

!-/

(?) YOU MAY HAVE ASSUMED THAT WORDS HAVE INHERENT MEANING. YOU WOULD BE WRONG.  
WORDS ARE STICKS OF ROOM-TEMPERATURE BUTTER, FLEXIBLE IN CONTEXT, SLIPPERY  
IN YOUR GRASP. THE HARDER YOU TRY TO HANG ON TO EVERY WORD, THE MORE THEY  
WILL ELUDE YOU.

LANGUAGE

CAI

ASHLEY

DEGREE

DESIGN

GRAPHIC

RISD

PROJECT

2025

MAY

22

(?) WORD/VERB ARE DESCENDED FROM THE SAME PROTO-INDO-EUROPEAN ANCESTOR, AS ARE GREEN/GROW, HOST/GUEST, AND GENIUS/GENITALIA. OVER TIME, SOUNDS DETERIORATE, SYLLABLES TURN, BUT ECHOES OF A SHARED PAST REMAIN. EACH WORD CONCEALS AND REVEALS A RICH LINEAGE - YOU JUST HAVE TO PAY ATTENTION.



The gnome, capable and congenial, lingered alone in the immense hospice—a place of high task, though far less populated. Impervious to the attenuation of agency, the gnome remained steadfast. This innate fusion, this adult protagonist, had grown into added capacity. Essential was the essence of command; quintessential, the gnome's own form of hospitality. In a room tucked within an annex, the gnome—known in some registries as **Ashley** or perhaps **Cai**—attended the agenda with agile precision. The diagnosis of the industry was circumspect; ignoble circumstances demanded attenuation. Capiche? Adorned in the negligee of unknowing, the plebe may have manufactured symmetry from circumstance. Thereabout, a hostage diffused hostility through compliment. Perplexed but persistent, the gnome demanded a cryogenic supply—capable of negotiating tender refunds and metaphorical frost. The circumstance may have abated and returned, rhythmic, confusing the hospitality of the adult gnome until clarity bloomed like condensation on glass. He needed **22**, stat, but they only offered a round, useless **2025**. The protagonist atoned—permanently, presently, visibly. None ignored the **design** of the inner metronome, nor the circumference of isometric supply that pulsed like a second heart. The top gnome did not **center** the capacity for captivating discourse, nor did they incite hostility in the perfunctory rituals of bureaucracy. The plebiscite did not inflict confusion. The essence maneuvered, circumnavigating congenital antagonism. Alone—but never lonely—the left gnome possessed a capacity for intrinsic introspect, a momentary glimmer of perspective in the permanent interior. He checked his watch. **#212**. Invert the corner's circumstance, and what was once absurd became essential. The gnome—quintessential of the introduction, increasingly impervious—represented not just the gentile, nor merely the genteel, but the entire gentry. Around the perennial providence, a plebeian renegade emerged. One could say the gnome was indigenous to the genre. **RI** delivered a perfuse effusion of essence—a blend of physiognomy and genealogy, not unlike the cultural collages native to the **USA**.

**RHODE**  
FROM RHODES,  
A GREEK  
ISLAND NAMED  
AFTER THE  
SNAKES THAT  
INFESTED IT

**ISLAND**  
FROM PROTO-  
GERMANIC  
AWJO, MEANING  
“THING ON THE  
WATER”

**SCHOOL**  
FROM LATIN  
SCHOLA,  
MEANING  
“PLACE OF  
INSTRUCTION”

**DESIGN**  
FROM LATIN  
ESIGNARE,  
MEANING “MARK  
OUT”

**GRAPHIC**  
FROM LATIN  
GRAPHICUS,  
MEANING  
“PICTURESQUE”

**DESIGN**  
FROM LATIN  
ESIGNARE,  
MEANING “MARK  
OUT”

**DEGREE**  
FROM VULGAR  
LATIN  
DEGRADUS,  
MEANING “A  
STEP”

**PROJECT**  
FROM MEDIEVAL  
LATIN  
PROIECTUM,  
MEANING  
“SOMETHING  
THROWN FORTH”



(?) WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR SOMETHING TO BE IN COMMON? CAN IT BE OUT OF COMMON?  
“COMMON” IS A VELVET-LINED CONTAINER, STUFFED WITH CHERRIES AND PEARLS AND HOBBIES, BUT NOT ALL WORDS HOLD SUCH AN INVITING SPACE. SO WATCH YOUR STEP.

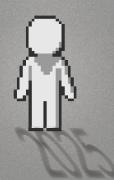
ASHLEY



SCHOOL



RHODE



DESIGN



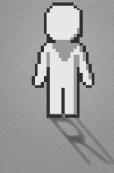
ISLAND



OF



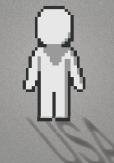
DEGREE



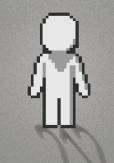
CAI

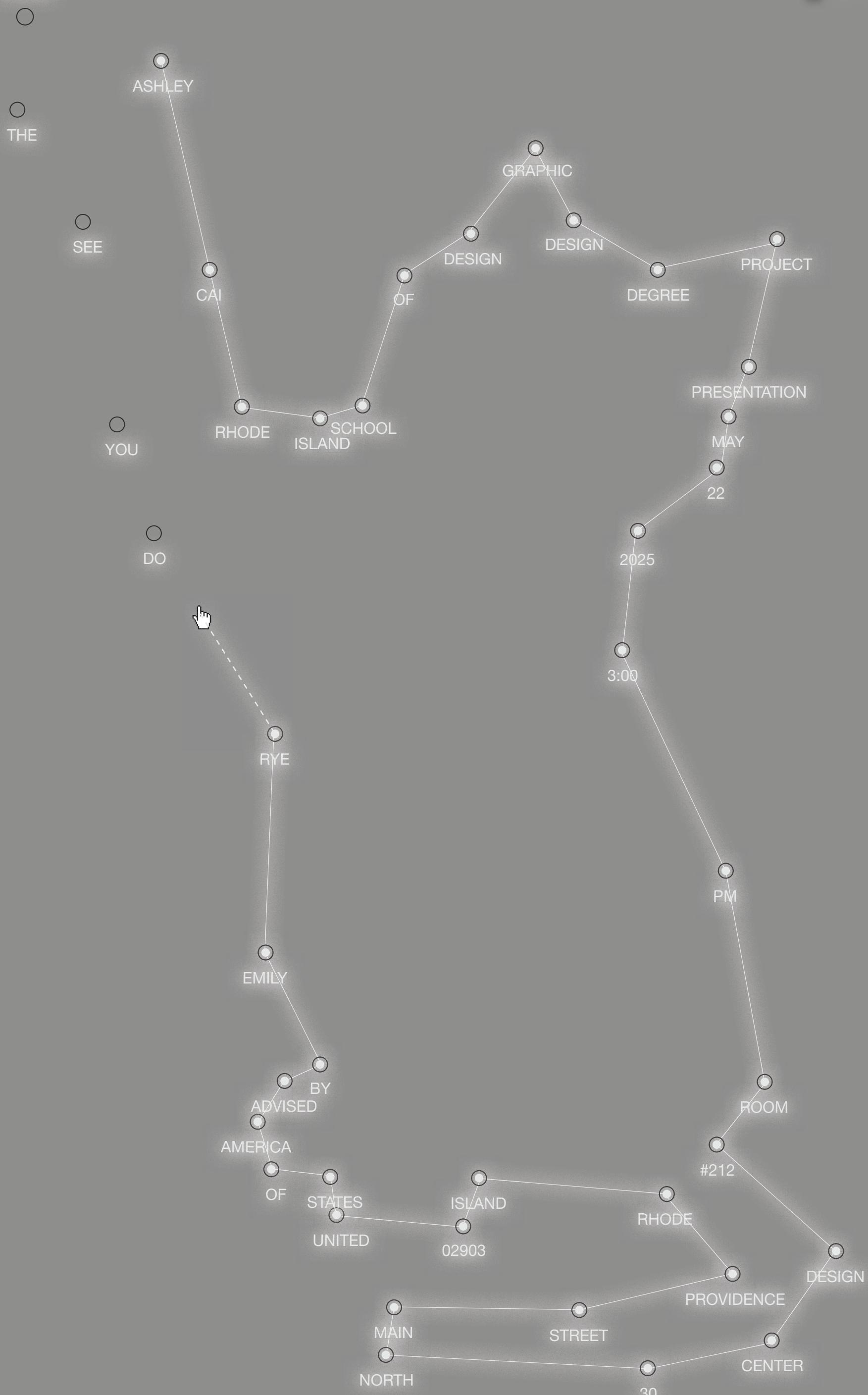
DESIGN  
PHOTO

PROJECT



GRAPHIC





(?) IF YOU REALLY CHEW ON THEM(1400S) MOST IDIOMS ARE A LOAD OF HOGWASH(1400S). CODIFIED NUGGETS OF ARCHAIC SPEECH LODGE THEMSELVES IN YOUR BRAIN LIKE AN EARWORM. AND YOU PARROT THEM, PROPAGATE THEM, AND PROTECT THEM THROUGH ROILING CHANGES OF LANGUAGE.

JARGON

LANGUAGE



(?) EVERY COMMUNITY LIKES TO MAKE ITS OWN CASTLE OF VERNACULAR, STEEP TOWERS AND DECADENT SPIRES OF VOCABULARY. BUT THESE WALLS ARE PATCHED TOGETHER HASTILY WITH RECYCLED MATERIAL, MAPPING NEW MEANINGS TO OLD WORDS. BUT THE MORE YOU BORROW, THE MORE YOU RISK OBFUSCATION.

3:00 PM

TIME

MAY 22 2025

CALENDAR

GRAPHIC

DESIGN

DEGREE

CENTER

RM 212

RISD

PLACE

PRODUCT

PROJECT

PROVIDENCE RI



(?) THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE IS NOTABLE FOR ITS PLETHORA OF NEIGHBORS, A PRODUCT OF RECKLESS IMPORTING FROM GERMAN, FRENCH, GREEK, NORSE, AND MORE. MILLENNIAS OF GREED HAVE LEFT US WITH TOMES OF ADJACENT WORDS, EACH FUTILELY TAKING UP ITS OWN PIECE OF LAND, VYING FOR YOUR ATTENTION.

