

**Teaching Notes: 4-Dimensional Design**

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[From 1978-81 Paul Thek taught at the Cooper Union School of Arts, New York.

He prepared the following questions for an undergraduate seminar.]

Name, age, birthdate, place of birth, position in family, nationality, religion, education, hobbies, career plans, parents' education, parents' birthplace, parents' religion.

Where do you now live? With whom? For how long?  
What income do you have? From what source?  
What property do you own?

What are your requirements in a friend? Lover?  
Mate? What kind of art do you like? Painting?  
Sculpture? Music?

What do you read? How often?

Do you buy books? Records?

What is your favorite color?

What are your politics?

Have you ever been seriously ill? Serious accidents?

What do you do on a date?

What is the purpose of dating?

Do you believe in premarital sex?

What happens after death?

Tell us about other members of your family.

Tell us about a close friend.

Tell us about someone who inspires you.

Tell us about the most exciting thing you ever saw, did.

How many rooms are there in your home?

How many floors? What floor do you live on?

Do you have your own room? Do you share it?

With whom?

What does your room look like?

On what do you sleep? In what? In what position?

Do you take baths or showers? Do you use perfumes or deodorants?

What style or look do you prefer?

Are you interested in sports? Which? How often?

Do you believe in abortion? Do your parents?

What is your worst physical feature? Your best?

What is the main source of difficulty between you and your parents? Teachers? Friends?

What annoys you the most in others?

What kind of teacher do you prefer?

If you were a teacher, what would you propose?

How would you grade your students?

What is eternity? What is love? What is art? What is a symbol?

What is religion? What is psychology?

Who are your role models?

Who is the person closest to you at the moment?

Who is the person physically closest to you at the moment?

What in your life is your greatest source of pleasure?

How do you know you like someone?

How do you know that someone is interested in you?

How do you know that you are happy, sad, nervous, bored?

What does this school need? This room? You?

This city? This country?

What is an abstraction?

What is a mystery religion?

What would it be like if you behaved with absolute power?

Redesign a rainbow.

Make a French-curve rainbow.

Design a labyrinth dedicated to Freud, using his photo and his writings.

Design a toran.

Design a monstrosity.

Illustrate the Godhead.

Add a station to the cross.

Design an abstract monument to Uncle Tom.

What is a good temple? A bad temple?

Who is your favorite character in the Bible?

Who is your favorite character in *Gone with the Wind*?

What is an icon?

Why does an icon have to be human?

What is sacred? Profane?

What is the most beautiful thing in the world?

Make a paperdoll of yourself.

What is theology? What is secular?

Explain the Zen doctrine in your own words. What does it mean?

What does it mean 'In the beginning was the Word'?

Can you find a book on making sculptures of paper?

Make a spaceship out of a cereal box.

Make a paper chain out of a book.

Redesign the human genitals so that they might be more equitable.

Design a feminist crucifixion scene.

Design something to sell on the street corner.

Design something to sell to the government.

Design something to put on an altar.

Design something to put over a child's bed.

Design something to put over your bed when you make love.

Make a monkey out of clay.

Design a flying saucer as if it were The Ark.

Make a large folded-paper airplane, paint on it a slogan which you think will revolutionize your life.

Make an icon out of popcorn.

Paint a balloon gold, paint a balloon silver.

Make a necklace out of coal.

Paint a series of playing balls like planets, be accurate.

Design a black mass out of any materials you can find.

Design a work of art that fits in a matchbox, a shoebox.

Design a new clock face.

What is the difference between philosophy and theology?

Who is Hans Küng?

What is liberation theology?

What is mysticism?

Who was Meister Eckhart?

What is the purpose of art?

What does 'spiritual' mean to you?

What is the most difficult thing in life for you?

Can art be useful in dealing with this difficulty? In what way?

What is 'service'?

What is the purpose of society? Of government?

What is the surest way to happiness?

Who is Savonarola? Augustine?

What is attractive in a woman. A man?