

Findings and conclusions concerning the E&PDE 2018 pre-conference workshop 'sketching your academic output'

September 5th, 2018, held by the Design Sketching SIG

Represented by Amos Scully (Rochester), Dorothy Evans (Strathclyde), Mark Sypesteyn (DUT), Bryan Howell (BYU, chair), JanWillem Hoftijzer (DUT, chair)

Support by: Ahmed Kovacevic (DESIG), Alisa Larsen (BYU)

Venue: The Royal College of Art, Senior Common Room

1. Introduction (announcement):

Workshop 2: Sketching your academic output (alternative publication methods)

In line with the aims of the newly proposed special interest group (SIG) called 'Design Sketching', an international group of sketching practitioners and educators, offers a free workshop that explores the visual depiction of academic output through sketching.

In order to align design education, research and practice, as well as the discipline of design sketching and visualization, the 'Design Sketching' SIG desires to explore alternative methods of academic publication. The 'generic' language of sketching and drawing could be used to visualize the content of publications which – traditionally – are primarily rendered in text. An alternative visual format for sharing cases, course work, practices, methods and research would enable both practice and education to participate in non-written forms of output. It would also help align traditional design research to the subject it discusses. Moreover, visual output formats could make any research outcome increasingly accessible to a broader and increasingly diverse audience.

We welcome you to this workshop that includes exercises, case reviews, and examples of non-written output. We will explore the academic implications of this notion and you will be challenged and supported in transforming one of your own publications into a visual format. Please bring one of your already published papers to use as a vehicle to explore how it might be made visual.



Figure 1: Sketches for representation of all kind

What you can expect from the workshop

A small team of professional design practitioners, visualizers and educators, with backgrounds in product design and visual thinking will introduce and facilitate the workshop. Participants will investigate and explore ways of visualizing their own and others publications from a different point of view.

2. Agenda:

- Introduction Design Education SIG (Ahmed)
- Introduction Design Sketching SIG (JW)
 - Aims
 - Members
- Introduction of the workshop (JW)
 - Why the workshop
 - Today's agenda
 - Participant outcomes
- The Non-written output question: presentation of developments, examples (Bryan and Amos)
- 1st exercise: draw yourself (without drawing yourself)
- Present method: break-down publication from 'introduction' to 'conclusion'
- 2nd exercise: arrows, table, house, frames (Mark and JW)
- Break
- Break down, starting with a schematic overview in one page, then sketching per section
 - A4 summary of text in frames and relations
 - Sketching per section, providing examples, 'intro', 'main idea', 'method', 'results', etc.
- Wrap-up with sketches on the floor
- Brief discussion about topics for a future design sketching conference
- End, drinks



Figure 2: Ahmed Kovacevic introducing DESIG, and JanWillem Hoftijzer introducing the Design Sketching SIG

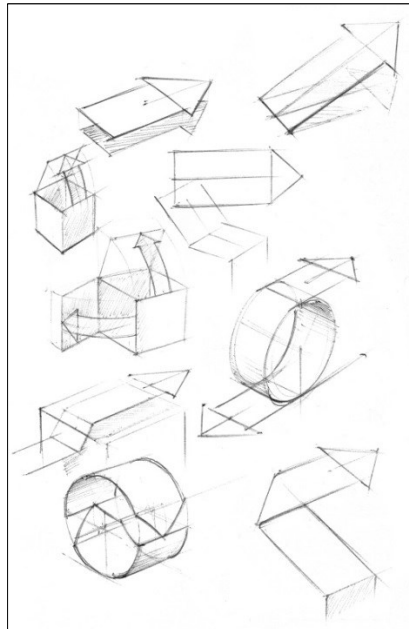


Figure 3: example exercises 'drawing arrows'

3. Goals and questions

The main goals of the workshop were (1) to explore this alternative format for publication, to experience and discuss how sketching can be utilized to visualize research, (2) to share the SIG vision and activities, and (3) invite participants to join the SIG.

Sub goals were: (4) find out whether participants could convert traditional papers into a visual (sketched) version, (5) how they felt about doing this, (6) which topics would be suitable to address at a possible future 'Sketching conference'.

4. The workshop

Some results of the workshop sessions are presented here. (1) participants' depiction of oneself, (2) visual abstracts of the participants' academic papers

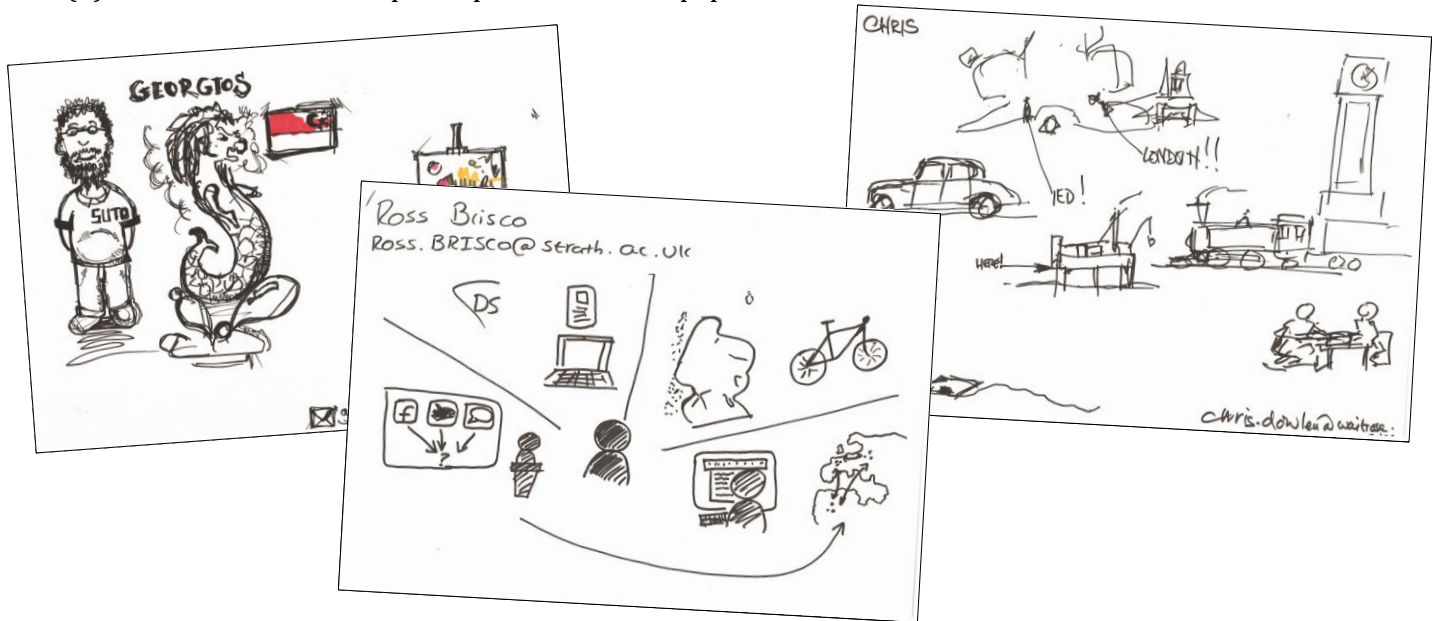
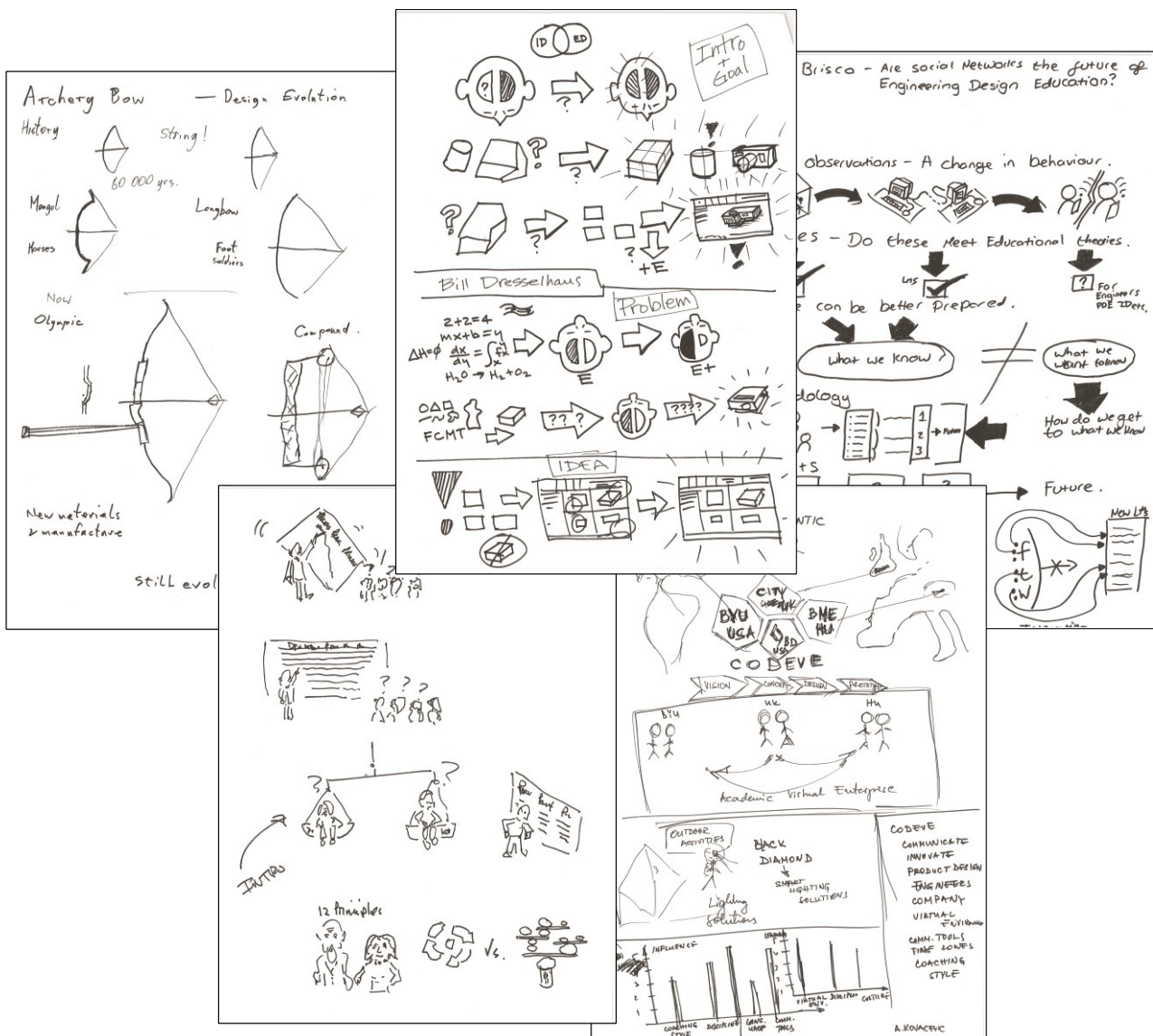


Figure 4: results by participants



5. Conclusions per goal

(1) Explore

The workshop was indeed a collaborative exercise and experience. Together, the facilitators and participants sought for ways to capture the essence of a paper. From various reactions, one can conclude that the exercise positively triggered people's mind; "what are the core messages I want to convey with my paper?", and another reaction: "It made me reconsider the actual structure of my work".

(2) Share the vision

According to people's reactions at the end of the workshop, the majority were excited and supportive of the idea of attempting to visualize the content of academic output.

(3) Invite

Participants were all invited to cooperate and join our initiative organizing workshops and the general aims of the Design Sketching SIG.

(4) Could participants translate their paper?

We (the SIG members presenting) were impressed by the quality and courage participants displayed sketching their stories. The sketches were very nice and indeed conveyed (a summary of) the contents of people's paper.

The provided step-by-step approach was helpful to show examples of how to sketch abstract concepts, however some people started to sketch their full story right away. This could indicate that some participants are well aware of what to do but they only need to be motivated and facilitated (examples, instructions).

Some participants even focused on the lay-out and composition of the fully sketched narrative, and how their paper would best be represented.

(5) How did participants feel about the exercise?

The primary feedback was that the sketching exercise had helped people to reflect on their work. When asked to turn their written paper into a sketched format, participants needed to summarize, choose and re-think elements of what they desired to convey.

(6) Which topics in case of a conference:

The following suggestions were presented: Non-object sketches (process, narrative), Digital sketching, Architecture, Sketching for engineers

The audience had no specific preference, however 'non-object sketches' appeared to be what people needed for their sketched papers. Digital sketching seems to be a logical ingredient, since the digital medium is very suitable to elaborate on a sketch and make it more presentable. Within a future conference context, it is worth exploring the full width (and beyond) of the design sketching discipline. Interest in including architecture and mechanical engineering drawing were also noted.



Figure 5: The draw-yourself exercise

6. Recap in general:

To the 'Design Sketching' SIG members, offering this workshop 'sketching your academic output' helped reinforce the message that sketching is a language for designers, educators and also for researchers that can be used in new ways. The structure of the workshop (1. intro – 2. the non-written-output question/today's status – 3. warming-up – 4. specific tactical sketching exercises – 5. break-down paper and examples – 6. sketching your paper) purposely 'forced' people to sketch and feel more or less comfortable, before the actual 'translation' exercise begun.

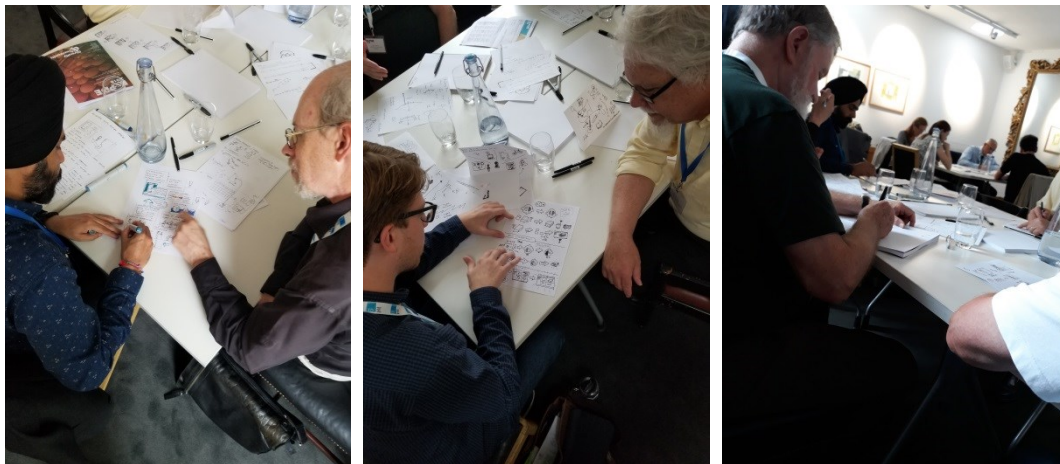


Figure 6: sketching your own paper, and discussing with peers

For the E&PDE participants, this appeared to be a suitable approach. Perhaps, focusing on the overall depiction (lay-out) could be part of a next - similar – workshop, including frames, colour, hierarchy, etc., whereas this workshop focused on sketching the paper sections.

In general, the Design Sketching SIG members were very happy we could do the workshop, and were also happy about the participants' enthusiasm and outcome.

Thanks

To the E&PDE, the Design Society and the IED: thank you very much for giving us the opportunity to do this workshop.

To the participants: thank you so much for your enthusiastic participation and great efforts. And congratulations with your great results.

JanWillem Hoftijzer (Delft University of Technology) & Bryan Howell (Brigham Young University)

Chairs of the Design Sketching Special Interest Group

Instagram: [designsketchingSIG](#)

Email: j.w.hoftijzer@tudelft.nl & bryan.howell@byu.edu

Extra photos taken from the workshop:

