# Introduction To Design Patterns

#### What Is A Pattern?

- Current use comes from the work of the architect Christopher Alexander
- Alexander studied ways to improve the process of designing buildings and urban areas
- "Each pattern is a three-part rule, which expresses a relation between a certain context, a problem and a solution."
- Hence, the common definition of a pattern: "A solution to a problem in a context."
- Patterns can be applied to many different areas of human endeavor, including software development

# Why Patterns?

- "Designing object-oriented software is hard and designing reusable object-oriented software is even harder." Erich Gamma
- Experienced designers reuse solutions that have worked in the past
- Well-structured object-oriented systems have recurring patterns of classes and objects
- Knowledge of the patterns that have worked in the past allows a designer to be more productive and the resulting designs to be more flexible and reusable

# **Software Patterns History**

- 1987 Cunningham and Beck used Alexander's ideas to develop a small pattern language for Smalltalk
- 1990 The Gang of Four (Gamma, Helm, Johnson and Vlissides) begin work compiling a catalog of design patterns
- 1991 Bruce Anderson gives first Patterns Workshop at OOPSLA
- 1993 Kent Beck and Grady Booch sponsor the first meeting of what is now known as the Hillside Group
- 1994 First Pattern Languages of Programs (PLoP) conference
- 1995 The Gang of Four (GoF) publish the *Design Patterns* book

# **Types Of Software Patterns**

- Analysis
- Design
- Organizational
- Process
- Project Planning
- Configuration Management

# **Types Of Software Patterns**

• Riehle and Zullighoven in "Understanding and Using Patterns in Software Development" mention three types of software patterns

### Conceptual Pattern

→ Pattern whose form is described by means of terms and concepts from the application domain

### Design Pattern

- ⇒ Pattern whose form is described by means of software design constructs, such as objects, classes, inheritance and aggregation
- Programming Pattern (Programming Idiom)
  - ⇒ Pattern whose form is described by means of programming language constructs

# **Design Pattern Levels Of Abstraction**

• Complex design for an entire application or subsystem



• Solution to a general design problem in a particular context



• Simple reusable design class such as a linked list, hash table, etc.

# **GoF Design Patterns**

- The GoF design patterns are in the middle of these levels of abstraction
- "A design pattern names, abstracts, and identifies key aspects of a common design structure that makes it useful for creating a reusable object-oriented design."
- The GoF design patterns are "descriptions of communicating objects and classes that are customized to solve a general design problem in a particular context."

# **GoF Classification Of Design Patterns**

- Purpose what a pattern does
  - ⇒ Creational Patterns
    - → Concern the process of object creation
  - ⇒ Structural Patterns
    - → Deal with the composition of classes and objects
  - ⇒ Behavioral Patterns
    - → Deal with the interaction of classes and objects
- Scope what the pattern applies to
  - ⇒ Class Patterns
    - → Focus on the relationships between classes and their subclasses
    - → Involve inheritance reuse
  - ⇒ Object Patterns
    - → Focus on the relationships between objects
    - → Involve composition reuse

# **GoF Essential Elements Of Design Patterns**

#### Pattern Name

→ Having a concise, meaningful name for a pattern improves communication among developers

#### • Problem

- ⇒ What is the problem and context where we would use this pattern?
- ⇒ What are the conditions that must be met before this pattern should be used?

#### Solution

- ⇒ A description of the elements that make up the design pattern
- ⇒ Emphasizes their relationships, responsibilities and collaborations
- ⇒ Not a concrete design or implementation; rather an abstract description

### Consequences

- ⇒ The pros and cons of using the pattern
- ⇒ Includes impacts on reusability, portability, extensibility

**Introduction To Design Patterns** 

# **GoF Pattern Template**

- Pattern Name and Classification
  - ⇒ A good, concise name for the pattern and the pattern's type
- Intent
  - ⇒ Short statement about what the pattern does
- Also Known As
  - → Other names for the pattern
- Motivation
  - ⇒ A scenario that illustrates where the pattern would be useful
- Applicability
  - ⇒ Situations where the pattern can be used

# **GoF Pattern Template (Continued)**

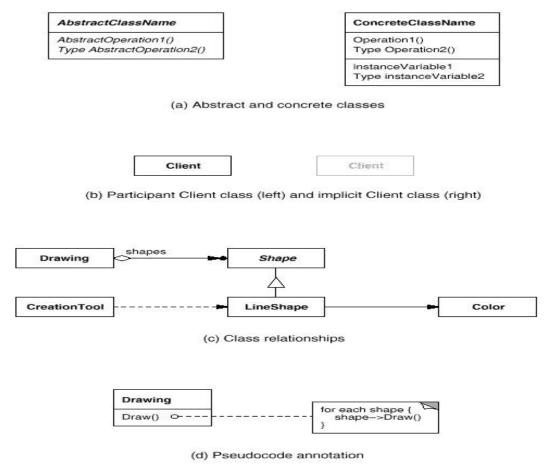
- Structure
  - ⇒ A graphical representation of the pattern
- Participants
  - ⇒ The classes and objects participating in the pattern
- Collaborations
  - ⇒ How to do the participants interact to carry out their responsibilities?
- Consequences
  - ⇒ What are the pros and cons of using the pattern?
- Implementation
  - ⇒ Hints and techniques for implementing the pattern

# **GoF Pattern Template (Continued)**

- Sample Code
  - ⇒ Code fragments for a sample implementation
- Known Uses
  - ⇒ Examples of the pattern in real systems
- Related Patterns
  - ⇒ Other patterns that are closely related to the pattern

#### **GoF Notation**

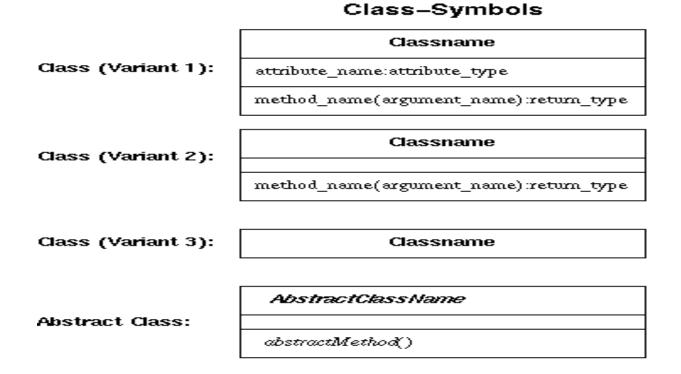
• The GoF book uses the Object Modeling Technique (OMT) notation for class and object diagrams:



**Introduction To Design Patterns** 

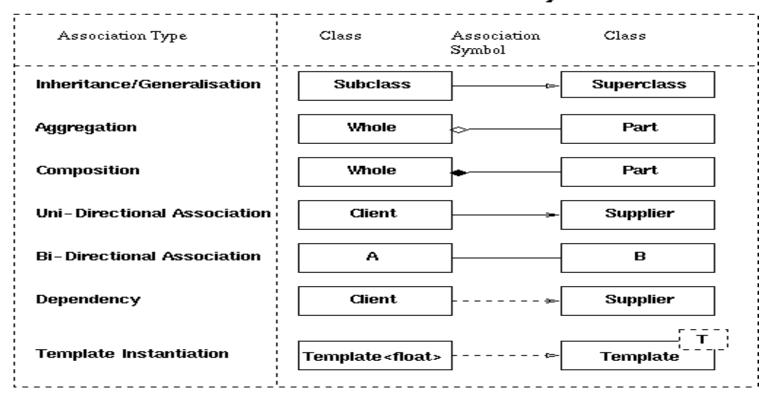
#### **UML Notation**

• We will also use the Unified Modeling Language (UML)



# **UML Notation (Continued)**

#### Association-Symbols



# **Benefits Of Design Patterns**

- Capture expertise and make it accessible to non-experts in a standard form
- Facilitate communication among developers by providing a common language
- Make it easier to reuse successful designs and avoid alternatives that diminish reusability
- Facilitate design modifications
- Improve design documentation
- Improve design understandability

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