



Faculty of Design

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Between Heaven and Earth: Design tensions in the Book of Changes

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Between Heaven and Earth:

Design Tensions in the *Book of Changes (I Ching)*

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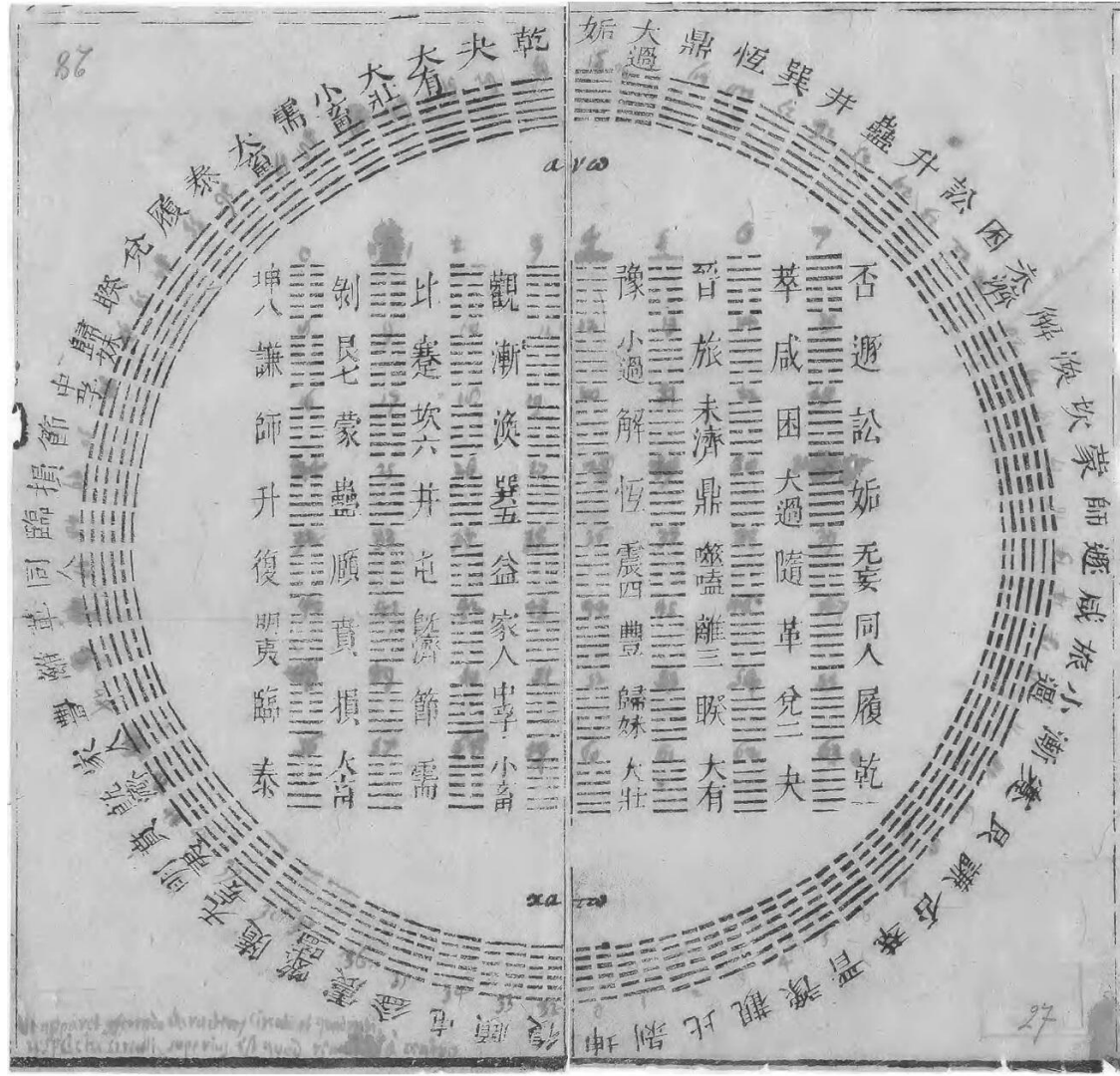
The Book of Changes

3000+ year old Chinese divination text (“divination methods”)

8 Trigrams recombine to form 64 Hexagrams (2^6 binary lines)

Each Hexagram is one stage in a iterative cycle of creation (end is the beginning)

Synchronic systemic change (all things tied together in a single instant)











The “Book of Iteration”

I Ching as creative method

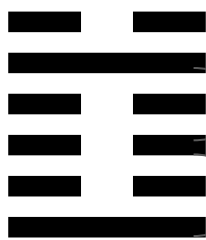
“Translating” (or adapting)
the *I Ching* into contemporary
design language

Makes the long history of the
I Ching accessible to students
and designers

<u>Trigram</u>	<u>Meaning</u>	<u>Design Term</u>
	<i>Ch'ien</i> (Heaven)	Concept
	<i>K'un</i> (Earth)	Material
	<i>Chên</i> (Thunder)	Work
	<i>Sun</i> (Wood/Wind)	Structure/Process
	<i>Li</i> (Fire)	Detail
	<i>K'an</i> (Water)	Form(less)
	<i>Tui</i> (Lake)	Emotion
	<i>Ken</i> (Mountain)	Convention

Hexagram Examples

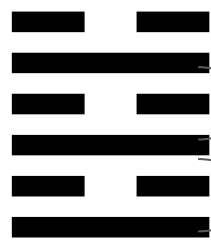
Getting Started (3)



☵ - *Water*
Form(less)

☳ - *Thunder*
Work

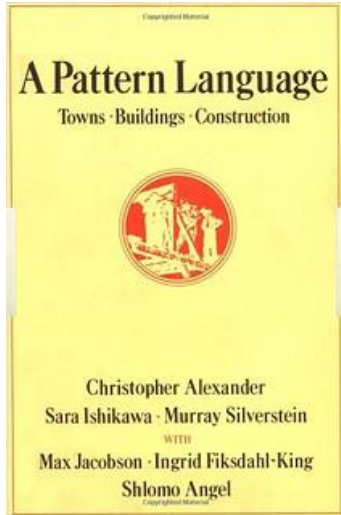
Loose Ends (63)



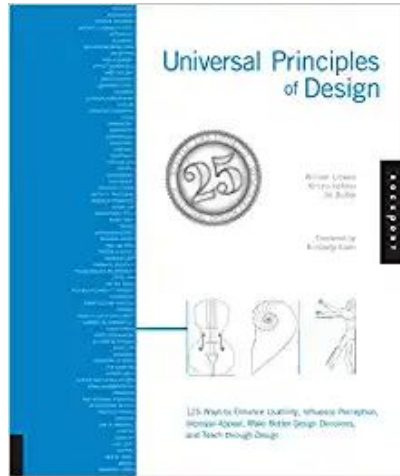
☵ - *Water*
Form(less)

☲ - *Fire*
Detail

Comparisons with other educational design tools/texts:



*A Pattern Language:
Towns, Buildings,
Construction*



*Universal
Principles of
Design*

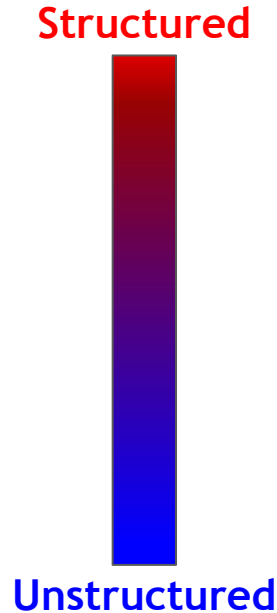


*The Service Innovation
Handbook: Action-oriented
Creative Thinking Toolkit
for Service Organizations*



*Oblique Strategies:
Over One Hundred
Worthwhile Dilemmas*

How to use “The Book of Iteration” method ...



- As a poetic description of the creative process
- As a way of locating your current project in the creative process
 - Either by “divination” or intention
- As a method of getting “unstuck” with time tested strategies and an extensive history of reflective commentary