

## Individual reflections

### Anika

I personally experienced this project as difficult but educational. As a group, we have been searching for a good way of working that fits the different backgrounds of each group member but also suits the way of working and the requirements set by the university. The latter was very important to me because I graduated as an IT & Media Designer. This is a comparable study but there are still many nuances and differences in approach. Using research papers that are written and methods that are made by others, for example, is a big difference with my previous education. Getting to know more of these differences was key for me, so I can start the Industrial Design master in a good way.

I found that we started off our project very enthusiastic at the Eindhoven Design Marathon. We had a great team and got to a concrete idea quite fast. However, after this great start I felt like our process slowed down because we went back to the drawing board. I already knew that ideation is not my strongest point but during this project I really realized how much better I work if projects are further in the process, and a clearer direction has been determined. This is probably because projects are still vague at this point in the process. Later, when a direction has been determined, there will be more structure in the process and that is what I like best. Having specific tasks, a good structure and a clear overview of what needs to be done is my strong point, while letting go and trusting that good things come from the ideation process is much more difficult for me as a perfectionist.

Finding a balance between managing the process and trusting the process by just doing things has been challenging me. This is also because I have been very busy in the first quartile of the project, which made it hard to focus and take time for the project. I do think that this got better in the second half of the semester, when our constantly changing group stabilised and I got to learn from other perspectives and opinions my team member had on the project. The most important thing I learned from him and admire in his approach is to 'just do it'. I tend to wait and think of a good plan and strategy which slows the process down too much sometimes. Because my team member pushed me to keep on progressing, we most likely got more done than I would have on my own, which is very positive.

I am really enthusiastic about our concept and if possible, I would like to continue working on the project during my master. I would like to do this because I think my strong points lie within the next phase of the project. This also fits well with the learning goals I have defined for myself during this pre-master. I worked hard on determining what I want to do and be as a designer and I discovered that I want to get familiar with more design and research methods. I think my way of thinking about design, and being critical about 'what' and 'why', is right. Having some sort of toolkit in my head of the right methods to use in this process of determining the 'what' and 'why' however, could be improved so that is what I would like to learn in the Industrial Design master.

By all means, I have to keep in mind that things don't have to be, and will never be perfect. I just have to prove that I as a designer and my project are good enough for the next step in the process.