

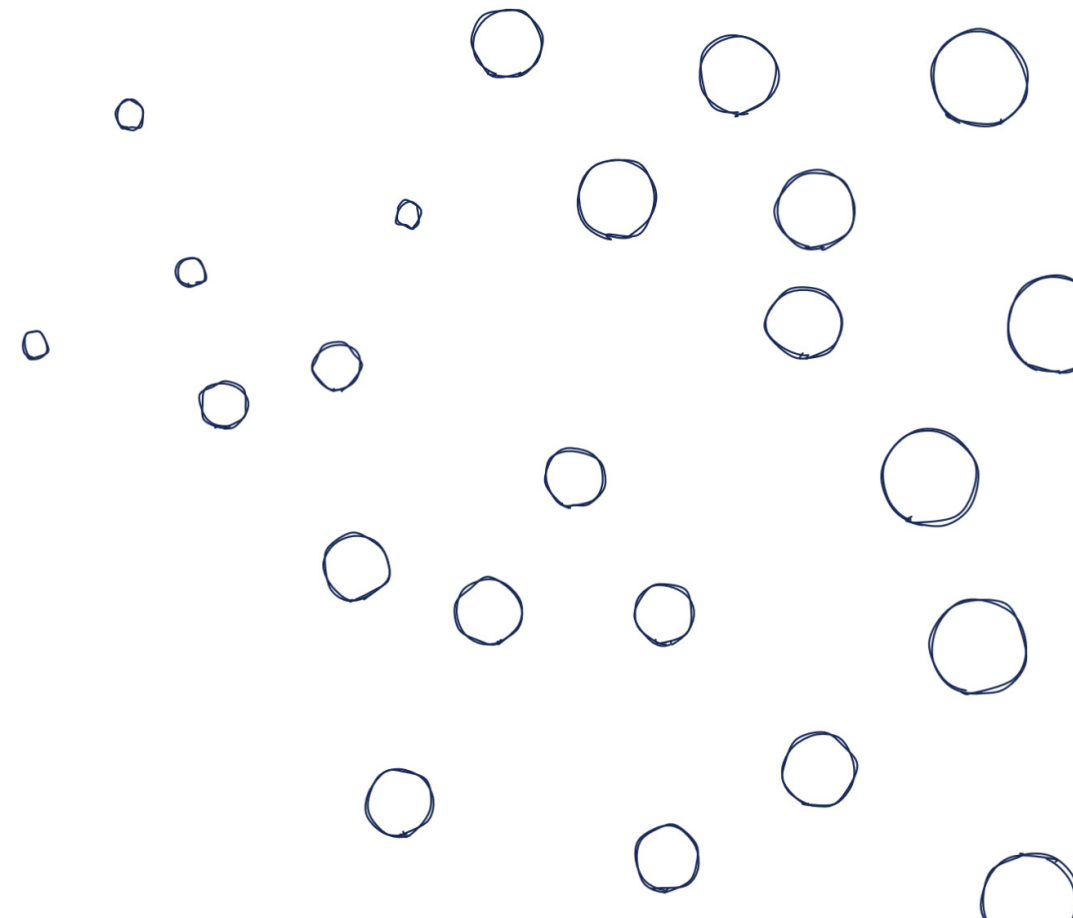
Pith:

A space for productive discussions.

Christian Broms

with Sydney Zheng

mentored by Prof. Hirokazu Shirado



Direct democracy can't exist at a large scale.

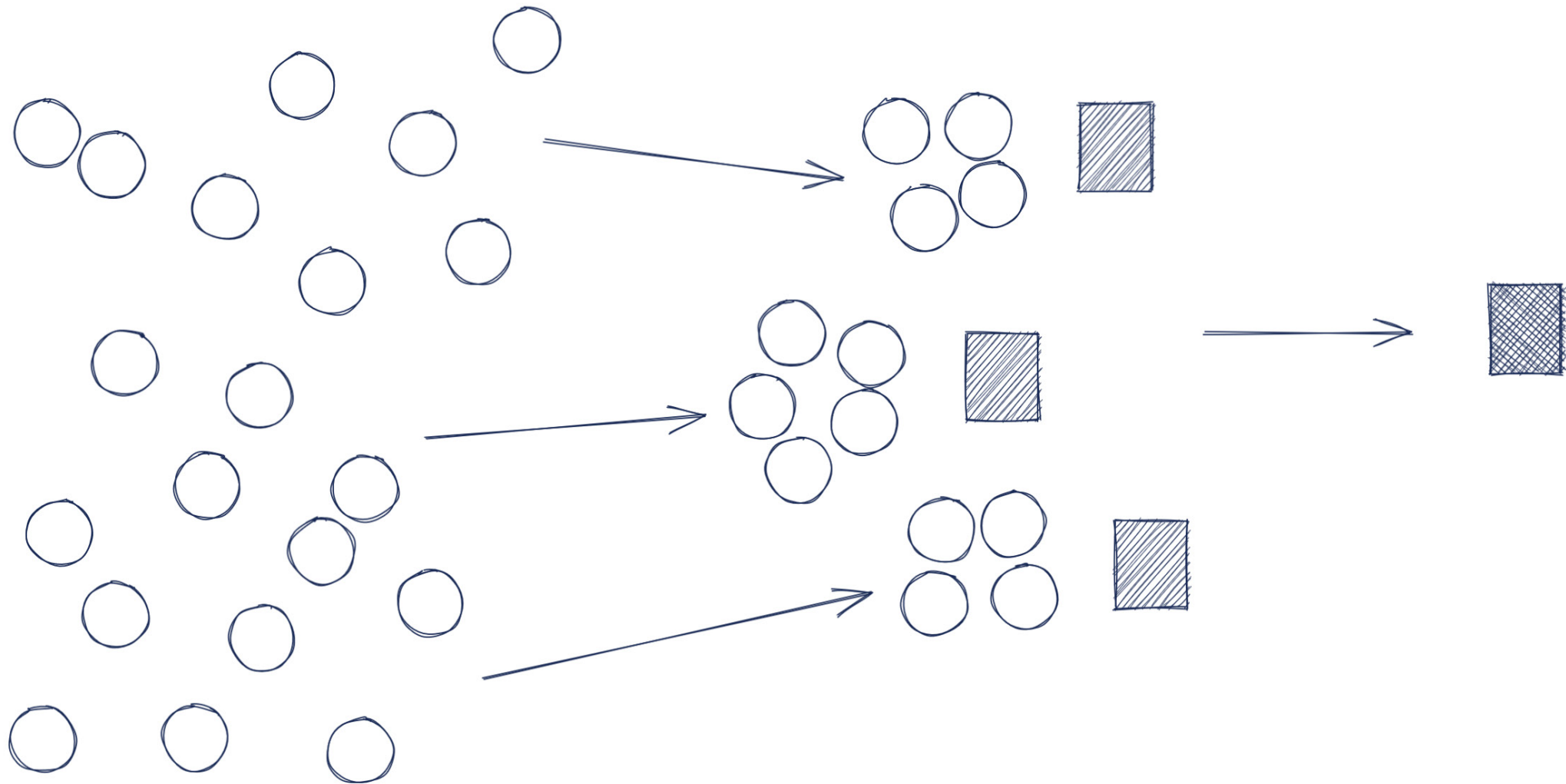
The physicality of the world means we can't meet
together to discuss...

**If we could all meet,
how would we have a
discussion?**

A productive conversation can only happen at a
small scale...

**How might we
design a system that
facilitates large-scale
discussions, digitally?**

Our approach.

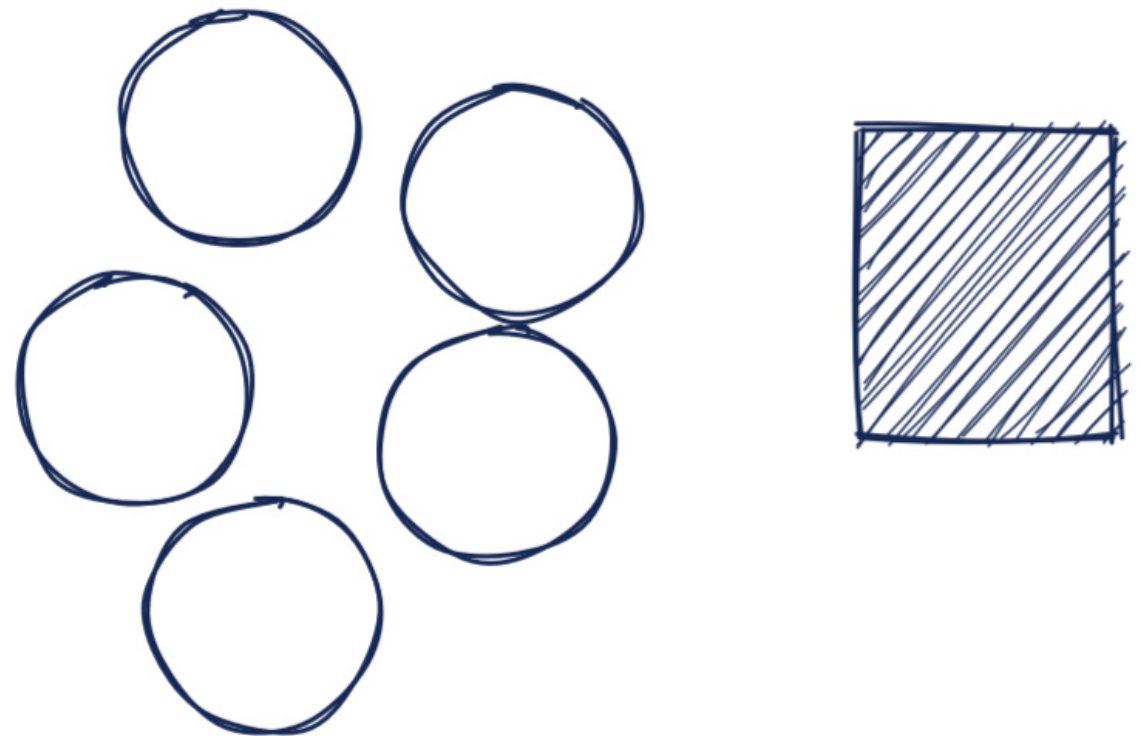


The small discussion space.

Our focus for the bulk of this project.

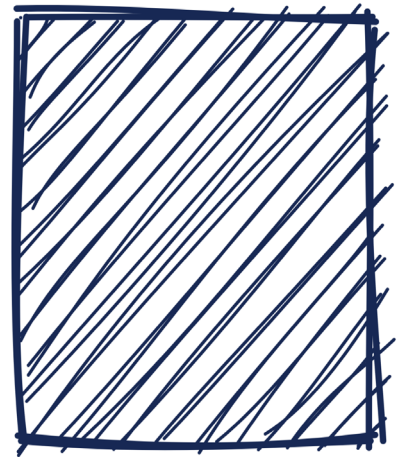
What can we learn from existing systems?

Where can we improve?



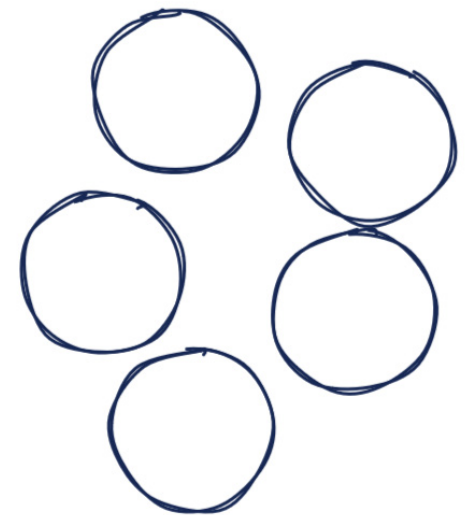
A way to summarize a discussion effectively.

1— An organizational system.



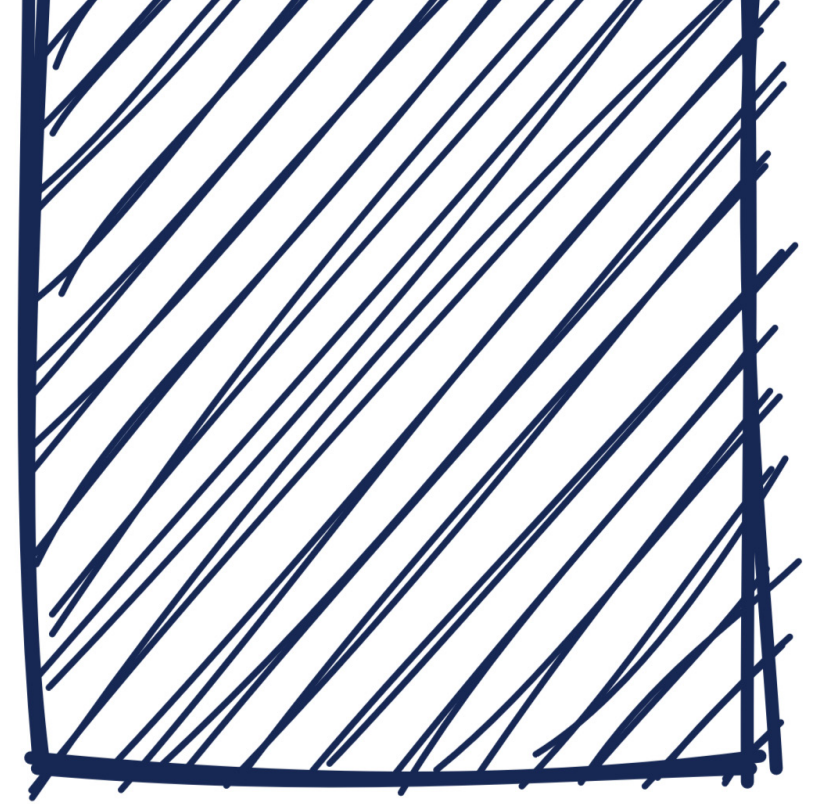
A place for about five people to discuss.

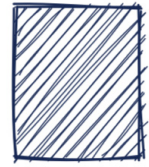
2— A synchronous, text-based chat.



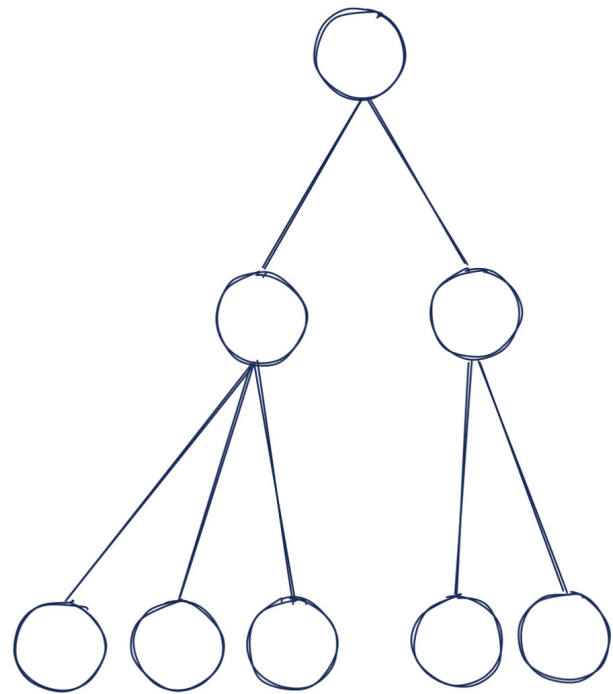
Creating an organizational system.

Fall 2020 - Spring 2021

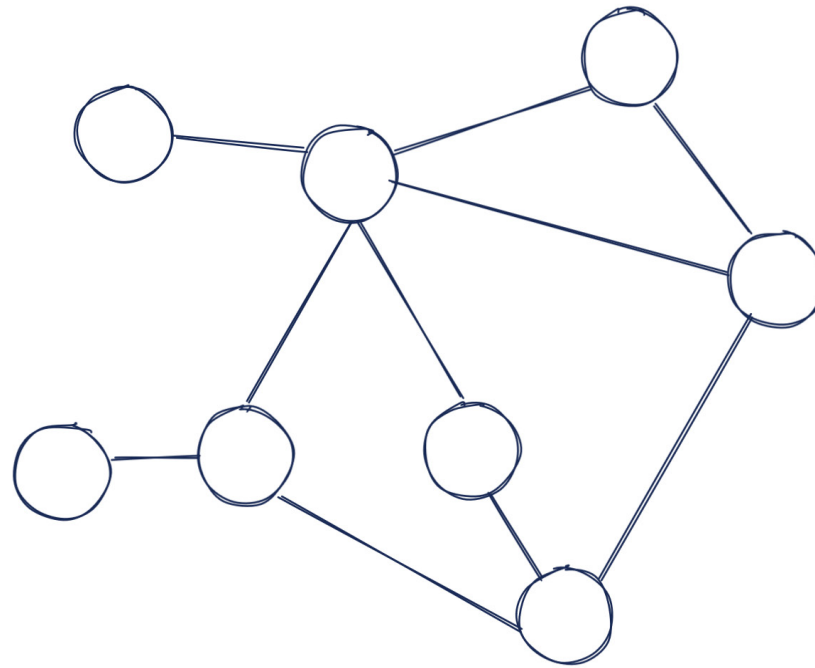




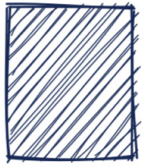
Associative versus hierarchal organization.



A hierarchy.



A network.



An infinitely recursive nested list.

First iteration: fall 2020.

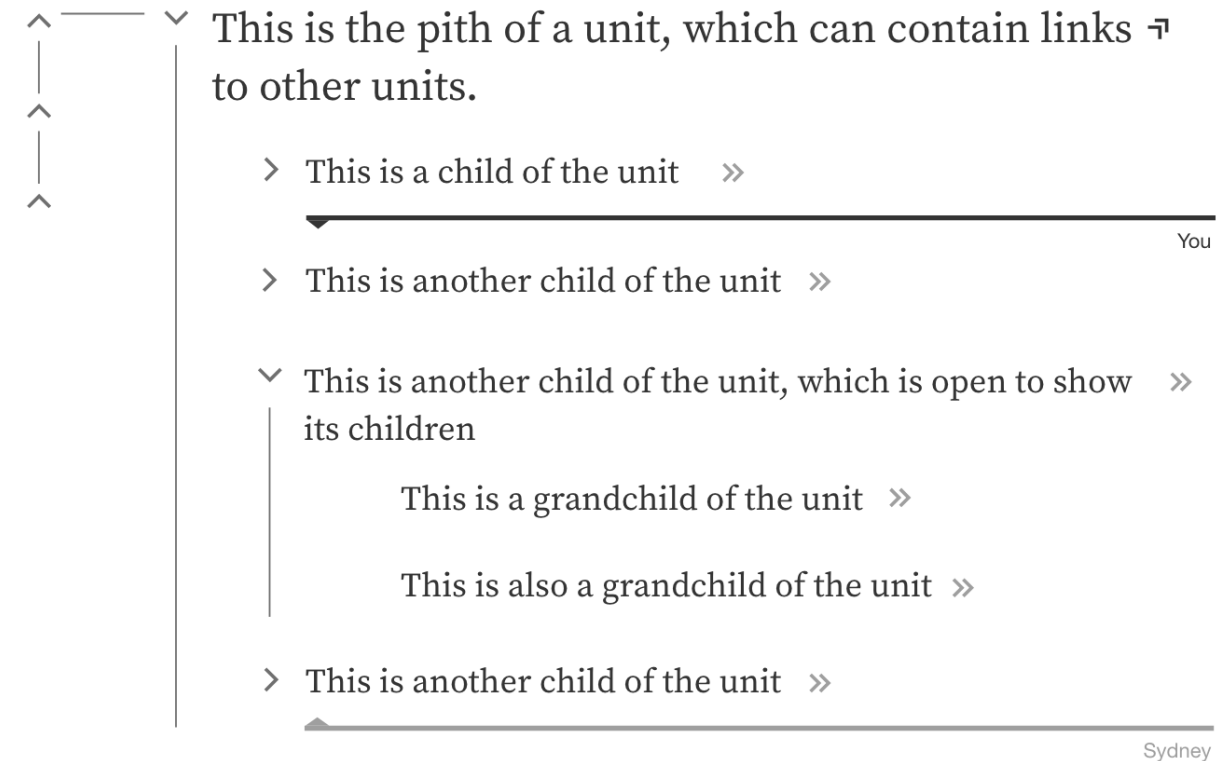
Grandparent-parent-child.

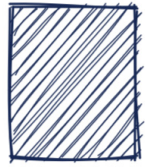
Hard to view at different resolutions.

Traversing the tree is difficult.

≡ Document

S B C A





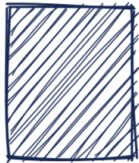
A simple list paired with an idea map.

Second iteration: spring 2021.

Two paces: fast and slow

List: quick pinning of messages.

Idea map: synthesis, mapping relations.



Chat ▶ 1 here now Leave discussion

ok sure yes

it just feels to me like these are two separate issues

there's the getting outside in the day to day

but also the making sure that there are places to go when you want to spend more time outside

dove 04/30/21 at 12:29 pm
Okay, yes.

But perhaps even here, the fractal idea can help.

People can set aside areas more dedicated for parks.

But this is mixed in with other spaces for other needs.

But because the city is big, they can have an associated, big park.

And have smaller parks for each community.

Perhaps, some outdoor-land needs to exist on its own, somewhat away from the control of people in this organization.

To some extent, I imagine that preservation of certain lands will still be important.

sunrise2341 04/30/21 at 12:32 pm
preservation and stewardship, yes

Suggestion Meta shall we have lunch?

type a message...

Question Suggestion Meta

Summary

dove 04/30/21 at 12:03 pm
well, i'd say probably it will have to be some kind of semi urban si...
[1] I agree, I'm thinking apartment buildings will become more massive.

dove 04/30/21 at 12:06 pm
One consideration of future living spaces would therefore be how to connect the inside and outside world.

sunrise2341 04/30/21 at 12:08 pm
which is not such a good thing because it is quite essential to your health in a lot of ways

dove 04/30/21 at 12:10 pm
Question How can spaces, especially more dense spaces, be built to connect the inside and outside world?

sunrise2341 04/30/21 at 12:12 pm
stewardship of these open spaces will be a super important aspect

sunrise2341 04/30/21 at 12:18 pm
In conclusion, a fractal-structure outlines a social organization fo...
but of course this means that the space must be preserved and t...
stewardship of these open spaces will be a super important aspect

[1] maybe the tight community structure, if it could be built, could solve the problem of not taking care of the environment around [2] [3]

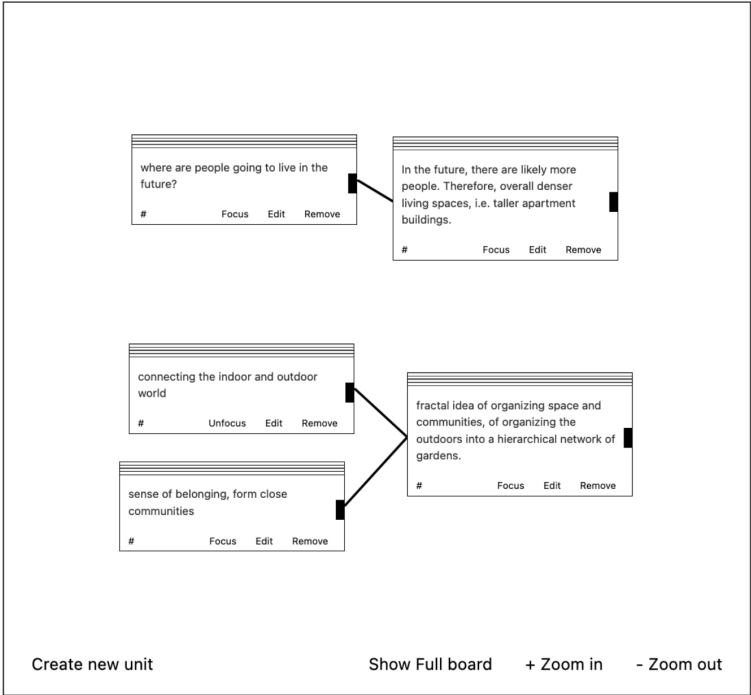
dove 04/30/21 at 12:25 pm
So basically, if we take the fractal idea again, the individual has their own garden, which goes to a communal garden, which goes to the building's garden outside.

Focusing on

connecting the indoor and outdoor world

Unfocus

Board Maximize Board

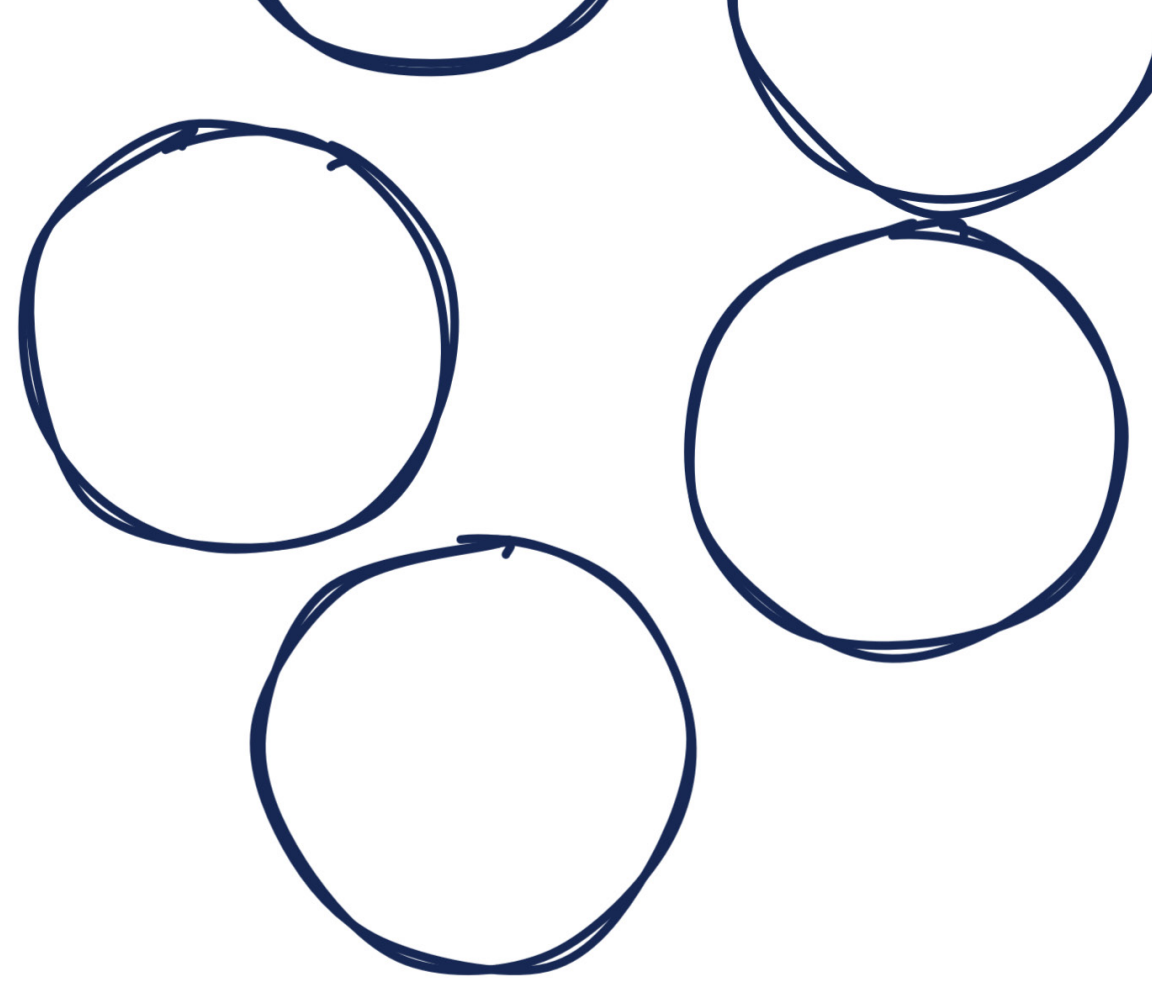


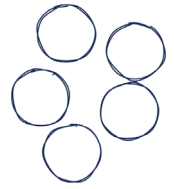
Information depth



Creating a listening mechanism.

Spring 2021



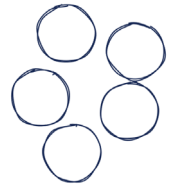


Listening: making sure people are heard.

During conversation, some people's contributions are passed over.

How can the system itself help?

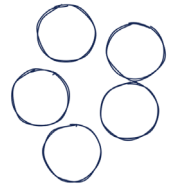
Process: three iterations of design, build, test.



No listening mechanism: people don't feel heard.

People make contributions but they might be ignored.

“I felt like none of my suggestions were being listened to, and I wanted to show that I had some suggestions.”



Flairs: highlighting contributions.

Apply a *flair* to a message.

To start with: *Question, Suggestion, Meta.*

Creates a culture of flailing, but no changes to feeling heard.

waffle 04/23/21 at 1:58 pm

1) knife to cut thing

Salamander 04/23/21 at 1:58 pm

Suggestion Fish hooks or nets for catching fish

waffle 04/23/21 at 1:58 pm

2) matches to burn thing

things*

Salamander 04/23/21 at 1:58 pm

Definitely matches

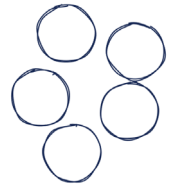
A water purifier or desalinator

Mitch 04/23/21 at 1:59 pm

1) knife 2) matches 3) flare gun 4) water filter 5) seeds 6) tent 7) food 8) radio 9)

olicanian 04/23/21 at 2:00 pm

Question think we have to justify the sequence later. Any thoughts waffle



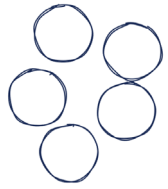
Auto-pinning flairs: acknowledgment.

Using a flair pins your message to the summary.

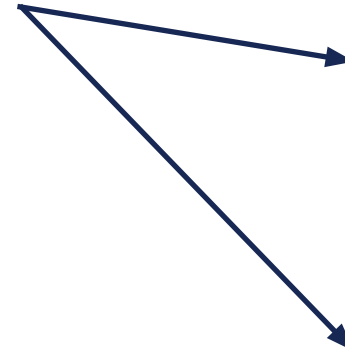
Challenge: the summary is a place that has to be kept clean.

Challenge: who pins and unpins is shown in the chat.

Result: *people must acknowledge flaired contributions.*



Flaired messages are pinned,
forcing people to see them.



ARDELEAN Wednesday at 2:25 pm

Suggestion a good book

Bieniol Wednesday at 2:25 pm

└ A pounding tool, like a hammer

[1] +1

jmacg Wednesday at 2:25 pm

Suggestion a compass, depending on how large the island is...

goodplayer123 Wednesday at 2:26 pm

└ [...] or maybe combine that with the knife suggestion and use a machete instead?

[1] good idea

Bieniol Wednesday at 2:26 pm

└ a good book

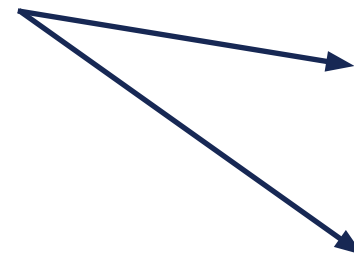
[1] i would rather say few good books

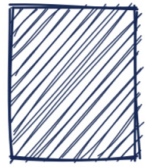
Abellay Wednesday at 2:26 pm

└ a compass, depending on how large the island is...

[1] Sure!

Other people respond to the
suggestions, acknowledging
them.

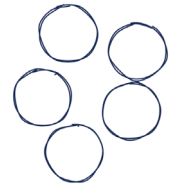




Insight: a summary alongside a chat works.

A chat space with a summary makes a conversation much easier to follow, both during and after.

└──────────→ The basic text chat still has plenty of room to grow.



Insight: social dynamics change with the system.

*Applying key changes to a system can improve the dynamics
between the people that use it.*

└──────────→ New and existing digital social systems *can* be designed to
bring out the best in people.

Pith:

A space for productive discussions.

Questions?

