



# How **2** Guide

Reflective Design Journal

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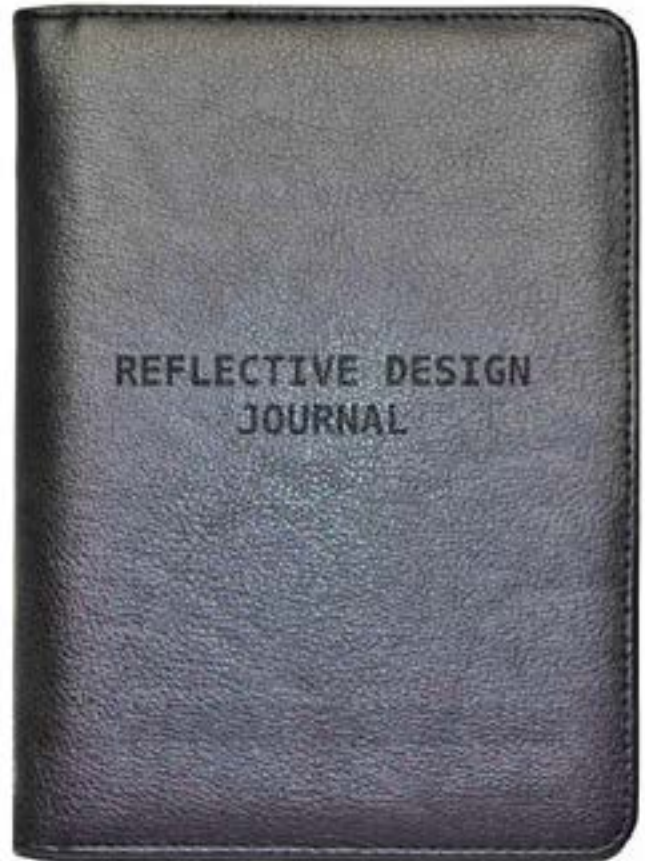
# Reflective Design Journal

## Beginning the journal

Many of you will be familiar with writing a diary which contain observations and reflections on past events. A reflective design journal provides the opportunity for you to analyse your own work, document your ideas and express your thoughts in an informal and personal way that uses your voice, both visually and in text. This should develop organically.

Writing a design journal will allow you to:

- *Focus your thoughts and develop your ideas.*
- *Develop your voice and gain confidence.*
- *Experiment with ideas and ask questions.*
- *Organise your thinking through exploring and mapping complex issues.*
- *Develop your conceptual and analytical skills.*
- *Reflect upon and make sense of experiences and the processes behind them.*
- *Express your feeling and emotional responses.*
- *Become aware of your actions and strategies undertaken.*



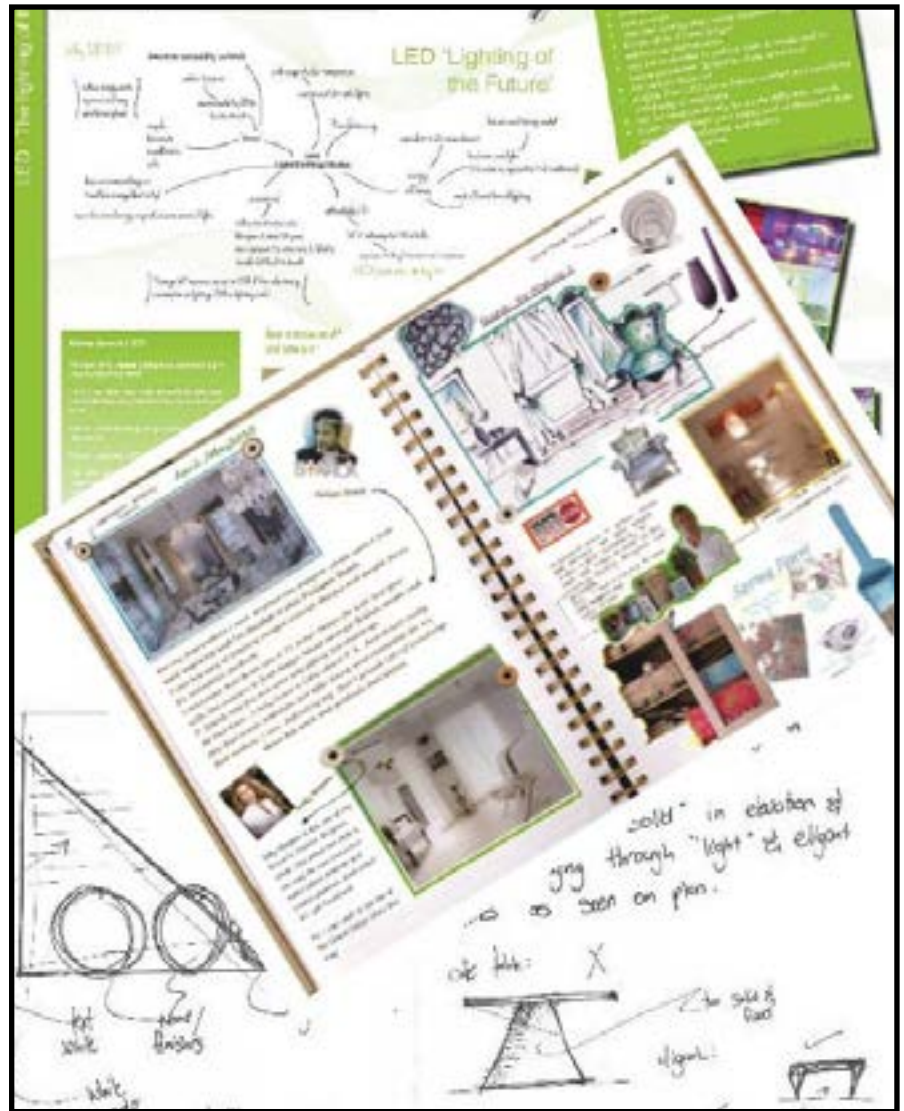
## Evaluation / Analysis.

Once you have read through the assignment, this is an appropriate time to note down your initial thoughts. This is a chance to analyse the brief, note what is being asked and weight it against your experience and expectations. Writing down your strengths and weaknesses may also be useful in helping you to strategies your approach to the assignment. You may also want to do some initial brain storming to develop your plan of action.



## Description / Feelings

Record your thoughts as you go through the design process. Accompany your thoughts with elements from the design stages. Show evidence of what you have done or are doing. Evaluate these as you go along. Include sketches, found images, photographs and so on.



When producing your reflective design journal:

- *Write for yourself and write often.*
- *Be informal, use language you are comfortable with.*
- *Include hand produced as well as digital work.*
- *Write in your own language.*
- *Be relaxed and comfortable.*
- *Use sketches and diagrams.*
- *Record not just events but reflection on the process.*
- *Ask questions and challenge assumptions.*
- *Connect your personal and professional experiences to the concepts and theories already established.*



# Conclusion / Action plan

Reflect on the overall experience. What did you learn? Consider not just what you learned from the module but also about your way of working. This is a good time to analyse your strengths and weaknesses. There may be areas which you would like to develop, which will add to your design skills or an aspect of the design process that you particularly enjoyed and would like to explore further. This also allows identification of your main interest and enables you to establish the overall direction you wish to follow within design.

**DIALUX - A nightmare in disguise**

**DIALUX "Lighting calculation"**

**3D Visuals**

**Module 4: Reflection**

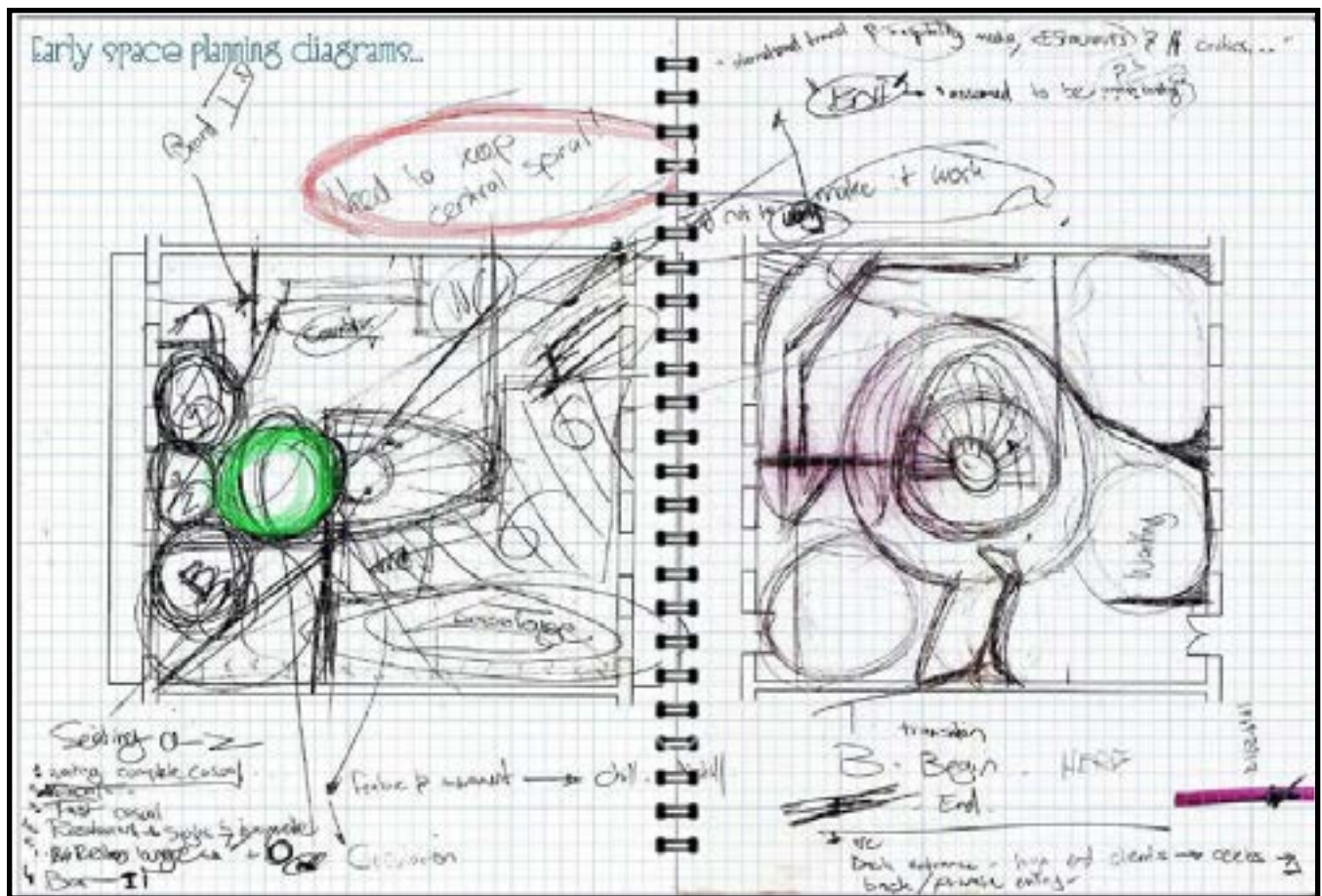
*### Schematic plans is not a term I come across on my diploma with Rhodie. I understand they do the preliminary zoning layouts of the floors and present a technical plan. As this was my first time working with Schematics, I made the mistake of writing to include rough furniture outlines as I felt I needed to do this to know the zoning would be big enough for their purpose (and get a sense of scale and size of the building its furniture sizes).*

*Although this provides the client with more info, as my later recommended, it also makes them look too finalized. (It also took too much time)*

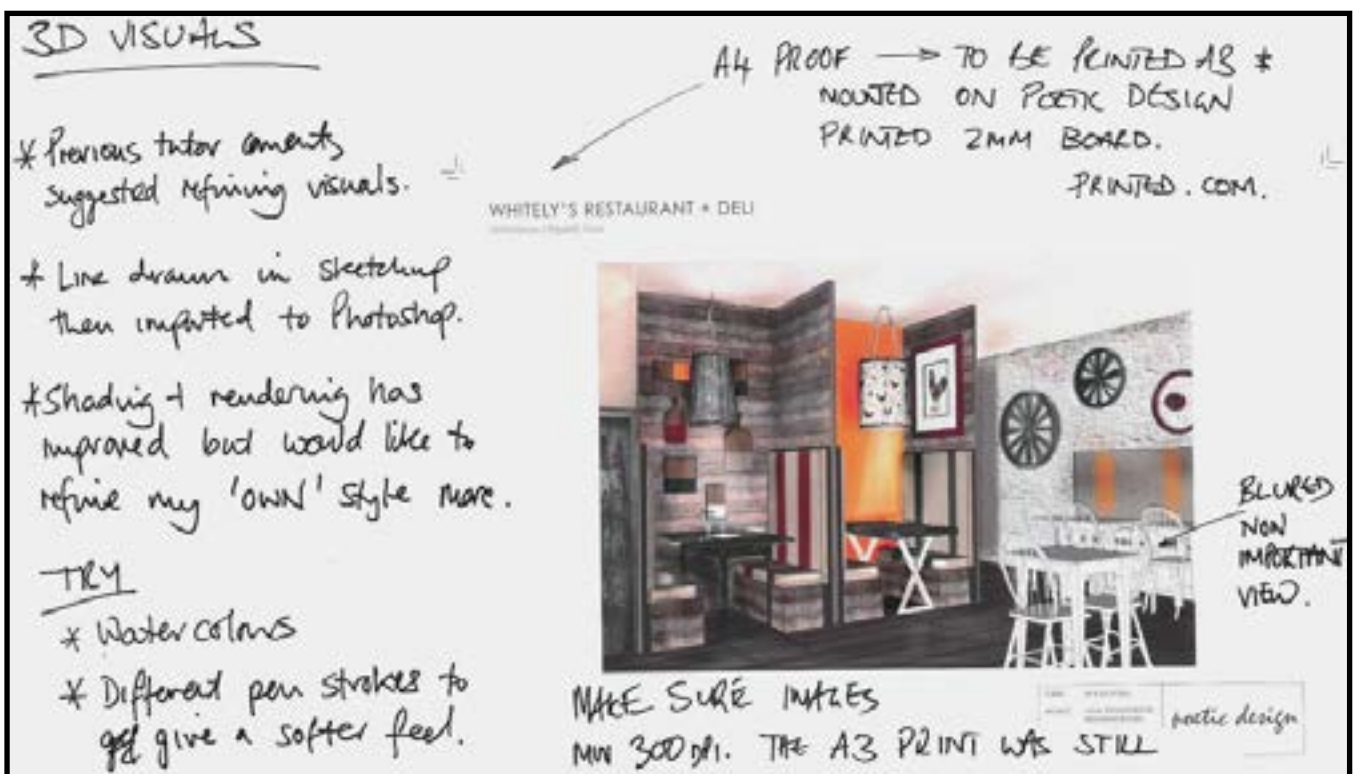
*In hindsight I would not do schematics like this again.*



## Examples



Thoughts and ideas expressed through notes and sketches.



Evaluation during the design process.



Reflection during the research process.



Overall reflection back on own methods and approach undertaken.

