Student Evaluation

Student: Cece Smith
Instructors: Katie Cantine + Rachel Coulomb
Section: Team Kendall, Section 01

Student Goals for Design Discovery Virtual and beyond:

Cece joinged us for Design Discovery Virtual from Washington D.C. and holds a Bachelor of Arts from Syracuse. Currently, Cece works in software and product development. We believe that the Design Discovery Virtual program was made stronger by Cece's passion for pushing the boundaries of what design can and should focus on. Cece's interest in space architecture and artificial intelligence was a fascinating topic to dive into for both fellow students and instructors. Cece is spectacularly innovative and creative, and this came through in all of her design proposals. We hope that she will be inspired to add her voice to the design world after this program.

Week 1 - Publics: The Artificial Intelligence Park (Landscape)

Strengths:

In week 1, Cece chose to manipulate a landscape waterfront section to accommodate for different levels of privacy and interaction between humans and artificial intelligence. Cece wove a story describing a fascinating future where humans require physical areas in which they are unable to be observed by artificial intelligence. This type of creative thinking and projective problem solving would permeate all of Cece's future assignments. She challenged current design thinking and pedagogy and inspired us all to think more radically about the future. She believes that we are thinking too small about what the future could hold, and the field should speculate instead of always playing catchup.

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Challenges:

Cece's dynamic story telling ability excelled verbally, but Cece lacked clarity in the graphic representation of her ideas. She would have an inspiring and confident desk crit with us, then get bogged down and overwhelmed by the new software challenges. Her ideas and sketches tended to have more information than her final images, which prompted a reorganizing of her workflow in the following weeks. We were impressed by Cece's willingness to explore and tackle the unpredictable future through her design work.

Week 2 – Climate Change: Adaptable Building (Architecture)

Strengths:

In week 2, Cece was able to expand on her interests in designing for the technologically advanced future. She moved forward with the manipulation of point tower and explored design solutions for climate change at the scale of the zoomed in detail to that of the large building scale. We were impressed at Cece's ability to zoom in and out of the project and provide cohesive design solutions at each scale. Here, we were able to engage with more of Cece's hand drawn designs and found that this was a more successful method for having a conversation about her nuanced and thoughtful ideas.

Challenges:

Cece struggled with the translation of her detailed hand sketches into Rhino and other representation software. This challenge was addressed through her focusing on propelling her ideas as much as she could through hand drawing, before trying to take them into the computer. We thought this was a successful alteration to her workflow and were encouraged by Cece's perseverance in expressing her thoughts coherently.

Week 3 – Synthesis: Building into Space (Architecture)

Strengths:

In week 3, Cece continued to build on her architecture elaboration. She explored various drawing types that were able to both show her idea at a larger scale while maintaining some evidence of the detailed design work she had considered the previous week. We were thrilled to see the final collage that Cece composed for her final review, it was evocative and true to her design intent. In the final review, the critics could have spent hours mulling over Cece's fascinating ideas of how architecture and designers can boldly and fearlessly engage with the future.

Challenges:

Cece faced the challenge many designers encounter in representing complex systems, they want to show all the aspects of their project in one drawing and have to decide which design

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elements take precedent. This problem initially slowed Cece's progress, but through conversation and critic she produced a powerful and compelling collage.

Additional Notes:

Cece offered such a powerful and provocative presence in Design Discovery Virtual. Her imagination and creativity was a gift to the program. The design world needs more voices and minds like Cece who challenge the short-sighted way in which we design and prepare for the future. We hope she will continue to pursue her creativity and offer her voice in the design world.

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