

**DOING THINKING: WORKING WOOD, CRAFTING IDEAS**  
**Agenda Week 2, 1st class: Monday, January 10, 2011**

*Assignments due for this class*

- Read excerpt from *The Timeless Way of Building*, chapters 1 to 3
- Read excerpt from *Analytic Thinking*, pp. 28-29
- Write out some rough notes regarding the *key question* Alexander is addressing in each of these three chapters; bring your notes to class

Workshop for new students (Sem II E 1107): 5- 5:45 pm on reliquary project

*Agenda overview*

- Deepen understanding of how Alexander uses “patterns” in context of design/architecture  
⇒ Crafting ideas: Can thinking through the “eight elements” of *Analytic Thinking* illuminate Alexander’s account of “patterns”?
- ⇒ Working wood: skill building (sawing to a line and chiseling to a line)

**CRAFTING IDEAS**

*A Timeless Way of Building: The key question Alexander is addressing*

- *Conversation circles*: Response to reading: especially interesting and/or puzzling sections
- Overview of *Analytic Thinking* elements with emphasis on “key question” as a tool for analysis
- *Work groups*: Chapters 1, 2 and 3 – identify and discuss key question; fine-tune your collective understanding and post on board
- *On own and plenary*: What have you learned from doing this exercise?

*Patterns: A continuing examination*

- *On own*: Has your thinking about “patterns” shifted since a) reading the introduction to Alexander’s *A Pattern Language*, b) connecting your experience to patterns 105 and 128, and c) reading the first chapters in *A Timeless Way of Building*? How so? (habit of mind: *Once I thought...but now I think...*)
- *Work groups*: Compare shifts and post 3 to 5 on poster paper; post.
- *Exchange*: “clarify” (? : *tell me more about your thinking?*) and “value” (+ : *this is what I value*)
- *Work groups*: Revisit work (and reflective writing)

BREAK

**WORKING WOOD**

*Skill-building with chisel and saw in the specific execution of a practical task*

*Assignments for next class (Wednesday, January 12)*

- Read excerpt from *The Timeless Way of Building*, chapter 4
- Read excerpt from *Analytic Thinking*, pp. 28-29 and sections on from pp. 1-21 on *purpose, key question, key concepts, and implications*
- Take notes on the *purpose, key question, key concepts, implications* of this chapter (we will collect these notes at the end of the class)

Note: For new students 5-5:45 pm before Wednesday’s class – on using ideas as tools (re: *Analytic Thinking*)

*Adjourn*