

A Few Other Kinds

A Fusion of Sinhala and Tamil Letters

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A Few Other Kinds

A Fusion of Sinhala and Tamil Letters

Harmony is not difficult. We will rejoice living in one world when we learn to see our similarities instead of differences.

Our isolation in our own worlds is a construct of our cultures, not a part of who we are. It is not harmony that is difficult, but understanding the true nature of that which divides us.

This is a recognition of a linguistic obstacle that separated us as Sinhala and Tamil people.

-Pathum Egodawatta

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Kosala Senevirathne,
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Arunothayan Ravindran

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Northumbria University, UK.

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Dedicated to all the humans that provided
shelter and protection - or LIFE -
for the displaced Tamil community during
the 1983 Black July Riots

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Contents

List of all hybrid glyphs	10
Introduction	13
Development of glyphs	17
Grid	45
User testing process	46
Useages and sizes	50
Website user generated images	58

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Introduction

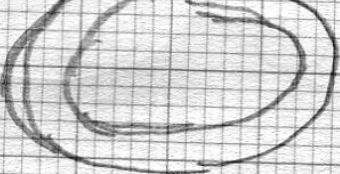
The ethnic conflicts in Sri Lanka surfaced in a new form as a language problem in 1950's and eventually it led to a series of unfortunate events which included much political turmoil and a 30 year long war. It is evident that the damage has already been done and in the light of peace in Sri Lanka, the ethnic tension continues to grow.

This project is not about solving the political problems in the country, but to explore the different graphical aspects of cultural boundaries between ethnicities in Sri Lanka and an attempt to dissolve these boundaries in a selected context.

The main boundary between cultures is the language and it happens that both sinhala and tamil languages come from the same branch of indic languages. The two ethnicities share many similar pronunciation of words as well. A deeper look into the visual properties of the two alphabets, and their development prompts

that there is a possibility of building a one set of letters to be used for both languages essentially blurring out the language barrier on a different level.

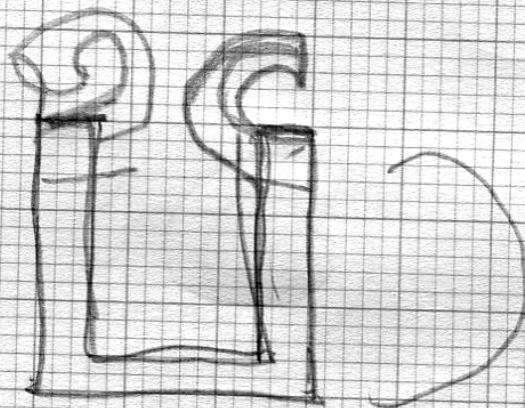
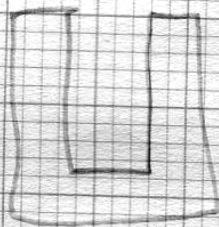
Both the Sinhala and Tamil alphabets and writing systems were simplified and changed to accommodate the idea of hybrid letters. Basically this is a new writing system based on sinhala and tamil that could be easily learnt by the both ethnicities.



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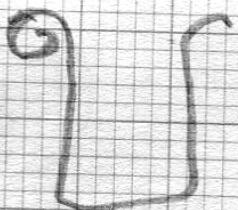
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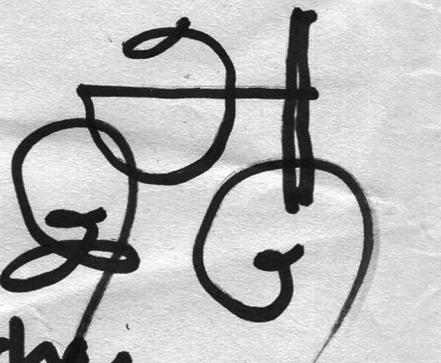
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Development of the glyphs

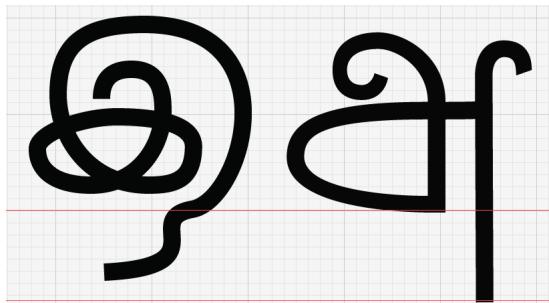
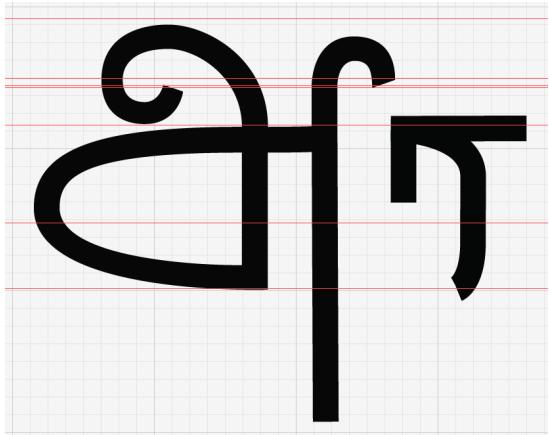
Guidelines and limitations followed in developing the letters.

1. Writing systems should be simplified. Follow a standard whenever possible and unify the system. Create a balance between unification, simplification and preservation of original qualities.
2. Characters should be easy to recognize and this should be evaluated along with the following different aspects.
 - i. The readability
 - ii. Preserving the original visual aesthetic qualities of the both languages.
 - iii. Characters that work together visually as one typeface.
 - iv. Always test for readability and legibility (with different demographic segments)

3. Consider the project as one community seeking for a better writing system. Sinhala and Tamil are some languages they know, they will learn, teach and use the new language.

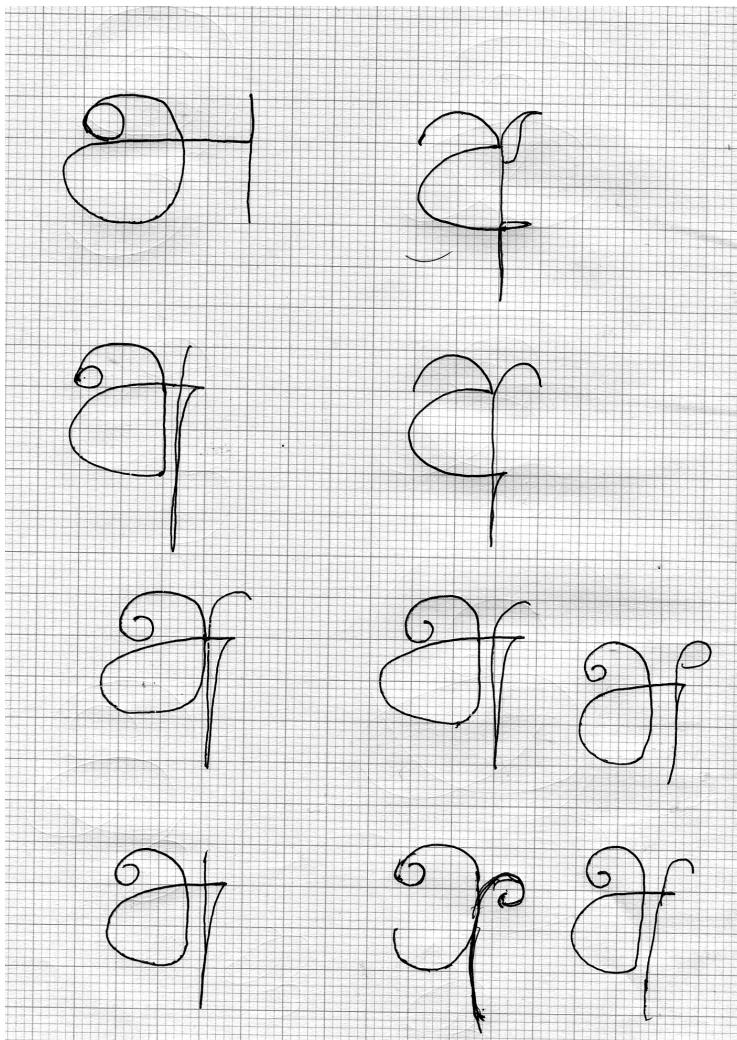
4. Malayalam and Kannada alphabets were referenced for the development of the glyphs, as these two languages have strong historical ties with Sinhala and Tamil languages.

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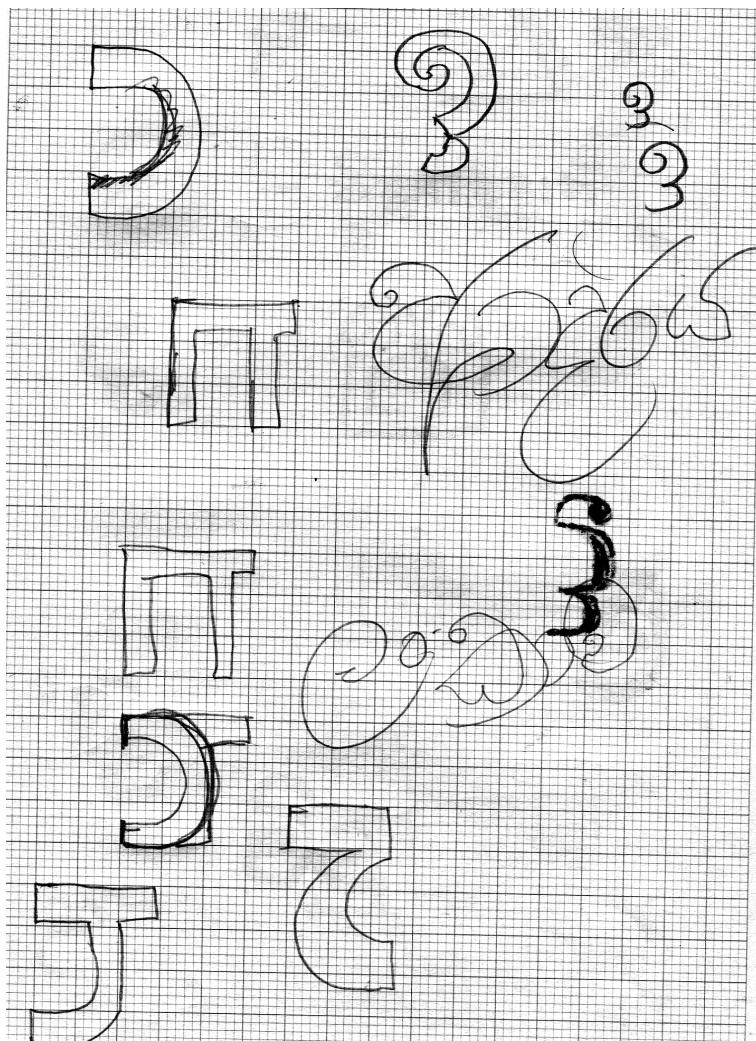
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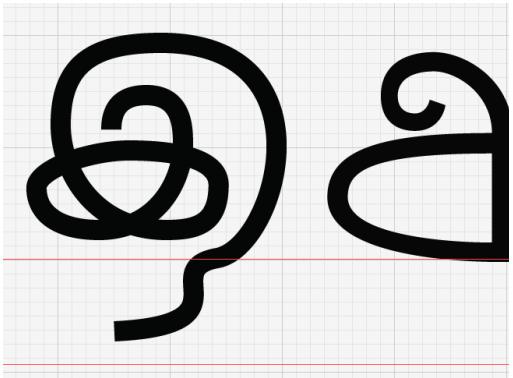
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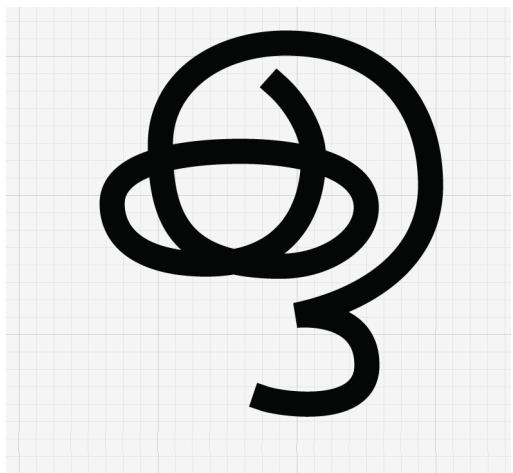
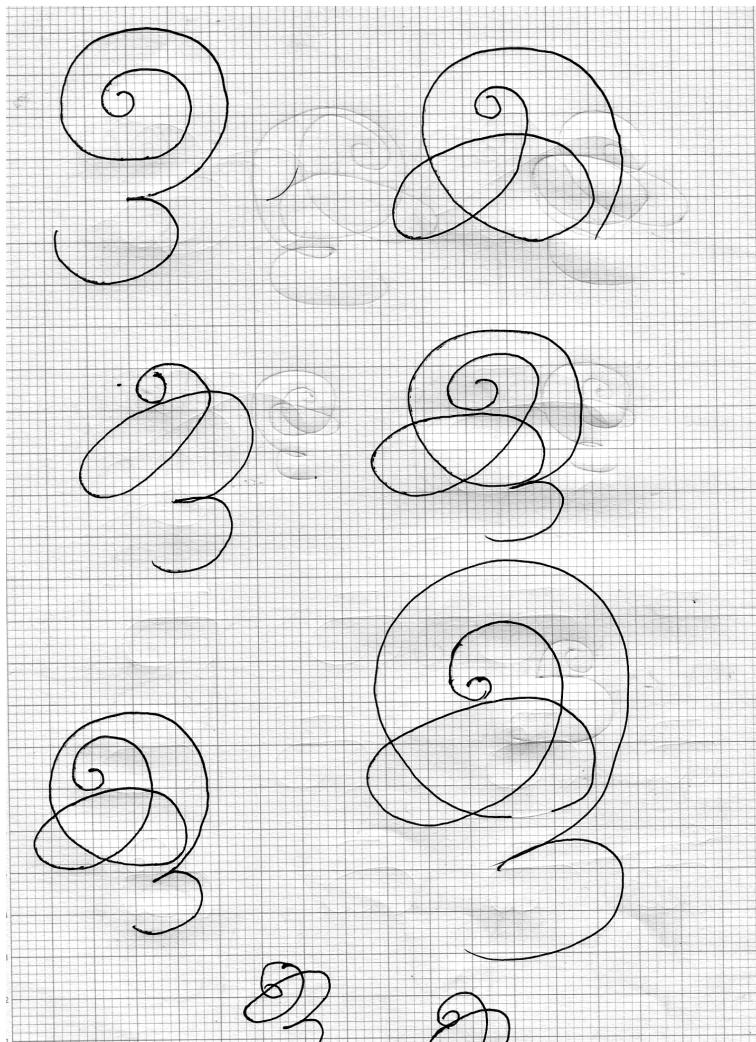
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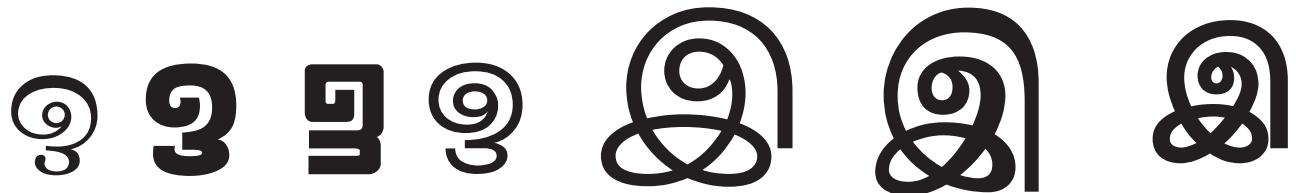
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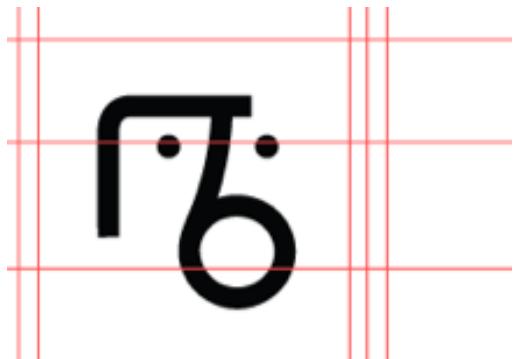


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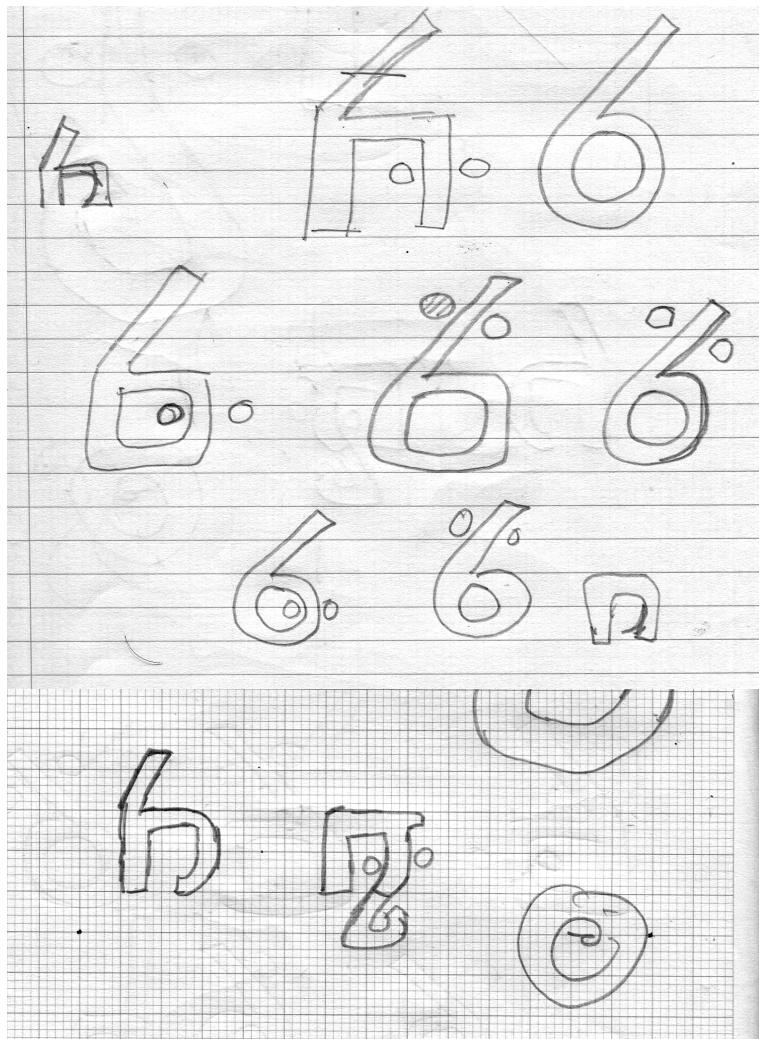
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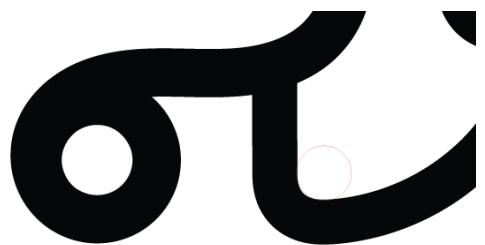
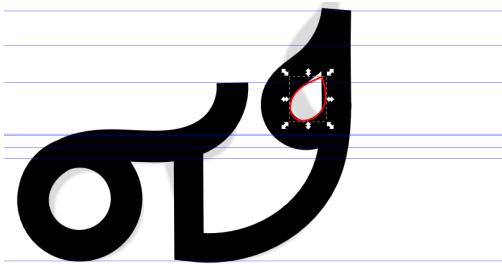
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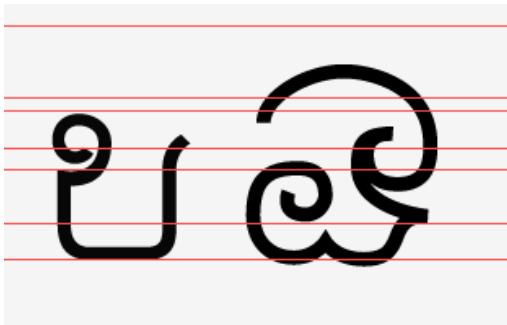
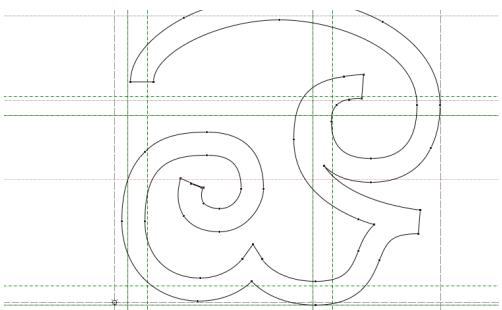


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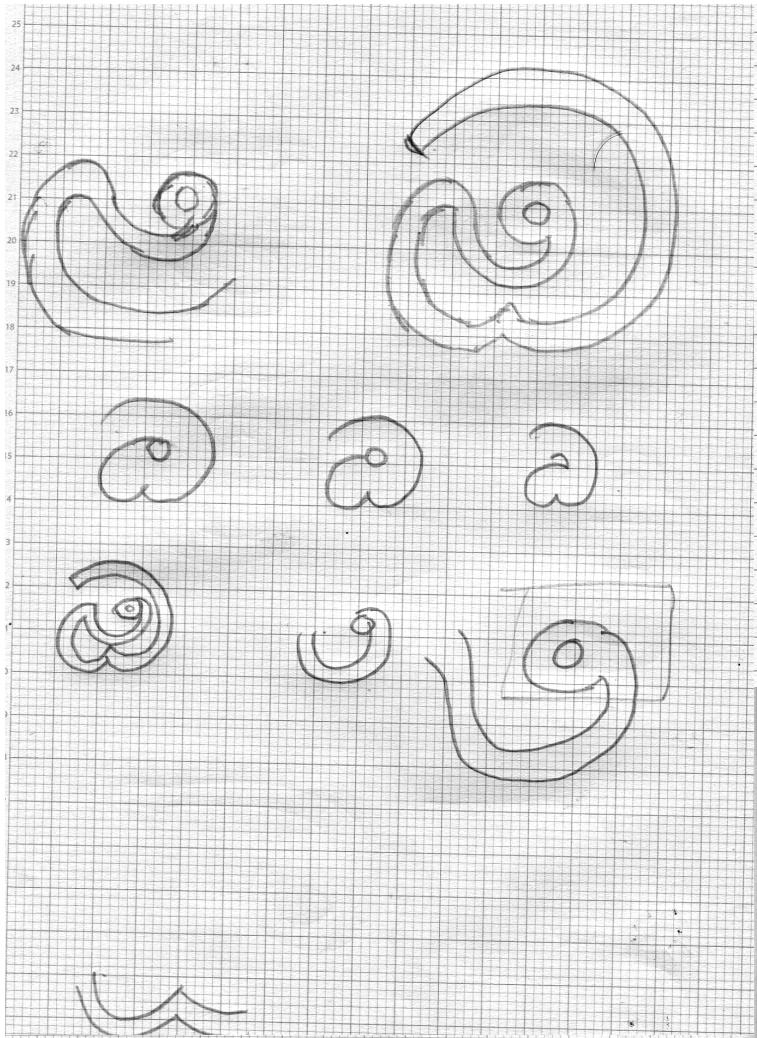
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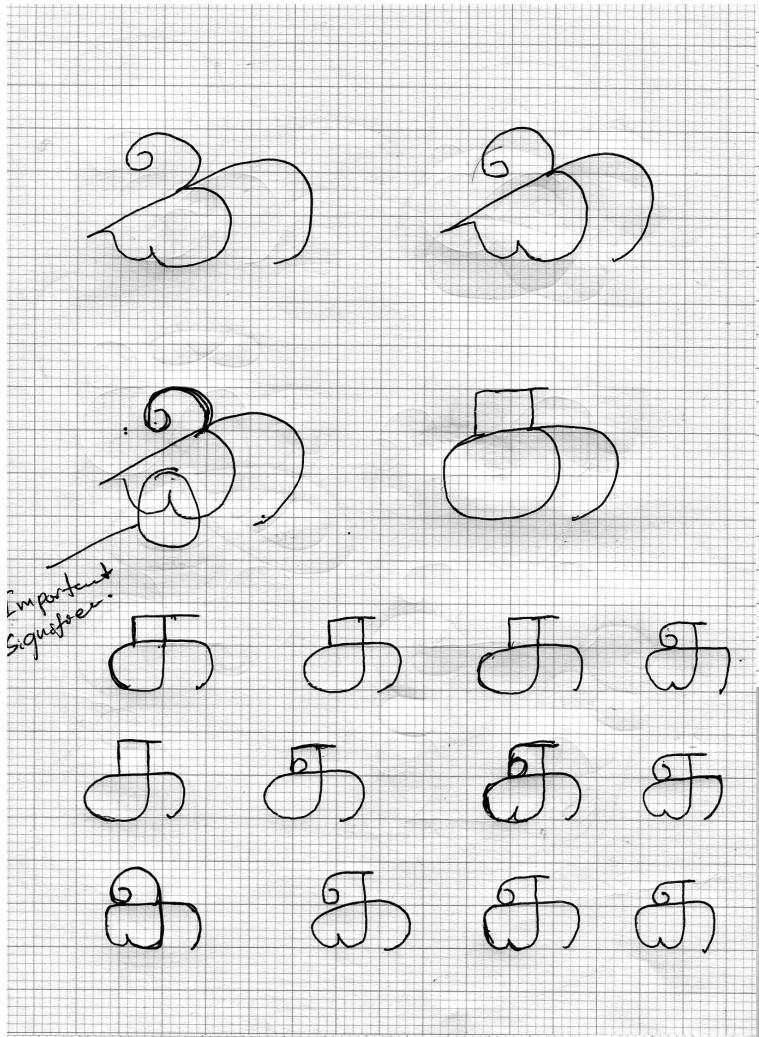
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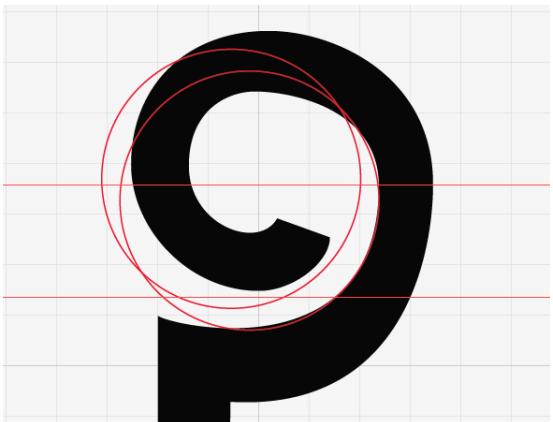
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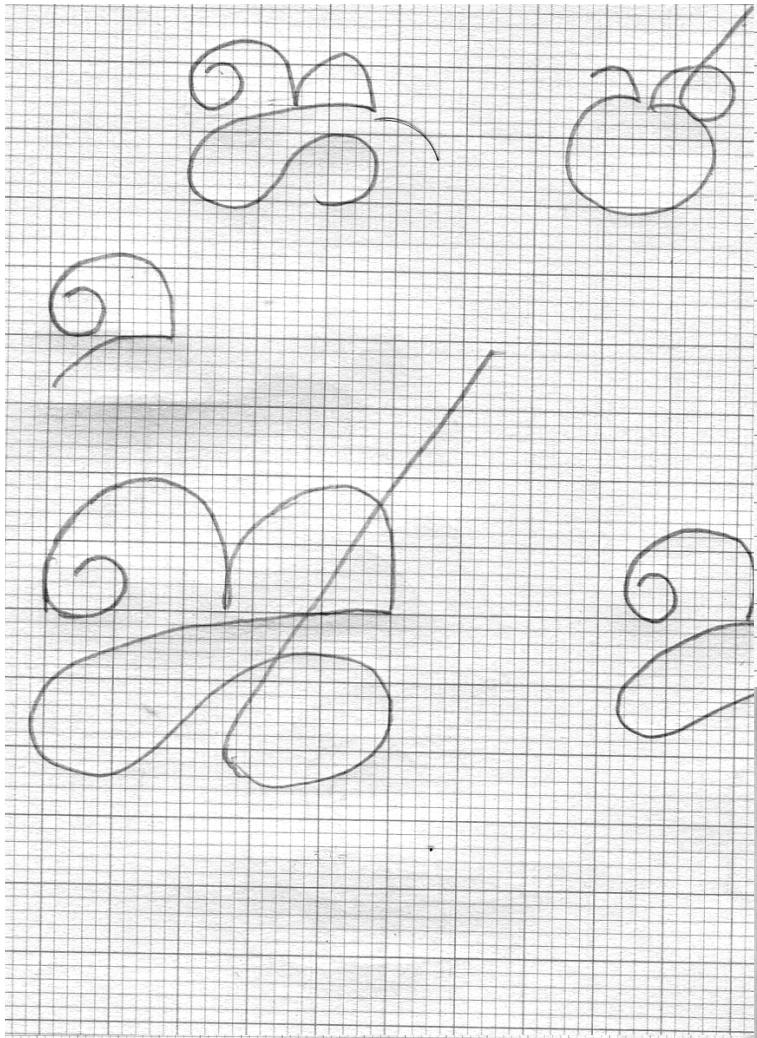
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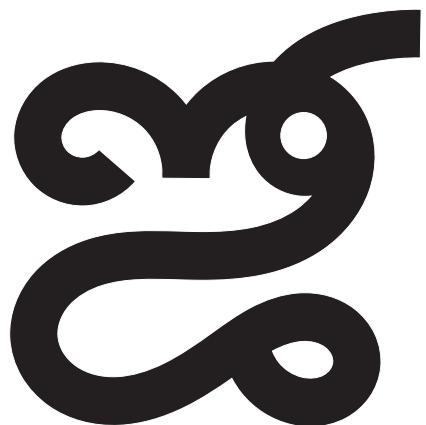
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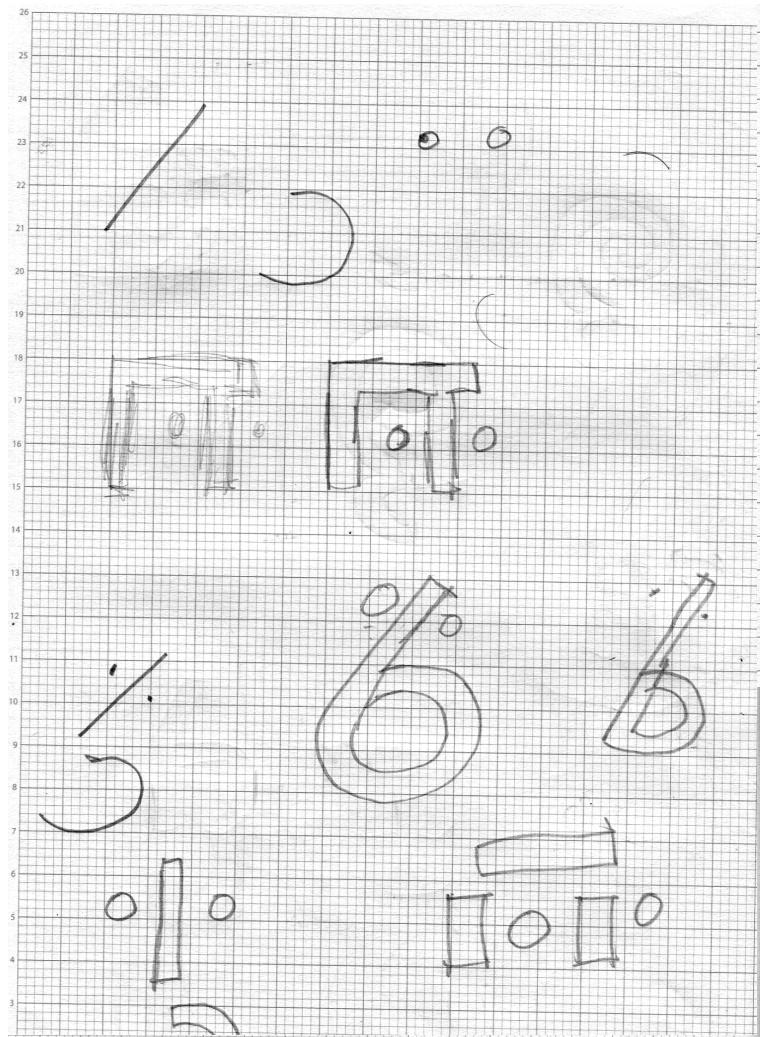
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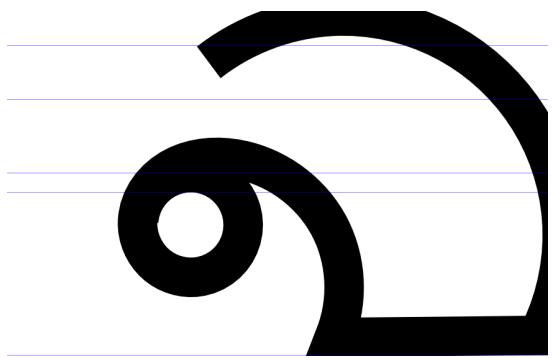
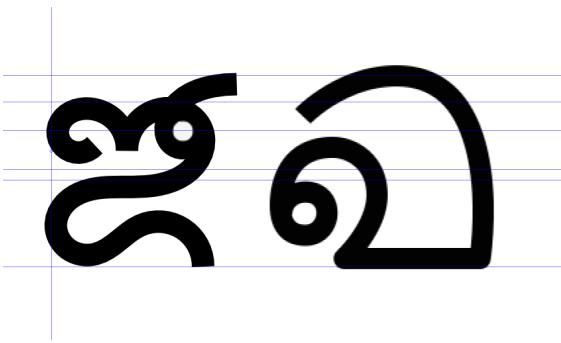
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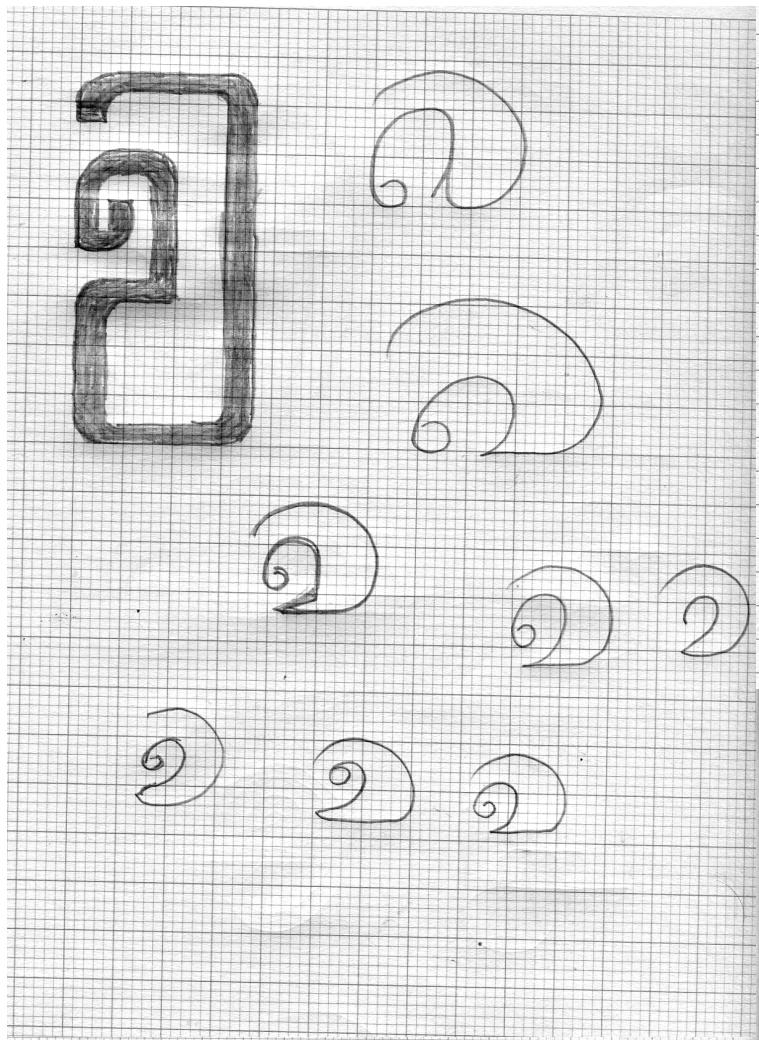
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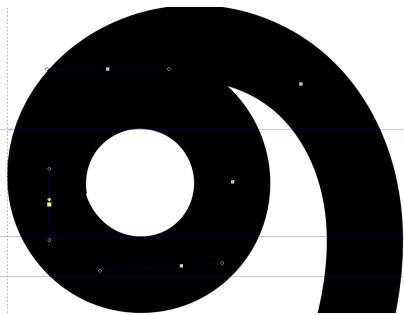
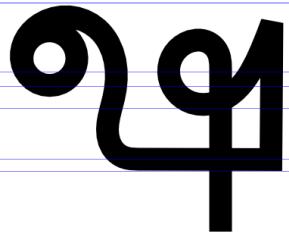
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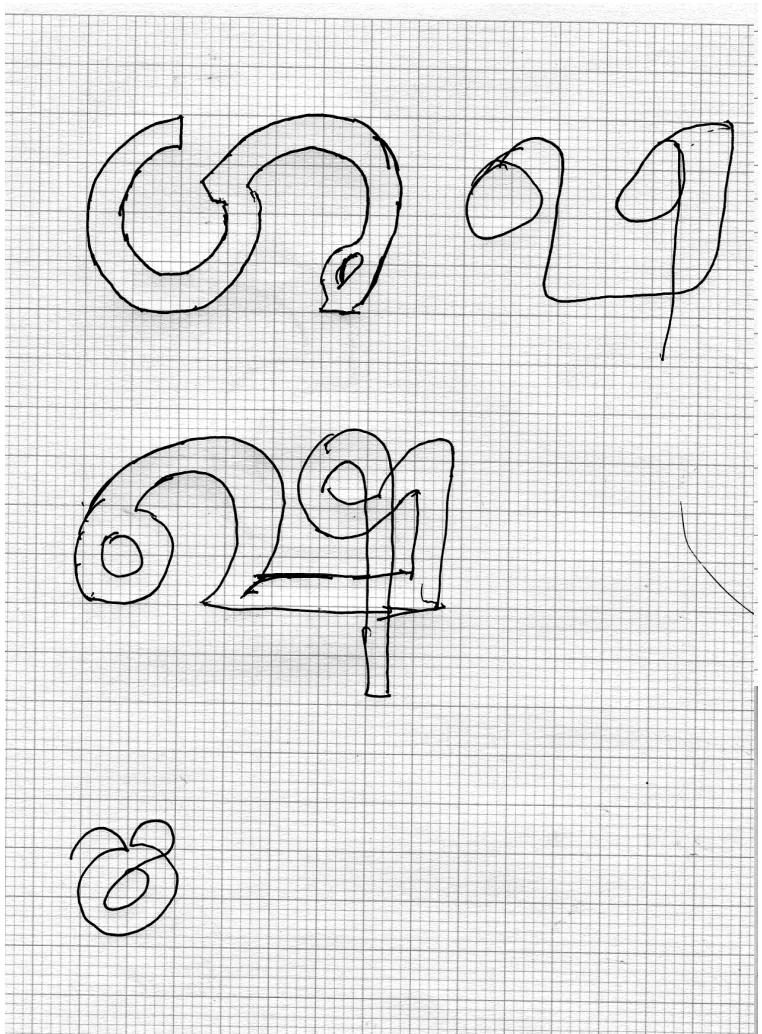
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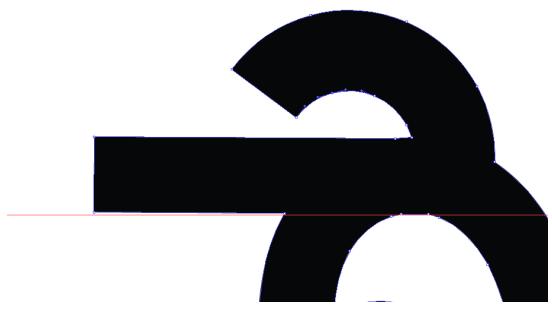
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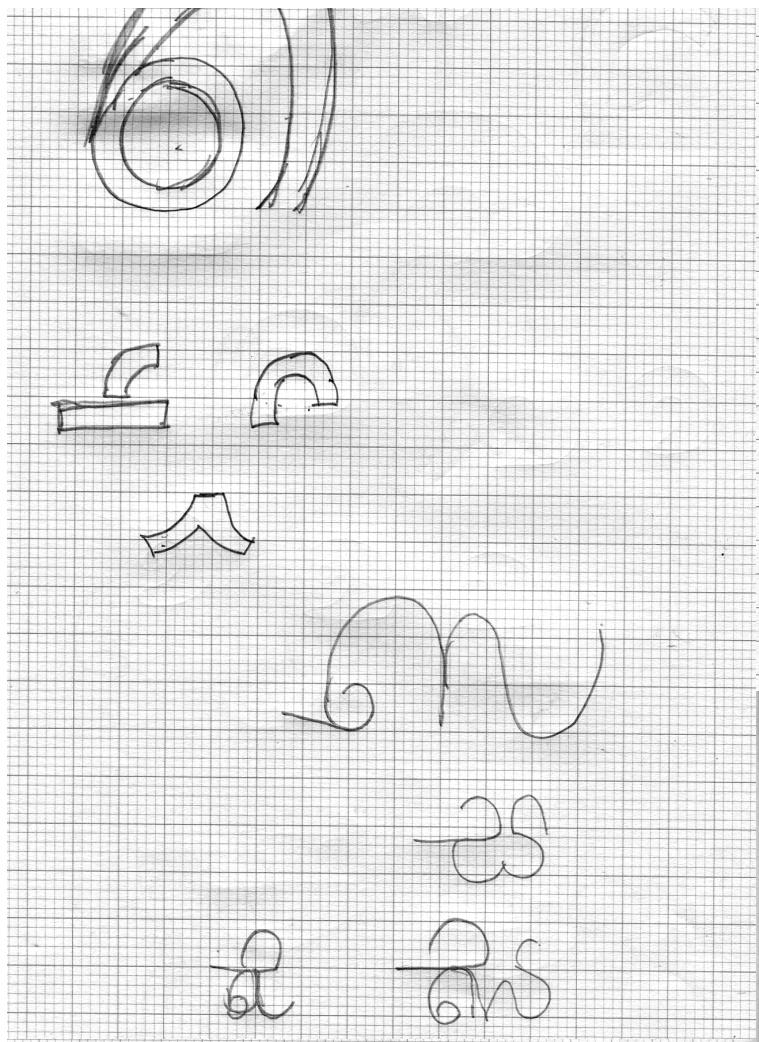
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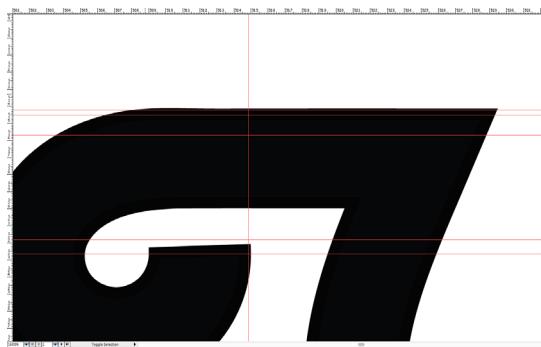
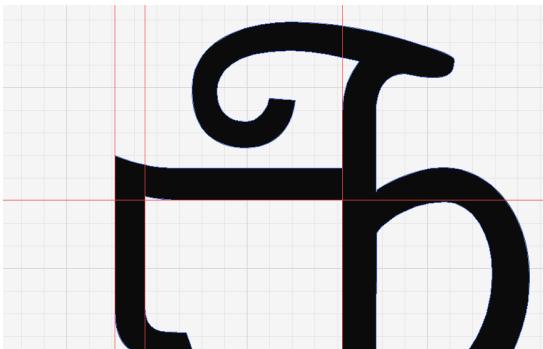
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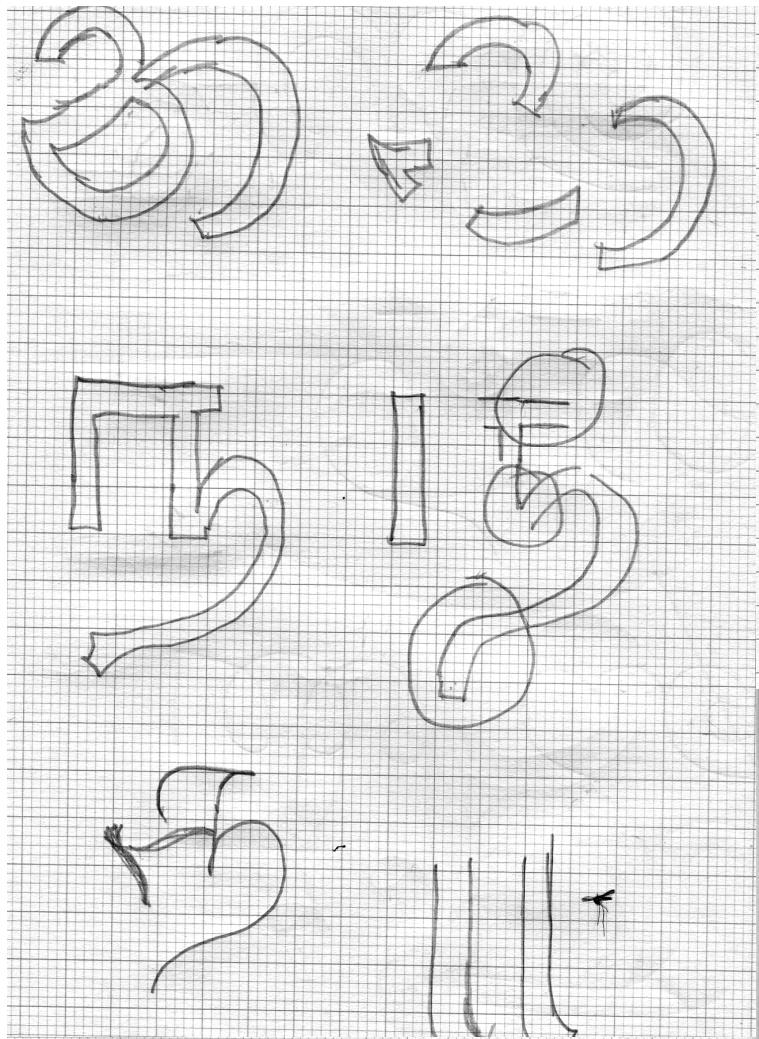
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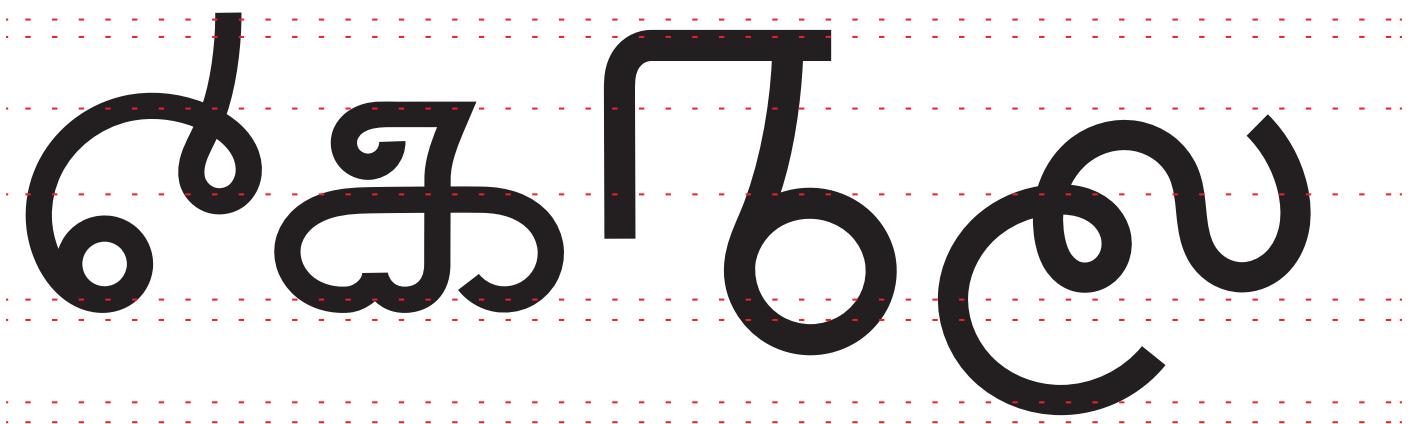


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Typeface Grid

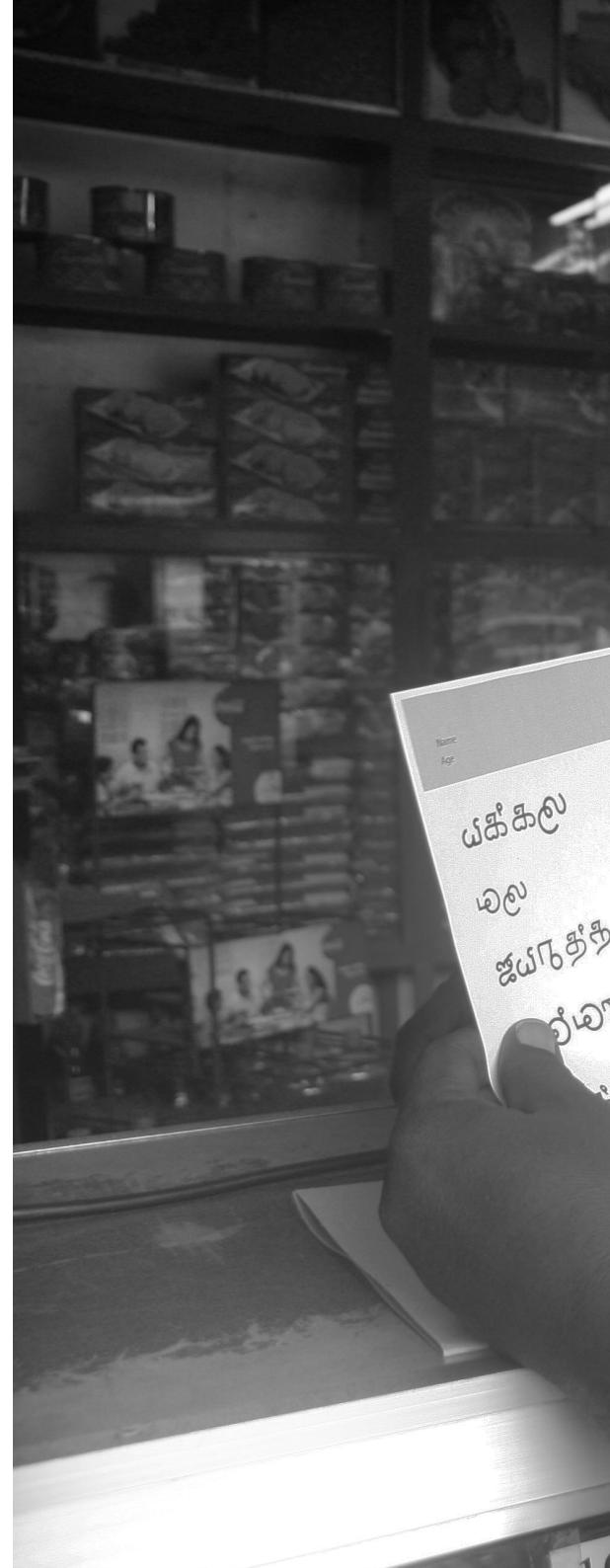
Due to the hybrid nature of the typeface, the baseline, ascender height and the descender height had to developed into two different heights, bench marked from ‘Font Master Malithi’ font family and ‘Kohinoor Tamil’ font family.



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User Testing

Other-Letter is designed to be used as a title typeface and regardless of the hybrid nature, the typeface could be manipulated into different forms.



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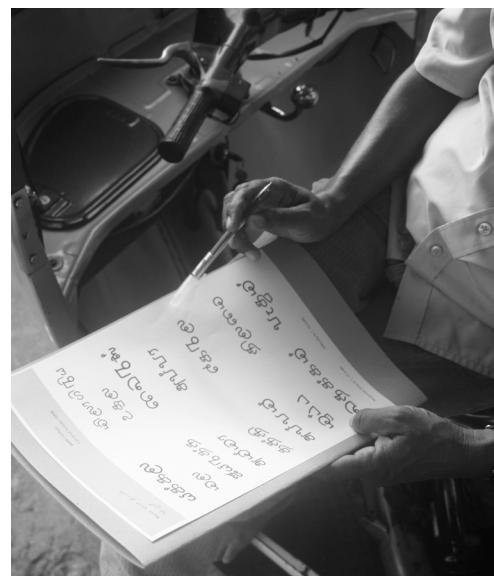
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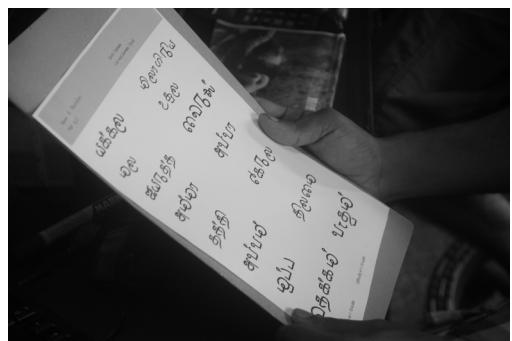
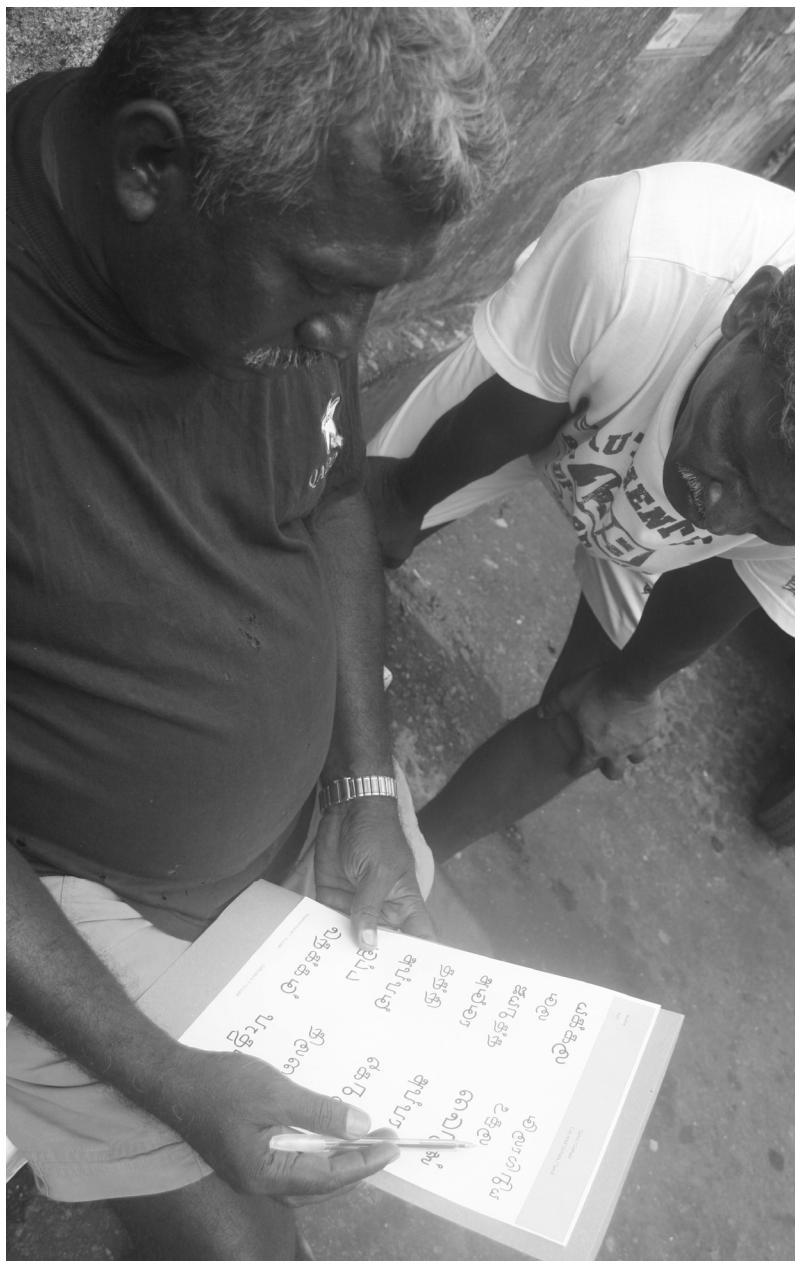
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முதலாடை மின் தொழில்

100 gms
100/-







Sizes and usages

Other-Letter is designed to be used as a title typeface and regardless of the hybrid nature, the typeface could be manipulated into different forms.

Presented here are set of imagined usages of the typeface. From signage to the one of the most popular cereals in Sri Lanka, Thriposha pakaging, is redone using the Other-Letter to show how can this typeface could be used.

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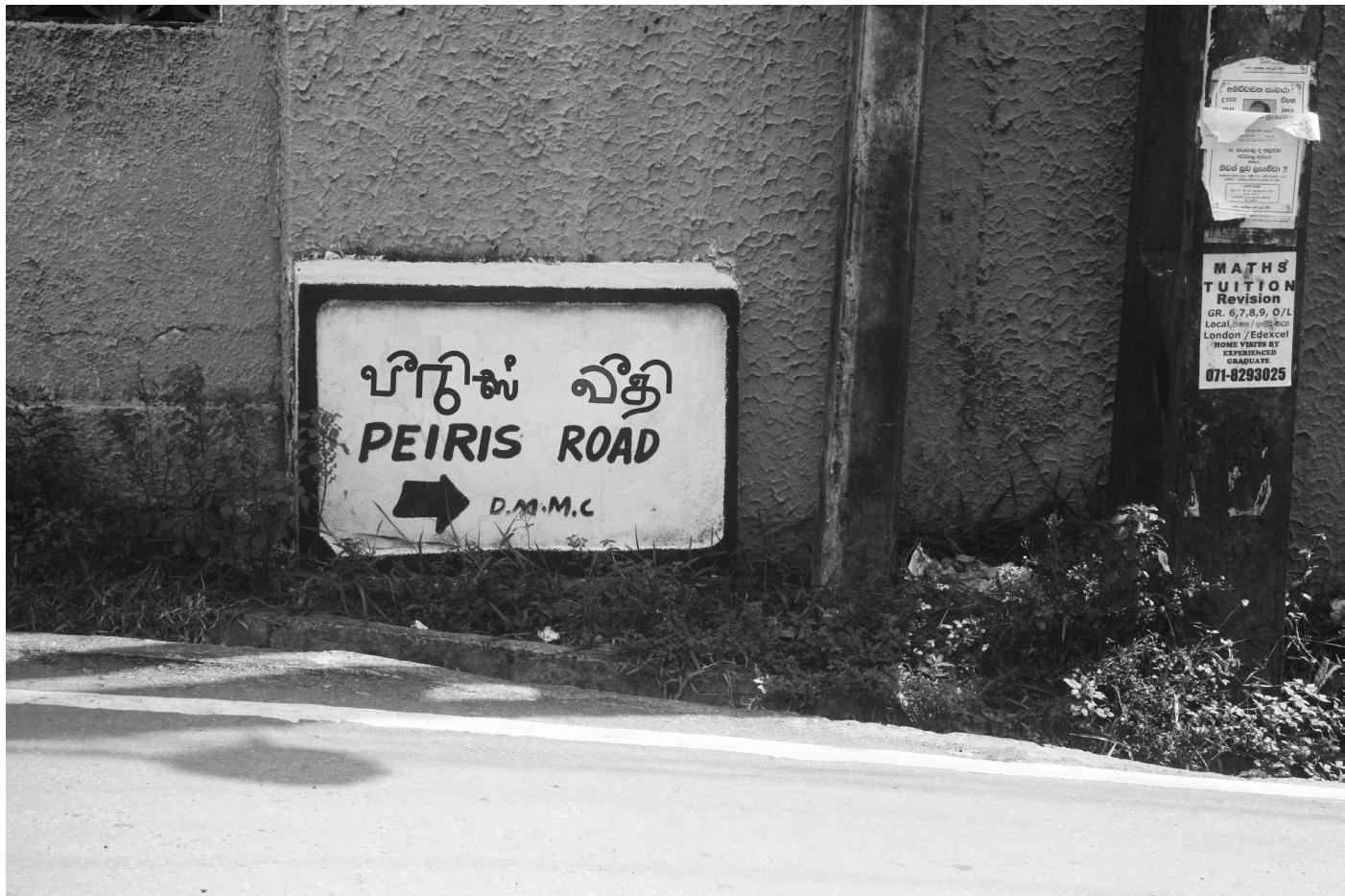
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தாநிலைப்பட்டி

சுமார்தல

1.30 ரூபா

NOTION SALT

ஏற்றுப்பாக்கி

ஆய்வு



உதவுகள் மின் இணையதளம்

தாநிலைப்பட்டி மின் இணையதளம்

കലവമെ

ഉത്തിഹാസയിൽ ദാന്തിസിയൻ കിയൻനേ ഹിസ്റ്ററി ശീക ഹിസ്റ്റർ ഓഫോരീ വിദൈഹം സദ്ദേഡ് അനുവ കുമാ ഗന്നൻ പ്രാലിവനീ ശീകിയൻനേ ഒള്ളം കുമാവി ശീക തമദി അപി ഉത്തിഹാസയ വിദൈഹം കിയവൻനേ ശീക ബലയ മുലിക പിരിം കുമാവി അപി ശൊഡാഗന്നൻ മിന ഭർ-സ്പോരീ ആഗേ കുമാവി ശീകിയ മുലിക ഗൈജൈ കുമാവി മം കിയൻനേ ശീക തമദി ഖുടി ശന-പ്രഷ്ഠയാഗെ കുമാവി ശീക തമദി ശ്രദ്ധയക ആത്ത ലരൂമയ വേണ്ടേ ഗൾക്കൗം വൈ ദാഗൈ വൻ നേരും മേരു ശീകിയ മൈഞ്ച് സന്ദശാഗർ മുണ്ണഗൈം

ശിഡാ നേനവാ “ഡിവിനു ഹേരിരേശീ കിയല അഡിഷകി ശീക ആത്തമാല വഥാപാതിയകി അപേ വരായാമയ ലരൂമയനു ഹാ പ്രോത്സേഷനും വേണ്ടു ക്ലിനു അപേ ആത്ത വിശ്വാസ

ഐക്കതി

ആൺടുകനുക്കുപ് പിറ്റു കാൺണാഴകൻ മുലമ്
കൂരിയചുണിയൈ തരിച്ചിക്കുമ് രുജ്ജുകാൺമക്കൻ
ടോൺഡിൻ നന്പർ, ഭേദലികാപ്പട്ടർ ‘ാട്ടൈ കർമ്മക
കൊടുത്തവർ മരണമ്
പുതാവൈയില് ഇന്റു മുതല് കാലവരൈയപ്പു ലാറി
സ്റ്റിരൈക
നൈട്ടോട നൈട്ടാ കാചൈ കുന്നൈച്ചുട്ടാംകപ്പാ!
ഇത്താലി പാചിസ്സുകൻ... ട്വിട്ടർ കരുത്താല്
സർച്ചൈസയില് ചിക്കിയ ചസി തഞ്ഞു!
ടെല്ലാ പകുതികൾില് മീത്തേൻ എടുക്ക തത്തൈ: ആധ്യവ
കുമു അമൈപ്പു... ജേയലവിതാ
മെട്ട്രോ റയില്: പാരമ്പരിയ കട്ടാംകൻ തവിര പിറ
കട്ടിടാംകണാ ഇഡിത്തു തണ്ണലാമ്
ഉന്നക കത്തൈക്കു ഇവർത്താൻ ഹീറോ- കോവിവു്

വാറ്റിന്ത

മിതശാ പദ്ദതി ശൊഡാഗെന യന ലക്കി മെ ഹിതേന്നേന
ലരൂമയ ഗൈ സർക്കീ സംകല്പയക് സന്ദശാഗർ കതാ
കരനവാ വിതരക് നേരും ശിഡാ ശീക ശീവിത പ്രഭുഞ്ഞുവ-
ക് വിദൈഹം ഗന്നൻവി ശീകു ഹേരുവത് മൈഞ്ചുമ വിസ്തര
കരനവി നശാദികപ വിശദിക ദൈജുമി സംദർഭയൻ ലഭിര
ഡൈജുമി കലാപയാ അദിതി അപേ ഗൈവിലി ശീ വേജുവാ പേരും
പേരും തിബ്രനേ അവബേദയാ ഹാവനാവ സഹ ആവുമി
പേരും

അം ലോകവെ അപി ഗത കരന ശീവിനു ഗൈ ശിഡാഗെ
വിസ്തരയ ഹരി അള്ളുന്നീ അപി ലിന്നേ കോഹേനും കിയല



ഹീറോക്കകണാ ന൱്റന്റക്ക വൈക്കുമ് സന്താനാമ്
‘അജിതാവാകി ജുകുപര് ചാതികകൈ മണ്ണന്ത സത്യപിരിയാ:
പാതുകാപ്പ കോറി മതുരൈ ഷൈകോർട്ടിഡല് മനു
നുായക്കുട്ടി കമെണ്ണട്ട്: മോറ മീതു വழക്കു!
നുഡികൈ ലീണാവിൻ കാതലൻ സകാക്കു നാട്കൻ പോ-
ലീസ് കാവല്!

മീണ്ടുമ് ഒരു മൊറിപ് പോരുക്കു തമിം ഇനമ് തയ-
ാരാക വേണ്ടുമ്: ചീമാൻ
പീകാർ: മതിയ ഉണ്ണവു ചാപ്പിട്ട കുമുംതൈകൻ പലി -
പേരുക്കു തീവിര
നൈട്ടോട നൈട്ടാ കാചൈ കുന്നൈച്ചുട്ടാംകപ്പാ!
ഇത്താലി പാചിസ്സുകൻ... ട്വിട്ടർ കരുത്താല്

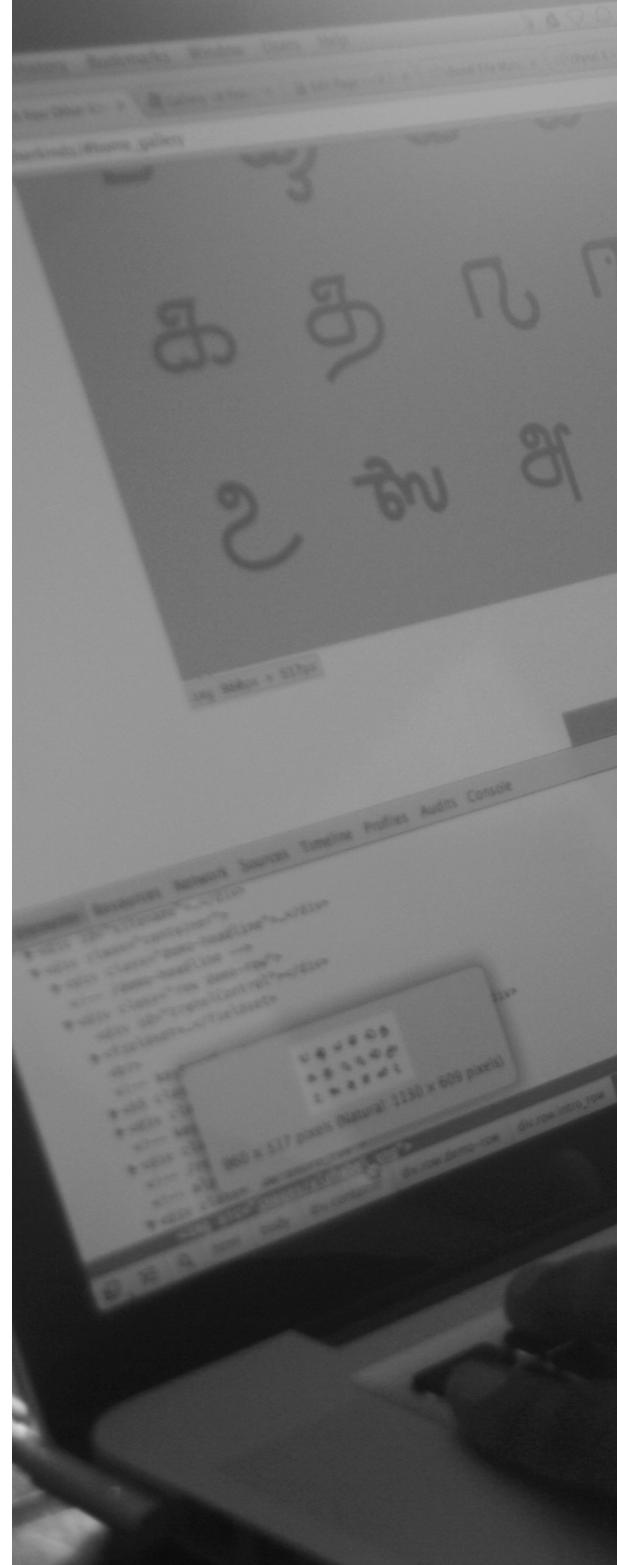
Website

A live website was developed where users can type anything they want using the typeface, and download it as a image, or share it on facebook. And the user generated images are displayed in a single web page as a gallery.

Additionally the website contains a readability test, a discussion forum and a blog with the process of the development. This will lead a discussion on the project and it will bring it from the academic project level to a public accessible toolkit of type.

The site is live at following URL
<http://la-ululu.com/afewotherkinds/>

This project is based mainly on a concept in order to prove that the intended purpose can be fulfilled. It is a design assignment that can however, work as a very much usable typeface for industry use as well.



<http://la-ul.com/afewotherkinds/>



