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Forming Form

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FORMING FORM
generation of architectural form is no new topic; it is probably resembles the proverbial dead horse in most other subjects of debate within profession.

It is critical of what appears to be mostly formal architecture of the past decade or two are spread and loud. In this context, I would like to about the formation of form, specifically, the process of generative thought at the beginning of design process that lead us from simple sketch to a comprehensive design. A great deal of vision usually occurs in those moments where it would be much more beneficial to stop evaluating our create.

It seems like a reasonable request after five architecture school to generate ideas without being difficult to imagine this scene: A lone sits in studio, sketchbook open to a fresh pen poised over the surface, waiting for brilliant to burst forth and a beautiful form to seemingly itself across the void. As the seconds tick by minutes, the terror of the blank page begins to a rushing stream of doubt and questions and ideas coalescing to form a block on design, reframing on conscious thought. We become so and the only solution appears to be violently filling nonsense in an attempt to puncture the corner of our sketchbooks, and start working on a trench in the surface of the desk.

really, with a couple years under our belts and terror and frustration and filled pages to might know what we're doing, we learn how our right brain take over. We stop evaluating and imagined line, letting our hands think creating without a concern. The mind takes breath and lets the pen lead. While this all very romantic, the realities of design work that we speak about artistic creation and in ways opposite to the scientific language of evaluation.

We may lie inside the mind at that moment known, and therein the way we are taught, taught, how to generate form. A perusal standard psychology textbook will expose ideas - we don't really know what happens brain when we create. Whether it is music, art, dance, or architecture, it serves the creators to shroud the generative process in romantic mystery and obscurating speech. This persona agrees nicely with our lack of detailed cognitive understanding, and that we creative types should probably just be allowed to do whatever it is we do.

So what are we taught about idea formation in general? Speaking from a personal level, nothing. It was never explained to me how one might go about generating ideas, and probably offends many people reading this I would even suggest there is a way to teach creation. But I am not claiming that there is a right way; rather I think it would be a benefit to our education as designers to discuss different ways that we might generate ideas well, or at least efficiently.

Some of the most useful advice I received about a method of form generation with study models was this: "Make a puddle of white glue the size of a nickel. When that glue dries, stop what you are doing, and start making a new model. Repeat." Setting quick time limits forces us to skip the evaluation of what we are forming and just focus on forming it. Pieces of cardboard become idea markers, a dark color signifies a heft to the mass, a folded piece of paper is a meandering path. The product become more intuitive, and the less we think about what we are generating and just concentrate on generating, the more likely it is that we will be happy with the result. Leave the editing and evaluation and criticism for the refinement of the design.

Pure logic is a system we use to understand the world around us, but it doesn't explain everything. We need to acknowledge this in our design education, and encourage those who claim to teach us to emphasize pure idea formation as a worthwhile creative pursuit. Forming form is not a skill that can be taught like mathematics or history; but the mental approach necessary to generate well, can and should be discussed, explained, and encouraged by those with the experience.

A better understanding of how we form will better the quality of our designs; the logic and evaluation can then step in to push them up to the level of worthwhile architecture. We then, can all profit from a better understanding of our own process from generation through the refined articulation of our forms.