In this research, in collaboration between `<CONFIDENTIAL NAME>` and `<CONFIDENTIAL NAME>`, we are trying to understand the differences that exist in whiteboard design/architecture meetings that are entirely done by novices, by teams of mixed experience, and entirely by experienced architects.

We are interviewing a range of designers and architects, in order to uncover what those differences might be.

Thank you for being a willing participant in this regard. By and large, all we want to really do is have a nice conversation with you about this topic. We do not have a set of questions that we must ask you; we are more than happy to let you lead the way, highlight your thoughts and feelings, and so on. Of course we will ask for detail, clarification, particular areas of interest, etc. But let's do this nice and informally.

To set the stage a bit, can you tell us your own level of familiarity with whiteboard design (e.g., how often do you participate in such meetings, lead them, witness them happening, …)?

Can you give me an example or two of such recent meetings in which you engaged? What was the setting, how many people were there, what problem were you trying to address, how long was the meeting, …

Given this, can you tell us your perceptions of these kinds of meetings and what you think differs when they involve participants of different levels of experience (e.g., more or less all novices, some mix, or mostly or all experienced)? What stands out to you? Why? Can you give examples?

Questions we can interject as appropriate: can you tell us a little more about what you just said: [decisions] [error/mistakes] [focus] [design approach] [team work] [ability to communicate] [quality of suggestions] [level of participation] [knowledge being brought to the table] [...]

In your thinking, is it always better to have only experienced architects there? Why or why not? What about the quality of the end product of the meeting in this regard?

If you could provide advice for other designers/architects when they are designing with you, what would it be? If you could provide advice more generally, what would it be?

Having contemplated the above, how would you describe experience now ("what is experience")? What are you looking for in an experienced architect when you bring them into a meeting? Do they live up to that expectation? What happens when they do? What happens when they do not?

To help us calibrate, how would you rate your own level of experience? Can you provide an estimate of how many whiteboard design/architecture meetings have you been part of over the past 5 years?

Any final thoughts? Fell free to comment.

One more time, thank you for your time.