

## Comment on Can Design Be Considered as Research?

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The author is to be congratulated for his well written and thought-provoking paper. He introduces a very pertinent point. He has provided valuable insight into opportunities to improve quality of learning and design processes. There is a lack of linkage in research and design for architectural studies which needs to be addressed. The definition of architectural and research is one, which sometimes misrepresented and more misunderstood. Another is verification whether design can be research or not. These are essence in Dr.Vimolsiddni's paper which is the first step in identifying methods for a reliable design research. I shall start to comment on its organization, idea and methodology as well as supporting idea that design can be considered as research.

The procedure in conducting his work begins with looking at the current problems of design processes and setting up hypothesis. The author then identifies the characteristics of the design and research processes, followed by compares the keys of the two processes into a simple table as well as reasonable analysis. Each process was analyzed to determine the relevant mediating processes. The author matched the processes of design and research proofing that there is a need of research method within all design steps. Besides, the author also suggests possible barriers to success in addition to proposed design process based on problem-solving process. This is a useful approach as design can be research by nature.

The author describes a method for designing by researching. However, an understanding of technology and its mechanisms are also important in the design processes. It is important to determine whether the design or building performance is successful or failure with regards to the initial hypothesis. What if it has been implemented in universities and practice? I believe that the design quality and designers, themselves, will be much improved since the processes are different. How does it affect the design process? This approach opens opportunities to integrate multi-disciplinary field of

studies into design. It relates knowledge to each process, concluding with suggestions for new design directions.

For example, after the designer sets up hypothesis and design goals, he or she begins the design. This process requires such technology, design and analysis tools in order to generate design options that meet the initial goals. New inventions with scientific research support would be products derived from this process by nature. The next design stage is implementation that database and knowledge management system are useful to collect data as feedback to better design.

The last step, evaluation, this process is missing from today's architect's role. There is a need to assess the design output compared to initial hypothesis whether the design works as stated in the beginning of the design process or not. This is crucial that it is architect's responsibility to pay attention to the design from the very beginning to the end. Therefore, the architect's role will be changed into a better way. It is the hope that this professional will be recognized and respected from society more than what it is today. I would say that it is state of the art and state of the science at the same time.

However, I am concerned about the author's notes that all aspects of design can somehow be proved. This observation is used to make a projection about the design process. It is likely that some aspects of design are hard to be evaluated since everything is dynamic, conflict, and non-self. Judgment will also depend upon individual. This is rather complex to understanding the performance of all building and human performance which sometimes lies outside the domain of measurable variables.

The author has made innovative solution to the current design problem. How many people take it into account seriously? In my personal view, value given by society is the key. Educational methodology and its structure are essential factors that will drive this concept comes across. Furthermore, all participants involved in the design process, such as owner, manufacturers, construction people, architects, financial specialists, governors and technical people, have effects on making this idea possible.

## **Conclusion**

In conclusion, the author has made a good attempt at stimulating further discussion on the subject of design and research, more generally, the question of processes. This is an important point of discussion and one that deserves promotion. At present, resolution of this potential process would be speeded by the focus of multi-disciplinary teams, including owners, designers, and specialists. New market for design would open where new design and products are needed to provide high-quality built environment. Until such time as design research reaches the industry in formats optimized for design, we remain conservatively optimistic that the quality of design will fulfill a life promise well beyond today.