Experiential Design – Rethinking relations between people, objects and environments

• Paper / Proposal Title:
Situated Methods in Urban Design: An educational research case study

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• Abstract (300 words):
Designers increasingly often apply situated design methods to design meaningful living and working environments. In adopting such methods, designers typically take embedded positions in a design context to develop strategies, scenarios or visions on the basis of collaborative actions. Although such methods have a long history in the domain of human-computer interaction, more recently, it has been suggested that such methods are also relevant to urban design. To further investigate this claim, we conducted an educational research case study in which design students applied situated design methods in response to an urban planning challenge in the city of Breda (NL). This case study led to important observations regarding the role attributed to users or stakeholders in the application of situated design methods, as well as regarding the socio-material assemblies that result from the application of such methods in the context of urban planning. On the basis of our observations, we conclude that (1) it is a prerequisite for the
application of situated design methods in urban design that the design context has ample discernible users or stakeholders, and (2) that even on the basis of limited engagement of stakeholders and users it is possible to design socio-material assemblies.

- **Author(s) Biography (200 words each):**

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