

# Design School

## Author Information

Jinu Kurien is an Architect & the Principal of DesignWorks, a Navi Mumbai based design practice that works closely with the Education sector. The practice has developed a concept called Design School which aims to integrate Design - Education, Research & Services.

He is also an Adjunct Faculty at Pillai's College of Architecture & a visiting faculty at National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT), Navi Mumbai

## Key Words

Design - Education, Research & Services

### 1. Introduction

As a design professional, we are involved in two aspects of Design - Practice & Education. Both these capacities largely exist independent of each other. Design School hopes to build synergies between these capacities to create varied formats of relevance & value for K-12 schools.

## 2. Synergies

Listed below are 3 formats that address Design as a part of K-12 education & the design of learning environments for children.

### 2.1. Education

Design School can act as a resource body in the realm of design for a school. Various academic programs can be offered to supplement/ compliment existing ones. Counselling for careers in design can also be a part of this format. These programs can have multiple aims; amongst others help build a dialogue for design & nurture creative thinking.

## 2.2. Research & Services

As designers we offer design services to schools within the typical Client - Consultant relationship. The Education formats of Design School will allow the designer to come in direct contact with the student & teaching community - the end users of the design service. This is often a rarity in the design process. The relationships with the school & children will enable participatory research methods for the design of products, spaces & services.

## 2.3. Collaboratives

This combines the above formats into a unique model. Design School & the institute can collaborate over a design requirement collectively seeking solutions, making the institute an equal & active participant in the design process. The collaborative effort can enable stronger solutions & can act as alternate methods of learning for the student, teaching & design community. The format can be further enriched by forging partnerships with resources from various domains within & outside the realm of design.

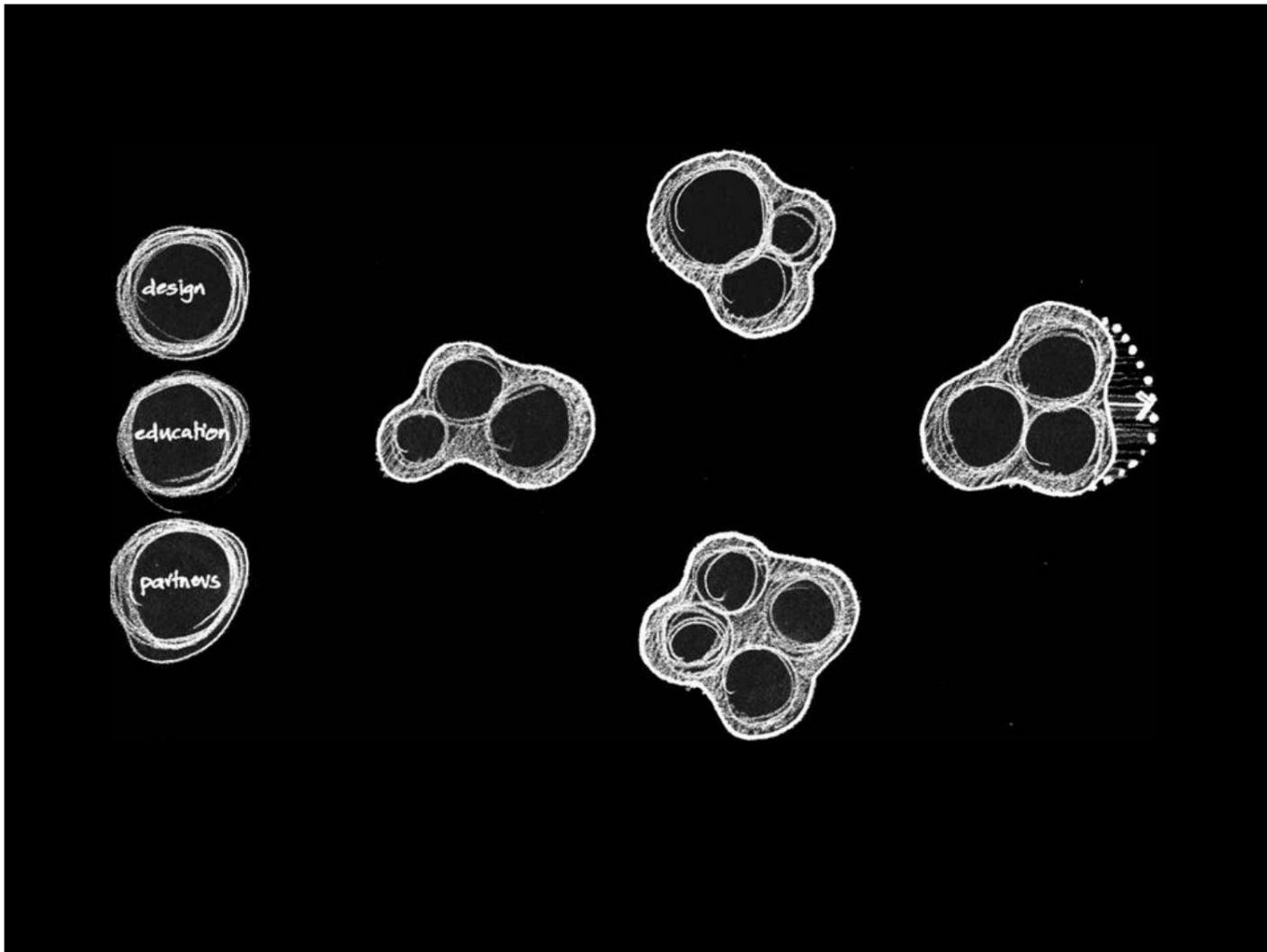


Figure 1: Design School Composition



Figure 2: Design School Services

### 3. The 'in-between' value

How can Design be integrated into our educational frameworks? Can Design professionals enable this?

Design School can build a better understanding of design & develop creative capital for the future. The role of the design professional also expands beyond the conventional definitions to cater to multiple objectives. It enables the designer to assume new roles addressing the needs of design & design education there-in unearthing value in between disciplines.

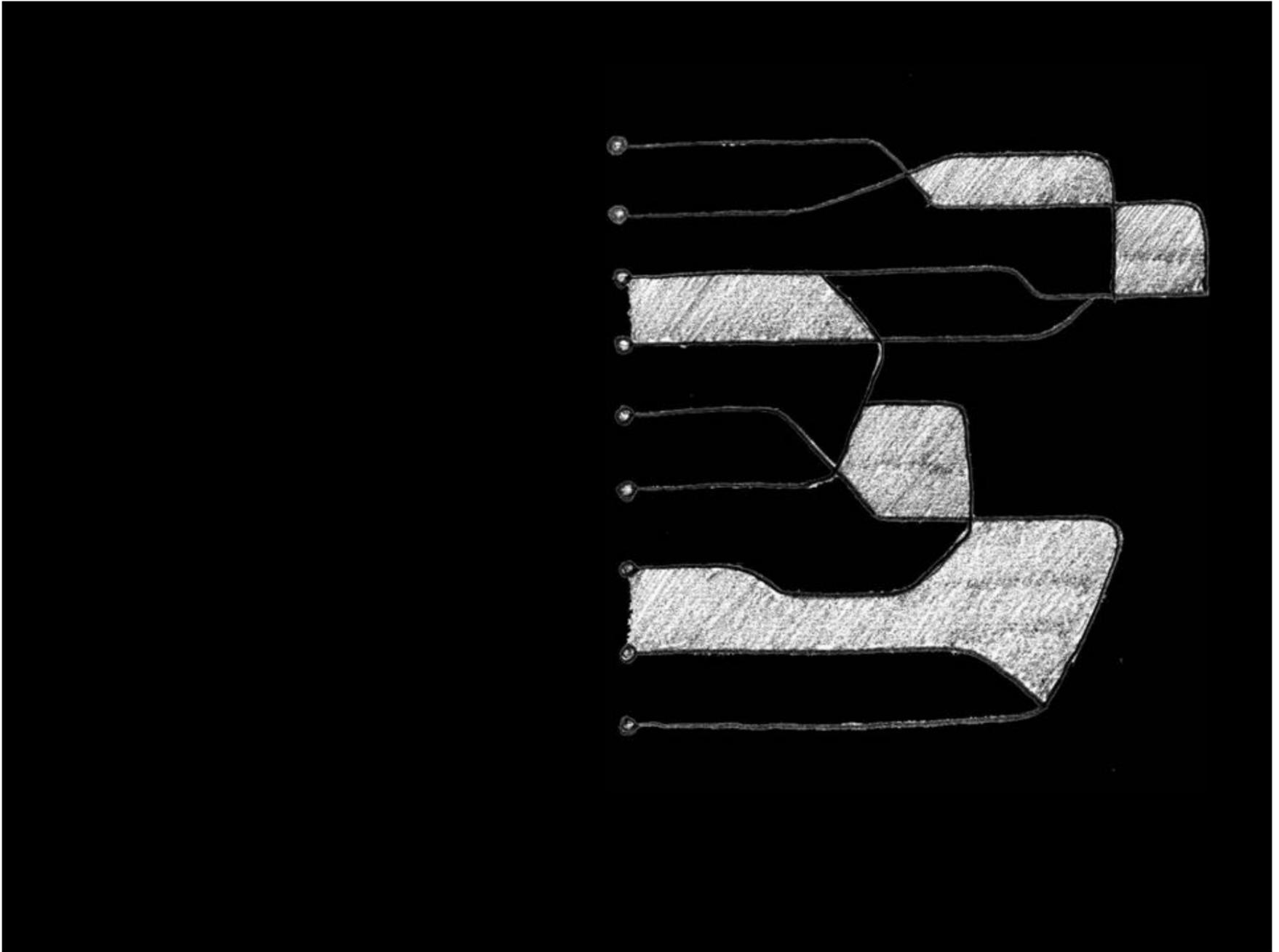


Figure 3: The 'in-between' value

## 4. Acknowledgements

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