

# The Exchange Between the Maker and the Made... Intangible but Teachable Outcomes from the Crafting of Designed Objects

## Abstract

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Design educators manage the delicate balance of teaching tangible and intangible physical, cognitive and emotional skills and lessons in support of the maturation of young design professionals readying themselves for the rigors of the post-college world. The act of imagining and crafting iterative explorations towards a final design solution is a process that flexes cognitive and physical design muscles. Research, analysis, synthesis, sketches, renderings, form studies, models and prototypes all feed the physical and cognitive steps toward a refined realization of form, function, fit and feel. But the developing designer is also on an emotional/behavioral journey of self-discovery, personal purpose, and a sense of accomplishment and reward. Design educators and curriculum accreditation bodies can quantify the tangible and teachable skills but it can be much more difficult to address the young designer's inner maturation, philosophical and spiritual orientation to design, ethics and developing a professional ethos. This paper will seek to identify methodologies and moments where some of these more ethereal 'exchanges' might be introduced in the educational process.