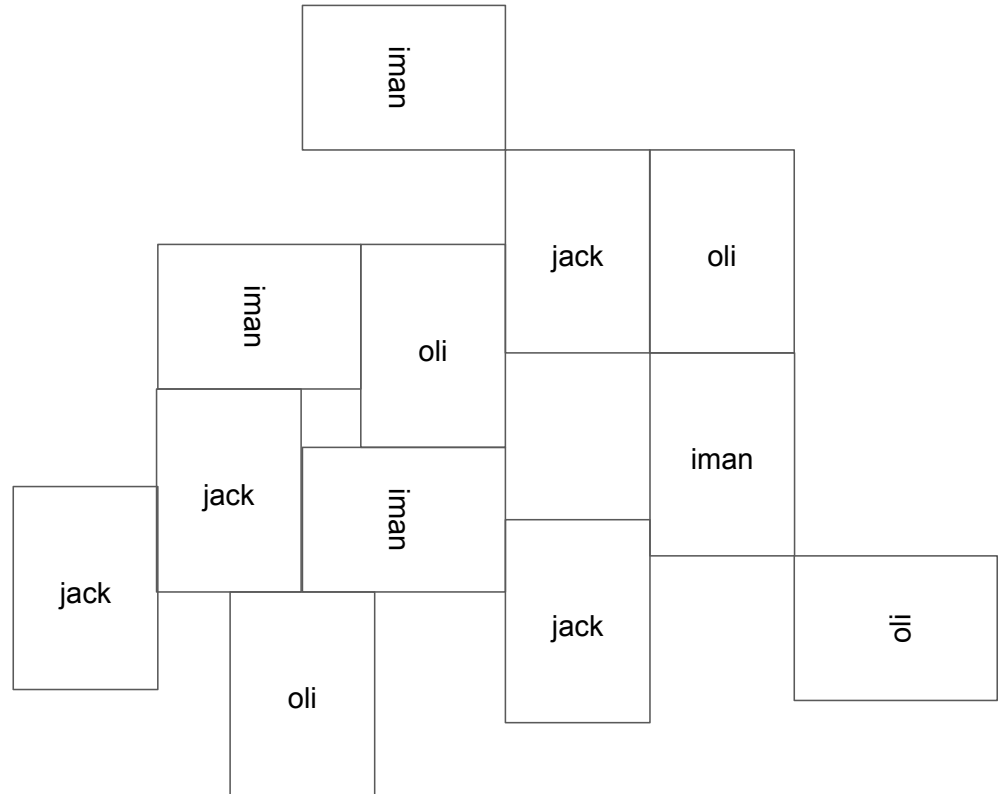


step 2 [15 mins]

Lay out your 8 brief pages on the floor - do this one at a time, alternating between your group members.

This process is random, the pages should meet without an idea of what the final map will look like.

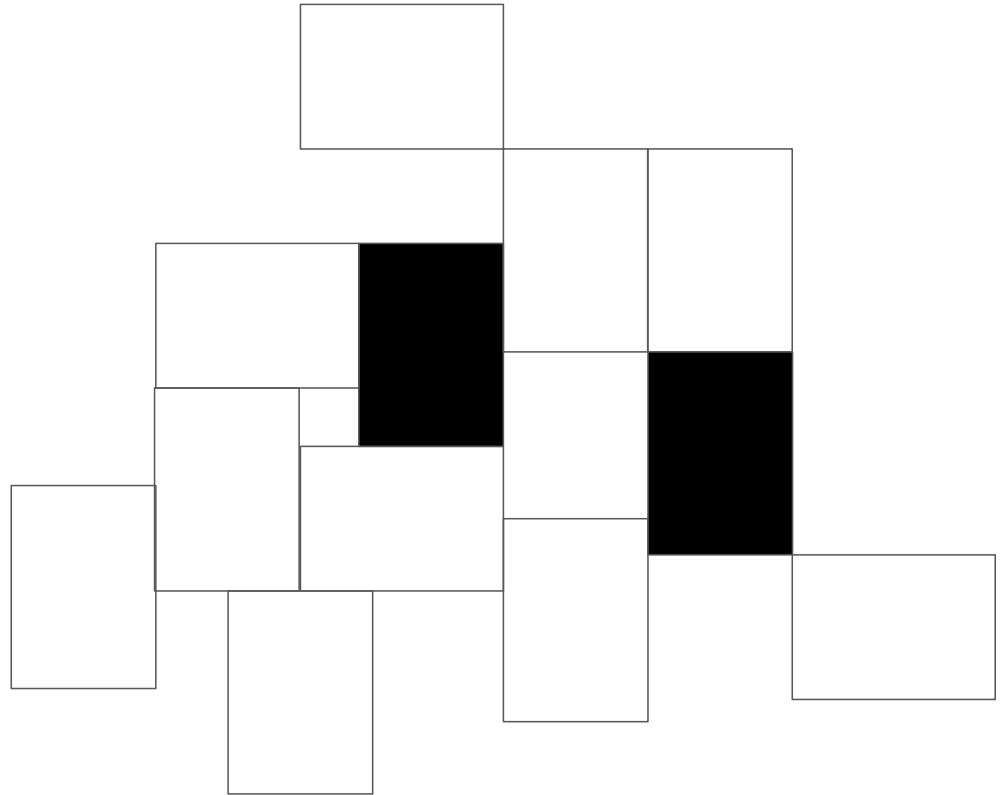
Make sure your names are on the backs of the sheets.



step 3 [15 mins] 1 person

Pick 2 drawings: 1 of your own + 1 someone else's

Take this away, and draw the connections between these 2 pages... where the ideas touch, overlap or hint subtly at each other.



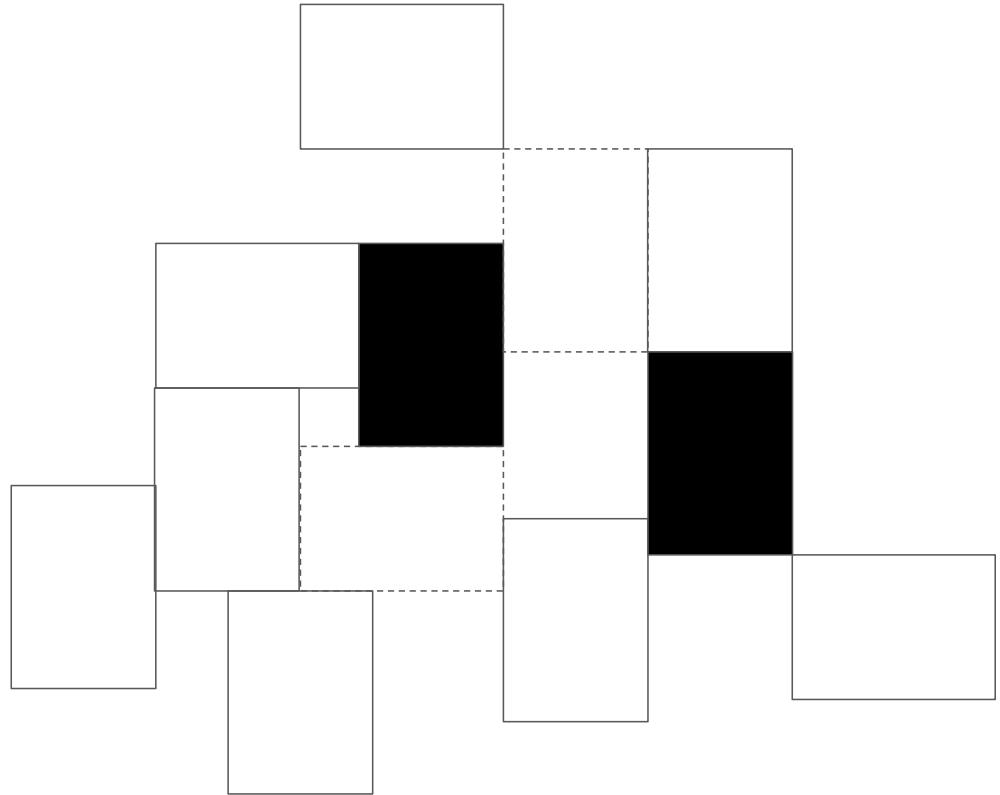
Place the drawings back at the end of the 15 minutes!

Step 4 [25 mins] 2 people

Pick 2 new drawings that previously touched your last 2 picks.

[this could be immediately touching the previous page or be close]

Pair up with someone and draw between the 2 of you.



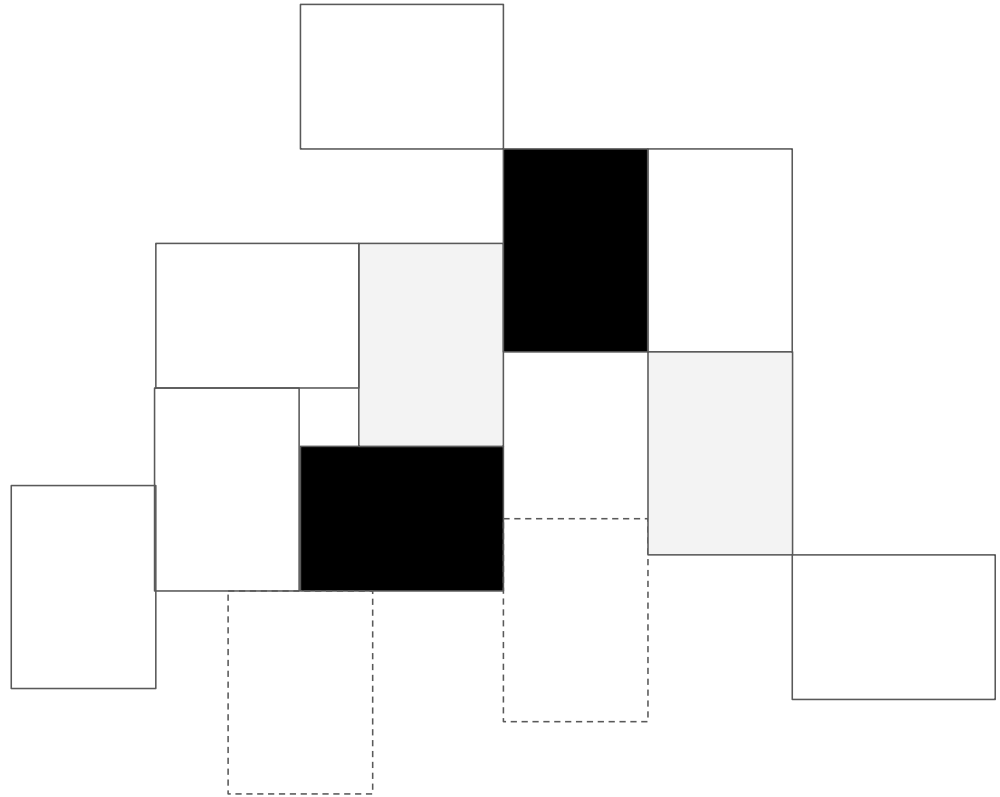
Place the drawings back at the end of the 25 minutes!

Step 5 [30 mins] 3 people

Pick 2 new drawings that previously touched your last 2 drawings, like the previous round.

Pair up with 2 others and draw between the 3 of you

[this could be a new group or part of a previous one]



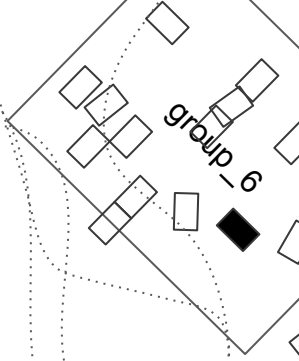
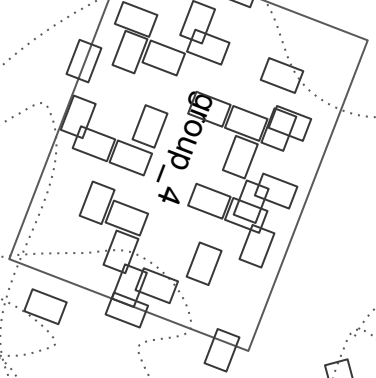
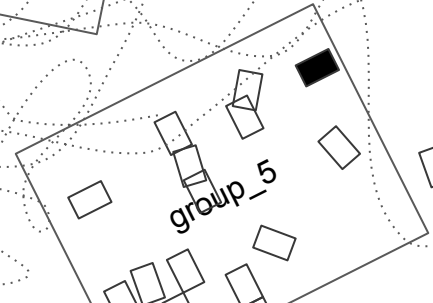
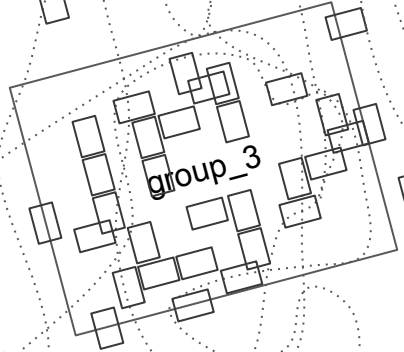
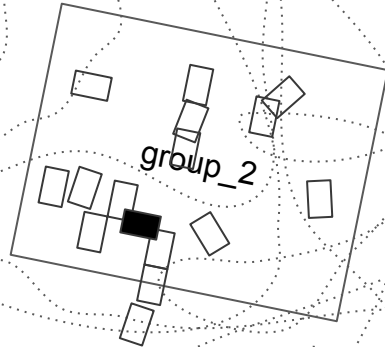
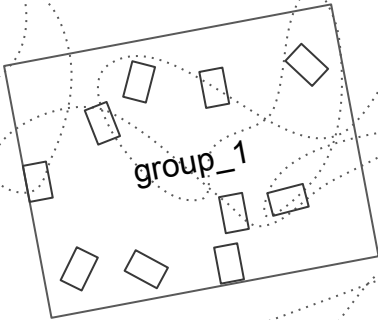
Place the drawings back at the end of the 30 minutes!

Step 6 [20 mins]

We will now go for a walk between the islands of knowledge in the room.

Have a wander through the islands and take at least 6 photos from the room (1 photo/idea per group).

Let the mind wander, let your conversations and curiosity shape the path you take... Will you be sharing ideas? Stealing ideas?



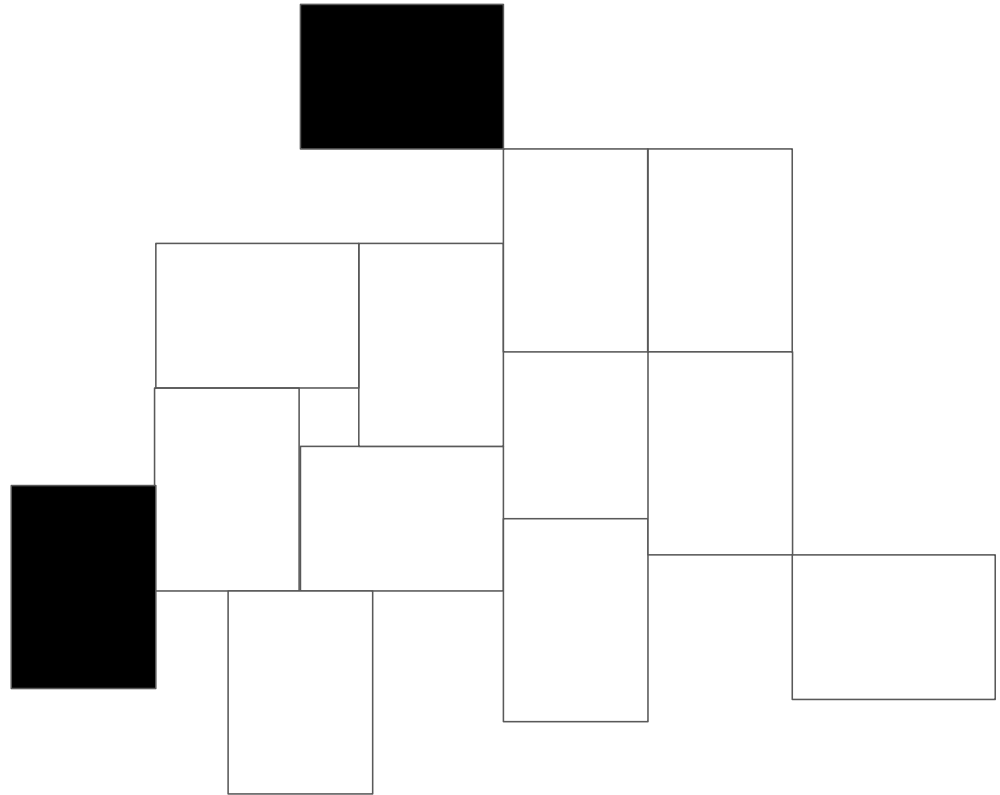
Go and have a break!

Step 7 [15 mins] 4 people

Redraw ideas gathered from the walk on 2 previously untouched pages.

Pair up with 3 others and draw between the 4 of you.

This should draw on ideas around the room - a conversation that you heard in passing, a drawing that caught your eye.



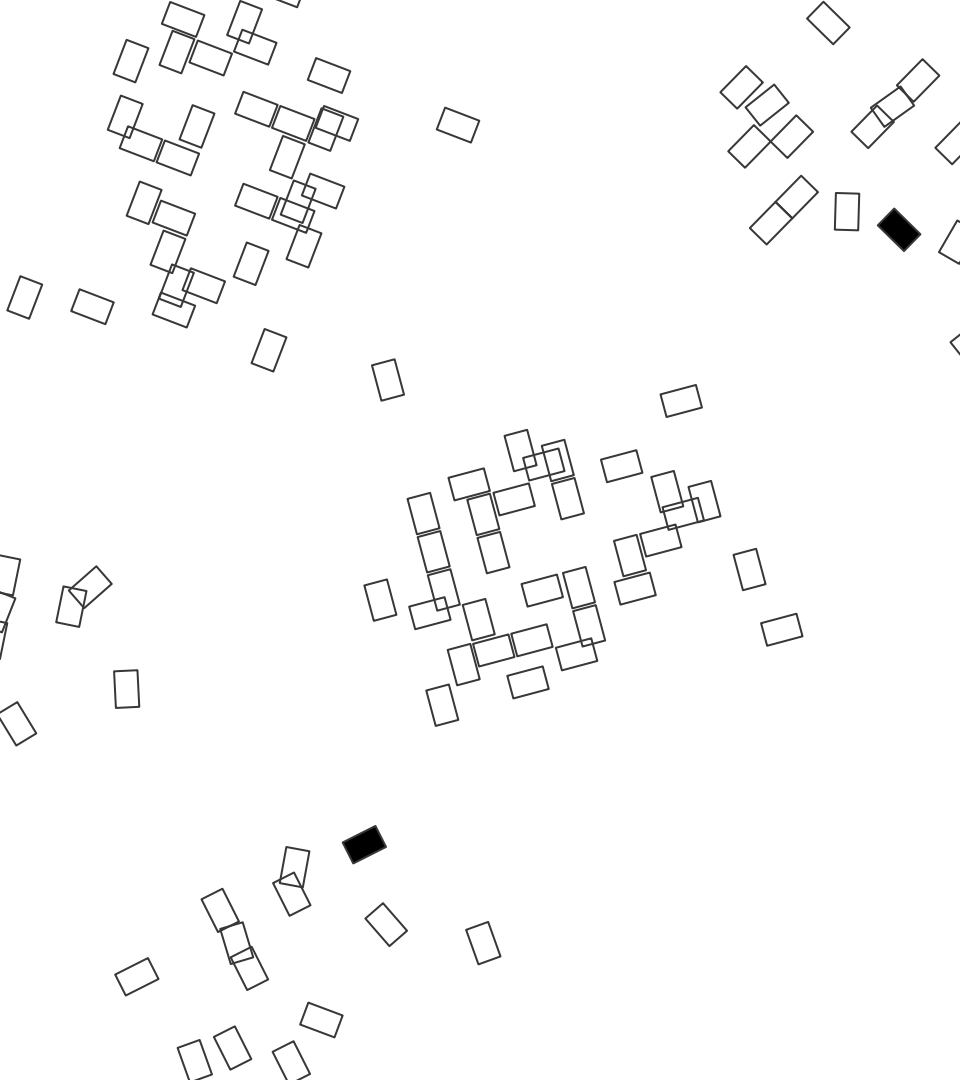
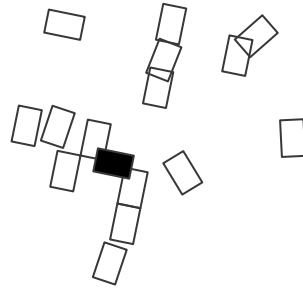
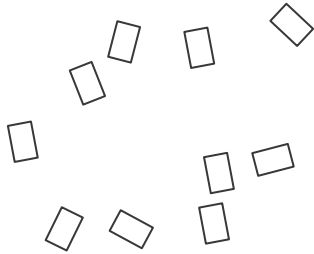
Place the drawings back at the end of the 15 minutes!

Step 8 [2 mins]

Our last gathering.

Use the last few minutes to rearrange the group map to form better connections between the pages.

You can reshuffle as a group - talking to one another and sharing ideas in the process.



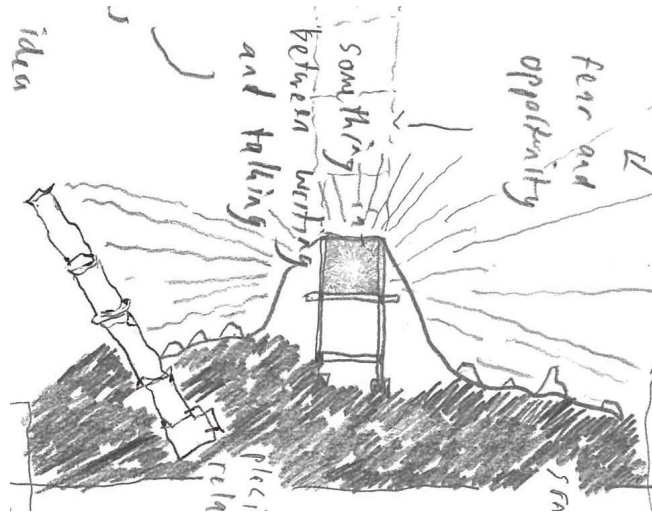
At the end of this, we will share our last bit of content - a return brief. Take your task sheets out!

a return brief

Generate a 100 word summary of your interpretation of the brief along with 5 questions (to ask yourself or your tutor)

Include an image taken during the workshop of an idea, diagram or drawing that stood out.

You will take this to your tutor on Thursday!



this could be about:

- site
- program
- precedent
- method
- process

a postcard

Create a postcard to take back to your tutor on Thursday.

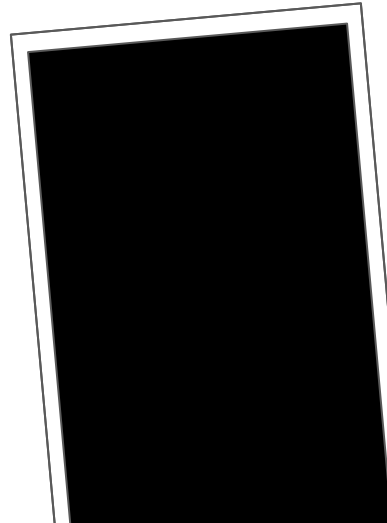
This could be digital or analogue. On one side, paste a photo taken of an idea or drawing during the workshop with your writing on the other side.

You may choose to keep this in portrait or landscape.



Your 100 word summary.


5 questions...



Your 100 word
summary.

5 questions...

a practice to take forward...

 - - - - constellation of ideas.