

Being a design student at the Open University

Speakers:

Cindy Darbandi

Ida Rodriguez

CINDY DARBANDI: Hello. My name is Cindy, and I'm a design student here at the OU. When I began my journey, I received this white box behind me.

IDA RODRIGUEZ: And I'm Ida. I'm also a design student here at the OU. And when I began my journey, I received this brown box behind me. And in these boxes, there were design thinking materials to help us with our journey, inspire us to do new things, improvise, and just see how we could create alternative thinking for the design curriculum.

CINDY DARBANDI: And then inside the boxes, there were a few-- I'll just pick up a few bits for inside the box. For instance, there were these cards here. And then there was sticky pads and a pencil. There was a T-shirt. There was a ruler. And also in the boxes, there was design materials as for reading.

IDA RODRIGUEZ: My favourite item in the box was the ruler. And the ruler most of the time were used to start off my design thinking, start doing prototypes. And also, whenever I felt stuck for ideas, I could use it to sketch. So that would help process my thinking.

CINDY DARBANDI: For me, I would often use the prompt cards, prompting me for different ideas. And also, when I was working with others, when I was doing certain design projects, I would use them with other people. And that would help them to develop their thinking as well. So yeah, that was probably the most useful thing I would use.

IDA RODRIGUEZ: What was the most prompting item within the box?

CINDY DARBANDI: I liked the sticky notes because I would write my ideas on them, and I would stick them all over the place. So I would be able to prompt myself with my ideas. And I would actually carry it around with me in my house and make notes and then go back and stick them along and then make like a timeline of ideas.

IDA RODRIGUEZ: Mine was the book, the printed material. I think that it's really useful to have it there just to get quick ideas onto completing your TMAs or doing your projects. What would you look forward to in terms of completing your design module?

CINDY DARBANDI: I love the prototyping elements of the actual physical doing rather than the writing, if I'm honest. When I did projects such as the T-shirt, because it was so hands-on, I really enjoyed thinking of the idea, but actually putting it down to create an actual product, I found that amazing. But of all of those prototypes that I made, I think the one I enjoyed doing the most was the game because that was the epitome of me not working on my own.

It was about bringing other people in, like my study buddy and my friends and family, to create something that we all would go away and enjoy playing around with and seeing the hard work and the thoughts and the thinking of what we did in an actual element. And as a project, I thought that was absolutely amazing.

IDA RODRIGUEZ: For me, it was the problem solving of the toilet and creating that prototype. It was absolutely the proudest moment because that got me to realise the type of designer that I am and really going down to my skill sets and realising that I'm really good at problem solving. I looked forward to starting a project, to feeling how I would create something new, what would be my idea, what would be the process, how I would feel going into that journey. So I would look forward to that.

And I would look forward to tutorials as well because that was the time that I could socialise a little bit, I could get questions in for tutors, and I could also get inspiration from other students as well, because in tutorials, you get to discuss some of your ideas, ask questions that you may face when creating. And that was some of my community that I felt that I could have in those tutorial groups.

I was very proud of my T-shirt. I think that the process of creating the T-shirt was brilliant. For a lot of the times that I felt that I wasn't getting the ideas that I wanted or just feeling a little demotivated through the course or hard times as well, I would wear the T-shirt to make me feel like I was part of something or there was a purpose as to why I was going through this journey. So that inspired me and it motivated me as well to continue on this design journey. So I would like to pass down a message of saying, it is OK to improvise, it is OK to create things that it might not look absolutely fantastic, but it's your idea.

CINDY DARBANDI: So as we pass this torch on from us to you--

IDA RODRIGUEZ: We hope that this helps you to develop your own unique design journey.