

## Reflection Exploratory Sketching

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I wanted to enroll in this course to improve my sketching skills. I missed the basic skills to really communicate my sketches. I enjoy the creative part of the design process, and I wanted to be able to communicate my work clearly towards my team in a design project. Sometimes I have difficulties with presenting myself clearly towards others, by showing a communicative sketch, it could be clear far more easy. I also wanted to use sketches for the ideation process, to discover what is missing and to come up with new ideas before really building the prototype. Also it gives the possibilities to play with the proportions of products and to really visualize the final idea. Furthermore I always admired the design sketches of other people who were able to make nice sketches, I wanted to learn this as well. I tried it by hiring a sketching book in the library but I had difficulties with finding the discipline to start practicing.

When I look back at the first sketch, the baseline exercise, I can clearly see my development in different aspects: the medium I used; drawing of perspective; communication of my sketch; improved motor skills. First I learned to start with the right medium, now I know to start with blue pencil instead of grey and I know with which medium I have to continue step by step. Just like that, I discovered to improve my sketches very soon by first analyzing and afterwards drawing the right perspective and proportions. Also for the complex or combined products, I discovered that when using reference material I got a better idea of the product, and when following all the steps, I was able to draw it afterwards. When practicing more, I saw that my motor skills became better, I could draw more straight lines and was able to speed up a bit. Next to that, I learned to use markers, to give my sketches more volume and to really communicate a story by adding text, background, title and arrows. Whereas I also learned that this is not always necessary, in the exploring sketching mindset, simple sketches with just one medium are enough. I learned to make this difference and to be aware that I have to consider the goal of the sketch to determine how much time I should spend on it. Within the scenario sketching exercise I learned to create my own reference material to communicate a story. For the redesign I found it very useful to draw the right perspective first, so that I did not have to focus too much on that part.

I am going to use all these skills in my future work, I really enjoyed the course and I still want to make a lot of sketches of everything around me. First I am going to use the skills for scenario sketching. My mother asked me to make an informative flyer, she is moving to a new location with her physiotherapy practice for children, she asked me to communicate this in a sketch. Next to that I am going to explore sketching people, for a friend who really would like to have sketches on his wall of people who are cycling. Furthermore I am going to use these skills in my design processes, I will use it as a tool for ideation, and for showing my ideas towards others. Also, I will use my gained skills in my leisure, when I started on time, sketching worked really relaxing for me, I enjoyed to practice it and it did not feel as an obligation. I have always loved to observe things, this course changed my perspective a bit, when observing I am thinking more often about how products are built up and how the perspective changes when you look from a different angle. I will take my sketchbook and photo camera on holiday and try to sketch and observe things around me which I find interesting or like to redesign. In the end I am really proud of my development, and grateful for everything I learned!