

Individual assignment - instructions

The individual assignment consists of the following:

- Seminar texts (separate instructions)
- The making of external representations for thinking about a design idea, and a written text with references

External representations:

The aim is to create an external representation of some *aspect* of the domain for the group assignment in three *iterations*. The aspect can be a product, conversation, location, interaction or something along those lines. Iterations is used loosely here to mean the exploration of an approach (e.g. sketching, storyboarding, desktop walkthrough, etcetera) in three different *conditions*. For a list of potential conditions, see further down. Use the seminar texts to encourage reflection on what the tools enable and confine, and to guide the choice of approach. It is not required but helpful if the individual work also informs the group work.

After each iteration:

Document your representation and write a short text where you describe the approach, the condition and your thoughts on the role of the external representation with references to the seminar texts on no more than 2 A4, excluding the references and images. You can choose freely from all the seminar texts (including the ones for higher grades) and as few or many as you need.

For higher grade (VG, 4, 5):

Find at least 2 research publications that deal with external representations and design and write another 2 pages excluding references. The text should make comparisons across the different iterations and analyze the work with support from concepts in the selected publications. It should critically examine the work and suggest improvements.

Submission:

At the end of the course, make a PDF of all your texts and submit on Lisam as one document.

Conditions:

Here is a non-exhaustive list of potential conditions. Contact the examiner in case of uncertainty.

- Making an abstract representation of an idea and/or making a literal one
- Building something out of different materials
- Using the same approach and exploring different
- Using different kinds of external representations as inspiration: e.g. objects, words, images
- The making of external representations to increase the available design space (generate ideas)
- Building to solve a problem
- Building or otherwise externalizing to find potential problems

Grading: (the grade 4 is awarded submission that fall between 3 and 5):

For G/3

- Images of the external representations
- All approaches and conditions described in sufficient detail
- Meaningful insights related the role of external representations in each iteration
- Relevant references made to the seminar texts

For 5/VG

- The comparison is rigorous and makes meaningful connections between the iterations
- The concepts from literature are applicable to the discussed work
- The suggested improvements are relevant and well-supported.