# Design Frameworks Fall 2025

# **Faculty**



**Hugh Dubberly** 



Lingxiu Zhang



Shelley Evenson



TJ McLeish

# **Design Frameworks covers:**

- Histories of interaction
- Theories of design

### Frameworks are...

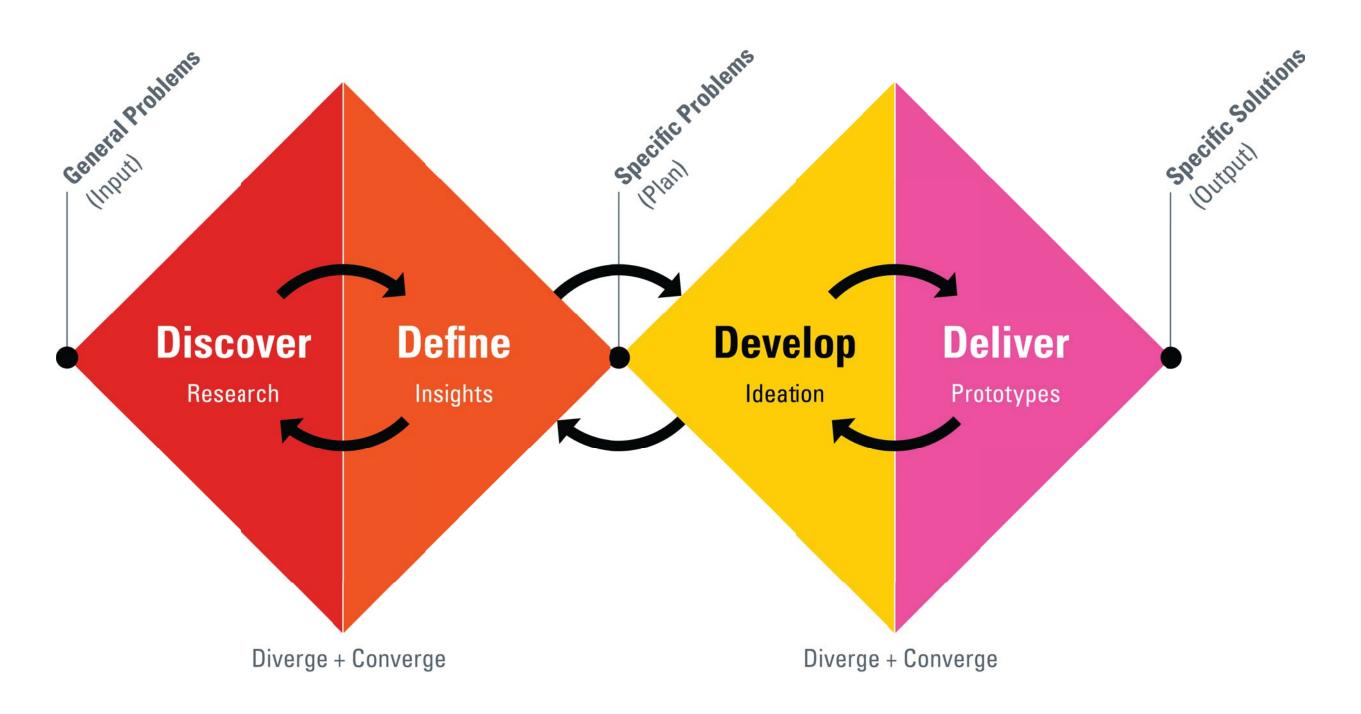
- recurring structures or processes
- ways of seeing the world
- tools for thinking
- reusable templates

Frameworks help us understand new situations more quickly and work with stakeholders more effectively.

They form the core of professional literacy.

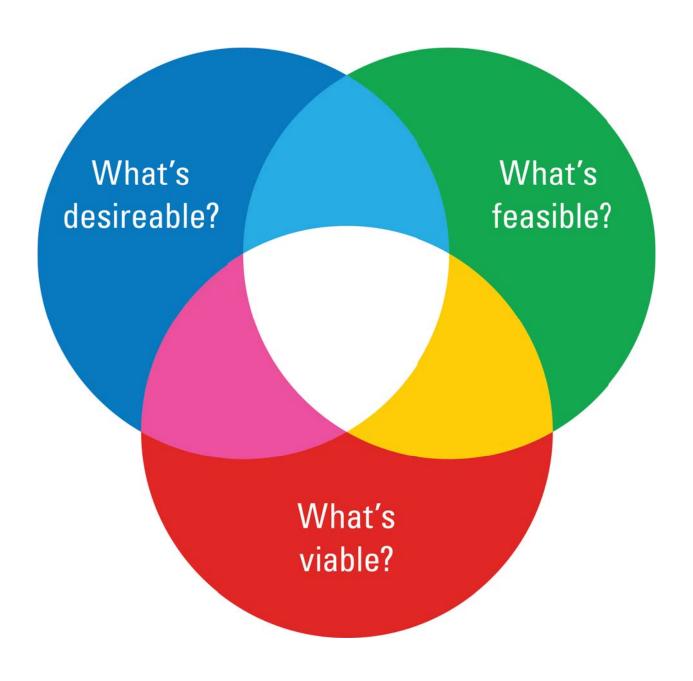
# **Examples of frameworks as practical models:**

double diamond design process map



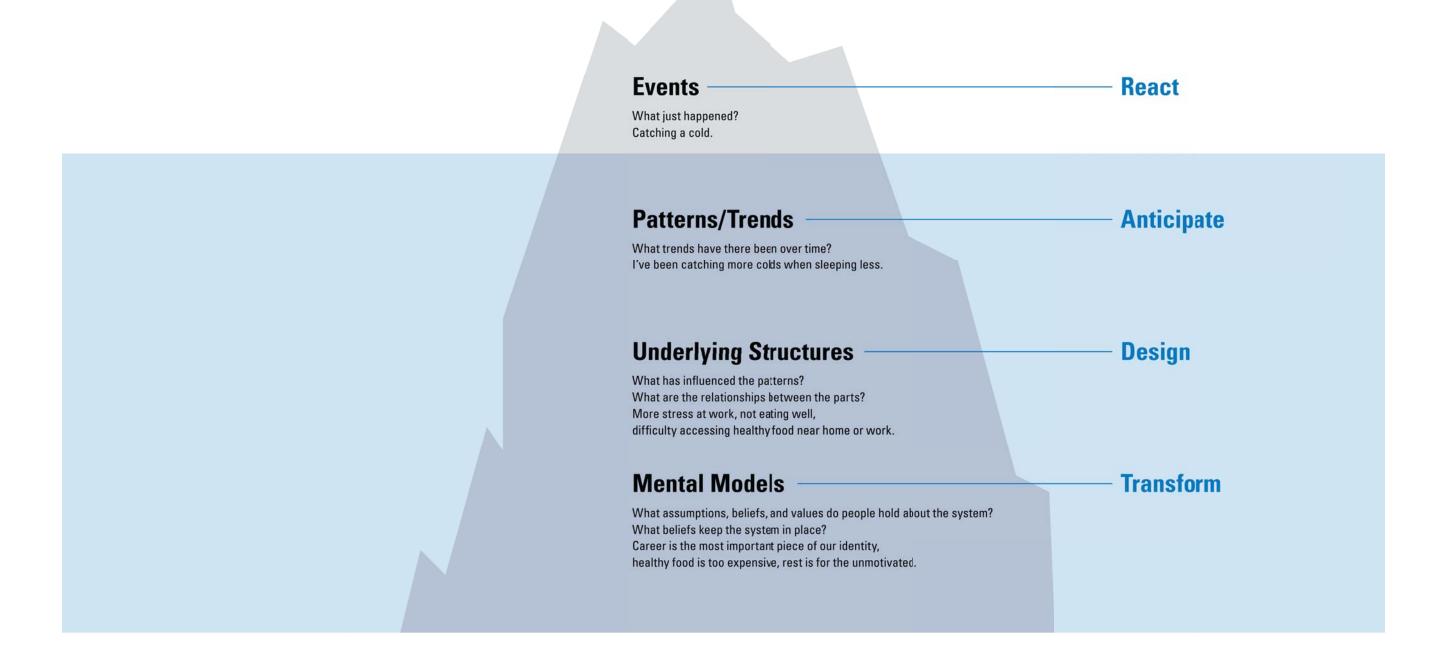
# **Examples of frameworks as practical models:**

DVF model of successful products

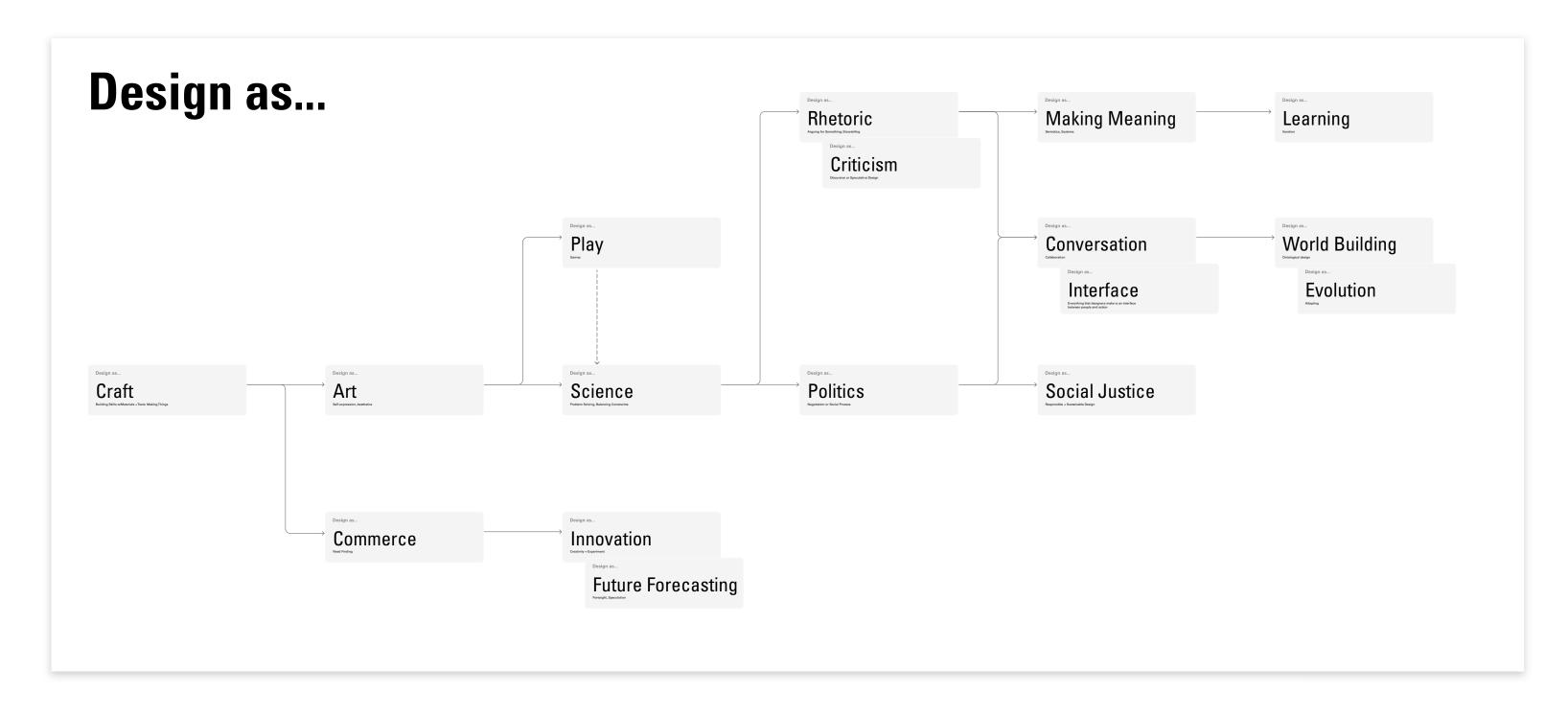


### **Examples of frameworks as practical models:**

iceberg model for systems thinking



## **Examples of frameworks as lenses on design practice:**



### **Learning objectives:**

- become familiar with fundamental histories + theories
- develop a vocabulary for discussing design
- become better at "framing" —
  engaging with a situation,
  forming mental models of it,
  and representing those models

## **Conceptual shifts...**

### from

- artifacts
- problem solving
- mechanisms
- scarcity
- disconnected

### to

- product-service ecologies
- serious play
- organisms
- abundance
- political

### Most class meetings will be divided into 3 one-hour parts:

- small-group discussions of readings
- full-class lecture
- small-team, in-class project

### Main deliverables:

- Read 2 articles per week
- Make a concept map summarizing each
- Collect your weekly concept maps into a book
- Participate in discussions + in-class activities
- Create your own framework (final project)

### **Your first assignment:**

Read...

The invention of Design:

A Twentieth Century History,
by Maggie Gram

