2013

Unblocking the design mind; Looking for AND rather than EITHER-OR

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introduction to 2nd day

Harold Nelson

RSD2 Symposium
AHO, Oslo, Norway
October 11, 2013
the systemic design mind

a mindset

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there will be an ‘ask’
Knowledge comes by taking things apart: analysis.

But wisdom comes by putting things together.

John A. Morrison
systemic design

“putting things together”

wise action
habits of a systemic design mind

vice

habits of an analytic mind
developing the habit of

AND

vice

either/or
‘AND’

conjunction

vice

aggregation
AND

V

• science _ art
• the individual _ the collective
• thinking _ acting
• you _ me

AND as conjunction

filling in the in-between

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ordered / ordering systems
- relationships
- patterns
- compositions

entangled / entangling systems
- links
- assemblies
- networks

organized / organizing systems
- connections
- synergies
- emergent qualities

conjunction systems
1. what is true?
2. what is real?
3. what would be ideal?
4. what ought to be made real?

design inquiry
what’s true?  &  what’s real?
what's a horse?
Western

- analysis & synthesis
- relationships
analysis
(Western tradition)
classification
‘order’

ungulates: hoofed animals
synthesis

(Western AND)
1. synthesis as the ‘assembly’ AND
Eastern

• apposition
• links
2. synthesis as the ‘holistic’ AND
ecosystems & environments
design ANDs

non-duality
3. synthesis as the ‘aesthetic’ AND
emergence of qualities

- spirit
- soul
- essence
- character
- nature
- actuality
- quiddity

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4. synthesis as the ‘emergent quality’ AND
water

hydrogen AND oxygen

emergence

wetness

elements

atoms of gas

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AND

vice

common dualities

putting dualities back together -
3 examples
C. P. Snow’s - “two cultures”

a common duality
the individual
creativity

AND

the group
collaboration

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Friday, December 6, 13
forethought

thought AND action

after thought
the ‘ask’

An “ask” is a request for an action or a favor.

what is the ‘wisdom’ of this symposium?
1. New systemic practices in design
2. Rethinking systems approaches from a design perspective
3. Relating Design Praxis and Systems Thinking
4. The role of systemic design when developing design practices in new areas
5. Teaching systemic design, systems thinking in design or design in systems approaches
6. Relating systems and design theories, conceptually and pragmatically