My life as a design problem
Mudit Chand Narayan, 25106
Assignment 1
Elements of Design

To define a design problem, one needs to first consider the scope they must consider keeping the design precise. If I sat down to consider my whole life as my playground, I would tire myself and the questions would still stay pending, so I would shrink the scope for the sake of staying in the bounds and start at the point I entered university.

I was fascinated by Space and Nebulae around the time I first started to think about what I would want to pursue. I also was good at poetry but disregarding everything I was great at, as any school graduate in India usually does, I decided to give the JEE entrance exam and got selected in a prestigious college one wouldn't be too uncomfortable in taking. Not a perfect fit (as I would later realize) but satisfying one for the time being, the writer does accept the first solution for the problem he is facing in the lack of any better option.

We are taught in our first few classes of elements of design that design is a process of continuous divergence and convergence till one find comfort. I had converged to Engineering from what options I had been provided, but the moment discomfort arises in this new state I have obtained, one naturally starts to look for options to cure the ailment. My first two years of college were not optimal, one can say. Something so substantial to a person's growth done from the comfort of home, it did not suit me and the "engineering" I was supposed to do never really manifested into something substantial. I couldn't get to hold the wires I was supposed to fix on the breadboard, I didn't have the chemicals I needed to perform the right experiments, disenchantment settles in, and discomfort arises.

I realised I was not having fun with my degree. The bell rings in your head, you might need to diverge again to find where the comfort could be. "Design is the conversion of an undesired state to a desired state" one is taught in their very first class of design school, and I might not have realised but I was facing the problems way before I got in one.

Throughout this time, I was doing design. I liked this one thing enough that I was doing 3D modelling by myself, without a need of an incentive, just to learn. I was also getting deeper into literature. Religious, feminist, philosophical, existentialist, one after one I was stacking books on my shelf. Once I had decided to leave what was in my plate to look further, I had found my options again. Do I choose design or do I go for the books. I did my research, went to a professor to ask them if I should pursue literature and step into academia. The meeting did not go in the favour of me choosing literature, for I realised that I really am ready. A choice was made, and I converged back onto design. A comfortable choice, that I very much needed in the uncertainty that was my bachelor's.

A convergence follows the diverging by nature, and I was faced with a choice to make. Where and what do I pursue? Do I go for a general design degree, pursue game design, look for animation, should I stay in India or look abroad? Multiple questions arise and you need to parse your way through them, remove the wildly ambitious options for something that is more reasonable, for design also is a way to ease you into a new situation without much annoyance. One should find it comfortable to accept the new option, if the

way to obtaining the better solution is difficult there is a chance one would give up before the solution is reached.

Coming back to the choice of colleges, I was largely late for applying to universities, maybe unprepared too. For in India, my options narrowed down to giving CEED and NID entrance exams, and through the parsing and selection processes I landed to game design in NID, and Product Design in IISc Bengaluru. It took me some pondering and wisecracking to select the one I find myself in a college comfortable within right now.

But no design is best and there is always a chance to come up with a better solution, it is taught to a design student every day. Who knows if my options converge again, I might have to choose between higher studies further or a corporate workday. The choices are aplenty, but I have just chosen to enjoy my calm as of now and do my best where I am till the need arises again.