

THE  
"LIFE DESIGN STUDIO"  
COURSE @



**ashoka**  
UNIVERSITY

Reflections on  
Design Thinking by  
the Cohort

DESIGN THINKING IS  
NOT JUST A TOOL,  
BUT MOREOVER A  
LIFELONG APPARATUS  
OF THINKING

- VEDANT

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EVERYONE ENGAGES IN  
DESIGN THINKING, ONLY  
A FEW ARE ABLE TO  
IDENTIFY WHEN THEY  
ARE ENGAGING IN THE  
PROCESS

-AASHNA

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SCIENTIFIC THINKING MAY INVOLVE  
TRYING TO COME UP WITH ONE  
DEFINITIVE ANSWER TO A CLOSE-ENDED  
PROBLEM, AND CRITICAL THINKING MAY  
BE ABOUT WEIGHING EVIDENCE, BEING  
SKEPTICAL AND PICKING FROM  
ALTERNATIVES, OR ARTISTIC THINKING  
MAY BE ABOUT BEAUTY,

DESIGN THINKING INVOLVES PRODUCING  
A FUNCTIONAL SOLUTION TO A  
(SOMETIMES) OPEN ENDED PROBLEM

-NIHARIKA

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WITHOUT ACTION,  
DESIGN IS MERELY  
RESEARCH

-ANANYA, AYUSHI, MEHAK

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CHARLES EAMES STATED  
"DESIGN THINKING IS NOT A  
METHOD OF EXPRESSION,  
BUT A METHOD OF ACTION"

DESIGN THINKING HELPED US  
MOULD OUR CREATIVITY  
INTO ACTIONABLE  
SEQUENCES

ASHISHA, SHUBHASHREE, TANVI

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CRITICAL THINKING NEEDS  
JUDGEMENT TO CHOOSE  
BETWEEN TWO  
ALTERNATIVES. DESIGN  
THINKING HELPS IN  
GENERATING ALTERNATIVES

- AKSHAT

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IT MUST NOT BE CONFUSED  
WITH TRIAL AND ERROR,  
AND BE UNDERSTOOD AS  
THE DEVOTION OF THE  
MIND-SPACE TO GENERATE  
ALTERNATIVES INSTEAD OF  
CHOOSING BETWEEN  
PRE-ESTABLISHED ONES.

-AASHNA, SHREEYANSHI

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EMPATHY FUELS  
CONNECTION AND  
SYMPATHY  
DRIVES  
DISCONNECTION

-VRINDA

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EMPATHY CAN BE  
BUILT AS A SKILL.  
THERE IS NO  
"INHERENT" TRAIT  
AS SUCH

-VIBHU

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AVOID THE DOGMA  
OF THE "STEPS",  
FOR THINKING IS  
DYNAMIC

- VRINDA

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DESIGN THINKING IS  
BEYOND JUST LEARNING  
BY DOING, IT ENTAILS:

THINKING AND DOING  
THINKING BY DOING  
THINKING ABOUT DOING

-ANSH

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IN DESIGN THINKING,  
CONTEXT IS EVERYTHING.  
HOWEVER, SOMETIMES IT IS  
IMPORTANT TO LET GO OF  
COLLECTIVE KNOWLEDGE  
AND EXPERIENCES AND LOOK  
AT THINGS WITH A CLEAN  
SLATE, AND FRESH  
PERSPECTIVES.

- JYOTIKA

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DESIGN IS  
LIMITED BY  
TIME,  
BUT DESIGN  
THINKING IS NOT

-TSHERING

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PRACTICE  
MAKES  
PROTOTYPE.

-AASHNA

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THE WAY DESIGN DIFFERS FROM  
OTHER DISCIPLINES OF THINKING IS  
THAT IT IS NOT CONSTRAINED TO  
ANY ONE SUBJECT MATTER AND  
DOES NOT STUDY ONLY THE LAWS  
OR NATURAL PHENOMENA PERTAINING  
TO THAT.

"IT IS MORE CONCERNED WITH THE  
PARTICULAR AND THERE IS NO  
SCIENCE OF THE PARTICULAR"  
(WICKED PROBLEMS OF DESIGN  
THINKING)

ASHISHA, SHUBHASHREE, TANVI

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REFRAMING IS NOT SIMPLY  
NEGATING. IT IS ABOUT  
CHALLENGING THE BELIEFS  
THAT KEEP YOU STUCK, AND  
FINDING A MIDDLE GROUND  
THROUGH PROTOTYPING AND  
REFLECTION. IT TAKES  
TIME.

- TANYA

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DESIGN THINKING IS A  
NORMATIVE FRAMEWORK  
HOWEVER, ITS ESSENCE IS THE  
ABILITY TO THINK AND TO USE  
PRACTICE TO HELP ONE THINK  
BETTER- INSTEAD OF  
PRODUCING A PERFECT VASE BY  
THEORISING ABOUT IT, THE  
PERFECT VASE IS FORMED BY  
BUILDING MANY VASES.

-NIHARIKA, JAIVARDHAN, JYOTIKA

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IT IS POSSIBLE THAT A REFRAMED  
DYSFUNCTIONAL BELIEF IS ALSO  
ACTUALLY DYSFUNCTIONAL.

THE TASK OF REFRAMING  
DYSFUNCTIONAL BELIEFS IS NOT A  
ONE STEP PROCESS, BUT A  
REGULAR ITERATIVE PROCESS  
THAT A PERSON NEEDS TO KEEP  
REPEATING FROM TIME TO TIME

- AKSHAT

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