# Appendix

Designomics: The Role of Financial Literacy in Design innovation

Master Graduation Project Strategic Product Design

Faculty of Industrial Design Engineering Delft University of Technology

October, 2023 Amir Anwar-Hameed

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### **IDE Master Graduation**

### Project team, Procedural checks and personal Project brief

This document contains the agreements made between student and supervisory team about the student's IDE Master Graduation Project. This document can also include the involvement of an external organisation, however, it does not cover any legal employment relationship that the student and the client (might) agree upon. Next to that, this document facilitates the required procedural checks. In this document:

- The student defines the team, what he/she is going to do/deliver and how that will come about.
- SSC E&SA (Shared Service Center, Education & Student Affairs) reports on the student's registration and study progress.
- IDE's Board of Examiners confirms if the student is allowed to start the Graduation Project.

6701

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Download again and reopen in case you tried other software, such as Preview (Mac) or a webbrowser.

#### STUDENT DATA & MASTER PROGRAMME

Anwar-Hameed

family name

comments

Save this form according the format "IDE Master Graduation Project Brief\_familyname\_firstname\_studentnumber\_dd-mm-yyyy" Complete all blue parts of the form and include the approved Project Brief in your Graduation Report as Appendix 1!

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Your master programme (only select the options that apply to you):

| initials               | A given name Amir   |                              | IDE master(s):                  | ( ) IPD    | □ Dfl  | SPD )                 |
|------------------------|---|------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------|--|-----------------------|
| student number         |   | _                            | 2 <sup>nd</sup> non-IDE master: |            |  |                       |
| street & no.           |   |                              | individual programme:           |            | (give date of a  | approval)             |
| zipcode & city         |   |                              | honours programme:              | Honou      | rs Programme Master  |                       |
| country                |   | spec                         | ialisation / annotation:        | Medisi     | gn   |                       |
| phone                  |   |                              |                                 | Tech. i    | n Sustainable Design   |                       |
| email                  |   |                              |                                 | Entrep     | eneurship  |                       |
|                        |   |                              |                                 |            |  |                       |
|                        | RVISORY TEAM ** the required data for the supervisory team memb | pers. Please (               | check the instructions on       | the right! |  |                       |
| ** chair<br>** mentor  |   | . / section:<br>. / section: | DOS - MCR                       | _ 0        | Chair should request the<br>Board of Examiners for<br>of a non-IDE mentor, inc<br>motivation letter and c. | approval<br>cluding a |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> mentor | organisation:   |                              |                                 | _ 0        | Second mentor only applies in case the assignment is hosted by   | ·                     |

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Ensure a heterogeneous team. In case you wish to include two team members from the same section, please explain why.



#### APPROVAL PROJECT BRIEF

To be filled in by the chair of the supervisory team.

Digitaal SICCO ondertekend door sicco santema Datum: 2023.07.24 14:40:18 +02'00'

chair Sicco Santema

date 24 - 07 - 2023

signature

### **CHECK STUDY PROGRESS**

To be filled in by the SSC E&SA (Shared Service Center, Education & Student Affairs), after approval of the project brief by the Chair. The study progress will be checked for a 2nd time just before the green light meeting.

| Master electives no. of EC accumulated in total:  | _30 | EC |
|---|-----|----|
| Of which, taking the conditional requirements into account, can be part of the exam programme | _30 | EC |
| List of electives obtained before the third semester without approval of the BoE              |     |    |
|   |     |    |

| $\bigcirc$ | YES | all 1st year master courses passed   |
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| $\bigcirc$ | NO  | missing 1st year master courses are: |
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Robin den

Digitaal ondertekend door Robin den Datum: 2023.08.01 Braber 2023.08.01

name Robin den Braber

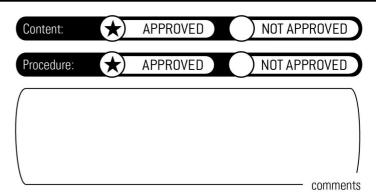
date <u>01 - 08 - 2023</u>

signature

#### FORMAL APPROVAL GRADUATION PROJECT

To be filled in by the Board of Examiners of IDE TU Delft. Please check the supervisory team and study the parts of the brief marked \*\*. Next, please assess, (dis)approve and sign this Project Brief, by using the criteria below.

- Does the project fit within the (MSc)-programme of the student (taking into account, if described, the activities done next to the obligatory MSc specific courses)?
- Is the level of the project challenging enough for a MSc IDE graduating student?
- Is the project expected to be doable within 100 working days/20 weeks?
- Does the composition of the supervisory team comply with the regulations and fit the assignment?



| name | Monique von Morgen | date | 22 - 08 - 2023 | signature |  |
|------|--------------------|------|----------------|-----------|--|
|      |                    |      |                |           |  |

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Anwar-Hameed 6701 Initials & Name A Student number 4452291



### Designomics: The role of Financial Literacy in Design Innovation

project title

Please state the title of your graduation project (above) and the start date and end date (below). Keep the title compact and simple. Do not use abbreviations. The remainder of this document allows you to define and clarify your graduation project.

start date <u>12 - 06 - 2023</u>

03 - 11 - 2023

end date

#### **INTRODUCTION** \*\*

In today's rapidly evolving and globally competitive business landscape, design thinking has gained prominence as a human-centred approach for innovation (Brown, 2009; Martin, 2009; Liedtka, 2015). This approach involves understanding user needs, generating creative ideas, prototyping and testing solutions, and iterating until successful outcomes are achieved. Designers play a crucial role in this process by framing projects around user needs and adopting a user-centric problem-solving approach (Design Innovation themes).

For design thinking to be truly innovative, organisations must foster knowledge exchange across the entire organisation and its value creation network, extending beyond direct customers and suppliers (Adner, 2006; Moss Kanter, 2006; Pisano, 2015), also known as interconnectedness. As design thinking gains popularity among innovation practitioners and academics, the importance of a specific and shared innovation strategy becomes increasingly recognized (Brown, 2009; Martin, 2009; Liedtka, 2015). One common denominator among interconnected partners is the role of finance in business cases of innovations.

Therefore, the significance of financial literacy in innovation cannot be overlooked (Liedtka, 2015). It should empower designers to communicate effectively with stakeholders, including investors, executives, and accountants, ensuring the successful implementation and growth of their innovative solutions. Research consistently highlights the impact of financial literacy on economic outcomes (Keskinen & Raijas, 2006; Lusardi et al., 2010; Lusardi & Mitchell, 2011, 2014), reinforcing its significance in decision-making aligned with both innovation and business goals. Financial concepts that stem from the business model, such as budget structure, cash flow analysis, and return on investment (ROI), are necessary components for the long-term viability of innovation. Thus, designers should not only be financially literate but also financially capable of implementing these components at the appropriate stages of a project (Koskelainen et al., 2023). This would create more security and adaptability for a project as it moves forward in its decision-making process.

However, the synergy between financial literacy and design thinking during the 'fuzzy front end' of project innovation remains understudied. This research aims to uncover how financial literacy can enhance design innovation success by bridging the gap between creative thinking and financial acumen, with a specific focus on the framework of feasibility, desirability, and viability. The hypothesis proposes that there is synergy between financial literacy and the design thinking framework, and financial knowledge significantly impacts a design innovation project's outcome. Moreover, financial literacy plays a crucial role in the viability of an innovative design project. By understanding this relationship, designers and engineers can be empowered with the necessary financial knowledge to make better-informed decisions, ultimately increasing the viability of their design innovation. The goal is to create a roadmap and learning module that equips designers with essential financial skills, enabling them to make better decisions during the 'fuzzy front end' of design innovation.

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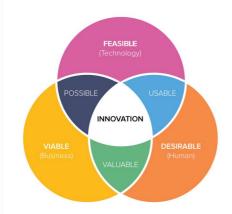
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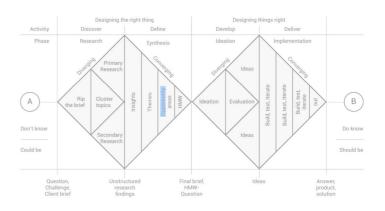
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### **Design Innovation**





Source: D, Nessler. (2016)

image / figure 1: Components of Innovation and the existing framework for design thinking.

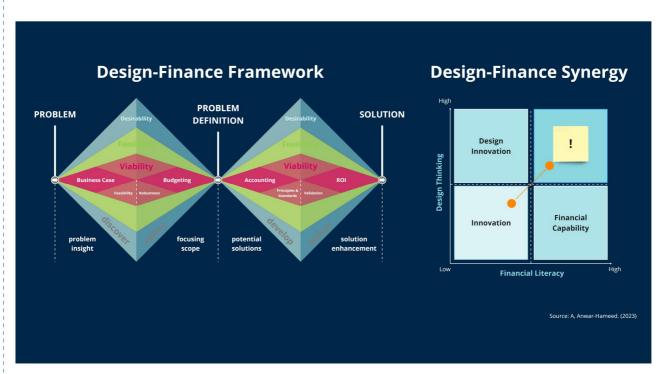


image / figure 2: Incorporating viability into the design thinking framework.

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### **Tu**Delft

### Personal Project Brief - IDE Master Graduation

#### **PROBLEM DEFINITION \*\***

In today's competitive business landscape, design thinking is a powerful approach to innovation. However, the role of financial literacy within this framework remains underexplored. Therefore, the overarching project definition aims to explore the role of financial literacy during the 'fuzzy front end' of design innovation. To address this, the following research questions have been defined:

- 1. What relationship do design innovators have with finance?
- 2. How does financial literacy influence decision-making in design innovation projects?
- 3. Which components of financial literacy are most relevant during the problem definition and solution proposal stages of the design thinking process?
- 4. What are the main challenges practitioners face when integrating financial literacy into the design thinking framework?

#### **ASSIGNMENT\*\***

Design a roadmap and learning module for designers to integrate financial literacy during the 'fuzzy front end' of design innovation, improving decision-making and project viability.

The objective is to investigate the practical application of the design thinking framework, with a specific focus on the double-diamond approach, and explore the seamless integration of the viability aspect into the design innovation process. Additionally, the study will include a comparison of other innovation frameworks, such as scrum and the stage-gate process, to evaluate their consideration of financial aspects. By conducting interviews with practitioners and academics in the field of design innovation, the aim will be to to uncover the synergies between design thinking and financial capability. The insights gained from this research will inform the development of a targeted learning module for designers and engineers, enabling them to understand the significance of financial literacy and identify essential components relevant to their project's scope.

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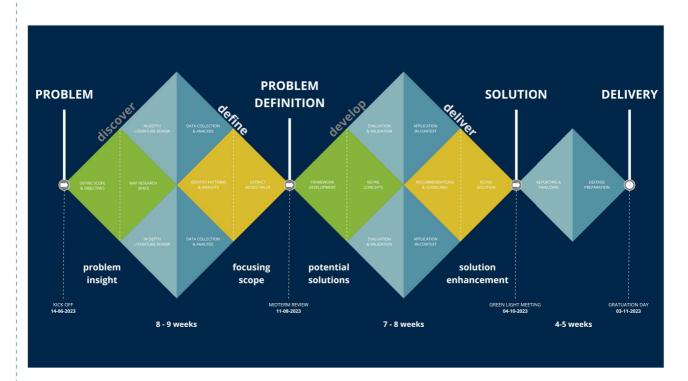
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#### **PLANNING AND APPROACH \*\***

Include a Gantt Chart (replace the example below - more examples can be found in Manual 2) that shows the different phases of your project, deliverables you have in mind, meetings, and how you plan to spend your time. Please note that all activities should fit within the given net time of 30 EC = 20 full time weeks or 100 working days, and your planning should include a kick-off meeting, mid-term meeting, green light meeting and graduation ceremony. Illustrate your Gantt Chart by, for instance, explaining your approach, and please indicate periods of part-time activities and/or periods of not spending time on your graduation project, if any, for instance because of holidays or parallel activities.

start date 12 - 6 - 2023 end date



The study follows a systematic qualitative approach to explore the impact of financial literacy on design projects during the fuzzy front end of concept development. The approach follows the double-diamond framework, with the inclusion of a third diamond that focuses on project delivery.

Weeks 1-8: The first phase includes an in-depth literature review on financial literacy and design thinking, identifying knowledge gaps and conducting expert interviews with design practitioners and academics. The collected data will be categorised into different orders of narratives, through which each research question can be addressed.

Weeks 8-16: The second phase involves developing the learning module and design thinking roadmap. It also involves assessing the relationship between designers and finance on an education-level through student surveys. Frameworks will be tested for iteration by obtaining feedback from interviewees of the first phase.

Weeks 16-20: The final phase prepares the project assignment for delivery, ensuring clear and accurate reporting. The presentation format for the project execution will be decided.

The project timeline spans 20 weeks, encompassing literature review, data collection & analysis, framework development, and reporting. In pursuit of the research objectives, the project will be structured as an innovative approach, addressing the parameters of desirability, feasibility, and viability. This will be achieved by addressing overarching research questions aligned with these parameters, guiding the project plan and approach.

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### Personal Project Brief - IDE Master Graduation



#### MOTIVATION AND PERSONAL AMBITIONS

Optionally, describe which personal learning ambitions you explicitly want to address in this project, on top of the learning objectives of the Graduation Project, such as: in depth knowledge a on specific subject, broadening your competences or experimenting with a

As a former aerospace engineering bachelor student, now pursuing industrial design engineering for my master's studies, I have observed the secondary role finance plays in most design projects. My hands-on experience as the finance manager for Stichting Out of the Blue Delft and as a business developer for the student Dream team, Silverwing Aeronautics, has shown the practical need for financial literacy in effective communication and seeking funding opportunities. Financial literacy empowers better decision-making, leading to long-term business success and increased credibility in a competitive landscape.

With a background in aerospace engineering, business development, and financial management, I am determined to enhance my financial literacy while exploring its impact on project success. This project engages a diverse set of skills, including design thinking, financial literacy, research, project management, communication, problem-solving, and creativity. My hypothesis is that seamlessly incorporating financial knowledge into the design thinking process enhances project viability and success during the fuzzy front end of concept development. By hopefully proving this, I aspire to gain a career that allows me to exercise this knowledge, whether it be on a project or executive level.

I am excited about this research project as it aims to fill a significant gap in the existing literature regarding the role of financial literacy in design innovation. By addressing this underexplored area, I hope to contribute valuable insights to the field of industrial design by emphasising the importance of financial literacy in the early stages of design innovation. The project involves conducting in-depth qualitative research, including interviews with practitioners and academics familiar with financial literacy, to uncover the synergy between design thinking and financial capability.

The goal is to develop a comprehensive learning module and design thinking roadmap that equips designers with essential financial skills, empowering them to make informed decisions and seamlessly navigate financial aspects in their creative process. The hope is that this research benefits the design community by emphasising the value of financial literacy and expands my own expertise, positioning me as a skilled professional driving positive change within the design industry.

#### **FINAL COMMENTS**

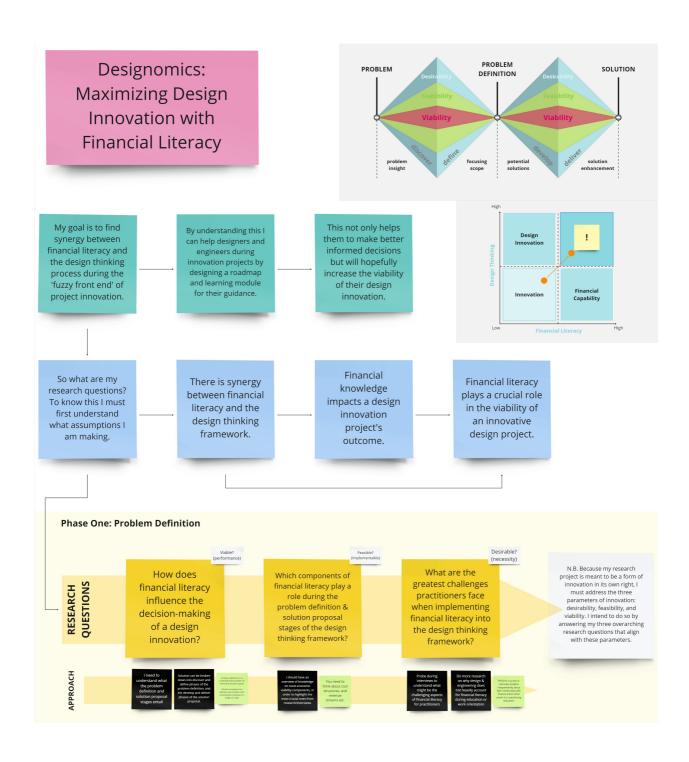
"Nothing is easy about finance. It will always be a pain-point in any business."

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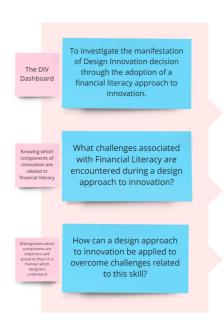
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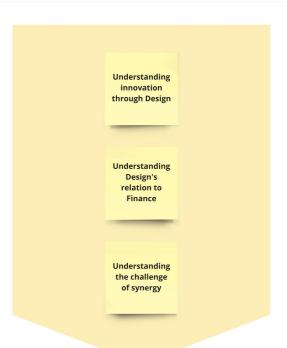
## **Appendix B: Research Direction**



# **Appendix C: Literature Overview**

# Design Thinking & **Financial** Literacy





#### Problem:

What is the role of financial literacy during the 'fuzzy front end' of design innovation?

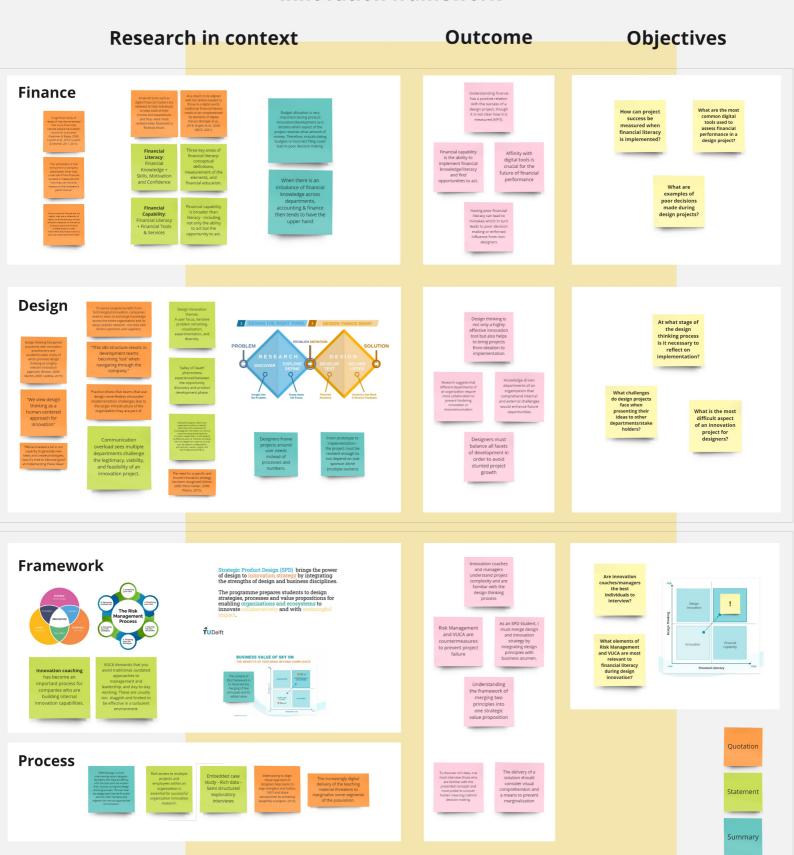
#### Assignment:

- 1. Design a roadmap which addresses the role of financial literacy during the 'fuzzy front end' of design innovation
- 2. Design a learning module that enables designers to make better decisions during the 'fuzzy front end' of design innovation using financial knowledge.

The future of a designers approach to Innovation 🔡 🖩 🧴 🔸



# Identifying the synergy between finance and design within the design innovation framework

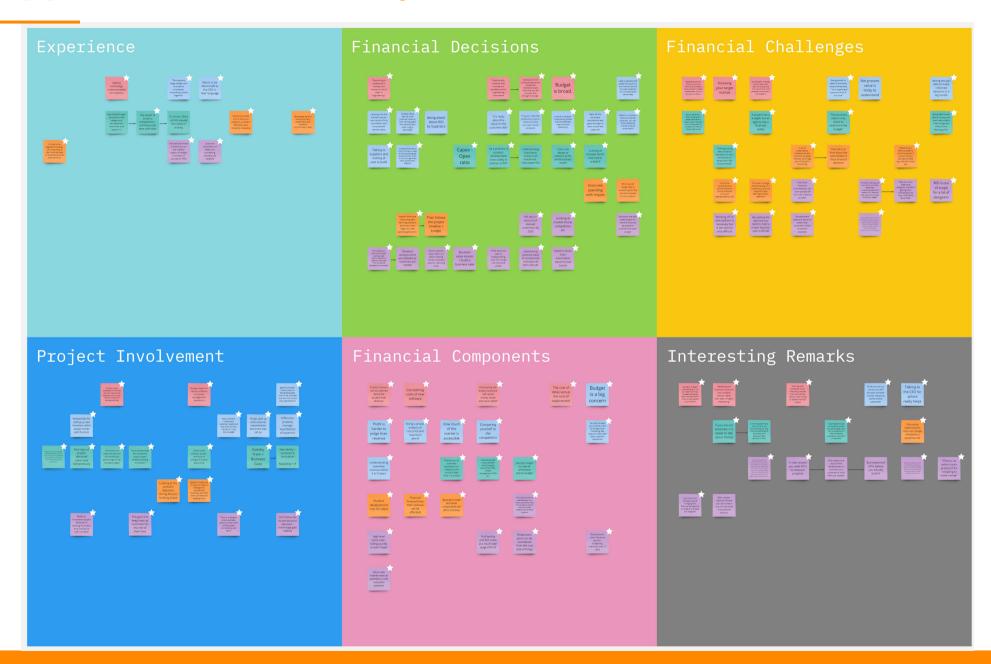


**INNOVATION** 

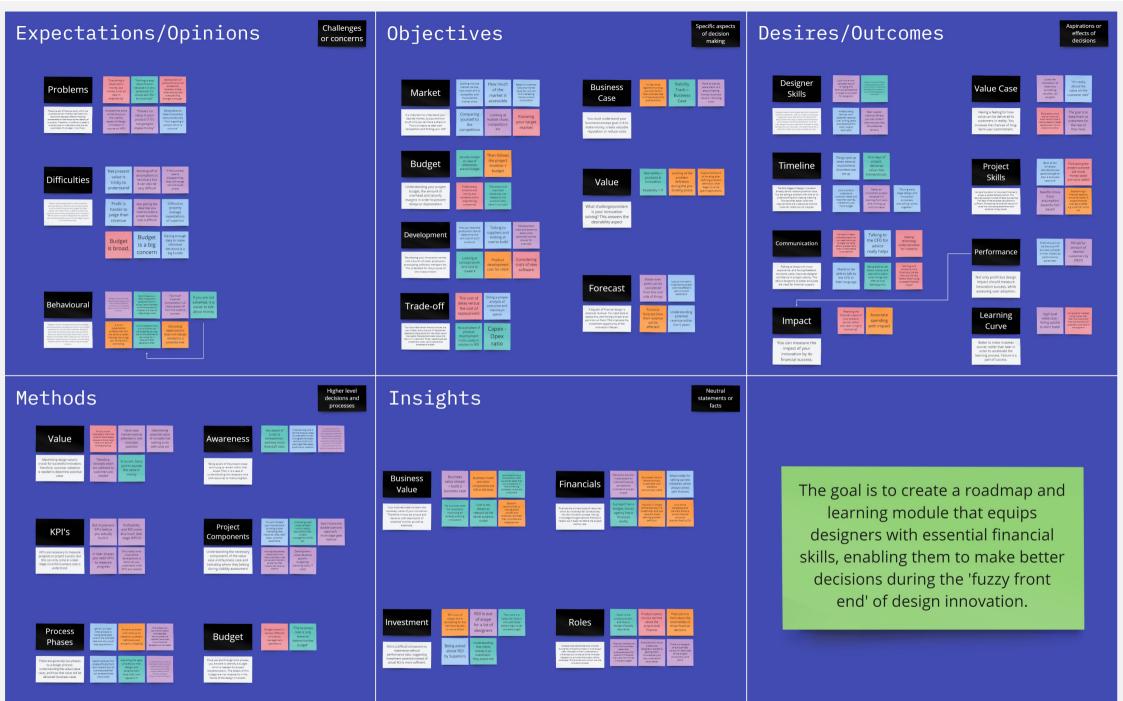
# **Appendix D: Interview Process**

| Introduction                  | About<br>me  | My<br>academic/<br>professional<br>background  | My<br>graduation<br>project and<br>working title   | My<br>connection<br>to the topic   |
|-------------------------------|--|--|--|--|
| About them                    | About  | Your<br>academic/<br>professional<br>background  | Your<br>current role<br>in your line<br>of work  | Your connection to the topic   |
| Why you?                      | My goal is to find<br>synergy between<br>financial literacy and<br>the design thinking<br>process during the<br>'fuzzy front end' of<br>project innovation.  | Your<br>background/role<br>coincides with my<br>topic from the<br>design and/or<br>financial<br>perspecive(s)  | l am interested<br>to know about<br>your<br>experiences on<br>a project level  |  |
| Context                       | PARKET<br>PROMISED<br>VOICE<br>VOICE<br>PARKET<br>PARKET<br>PARKET   | Approach to project innovation is to look at these main elements and see whether the problem you are addressing is aligning with them  | PROBLEM  RESERREH  PROBLEM  PR | A way which a lot of academics and practitioners like to follow is the design thinking approach (according to Brown, 2009; Martin, 2009; Lledtka, 2015)  |
| My Objective                  | But as I am someone obsessed with financial pragmatism, I would like to put more focus on the issue of viability - as this is the aspect most in line with financial literacy (my assumption)                      | PROBLEM DEFINITION Transbility Viability Viability  Problem pr | I believe that becoming financially literate will have a significant impact on the outcome of an innovative project.   | Transition Transition of Trans |
| Their current or past project | Could you tell me about a project you have recently worked on which you would consider innovative? Projects size, budget, number of stakeholders, length (rongoing or definitive) etc.                             | Why would you consider it innovative?  | What was your role in the project? involvement level   | is the project going well - was it a success or a failure? Or can you not say at this time?  |
| Probe 1                       | What kind of<br>financial<br>decisions had to<br>be made during<br>this project?   | How did you know that this needed to be addressed?   | How did you go about finding the answer?   | Do you think there are any adjustments that could have been made in hindsight to improve the quality of the project?   |
| Probe 2                       | You previously mentioned certain financial choices which were made during the project, which ones would you consider almost necessary to any project? They do not have to be ones which were previously mentioned. | Why these components?  | Do you think that<br>most project<br>members grasp<br>these components?<br>Or are some better<br>accustomed than<br>others?  | Why do<br>you think<br>that is?  |
| Probe 3                       | Based on all your<br>answers so far,<br>which aspect of<br>financial decision<br>making do you find<br>the most<br>challenging?  | Why?   | Which aspect of financial decision making do you find most easy?   | Why?   |
| Final Remarks                 | Have you ever<br>considered this<br>much the impact<br>of financial<br>literacy on your<br>project(s)?   | Is there anything<br>you feel like I<br>missed when<br>discussing this<br>topic with you?  | Would you like an update on how I plan to use this interview knowledge for the development of my graduation project?   | What makes/made you feel capable of dealing with these aspects?  |

## **Appendix E: Data Analysis**







## **Theme Clusters**



### Preceding Skills







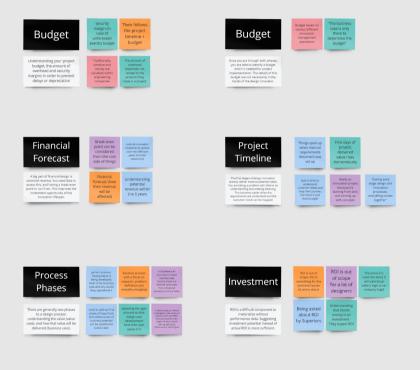




### Intrinsic Motivation



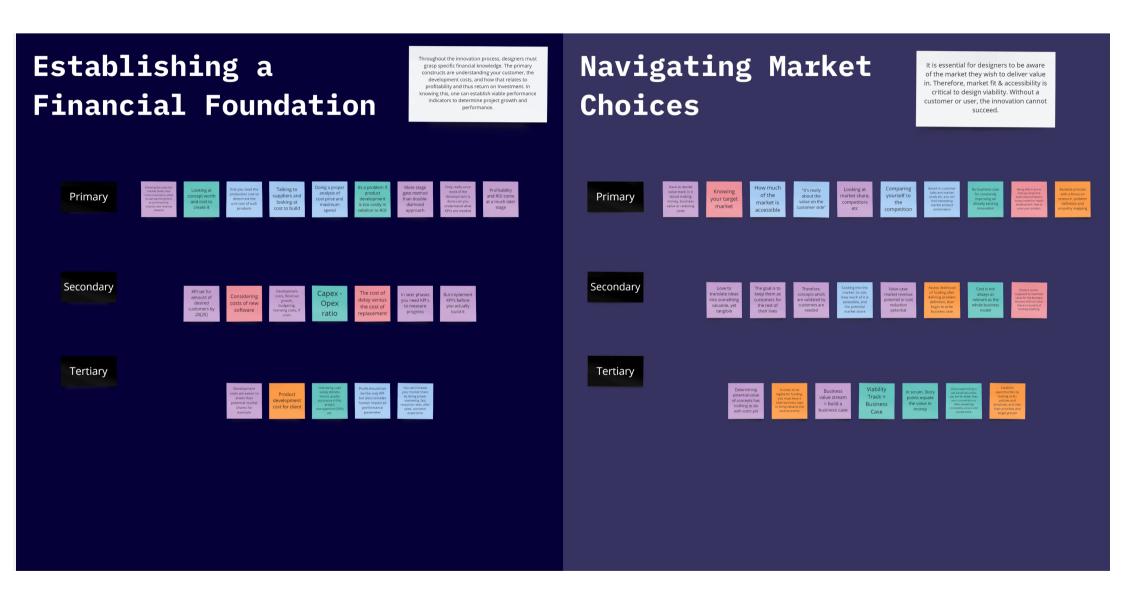
### Viability Process



# Designer Challenges



# **Building Blocks**

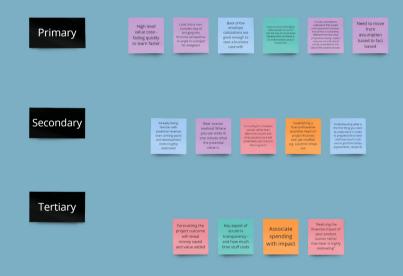


# Mindset to Drive Innovation

Before an innovation process can begin, designers must already possess a holistic mindset. This will steady project growth, as they will continue to drive the project forward while quickly learning from their mistakes. This shifts the design process more efficiently from assumption-based to fact-based.



Designers should understand why project viability is imperative to their innovation process. Open communication with finance officers and departments across the organization in the early phases of project development enables a proactive approach to financial components. Synergy between designers and financiers will also ensure equilibrum in their project roles, while opening dialogue for both parties to learn from.





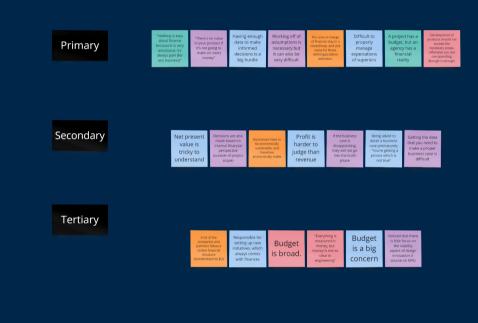
# Understanding the Phases of Viability

Project viability has different phases within the innovation process. The first phase is assumption-based and requires rigorous research of market fit, customer value and potential revenue. Whereas the second phase involves concept development (and the associated costs), a business model and potential return on investment.

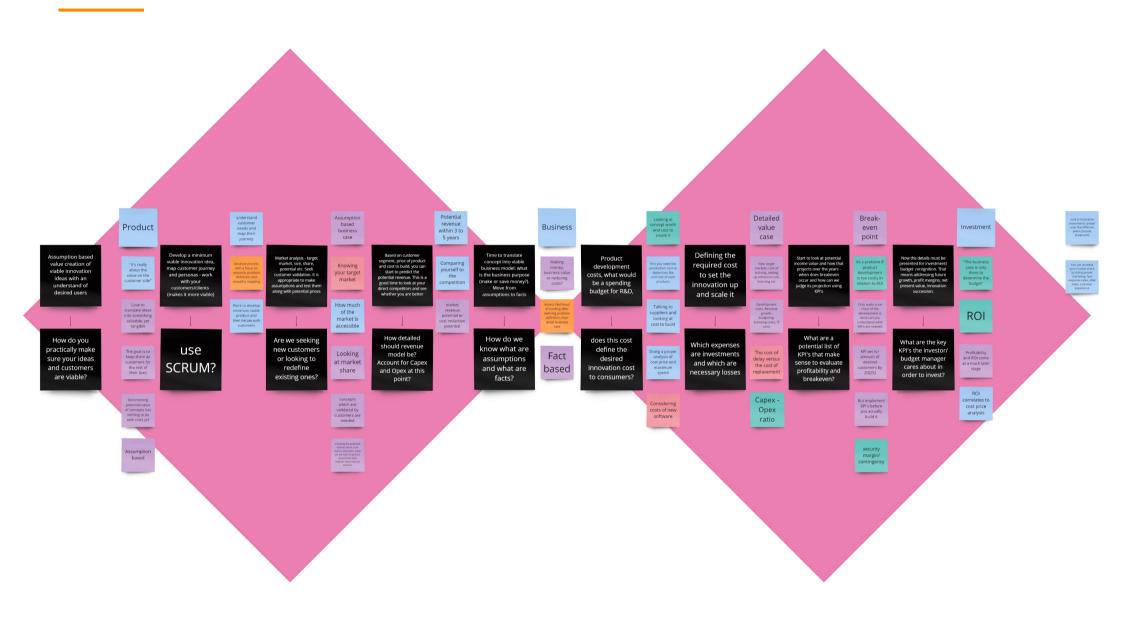


# Addressing Financial Integration Realities

Designers should be aware of project challenges and process complexities. There is a certain level of confidence required by designers to overcome internal or external obstacles such as corporate expectations, organization budgets and their personal insecurities. Awareness of these issues will diminish potential delays or decision uncertainties when navigating the design innovation process.

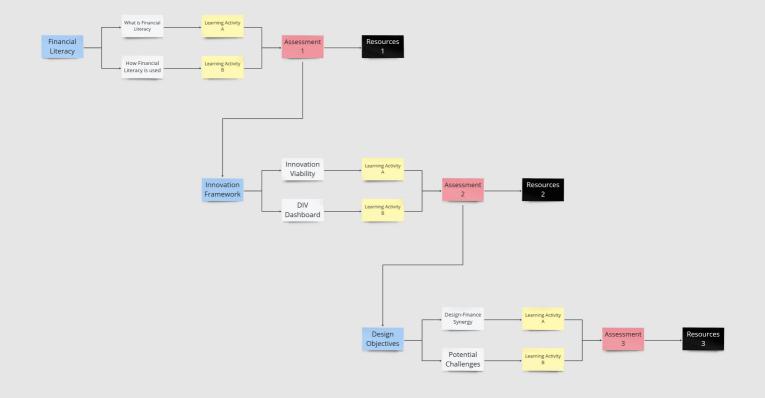


# **Appendix F: Data Integration**

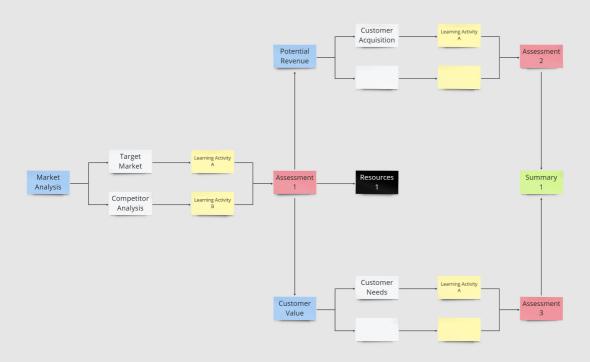


# **Appendix G: Module Architecture**

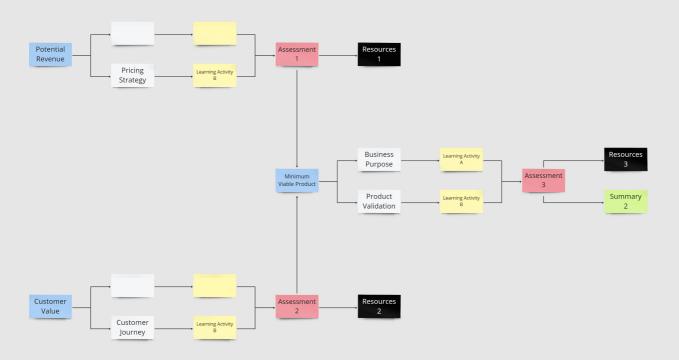
## MO: Introduction



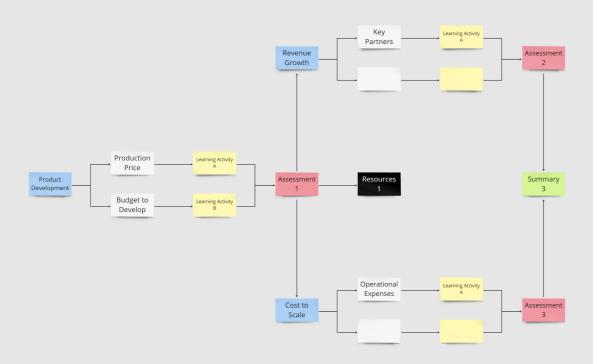
## M1: Customer & Market



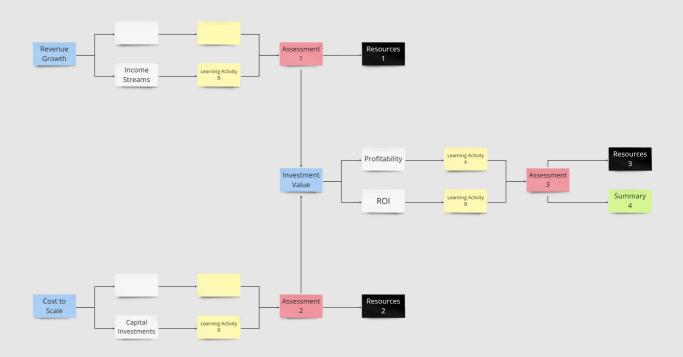
### M2: Product & Market



## M3: Expense of Income



### M4: Solution Performance



## **Appendix H: Module Architecture**

### **Learning Activity - Answers**

### **Minimum Viable Product: Business Purpose**

**Feedback:** Great job! You've successfully completed the Business Purpose activity. Here are the correct answers and explanations:

- 1. The correct answer is (b). The primary purpose of Business Purpose in design innovation is to establish the financial objectives and goals of the project.
- 2. The correct answer is (c). Marketing Strategy is NOT a component of Business Purpose. Business Purpose primarily focuses on financial objectives and strategies.
- 3. The correct answer is financial objectives and key performance indicators (KPIs). Business Purpose is a comprehensive description that outlines the financial objectives and key performance indicators (KPIs) of an innovation project.
- The correct answer is cost-benefit analysis. Financial literacy in innovation projects involves conducting a thorough costbenefit analysis.
- 5. The correct answer is: Return on Investment (ROI) is a measure of the profitability of an investment, calculated by dividing the net profit from the investment by the initial cost.
- 6. The correct answer is: Market Alignment involves ensuring that the innovation addresses market needs and demands, considers the competitive landscape, and aims to capture potential market share.
- 7. The correct answer is (b). It demonstrates the importance of setting clear financial objectives.
- 8. The correct answer is (c). This addresses the aspect of Cost-Benefit Analysis within Business Purpose.
- 9. The correct answer is False. The Business Purpose of an innovation project does not primarily focus on product design but on establishing clear financial objectives.
- 10. The correct answer is True. Financial literacy in innovation projects indeed involves assessing market needs and demands to make informed financial decisions.

### **Assessment - Answers**

- 1. Example of a Good Answer (3 points for explanation, 3 points for stating challenges): The decision to acquire the new battery technology is of paramount importance in the context of our EV project's financial success. Firstly, it directly affects our financial goals, particularly our revenue targets and profit margins. The new technology could potentially reduce production costs, leading to higher profit margins. Secondly, in the fiercely competitive EV market, it's crucial to stay ahead in terms of technology. Acquiring this technology aligns with our Business Purpose's key performance indicator (KPI) of capturing a significant market share. By offering an improved product, we can compete more effectively. However, we must ensure that the initial investment aligns with our ROI goals outlined in the Business Purpose.
- 2. Example of a Good Answer (3 points for benefits, 3 points for quantification): In our preliminary cost-benefit analysis, we estimate the initial investment for acquiring the new battery technology to be \$5 million. This includes the purchase cost, research and development expenses, and any associated costs. On the benefit side, we anticipate several gains. First, by reducing production costs through the new technology, we estimate potential savings of \$2 million annually. Second, the improved battery performance can help us capture an additional 5% market share, translating to an estimated \$8 million in revenue annually. Considering these benefits against the initial investment, it appears that the benefits significantly outweigh the costs.
- 3. Example of a Good Answer (2 points for recommendation, 2 points for justification): Based on our analysis, I recommend proceeding with the acquisition of the new battery technology. This recommendation aligns with our Business Purpose, which emphasizes capturing a significant market share and improving profit margins. The cost-benefit analysis indicates that the benefits, including cost savings and increased revenue, significantly outweigh the initial investment. Additionally, staying competitive in the EV market is crucial, and this decision enhances our position. Therefore, investing in this technology not only aligns with our financial objectives but also supports our Product Validation principles by reducing time to market and ensuring market readiness.

