

DES214 – Level Design Methods

Spatial Narrative

DigiPen Institute of Technology

Spatial Narrative

**How to integrate spatial
and narrative elements?**

Spatial Narrative

Narrative Elements

Plot

Character

Setting

Delivery

Spatial Narrative

Critical Plot Questions:

- What sequence of events happen in the story?
- How does the player actions further the story?
- Can the story be changed? In what ways?

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Critical Character Questions:

- Who are we / who do we play as?
- What other important characters exist?
- How do we relate / interact with other characters?

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Critical Setting Questions:

- Where are we?
- How did we come into this space?
- How do we relate to this space?

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Critical Delivery Questions:

- First or Third person?
- How will the mechanics interact with the story?
- What other elements will we use to tell the story?

Spatial Narrative

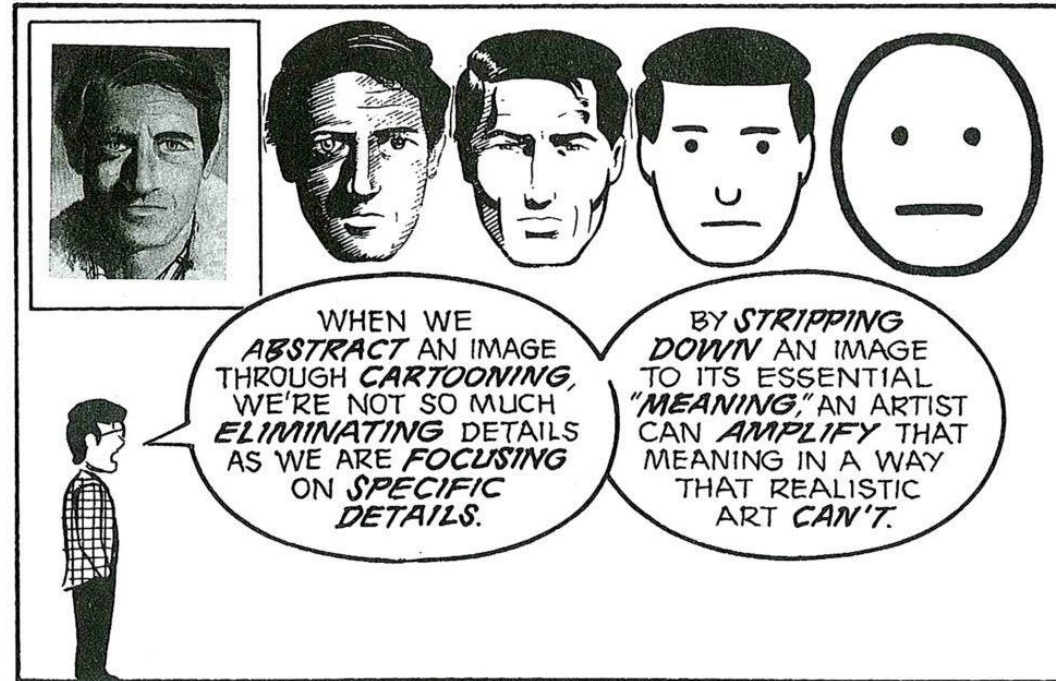
Mimesis

The representation or imitation of the real world in art and literature



Spatial Narrative

Specificity



Spatial Narrative

Worldbuilding



Spatial Narrative

Worldbuilding – Natural Setting



Geography	Topology	Climate
Fauna	Flora	Geology
Cosmology	Magic	Time

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Worldbuilding – Cultural Setting

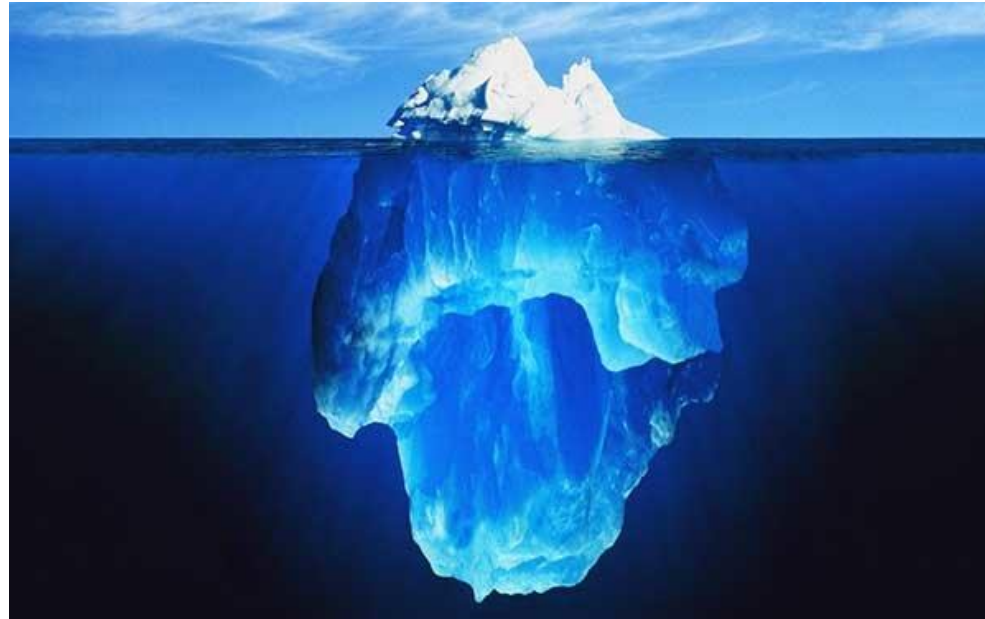


Social Norms	Power Structures	Technology
Work	Romance	Religion
Architecture	Food	Art

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Worldbuilding – Iceberg Principle

Give players the illusion that there is more than meets the eye.



Spatial Narrative

Worldbuilding – Chronology

Thinking about the space's past, present and future.



Spatial Narrative

Environmental Storytelling

Purposefully arranging the space and props to convey a story beat.



Spatial Narrative

Environmental Storytelling

Purposefully arranging the space and props to convey a story beat.



Spatial Narrative

In a Book, you are told a story.

Spatial Narrative

**In a movie you are
shown a story.
(Show don't tell)**

Spatial Narrative

**In a game you play a
story.**

(Do don't show)

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**Look for ways to use the
space to tell your story**

Spatial Narrative

Extra Material



[How Level Design Can Tell a Story](#)

Spatial Narrative

Extra Material



[Environment Design As Visual Storytelling: Theory & Practice](#)

Thank You!

Questions?

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