/thoughtworks

How to design your design operating model





Nina Wainwright

Principal Programme Manager

"We must determine how technology, business & design work at equal eye height. **Fostering a DesignOps mindset beyond designers** that scales design intelligence across people, practices and processes. Ultimately the first step starts with knowing the user"



Sabrina Mach

Head of Customer Experience Product and Design

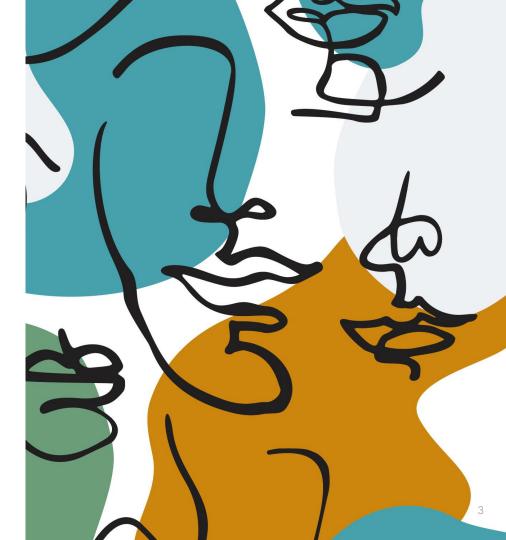
"We must **create an environment that encourages collaboration** between people with diverse backgrounds and expertise, so that they are able to create extraordinary products and services."

Purpose of the design operating model

Place the **customers/users at the center** of all we do

Focus on customer value outcomes

Create the **environment and conditions** for design to flourish



Design Operating Model

Customers, users, market Research and experimentation

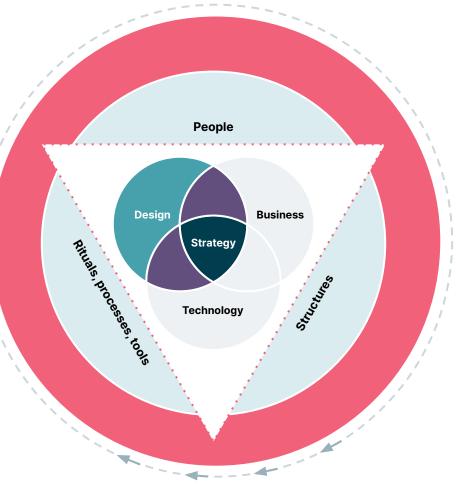
Organisation Alignment and shaping

Digital product team Alignment and shaping



Cross practice collaboration Collaboration across disciplines, teams, clusters, departments.





Design, Business and Technology at the same eye level

Product Teams bring in the value of

design right at the beginning

(design + business + tech)

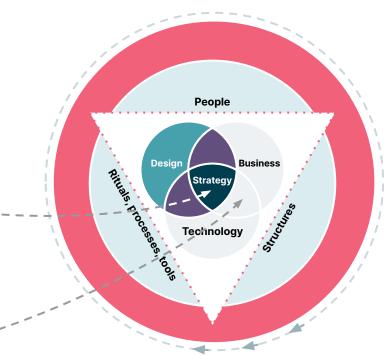
Product Idea & decisions

before design starts



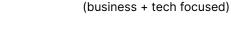
BEST CASE: Design is involved in the very first step of 'Ideate solutions to problems'

= customer value outcome driven



False Start

WORST CASE: Design is seen as a means to FIX and IMPROVE what the developers and / or process designers have done = output driven



Continuously iterate, evolve adapt

The journey 1st story

Early visibility is key for success.



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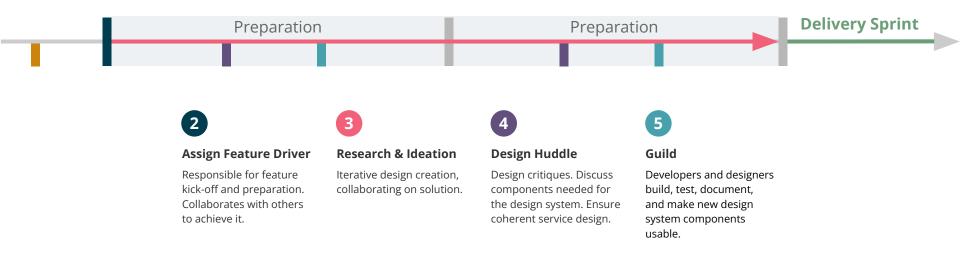


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Prioritisation

This provides visibility two sprints ahead of the delivery sprint.

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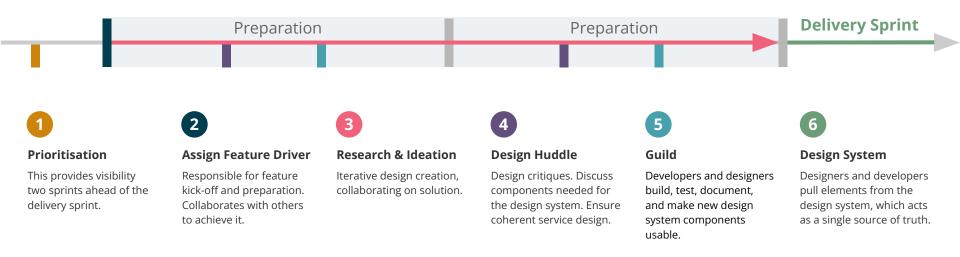


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Design System

Designers and developers pull elements from the design system, which acts as a single source of truth.

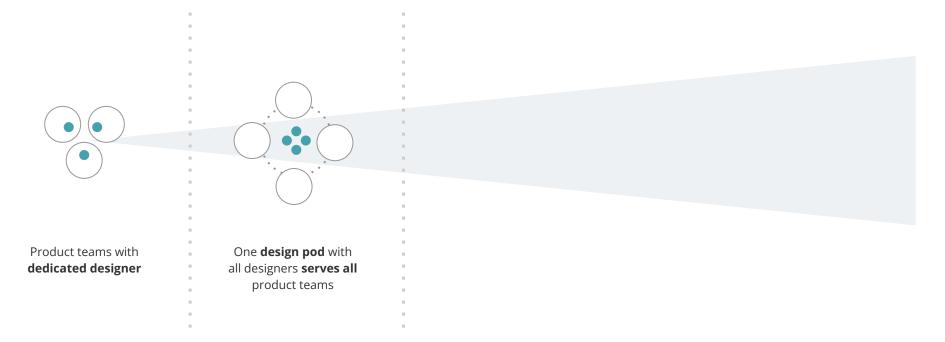
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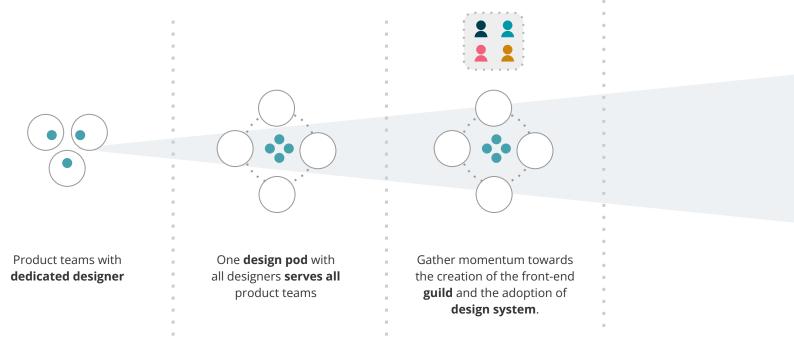
Team and program structures **impact** the Service Design, Design System and Design Operating Model



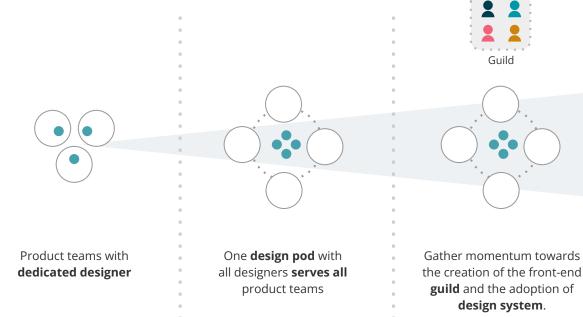
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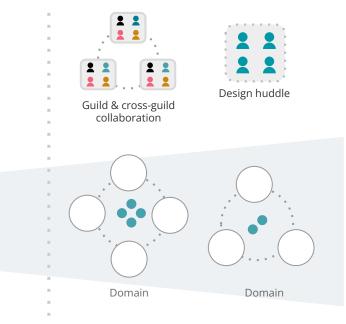


Team and program structures **impact** the Service Design, Design System and Design Operating Model



Team and program structures impact the Service Design, Design System and Design Operating Model





Guild

design system.

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Design pod per domain: Each design pod serves all product teams within one domain.

The design huddle and guild ensure alignment on a coherent service design and design system across domains.

The journey 2nd story









Today Current challenges where Design is not heard

~3 months Quick pain relief but identify root causes

~6 months

Starting to optimise the design operating model

~9 months and beyond

Evolving the operating model and customer experience with design as a equal to business & technology

Today's challenges

- Lack of E2E user experience
- Design is seen as a means to FIX and IMPROVE what the developers









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Outcomes

- Experience Strategy & Outcomes (North star)
- **Design System** & design transparency

Scope creep

- Design tools and UI integration pattern
- Boost UI development with Hackathons









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- Strengthen cross pollination of Design elements
- UI Baseline Audit process
- Let designers lead









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pattern

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Outcomes

- Continuous evolution
- **Continuously optimize** service delivery for resilience

Disclaimer: progress depends on rate of adoption 20



Design igniters

Start intentionally on day one

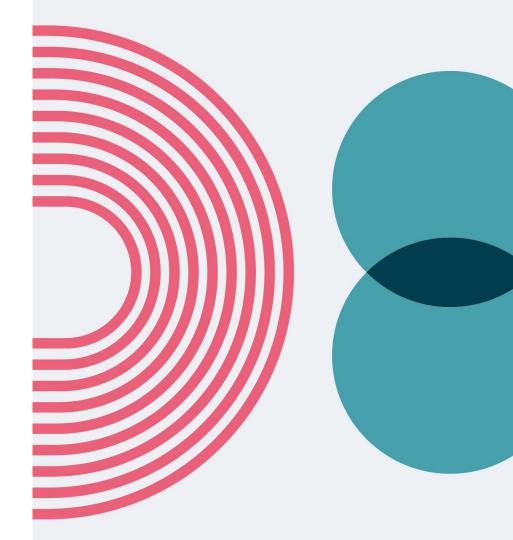
Smart Goals & Outcomes

Design needs to be aligned first

Collaborate beyond design

Continuously evolve & communicate

Create space & mechanisms for creativity



Enjoy the journey

