

PROJECT REPORT

COMMUNICATION DESIGN PROJECT III (P-III)

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Introduction

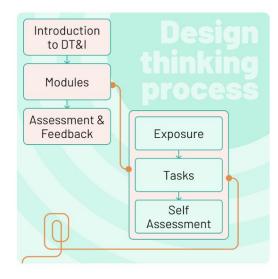
In 2019, the Indian Ministry of Education approved the introduction of Design as a subject in the school curriculum. It is first being introduced in the CBSE curriculum and will be expanded to other education boards later.

The entire project of shaping up and delivering this new subject is being carried out by an extensive team of industry experts. This team is chaired by Prof. Ravi Poovaiah. The grade-wise structure and aim of the subject has already been mapped out by the team. Based on this, the content is being developed at the time of writing this report.

The subject has been titled "Design Thinking and Innovation" (DT&I). It will be introduced for grade 6-12. It will be an optional subject for grade 6, 7 and 8. Hence, the structure and learning otucomes for these three grades will be the same.

Unlike other school subjects, DT&I will not have textbooks but it will be based only on practical learning. The plan is that the students will first be exposed to content related to specific concepts. Following this they will be given tasks to understand the concept with first hand experience. The students will have access to a list of the tasks. The teacher overseeing this may or may not be of a design background. So, the teacher will have access to the exposure content and a manual to understand how to guide the students through the concepts and their tasks. Each task will also come with detailed out criteria for assessment.

Since this is a new subject and a very different approach to instruction, feedback from both teachers and students will be collected for each task. Based on this feedback, the content of the workbooks will be regularly updated.



The brief

The initial brief based on which this project shaped up was as follows:

- To work on the visual design of the workbooks for students.
- Should be executed on softwares that nondesigners can also edit to update the content anytime in future.
- The books will be primarily digital. There is no plan to print them centrally. They may be printed locally by any school if they require.
- The workbooks can be accessed on any device- phone, tablet, laptop or desktop computer.

Given

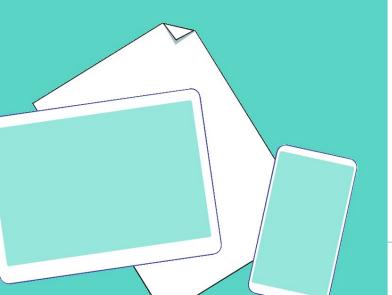
- An overview to the overall plan with the subject.
- A word document of content for grade 6* and 9.

*Content of grade 6, 7, 8 are similar and of the same level

Breaking down the brief

- The workbooks are for classes 6-12.
- They should work on both digital and print mediums.
- When printed locally, common office printers may be used. So, the design should work in greyscale.
- To figure out the output format of the workbooks. How the workbooks will be executed finally is not decided and is open for suggestions.
- They final design should be delivered on softwares (like MS Word) that can be used by nondesigners.
- Phones may be the majority's choice of device to access the wrkbooks.
- Parents refer to details like lesson plans given in the workbook.

The Layout



Planning

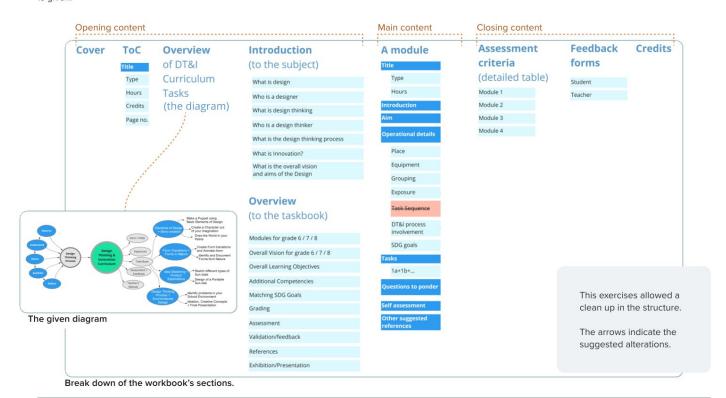
The output format

The first thing to figure out was what the output format of these workbooks will be. Currently NCERT and CBSE websites provide digital resources as EPUBs, Flipbooks and PDFs. On some explorations as creating books for each of these formats, it was found that none worked for both print and digital. The reading experience for both mediums is very different- print needs around 10pt font size and phones need about 14-16 px font size for easy reading of the body text.

Finally, an HTML-CSS based webpage was decided as the digital output and Google Docs for print. The web-page will be developed at a later point in time.

The content structure

Understanding the content structure from the what is given.

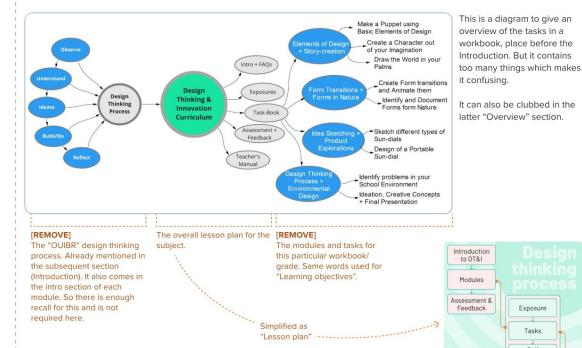


A closer look at each section.

Table of Contents (ToC)

Title Type Hours Credits Page no. Not in digital version

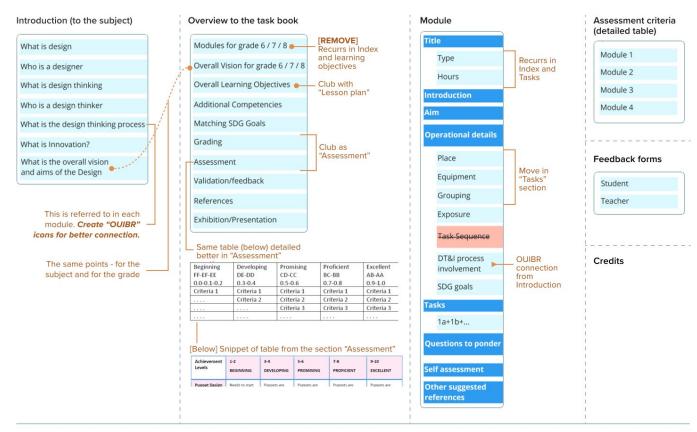
Overview of DT&I Curriculum Tasks (the given diagram)



Assessment

The content structure

A closer look at each section.



Defining constraints

Because there will be no control over device and interface:

- · The layout should be responsive- column grid
- There will be no page nos. in digital. There should be easy identification for each section at any point
- · B/W or greyscale should also work when printed.
- Visibility in dark mode-contrast in font size and thickness to display structure

Because of lack of control over execution and updation:

- · No manual overrides in template
- · One font, minimum variations
- · Consistency and minimum variety in style sheet
- · Google Doc as final document

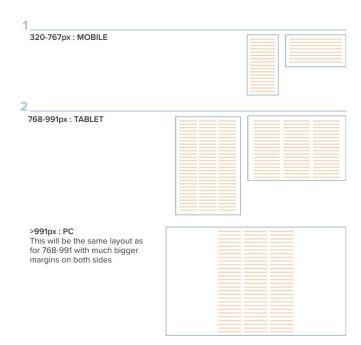
The user group is big. So keep in mind accessibility through:

- Consistency
- · Contrast size, style, space
- · Accessible images- avoid text descriptions for only decorative images
- · Non-dependency on colour
- · Choice of font
- · Minimum font size

Web

Breakpoints

Since the workbook will be viewed on any device, its layout for web should be responsive. The following are the minimmym number of breakpoints to designs for:

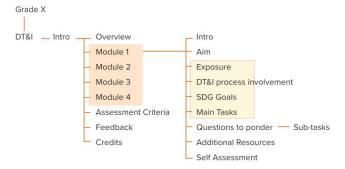


Web

Information architecture

Since this workbook will be a webpage, there will be a certain flow of information. Deciding this flow is not in the scope of this project as it will be meant for all subjects across the board.

Hence, below is the the most plausible guess of what the information acrchitecture will be once such a webpage is made.



The grid

For the web-first approach, the layout is based on a bootstrap twelve and four column grid for the two breakpoints.

> 767px



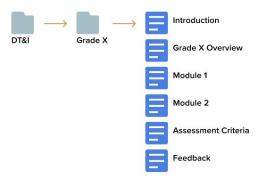
320-767px



Print

Information architecture

The architecture for print will follow that of the web-each section of each grade's work book will have a seperate Google Doc file.



The grid

The print layout will majorly be a one column layout to account for easy editing by anyone.



Design

There are a total of 6 main sections with different layouts. These layouts are to be adapted for 2 breakpoints for web and a Google Doc version for print.

The sections

Index Introduction Overview (of the grade) A module Assessment Criteria Feedback

X

Layout adaptations Web 320-767px Web 768-991px & above Google Doc for Print

Early iterations

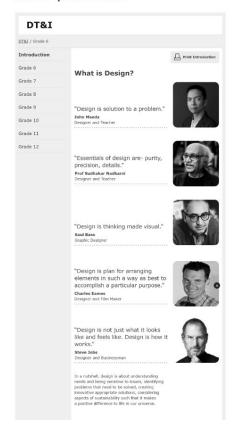
Starting with the layout of a module, the most important section, the initial version was based on the final print outcome as a Word document. The font used was Verdana in that case- it is available by default on both Windows and Mac and is also a web-safe font. Plus, it has the basic font variations- Regular, Italic, Bold and Bold Italic. The illustration were also made with a lot of restriction in mind- basic outlines and light colours, to make it print-friendly.

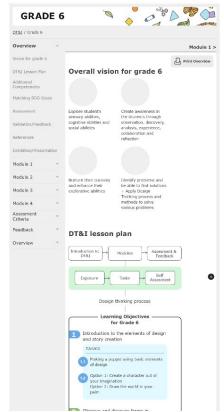
I also tried showing a greyed-out dummy interface in the prototype because the workbook will finally appear as part of some interface. All I could was guess what the interface may be.

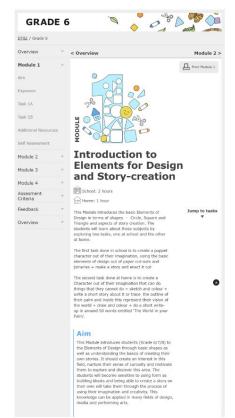
Previous choice of typeface: Verdana

No installation required

768-991px and above







Early iterations

320-767px



Introduction to Elements for Design and Story-creation



Jump to tasks ▼

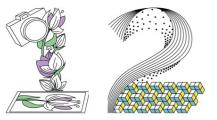
This Module introduces the basic Elements of Design in terms of shapes — Circle, Square and Triangle and aspects of story creation. The students will learn about these subjects by exploring two tasks, one at school and the other at home.

The first task done in school is to create a puppet character out of their imagination, using the basic elements of design out of paper cutouts and joineries + make a story and enact it

Illustrations for class 6



Illustrations for class 9





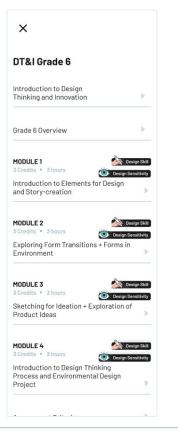
On recieving unfavourable feedback, I shifted my approach. I first chose more modern font followed by work on branding the subject and creating illustration in line with it. (The current version of illustration and fonts in the section "Branding DT&I)

Current version

For the current version, after trying several fonts, I fixed with Nunito Sans for its neutrality and legible details. Its wide and roundish form makes it appear friendly.

I removed the grey-out interface elements as the layout is based on a bootstrap grid making it adaptive to any space.

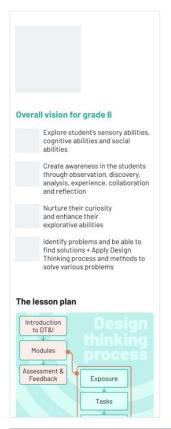
320-767px

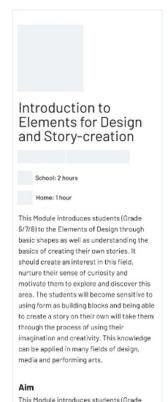




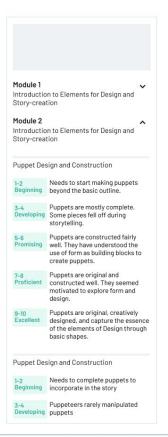
identifying problems that need to be

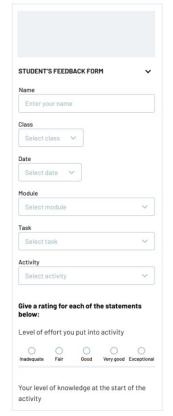
Current version - 320-767px



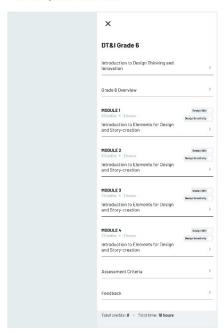


6/7/8) to the Elements of Design through

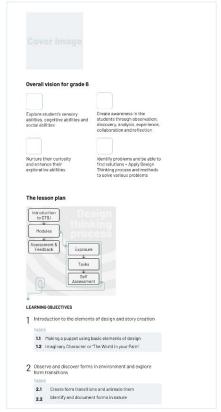




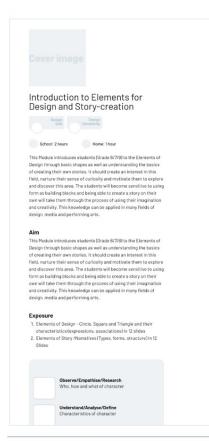
768-991px and above

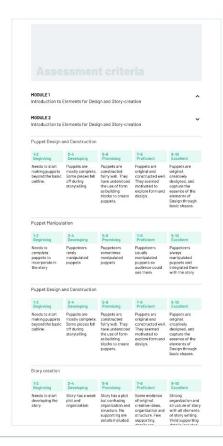


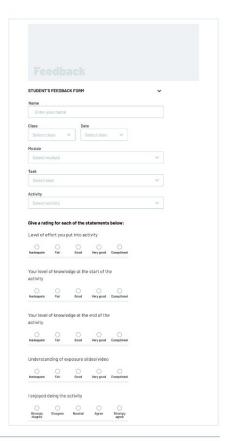




Current version - 768-991px and above



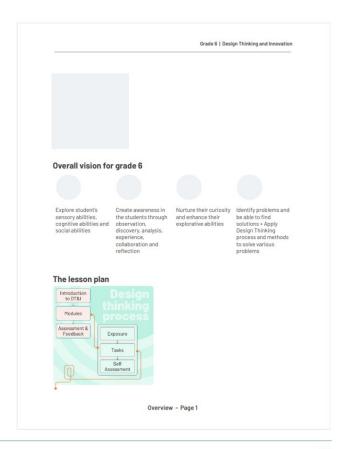




Current version

Google Doc for print





Current version - Google Doc for print



Introduction to Elements for Design and Story-creation







A designer is a highly creative person who enjoys solving problems. The reason why they enjoy being creative is that they are sensitive to the needs of people and understand the extent of the issues in society. This sensitivity allows a designer to be intuitive and to think of opportunities that enhance the lives of people. It makes them appreciate the intricate aspects of a problem or a situation to help better it through creative designs. (Ref: 2)

Design being an important part of the creative industry has many options for you to pursue, such as Communication/Graphic Design, Product Design, Animation Design, Automobile Design, Architecture Design, Environmental Design, Digital Design, Textile/Fashion Design, and such.

So, if you are looking for something which will give your creative streak in you an outlet and also provide you with innovative problem-solving skills, design may be the option for you.

Module 1 - Page 1



Current version - Google Doc for print

Student's Fee	dback	<			
Name					
Oleman	D-1-				
Class	Date				
Module					
Task					
Activity					
	etatemente	helow:			
	Inadequate	Fair	Good	Very road	Exceptiona
Give a rating for each of the		rair	0000	Very good	Exceptiona
Level of effort you put into activity	0	0			
-	0	0	0	0	0
Level of effort you put into activity Your level of knowledge at the	0	0	0	0	0

Branding DT&I

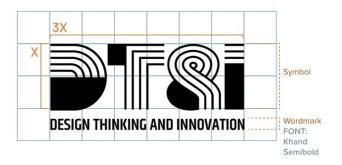
The logo



Based on the key words: Design basics, Learning

This design employs the basic principles of design directly- their is repetition, harmony, rhythm in the lines and a balance between the solid parts and the lines. The letterforms are simple and geometric. The design can allow a variety in the overall visual language for the subject.

The logo construction



The logo variations

To accomodate any type of use case, there are three variations of the logo lockup.







Typography

Typeface

Nunito Sans

This paragaph uses Nunito Sans to demonstrate its appearance in body text. Nunito Sans is a well-balanced sans serif typeface type face created by Vernon Adams. It is an overall friendly looking typeface with good counter spaces and characters with legible details.

It is the only font family used for all kinds of text in the layout for reasons mentioned the "Defining constraints" section earlier. ExtraLight ExtraLight
Light Light
Regular Regular
Semilbold Semilbold
Bold Bold
Extrabold Extrabold
Black Black



Distinguishable characters- upper case "I", lower case "L" and the number "1"

Colours

Since the purpose is education and for a good range of group/levels, the colour palette needs to accomodate variety. It should be playful and pleasant but not too bold as it is for school kids. Thus the palette omits any black and instead consists of 3 greys- a dark, medium and light grey. Other colours are sets of complimentary and triadic colour combination that are not too loud- a different set for each grade.



Graphics

Comprising of flat colours, black outlines and repetions, the graphics style gives possibility to create more sets of graphics that stand out distinctly from each other yet come together as part of a larger family.

Icons

There are icons that recur across sections. Their design maintain playfulness with colours and lines.









































Different style for each grade

The layout of the content needs to be very consistent, as was already defined in the constraints. But with consistency comes monotony. Hence, banners and cover images are the opportunities where the monotony can be broken. Thus, graphics for each grade make individual sets such that each grade's content looks new and different. The tasks are a major section of each module. Hence the section heading is designed as a prominent unit. This is unit changes with each grade to keep in line with the overall graphic style for that grade.

Each task is declared by its number and a supporting icon. The colour of the icon changes with each module based on the dominant colour in the graphic of that module's cover.

Grade 6/7/8

Grade 6/7/8 share simlar content- an introductory level of the course. The reason for this is that students can choose to take up the course or not in any of these grades. So each module for the three grades is based on the same concept with differences in the final tasks. The graphic style uses flat colours and repetitions of simple elements. The colours are soft and pleasant as it is for the younger side of the group. Each module's graphic is created on the concept being taught in it.

















Grade 9

Graphics for this grade up one level using black outlines along with flat colours. Also both 2D and 3D objects are depicted- this comes from the overall concepts planned for the grade.























Grade 10, 11, 12

The content for these grades was not ready at the time of executing this project. Hence graphics for these can be made once the content is ready.

Deliverables

The final files delivered include:

The logo

- 1. The logo [PNG, JPG, SVG]
- 2. Black version
- 3. White version

The banners and covers

- 1. Introduction
- 2. Overview Grade 6/7/8, 9
- 3. Module covers Grade 6/7/8, 9

The icons

- 1. Home
- 2. School
- 3. Individual
- 4. Group (2 and 3/4)
- 5. 6 overall visions
- 6. 4 types of module
- 7. Task section header
- 8. Task icon- each grades's each module

Figma template files

- 1. Table of Contents
- Introduction
 Overview
- 4. Module
- 5. Assessment Criteria
- 6. Feedback

Figma prototype

- 1. 320-767px
- 2. 768-990px
- 3. 991px and above

Google Doc template files

- 1. Table of Contents
- 2. Introduction
- 3. Overview
- 4. Module
- 5. Assessment Criteria
- 6. Feedback

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