

AROUND OVER BETWEEN UP...

SPATIAL PROPERTIES AS VARIABLES IN
TEXTILE DESIGN

TONJE KRISTENSEN JOHNSTONE

Doctoral seminar will be held at: The University of Borås, room M404
and Zoom

Wednesday, December the 16th, at 13.00-15.00

Discussion leader: Anne Louise Bang, Docent, VIA University College,
Aarhus, Denmark

UNIVERSITY OF BORÅS
STUDIES IN ARTISTIC
RESEARCH NO 34 2020



THE SWEDISH SCHOOL
OF TEXTILES
UNIVERSITY OF BORÅS

Abstract

With a starting point in defining space through materials, colours, planes, and surfaces, the aim of the work presented in this thesis was to explore and introduce spatial concepts as design variables in textile design. Another aim was to explore surface patterns in terms of their possible functions as spatial definers, and to make spatial properties (which here take the form of implicit knowledge) explicit in design processes in order to increase awareness of spatial concerns in surface pattern design.

Workshop experiments with design students and professional designers were used as a practical method in this work, and played a major role in the investigations. The objectives of the workshops were to explore the use of spatial concepts as design variables, and to understand the roles that they play in design processes and how they affect a design outcome. The analysis utilised a phenomenographic approach, wherein the intention was to study and describe the different types of experiences that can occur when designing surface patterns and making hidden design variables explicit, and to catalogue examples of the ways in which the participants interpreted these in their design processes. An exploratory design example was created to complement the workshop experiments.

The main contribution of the research is categorised into three types of results: 1) examples in the form of students' design outcomes, 2) knowledge gained from the workshops, and 3) feedback regarding responses to the overarching questions that framed the research presented in this thesis. Another contribution is in-depth knowledge of the field of surface patterns, and the highlighting of an area that is rarely in focus within design research. The main purpose has been to contribute to a broadening of the understanding of the design of surface patterns.