

**DOING THINKING: WORKING WOOD, CRAFTING IDEAS**  
**Agenda Week 2, 2nd class: Wednesday, January 12, 2011**

*Assignments due for this class*

- 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)

5- 5:45 pm Workshop for new students on using ideas as tools (re: *Analytic Thinking*)

*Agenda overview*

- Introduce *Independent Work* [one of three major assignments]
- Deepen understanding of Alexander's use of "patterns" using an *Analytic Thinking* approach  
⇒ Crafting ideas: Can thinking through the "eight elements" of *Analytic Thinking* illuminate Alexander's account of "patterns" with a focus on four elements in particular: *purpose, key question, key concepts, implications*  
⇒ Open wood working night

**CRAFTING IDEAS**

*Independent Work: Your own area for inquiry and/or project*

- See handout

*Examination of Alexander's approach to design and building cont'd*

- *Overview*: mapping our work to date
- *Conversation circles*: Response to reading – especially interesting and/or puzzling sections
- *Work groups*: Chapter 4 – compare understandings of *purpose* – “all reasoning has a purpose”; *key question* – “all reasoning is an attempt to figure something out, to settle some question, solve some problem; *concepts and ideas* – “all reasoning is expressed through, and shaped by, concepts and ideas; and *implications* – “all reasoning leads somewhere; it has implications and, when acted upon, has consequences”; do poster and post; examine responses

*Documenting your evolving understanding (to be handed in)*

- 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? (You may want to use this heuristic to document shifts: *once I thought...but now I think...*)

*Liking Something from the Heart (with Laurel Smith)*

- Handout: excerpt from Christopher Alexander's *The Nature of Order: An Essay on the Art of Building and the Nature of the Universe* (2002)

BREAK

**WORKING WOOD**

**Note: No class on Monday, January 17 (MLK holiday)**

*Assignments for Saturday class, January 22*

- Preliminary reading for Independent Work project
- Independent Work Project (IP) proposal briefs due

*Adjourn*