Note: Please turn on the notes view to see the spoken portion of this presentation.

One-Page Designs

Stone Librande

Creative Director, EA/Maxis



Overview

- Standard design documentation
- What are one-page designs?
- Creating your own one-page designs
- Benefits

Design Bibles

1. Game Mechanics

- 1.1. Core Gameplay
- 1.2. Game Flow
- 1.3. Characters/Units
- 1.4. Gameplay Elements
- 1.5. Game Physics
- 1.6. Statistics
- 1.7. AI
- 1.8. Multiplayer

2. User Interface

- 2.1. Flow chart
- 2.2. Functional Requirements
- 2.3. Mock-up
- 2.4. Buttons, icons, pointers

3. Art and Video

- 3.1. Goals, style, mood
- 3.2. 2D art and animation
 - 3.2.1. GUI
 - 3.2.2. Special Effects
- 3.3. 3D art and animation
- 3.4. Cinematics

4. Sound and Music

- 4.1. Goals, style, format
- 4.2. Sound effects
 - 4.2.1 GUI
 - 4.2.2.Special effects
 - 4.2.3.Environment
- 4.3. Music
 - 4.3.1. Events
 - 4.3.2. System screens
 - 4.3.3. Level theme
 - 4.3.4. Situations
 - 4.3.5. Cinematic soundtrack

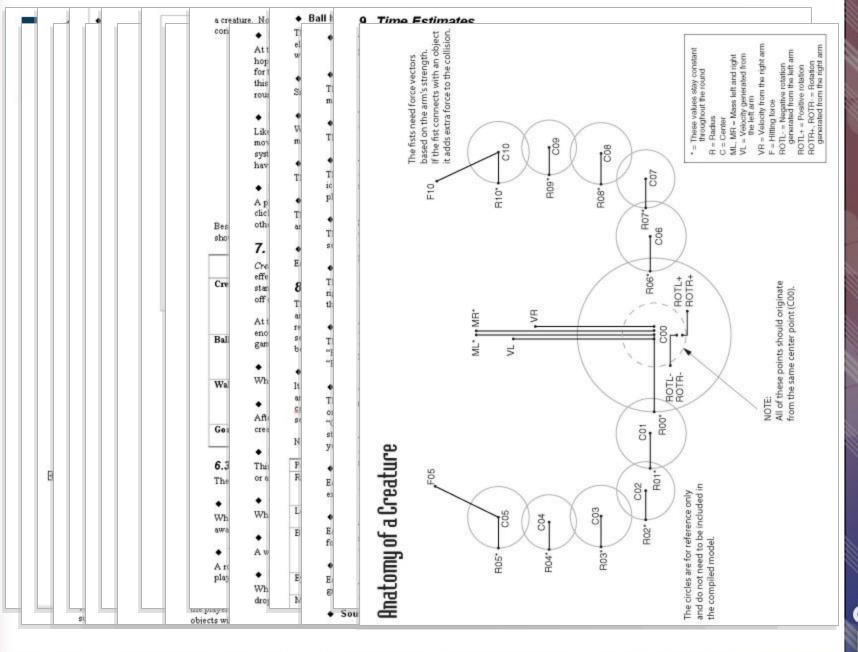
5. Story

- 5.1 Backstory and world
- 5.2. Character descriptions
- 5.3. Game text, dialog requirements
- 5.4. Sample scripts

6. Level Requirements

- 6.1. Level Diagrams
 - 6.1.1. Flow diagrams
- 6.2. Asset revelation schedule







Leisure Suit La Copyright 1997

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Table of Con Overview Off-Line

Overview Off-Line The Gam Spending Marketing...

Marketing... Scene-By-So Us. Miso

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820. 830. Sound

Miscellane or

Leisure Suit Larry's Casis Copyright 1997 by Al Lo

History

Today

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Hoyle games and ad-

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challenge, etc.

Theme

Larry's Casino

Once again, Leis

"front" a casino. He

dollars to spend? He

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sino for its mob own

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Goals

One running ga

Our goals are fu

on-line and off-line p

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Using the existi

Gamble in a safe

The key concept

Leisure Suit Larry's Casino Copyright 1997 by Al Lowe

own message file. In a

The following cha renthesis.

Eight years ago, birth of INN. After si

Women 5000 Passionate

Patti is not young only plays famous airg

Our-next-selection
5: Passionate Patti Do
Expect traveling salest
you'll probably just en
lines over and over, ji
MIKE IS LIVE) (ENI
sino, Just select Passi
winnings.

5100 Drew Barin

Beautiful, young, much time as possible

Next up is the ber Drew Baringmore! As her time as possible nreally loved how Drew lucky, before... Oh, we you choose Drew, you'

5200 Cavaricchi

Beautiful young bi sense girl with well-det

Well now, who has ing hit on by men? Ho little number right here poor Larry found out, a beautiful young bisexu ricchi is one tough, no-Cay tonight!

5300 Annette Bo

A mysterious, dar realizing his name refe hat. She wanted someo

Moving now to a r film noire woman in "I girl...actually she was her. She never realized mit marder for her, but she lovely? Well, of co a classic 1940's black : People are dying to me Leisure Suit Larry's Casino Design Document Copyright 1997 by Al Lowe

Scene-By-Scene Description

Page 8

0's, Miscellaneous Animation

1000. User Interface

The 1000 numbers include everything that is shared globally: menus, cursors, icons, etc.

| Œ. | tock Hard |
|----|-------------|
| M | ър |
| In | ternet play |
| M | y Stuff |
| O | otions |
| He | elp q |
| Ex | it |

Menus

The right-click menu will contain at least the following items (more will probably follow as we discover what I've forgotten!).

Title Bar

This only says "Rock Hard" if that's the player's chosen persona.

Map

Takes you to the Map without leaving the current scene so in case you cancel while on the Map, you'll still be exactly where you were. While in the Map, this menu item changes to "Return from Map."

Internet play

Takes you to SIGS. If you are not in a game, lets you select the game in SIGS, then takes you there. If you are already gambling, you remain in your chosen game. When you return, your on-line sign-up mates are there with you.

| Stuff | | |
|----------|-----------|--|
| Money | \$5000.00 | |
| Cigars | 3 | |
| Condom | 1 2 | |
| Disinfec | tant 1 | |
| Roses | 12 | |

Stuff...

Opens a hierarchical menu off the side listing all the "stuff" you have in Inventory, which at the very least includes money and probably other things you've bought or been given. Left-clicking on one of the items expands another layer of menu of verbs that includes "give" if the item is "giftable." Give then has a sub-menu that lists all the people in your immediate "chat area."

Options ...

Goes to a tabbed dialog with all the choices in Hoyle's "Controls" dialog, except "Attitude." Added to the Hoyle's collection will be individual tabs for each of the games, allowing players to customize everything we think may ever be annoying. (For examples, see Office '97's "Tools ! Options" menu item.) Each game's specifics are under that game. Going to Options from within a game opens to that game's sheet. Going to Options from anywhere else opens to the General sheet. Here are just a few of the many items available to futz with:

Text color (of text you send to others)
Background color (of text you send to others)
Reading speed (for others' cartoon bubbles)

Help

Takes you to the standard Windows Help system, and Al's rip-off of Hoyle's help system.

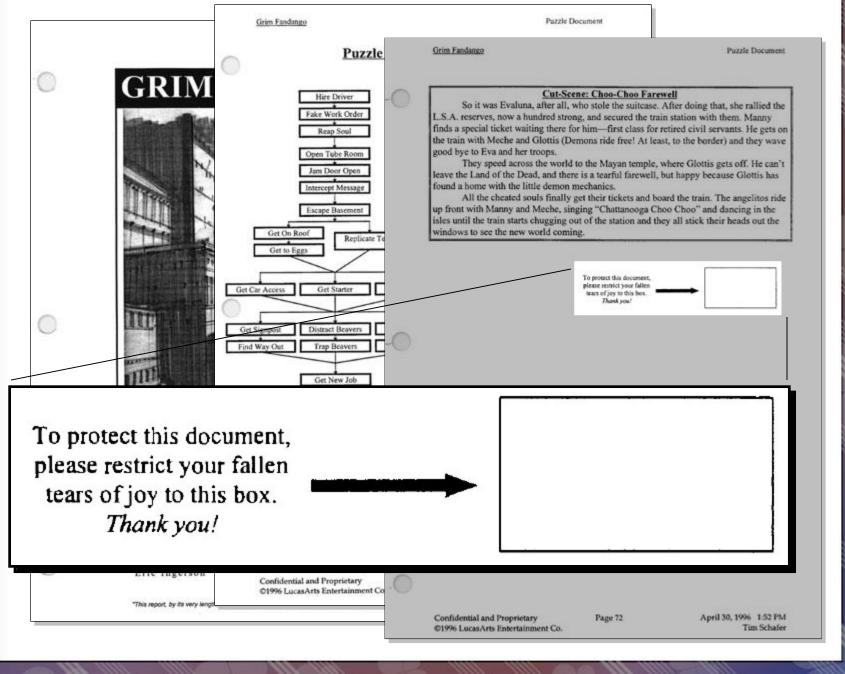
Exit

Sure, ask 'em to confirm, but if they do, don't display a commercial, just get the hell out!

Chat Bubble

Chat is displayed inside a rounded-corner rectangle, with one corner replaced with a comma shape leading from the personas's mouth. Bubbles scale to fit the text typed. The left personas' bubbles go to the right, while the right personas' bubbles go to the left; the inner personas' bubbles go above, while the outer personas' bubbles go below. Each bubble attempts to not cover other bubbles, although that seems impossible. Keep them grace fully shaped and proportionate (i.e., approximately 3x5 proportions), rather than rigid and within fixed boundaries.

> GDC 10





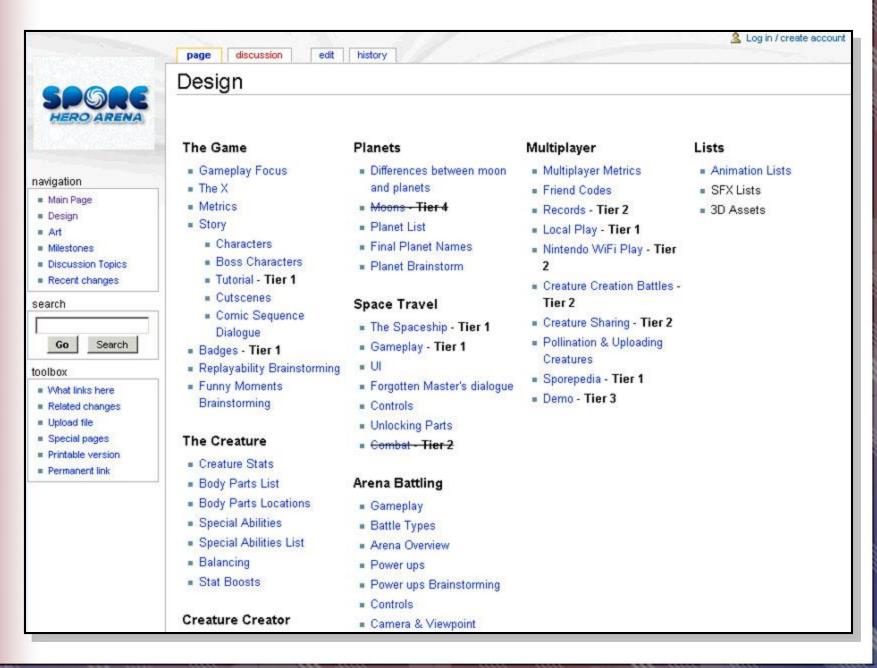
Pros

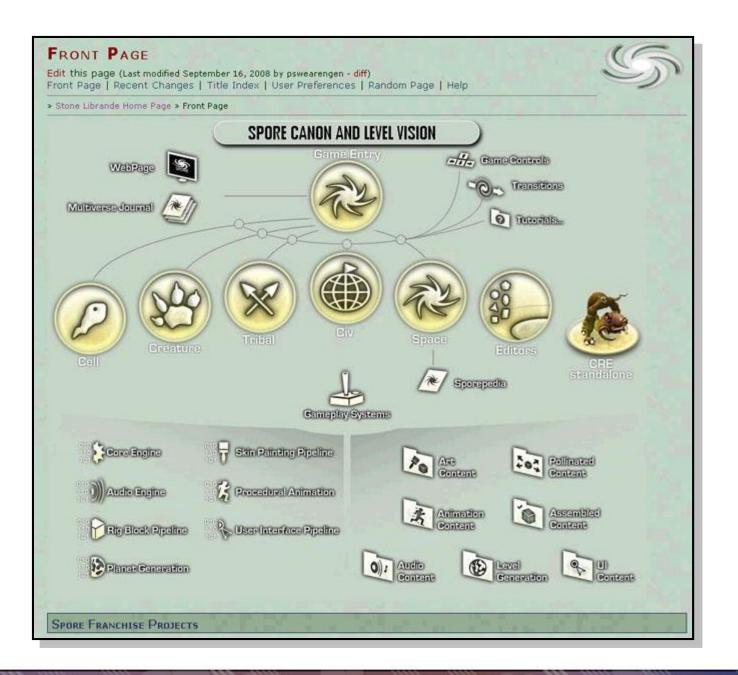
- Definitive source of information
- Entire design is in one place
- The act of creating the document is the act of designing the game

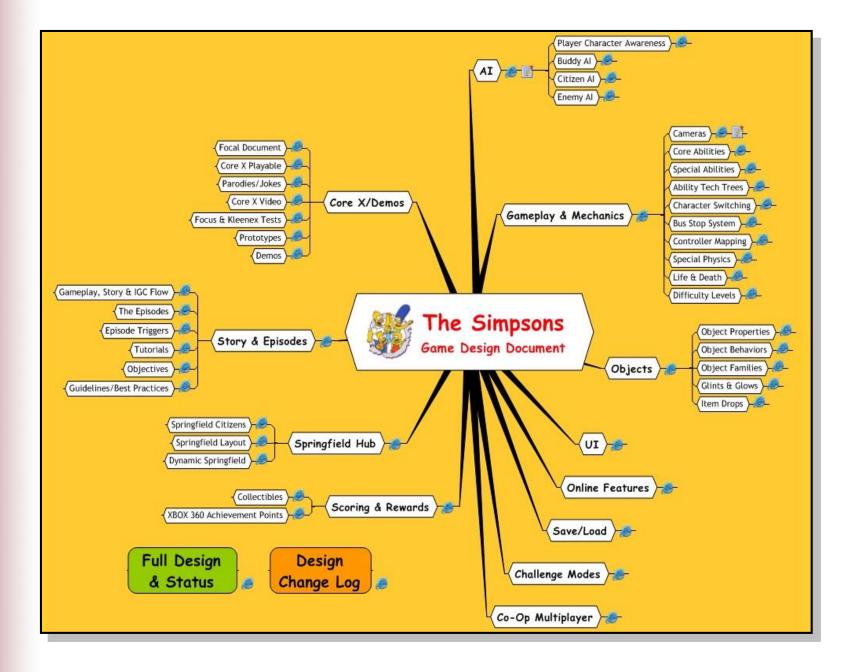
Cons

- Doesn't scale up
- Hard to manage updates
- Difficult to search

Design Wiki







MARGE'S MEALS

INGREDIENTS

The secret to any great meal is the ingredients. Marge can find a wide variety of food items as she explores Springfield and those items can be combined in nearly limitless ways. Each ingredient in the game is described by a small number of parameters (which are not exposed to the player). This lets us change the ingredients at any time without breaking the underlying cooking system.

- As Marge travels around the town she sees food icons. (Many of these are the same food icons that Homer can eat for calories.)
 When Marge touches one she doesn't eat it; instead the food ingredient instantly teleports to the Simpson's refrigerator and a message appears, "[Food name] collected". In smaller text is the message, "Use your refrigerator to prepare a meal".
- All ingredients are stored in the Simpson's refrigerator. When Marge is in the kitchen and walks near the refrigerator a contextual
 message, "Press X to open" appears. Confirming the message causes a full screen image of an open refrigerator to appear. This is
 similar to an inventory screen in a typical RPG, with slots to hold items. A little number next to each item shows how much of that food
 you have (up to 10 each). Some items are stored on the main shelves and some are kept in the door. There are exactly enough food
 items in the game to fill up each slot. In this way the refrigerator acts like a trophy case, letting the player easily see if they have a
 complete food collection.





In the example above there are 37 slots in the refrigerator, which means that there are 37 different ingredients in the game. (This
number can be adjusted as needed.) This allows Marge to cook approximately 5000 unique meal variations.

Ingredient Rarities

Pros

- Easy access
- Easy to update
- Bite-sized chunks
- Team contributions
- History tracking and accountability

Cons

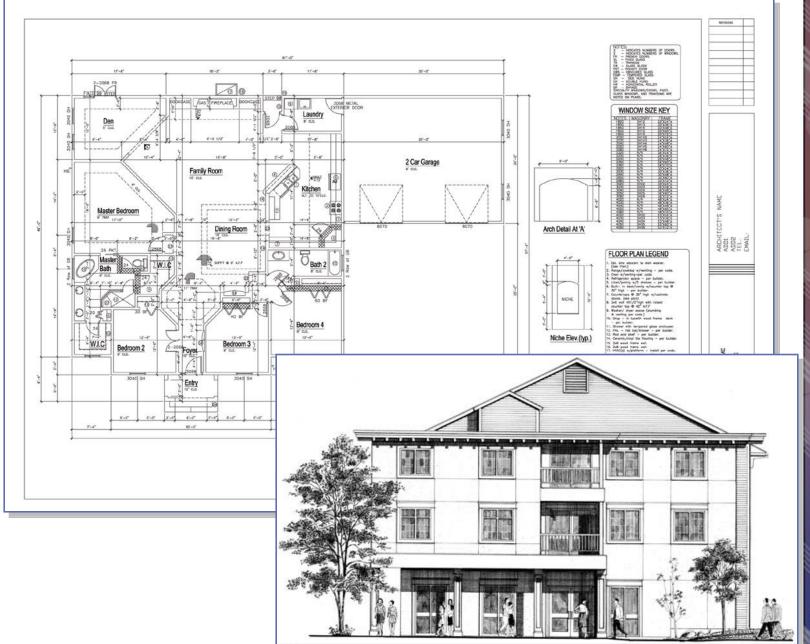
- Requires constant maintenance
- Hides design relationships
- Low resolution
- Frustrating viewport limitations



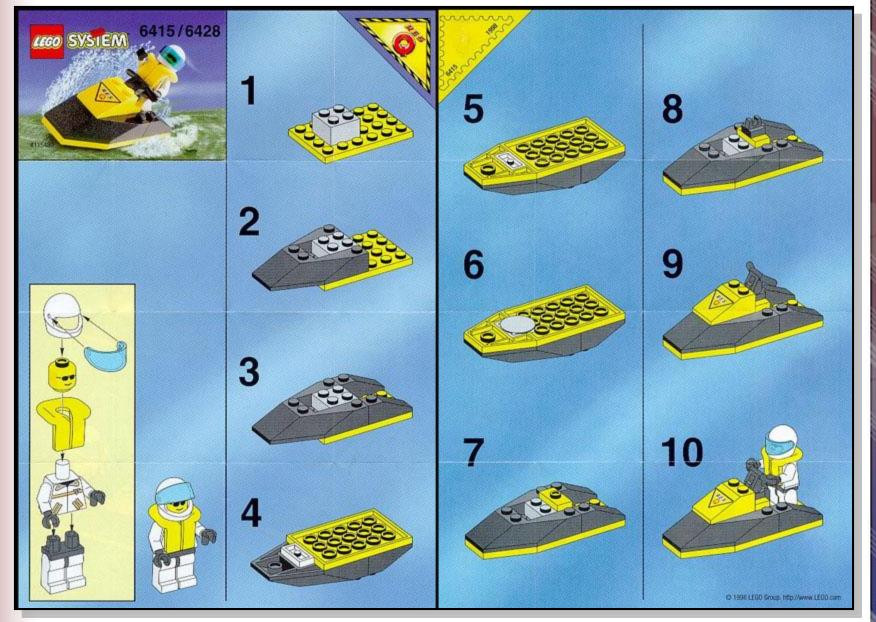
Observation

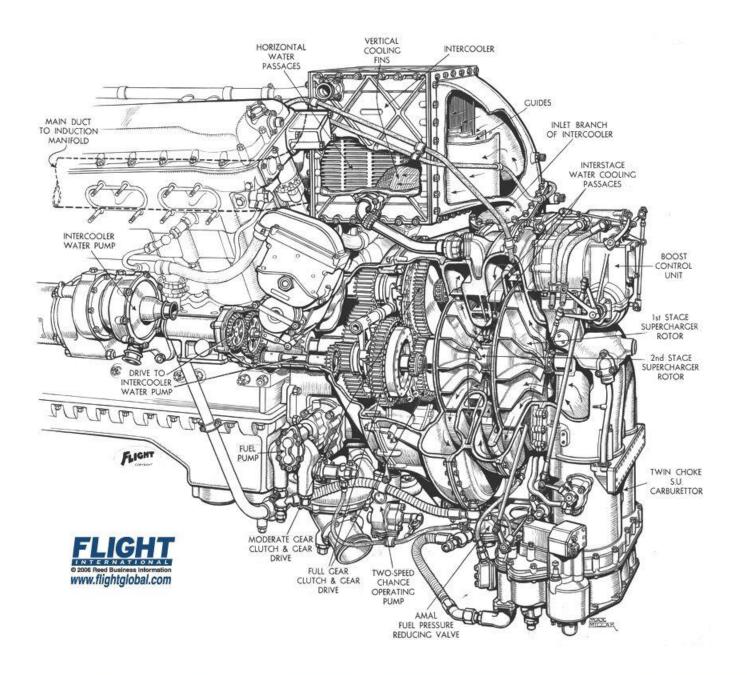
- Problem: Most people don't read past the first page or screen.
- Solution: Only use one page.

One-Page Design Inspirations

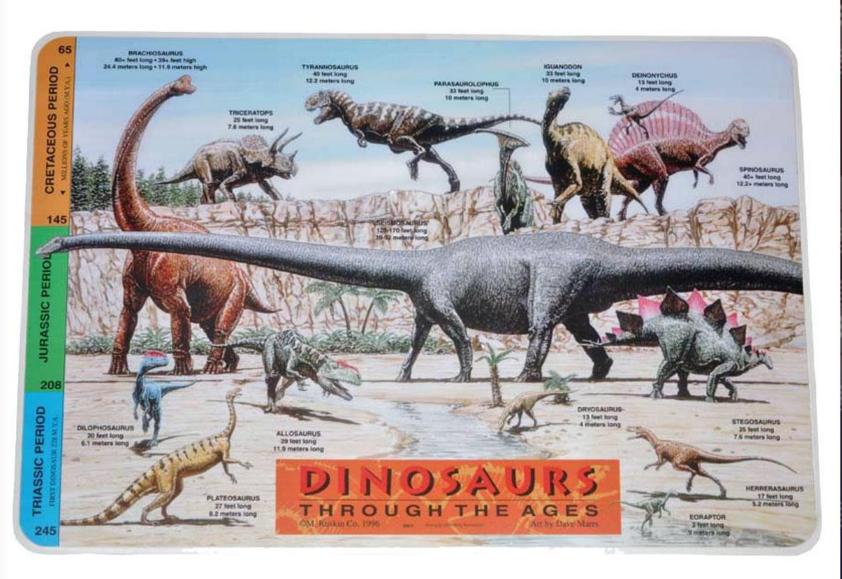


GDC

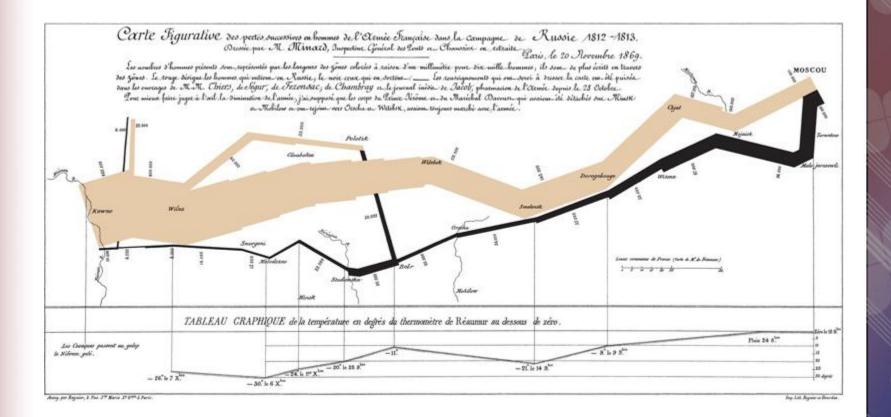




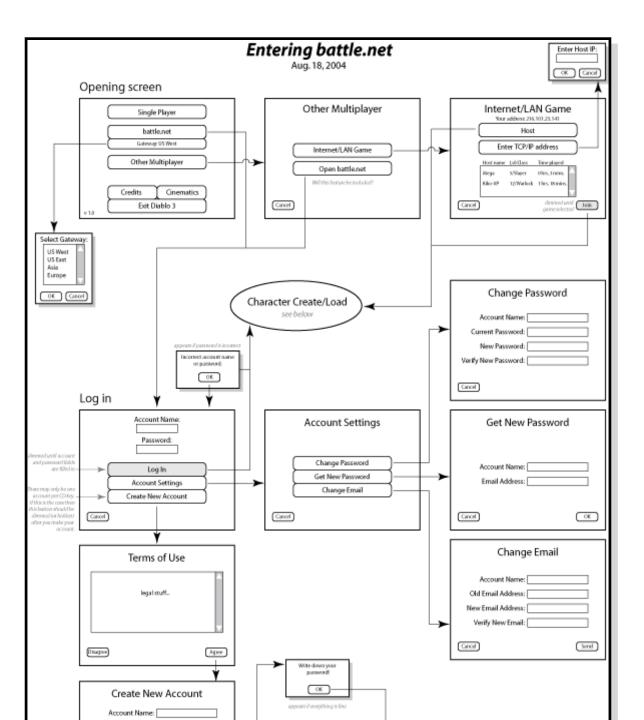


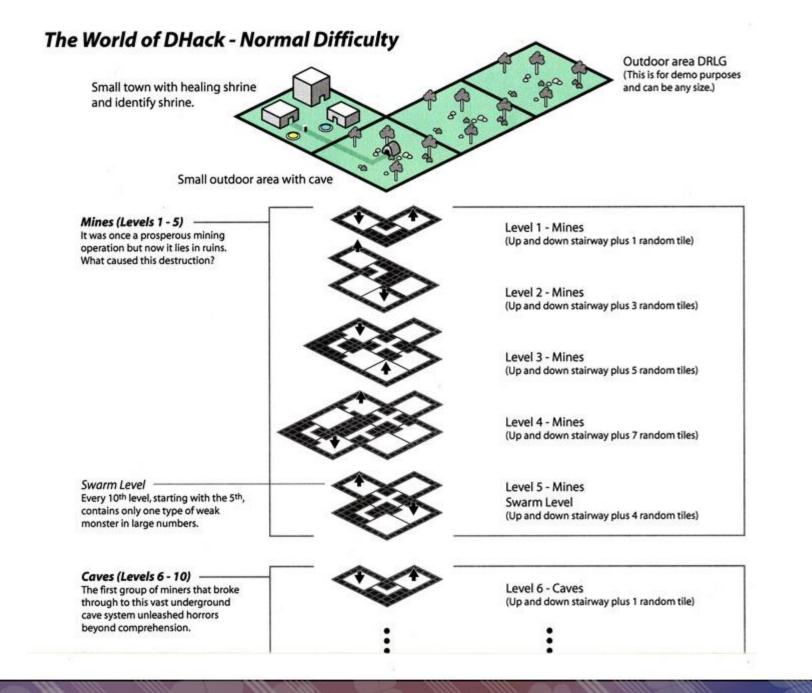


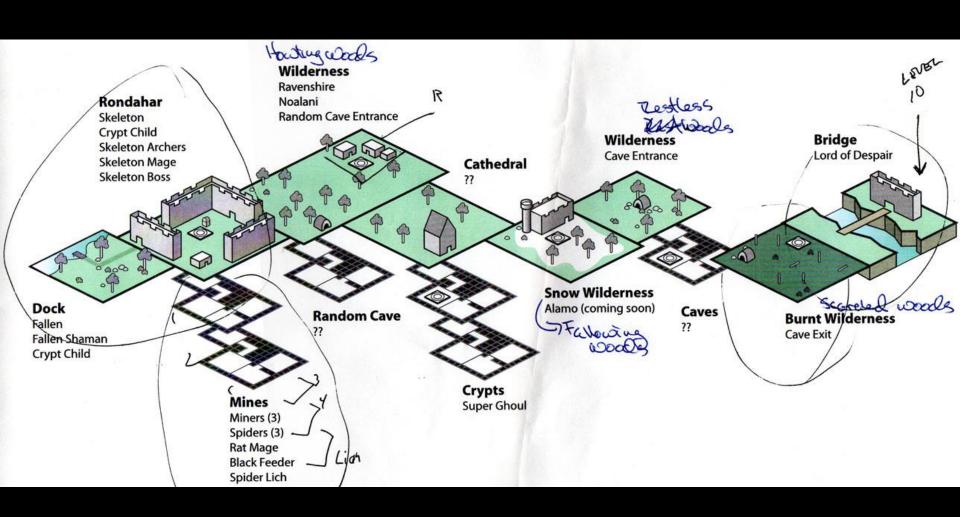


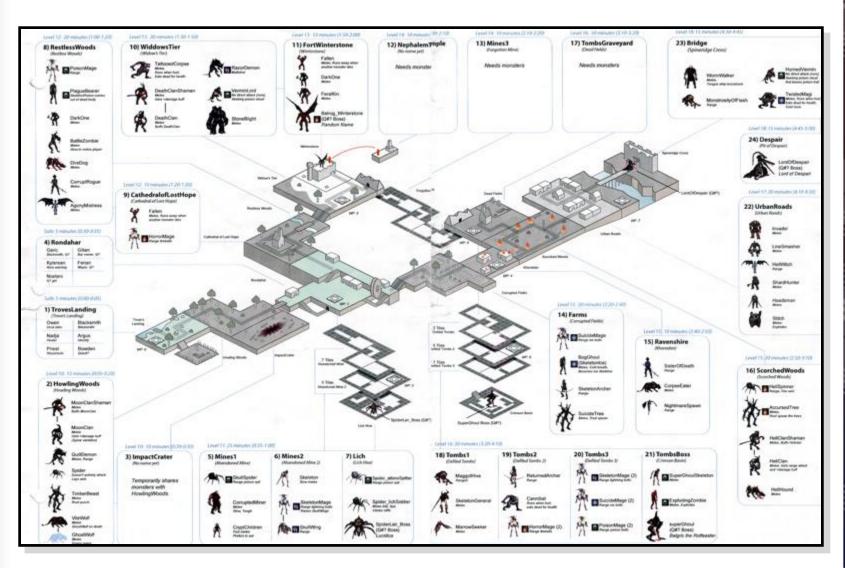


One-Page Design Examples











Level 13: 20 minutes (1:30-1:50)

10) WiddowsTier



TattooedCorpse Melee, Runs when hurt, Eats dead for health

DeathClanShaman

Gets +damage buff



RazorDemon Range lightning

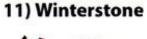


VerminLord No direct attack (runs), Seeking poison cloud



StoneBlight Melee

Level 13: 10 minutes (1:50-2:00)





Fallen Melee, Runs away when another monster dies



DarkOne



FeralKin Melee

Balrog_Winterstone (Q#? Boss) Random Name Level 14: 20 n

12) Nepha

Needs n

rel 12: 10 minutes (1:20-1:30)

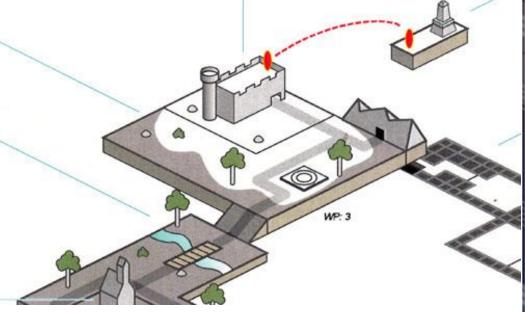
9) CathedralofLostHope



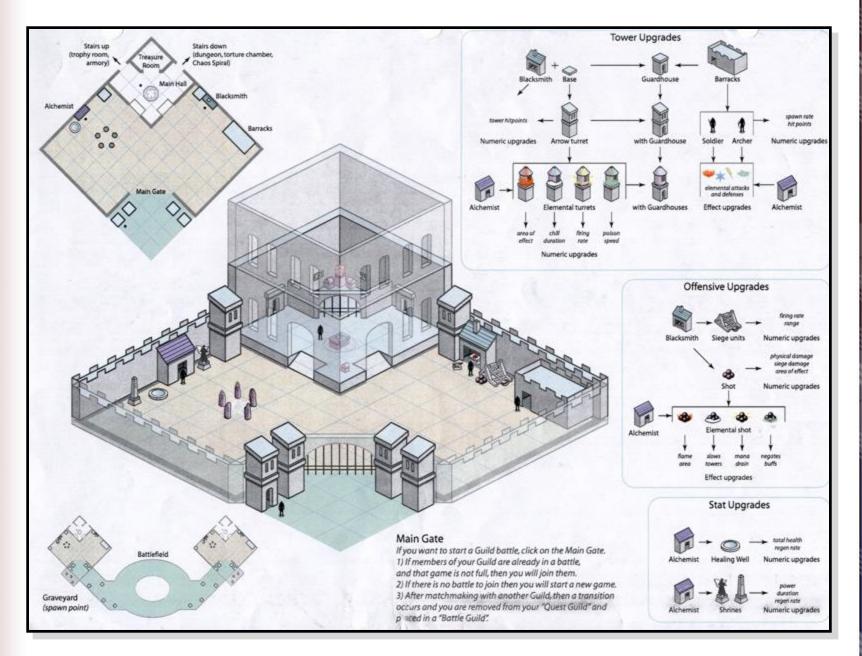
Fallen Melee, Runs away when another monster dies



HorrorMage Range fireballs











Direct

Shot does not travel along path, but hits target instaneously.





Parameters: delay

Melee

A type of direct damage that can only be delivered by the source being within close range of a target.



Parameters: same as Direct min-max range move in and attack (on/off)

Instant

Near instaneous delivery that cannot be dodged, but can be blocked by other objects.



Parameters: min-max range pierce (on/off)

Propelled

Shoots out an object (actor) that can be dodged or blocked by other objects.



Parameters: min-max range distance trigger time trigger velocity pierce (on/off)

Lobbed

A type of propelled delivery that arcs up and passes over objects.



Parameters: same as Propelled launch angle

Pathing (Homing)

A type of propelled delivery that follows an arbitrary set of rules (Al) and attempts to reach a target, despite obstacles.



Parameters: same as Propelled pathing rules

Area - Circle

Payloads delivered to all targets within area at a set rate.



Parameters: frequency of payloads distribution dissipation min-max range min-max height spherical or cylindrical

Area - Cone

Similar to a circle, but in a specified arc.



Parameters: same as Circle min-max arc width

Area - Beam

Similar to a cone, but in a rectangular shape.



Parameters: frequency of payloads distribution dissipation min-max x,y,z

Nova (Wave)

Attack radiates out from central point.

Target takes one hit as wave passes through it.
(Note: novas are typically a full circle, but do not have to be).



Parameters: min-max range min-max arc velocity 2D or 3D ground hugging (on/aff) dissipation

Demonic Mage

Fire Chain

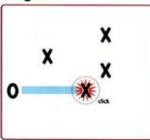
Skill Category

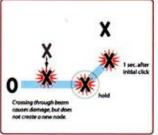
Fire

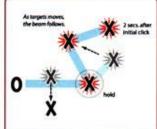
Description

Fire streams from the Mage's fingertips and spreads in chains to nearby monsters, burning them over time. The Mage must remain still while this happens. If the Mage gets hit, moves or releases the mouse button, the effect is broken.

Diagram







Details

Target a single monster.

Medium range.

Click to create a flame rope that connects the Mage to the target.

Attack continues as long as you hold down the mouse button, or until you get hit.

After 1 second the flame will leap from the target monster and connect to a nearby monster (if one is in range).

If the skill is leveled up, the flame will leap to additional monsters, in 1 second intervals, creating a connected chain. A monster already connected to the chain will not be reconnected again.

Line of sight: Yes, for initial target. Additional targets need to be in LOS from previous monster, not from the caster.

Auto-hit: yes. Blockable: no.

Mana usage: up front cost paid on click, smaller cost paid over time (while mouse button is held down).

UI

Set up the Fire Chain skill on either the Left or Right slot.

Click and hold on a monster.

If the Mage is not within range, he will walk within range and then start the attack.

Release mouse button to stop attack.



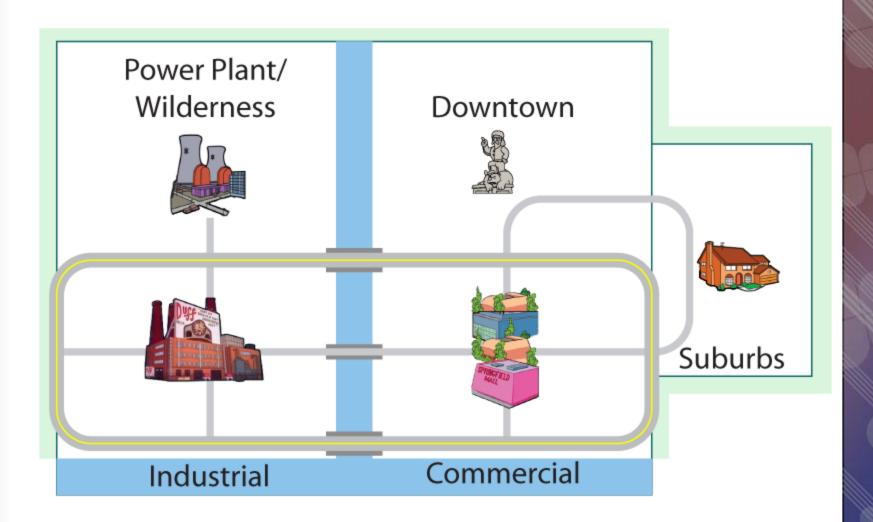








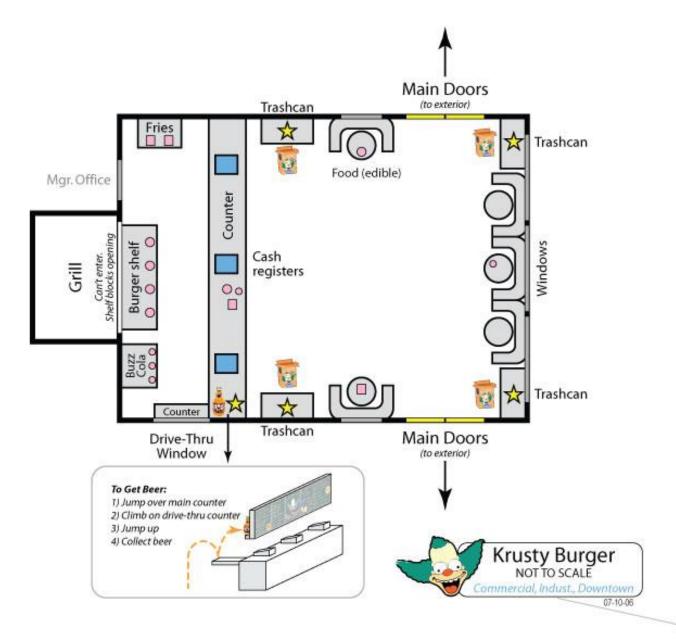


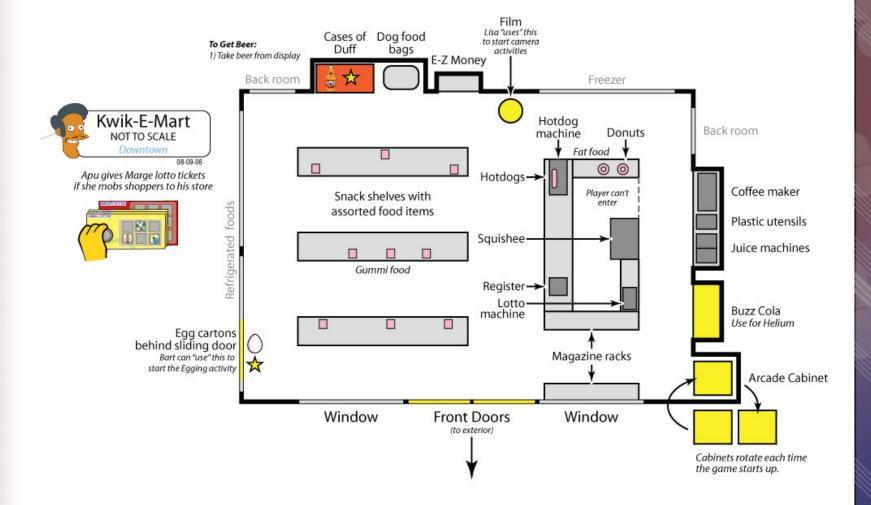


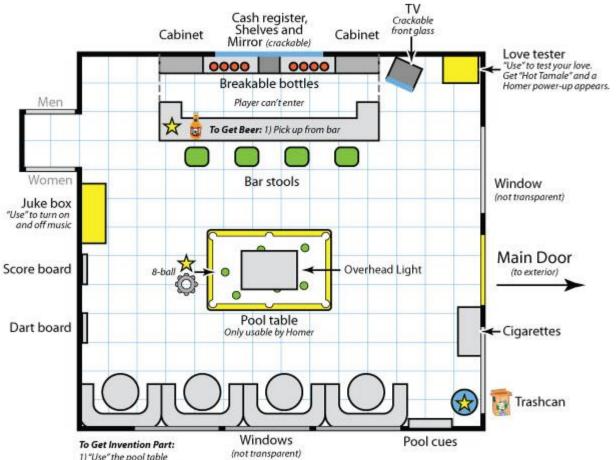


GDC 10



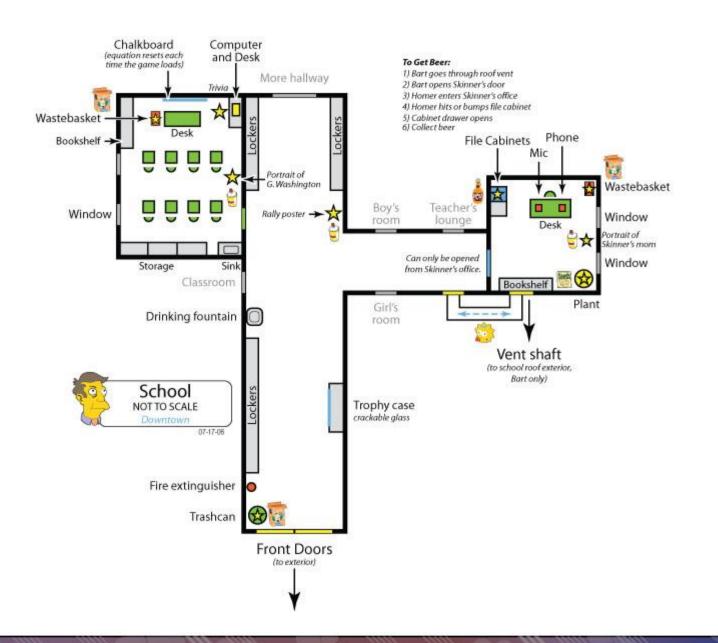




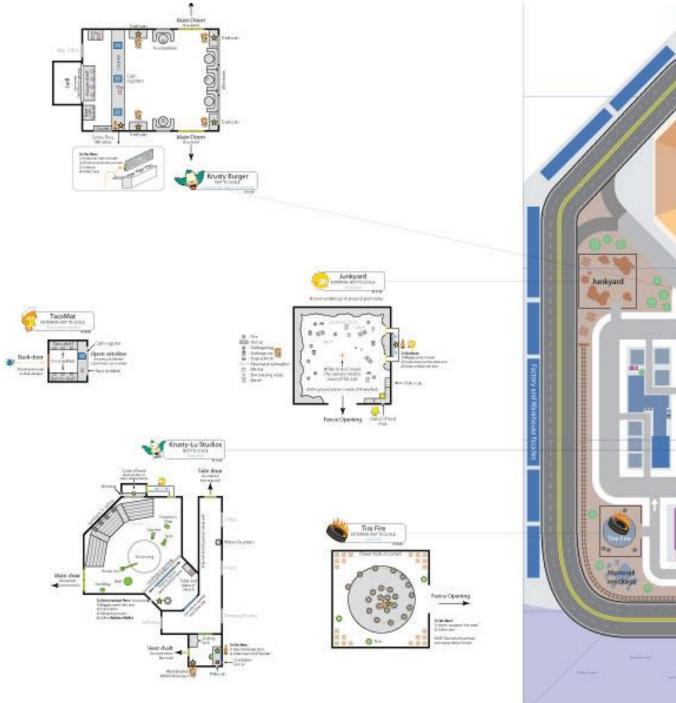


- 1) "Use" the pool table
- 2) Homer shrinks to ball size
- 3) Push all the pool balls into the pockets
- 4) If the 8-ball is the last ball then it glows
- 5) Collect 8-ball by rolling into it while glowing



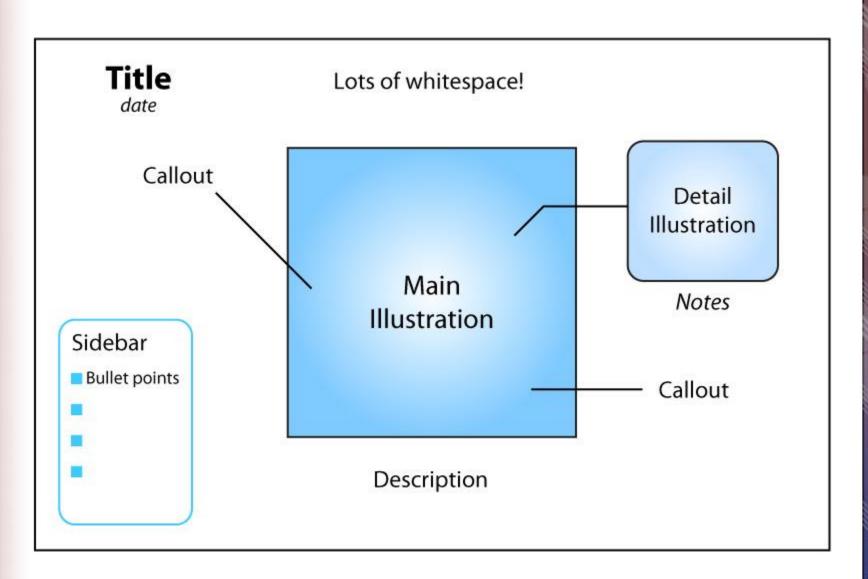


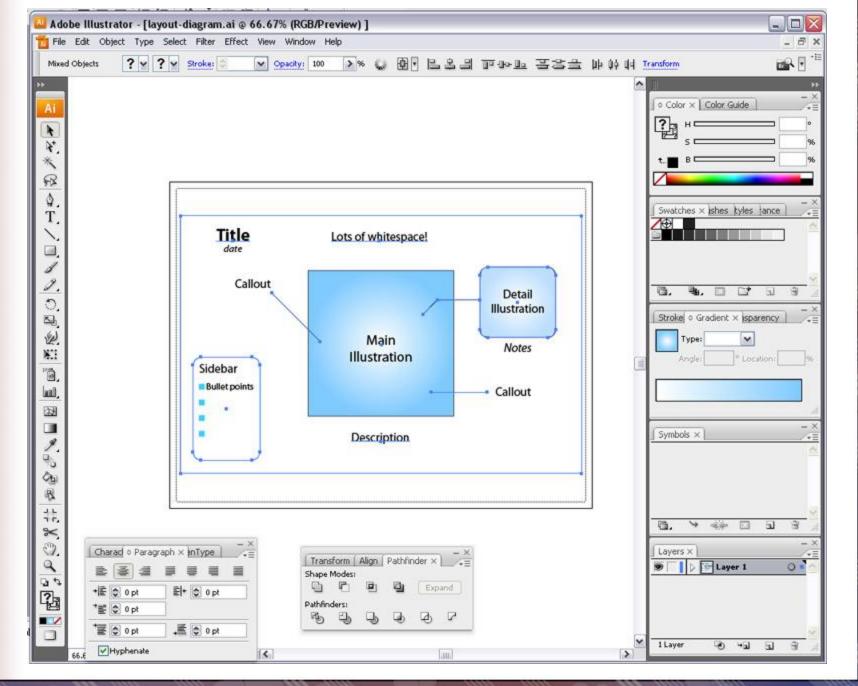


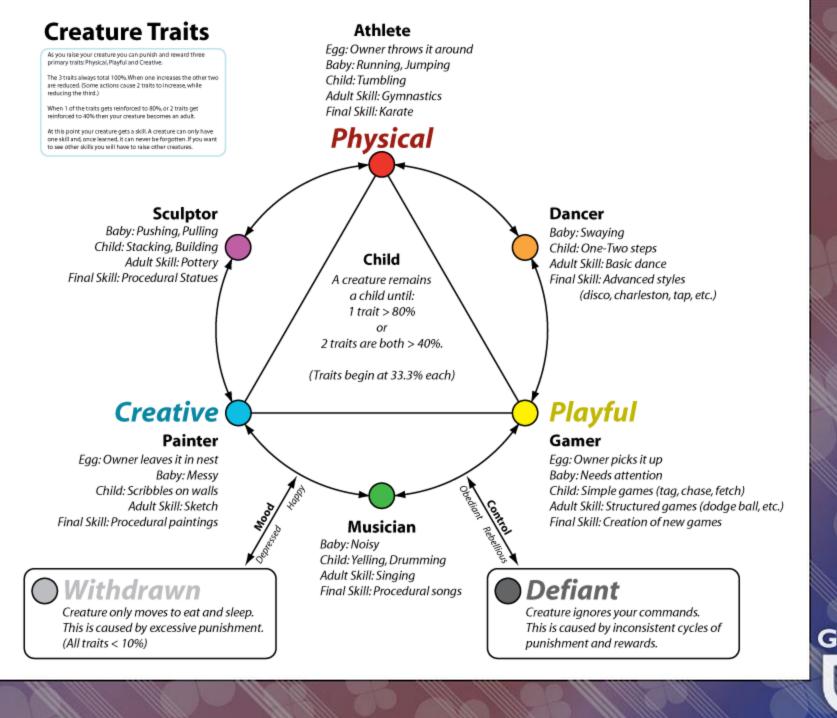




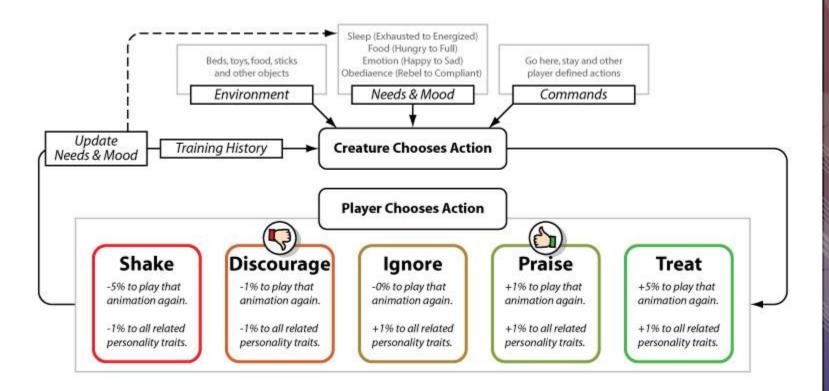
Creating a One-Page Design

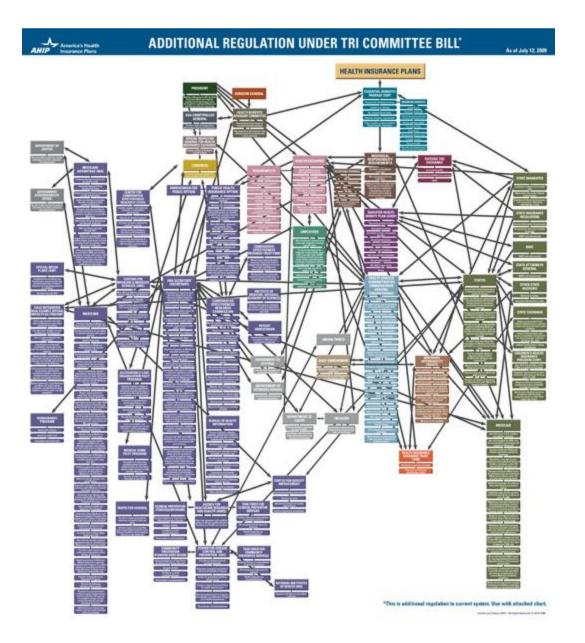






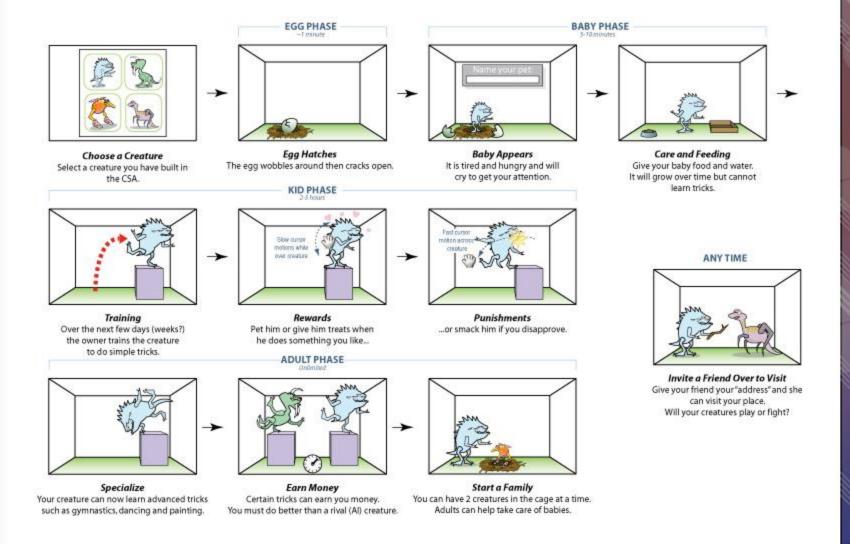
Flow Charts



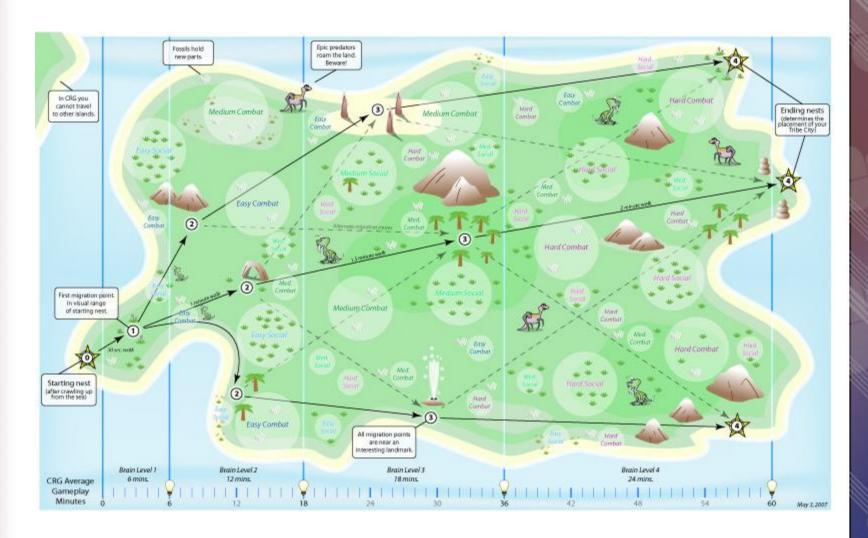




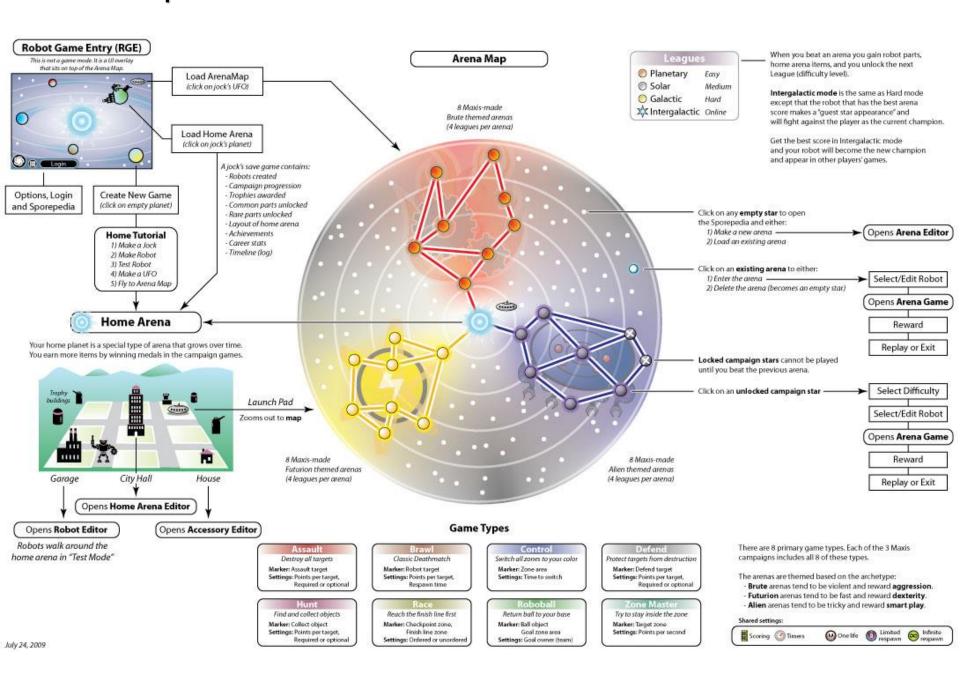
Storyboards



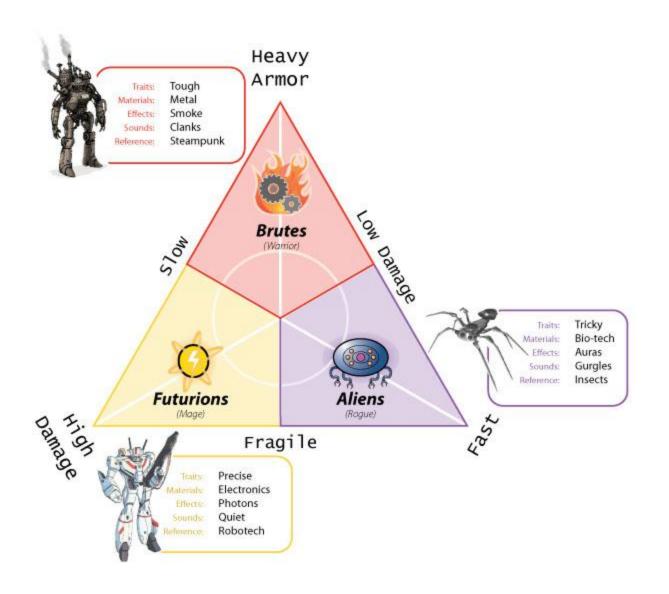
Time + Space

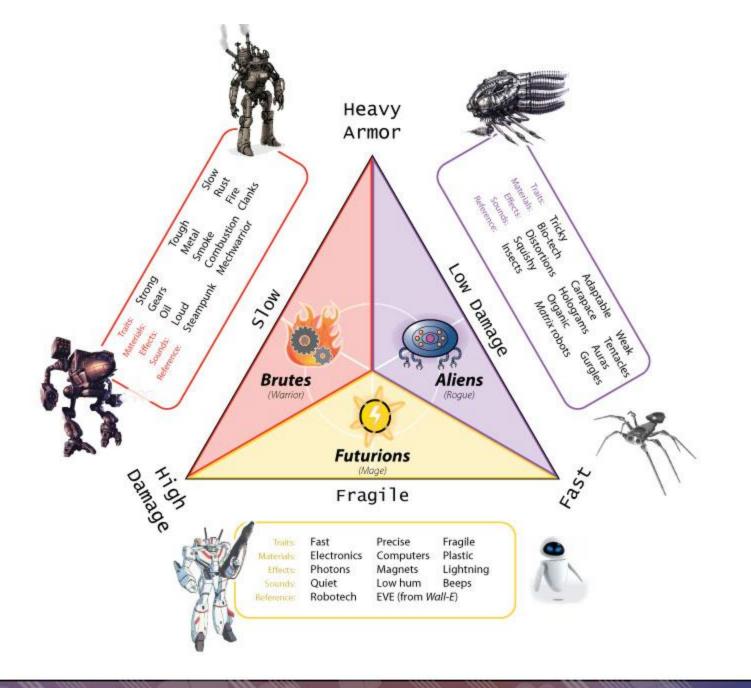


Relationships Between Modules



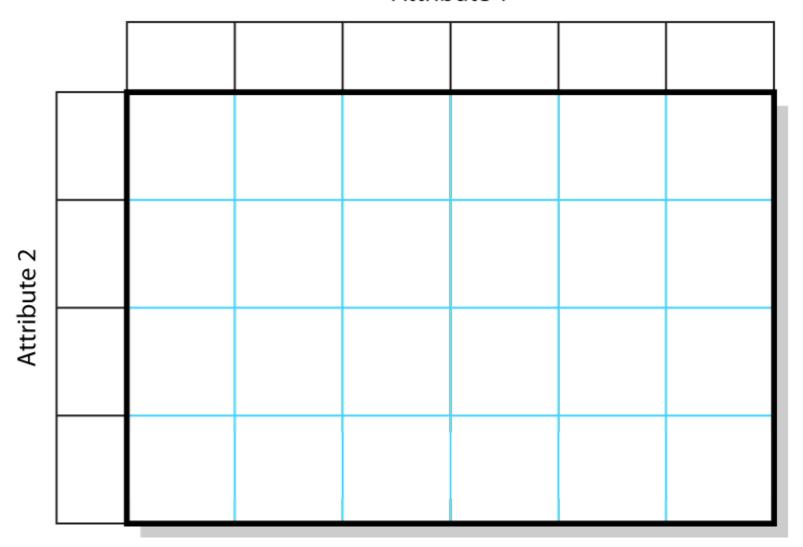
Relationships Between Units





Matrix

Attribute 1



Character Class

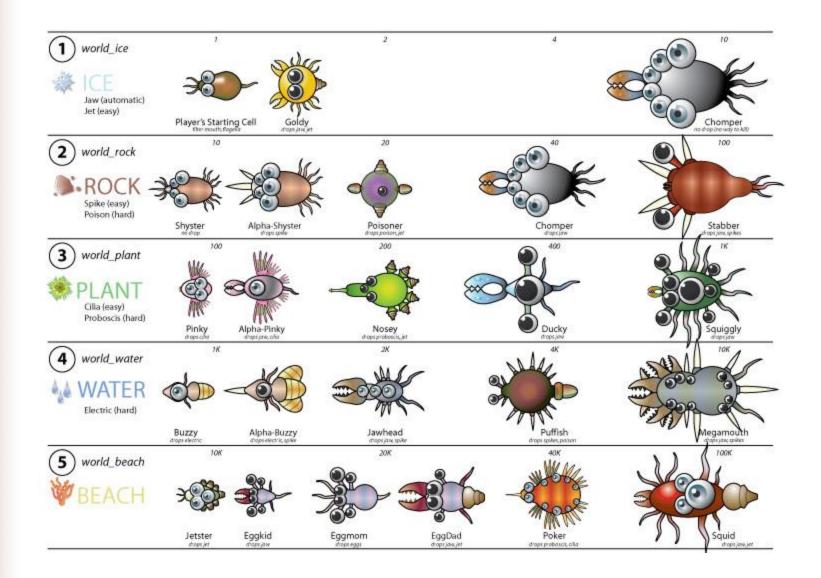
| | Fighter | Archer | Mage | Scout | Thief | Warlock |
|--------|---------|--------|------|-------|-------|---------|
| Fire | | | | | | |
| Metal | | | | | | |
| Nature | | | | | | |
| Water | | | | | | |

Faction

Character Class

| | Fighter | Archer | Mage | Scout | Thief | Warlock |
|--------|---------|----------|----------|----------|----------|---------|
| Fire | Rage | х | Fireball | х | х | Demon |
| Metal | Cleave | Piercing | х | х | Backstab | х |
| Nature | X | Hunting | x | Tracking | X | Golem |
| Water | х | х | Ice Bolt | Swimming | Potion | х |

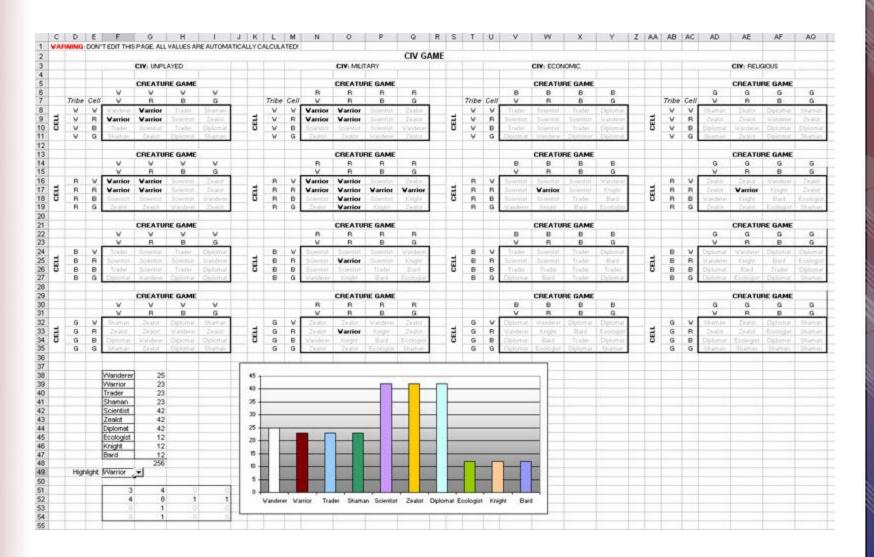
Faction

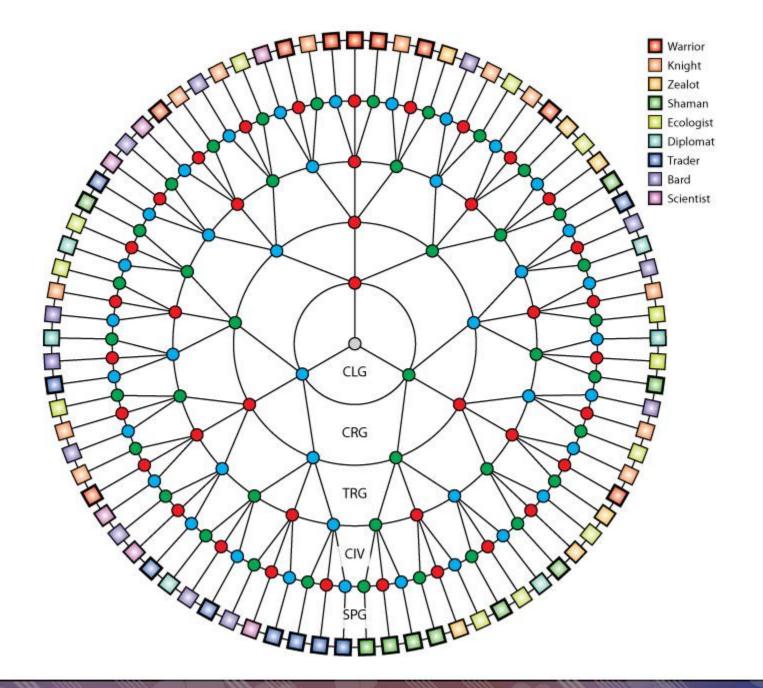


PEER to PEER interactions

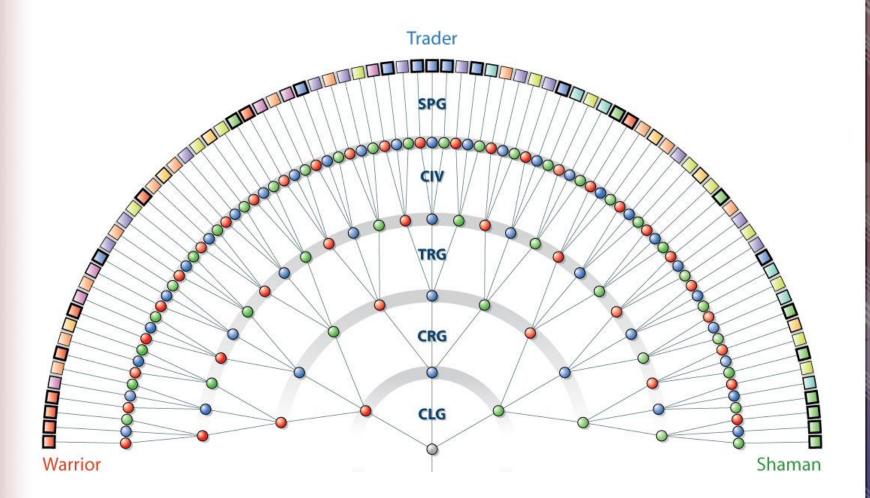
| | Jaw | Proboscis | Spike | Poison | Electric | |
|------------|---|---|--|--|--|---|
| nteraction | Each bite does 1 damage. 3 bites to kill. Leaves carcass. | Each sip does 1 damage. 3 sips to kill. | Each stab does 1 damage. 3 stabs to kill. Leaves food chunks and possibly liquid (no carcass). | Each second in cloud does 1 dmg. and temporily slows. 3 seconds to kill. Leaves carcass. | Each zap does 1 damage and temporarily stuns. 3 zaps to kill. Leaves carcass. | *** |
| | Q Jaw | Proboscis | CELL-A | Poison | Electric | |
| Jaw | Deflect.Both cells bounce off each other. | Jaw wins. Cell-A takes 1 damage. | Spike wins. Cell-B takes 1 damage. | vs. Cloud: Poison wins. vs. Part: Jaw wins | vs. Bolt: Electric wins. vs. Part: Jaw wins. | |
| Proboscis | Jaw wins. Cell-B takes 1 damage. | Deflect. Both cells bounce off each other. | Spike wins. Cell-B takes 1 damage. | vs. Cloud: Poison wins. vs. Part: Proboscis wins. | vs. Bolt: Electric wins. vs. Part: Proboscis wins. | |
| Spike | Spike wins. Cell-A takes 1 damage. | Spike wins. Cell-A takes 1 damage. | Deflect. Both cells bounce off each other. | vs. Cloud: Poison wins. vs. Part: Spike wins. | vs.Bolt:Electric wins. vs.Part:Spike wins | |
| Poison | vs. Cloud: Poison wins. vs. Part: Jaw wins | vs. Cloud: Poison wins. vs. Part: Proboscis wins. | vs. Cloud: Poison wins. vs. Part: Spike wins. | Cells with Poison Parts are immune to poison. | vs. Bolt: Electric wins. vs. Part: Poison wins Doesn't target poison clouds. | |
| Electric | vs.Bolt:Electric wins. vs.Part: Jaw wins. | vs.Bolt:Electric wins. vs.Part:Proboscis wins. | vs. Bolt: Electric wins. vs. Part: Spike wins. | vs. Cloud: Poison wins, vs. Part: Electric wins. | Electric cell won't target other electric cells. | |
| | Jaw | Proboscis | Spike | Poison | Electric | Filter Mouth |
| quid food | Ignores liquid food. | Sip for 1 DNA point. Shrinks to -1 size. | Stabbed food leaks two -1 size liquid food and then disappears. New food fades quickly. | Poison cloud doesn't hurt food. | Electric doesn't target liquid food. | Too big to eat. Ignores peer food. |
| Carcass | Bite carcass once to split it into three -1 size chunks. | Deflect. | Splits carcass into three -1 size chunks. | Poison cloud doesn't hurt carcass. | Electric doesn't target carcasses. | Ignores it. |
| ood chunk | Bite chunk once to split it into three -1 size chunks. | Deflect. | Splits chunk into three -1 size chunks. | Poison cloud doesn't hurt food chunks. | Electric doesn't target food chunks. | Ignores it. |
| | Jaw Proboscis Spike Poison | Deflect.Both cells bounce off each other. Proboscis Jaw wins. Cell-B takes 1 damage. Spike Spike Spike Spike wins. Cell-A takes 1 damage. Vs. Cloud:Poison wins. vs. Part: Jaw wins. Vs. Part: Jaw wins. Jaw quid food Ignores liquid food. Carcass Bite carcass once to split it into three -1 size chunks. Bite chunk once to split it into three split it into three | Jaw Proboscis Each bite does 1 damage. 3 bites to kill. Leaves carcass. Deflect.Both cells bounce off each other. Proboscis Jaw wins. Cell-A takes 1 damage. Spike Spike wins. Cell-A takes 1 damage. Spike Spike wins. Cell-A takes 1 damage. Vs. Cloud: Polson wins. vs. Part: Jaw wins. Vs. Part: Jaw wins. Vs. Bolt: Electric wins. vs. Part: Proboscis wins. Jaw Proboscis Spike Vs. Part: Jaw wins. Deflect. Both cells bounce off each other. Spike wins. Cell-A takes 1 damage. Vs. Cloud: Polson wins. vs. Part: Proboscis wins. Vs. Part: Jaw wins. Spike Vs. Part: Jaw wins. Vs. Bolt: Electric wins. vs. Part: Proboscis wins. Vs. Part: Jaw wins. Deflect. Deflect. Bite carcass once to spilit it into three 1 size chunks. Deflect. Deflect. | Deflect Both cells Deflect | Jaw Proboscis Spike Poison | Jaw Proboscis Spike Poison Electric |

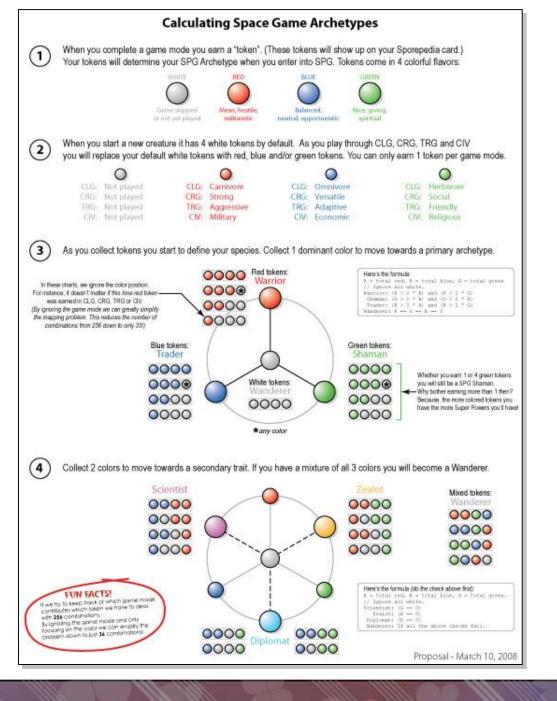
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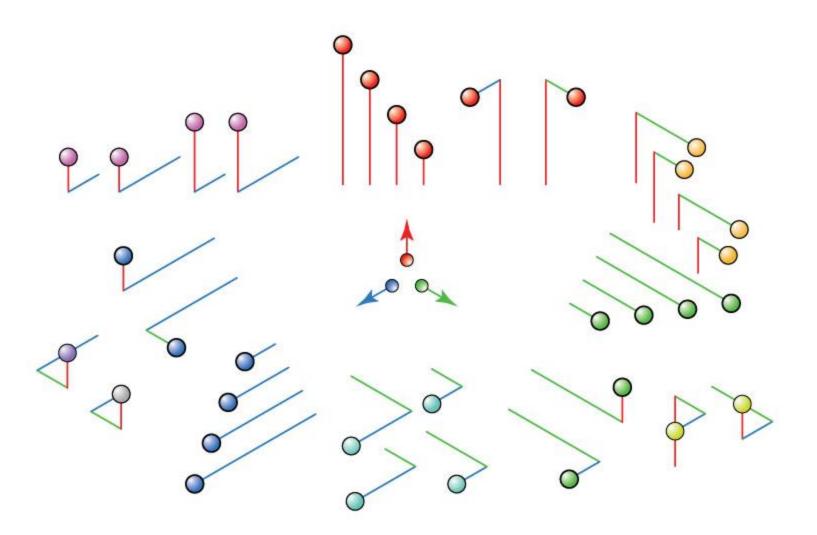


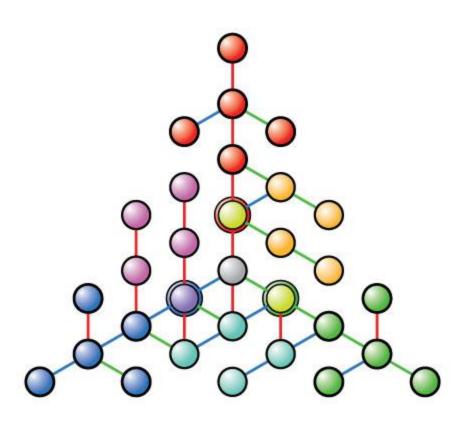


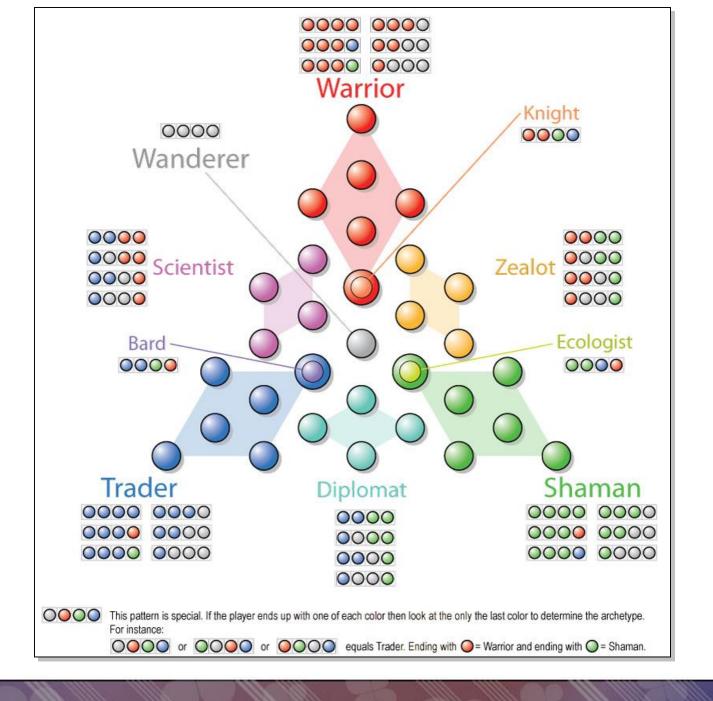






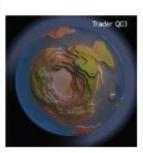






Benefits

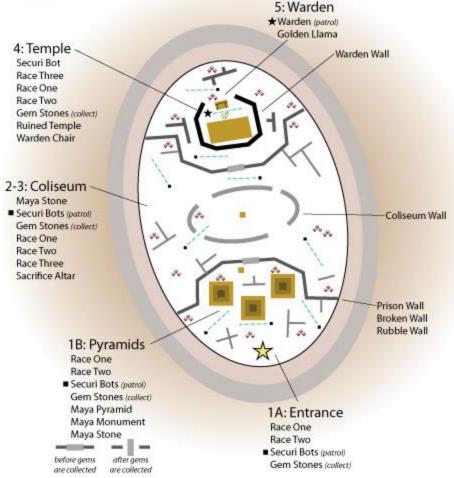
- Team
 - Easy to share designs across team
 - Make sure the designs are seen
 - Hand out pencils and encourage participation



Trader 3: The Llamaman of Gannet Island

The real Golden Llama has been traced to the prison island of Gannet. The Warden protects other people's valuables - for a fee. The prison itself is one of the newer 'open plan' models. Built as a grid over the remnants of an ancient civilization, the prisoners are allowed to walk free - but never leave the island...

> Note: All creatures (except the Warden) should spawn in, creating unlimited combat!



Act 1: Incarcerated!

The player beams into the prison in a hedge-maze like corridor not far from a group of pyramids. At the pyramids, prisoners fight. Collect the gems to activate a big stone door that is distant from here...

- Talk to Maya Monument
- Collect 25 Gems
- Talk to Maya Stone

Act 2: The Maze

The player completes the Act 1 goals and the Portal opens. Venturing further, the Player eventually comes upon a Coliseum - but not before encountering a third race of prisoners...

- Collect 25 Gems
- Talk to Sacrifice Altar
- Move to Race Three (hidden)

Act 3: Rat Race...

Races #1 and #2 go at it again - if the player is there (most gems there) he should get out! The player again has to move around the Prison looking for gems

- Collect 25 Gems
- Talk to Maya_Stone
- Move to Race Three (hidden)

Act 4: The Warden

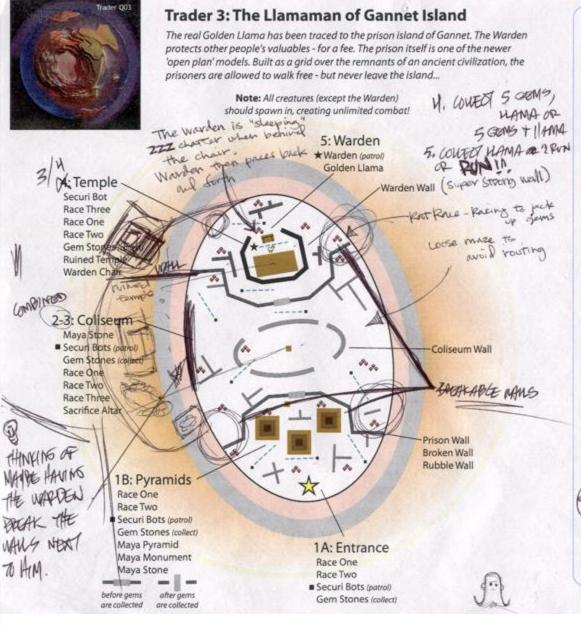
Get the required number of gems and find a new Portal...

- Collect 25 Gems
- ► Talk to Ruined Temple
- Move to Warden Chair (hidden)

Act 5: Flight of the Llama The Warden is awake! There's only one thing to do!

The Warden is awake! There's only one thing to do! Grab that Golden Llama and make a run for it!

Move to Golden_Llama



Act 1: Incarcerated!

The player beams into the prison in a hedge-maze like corridor not far from a group of pyramids. At the pyramids, prisoners fight. Collect the gems to activate a big stone door that is distant from here...

- Talk to Maya Monument
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Act 2: The Maze

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- Collect 25 Gems
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- Move to Race Three (hidden).

Act 3: Rat Race...

Races #1 and #2 go at it again - if the player is there (most gems there) he should get out! The player again has to move around the Prison looking for gems

- Collect 25 Gems
- Talk to Maya_Stone
- Move to Race Three (hidden)

Act 4: The Warden

Get the required number of gems and find a new

- Collect 25 Gems
- Talk to Ruined Temple
- Move to Warden Chair (hidden)

Act 5: Flight of the Llama The Warden is awake! There's only one thing to do!

Grab that Golden Llama and make a run for it!

Golden_Llama

MOVE TO EXPRACTION POINT, 2009



Benefits

- You (the designer)
 - Forces a complete understanding
 - Forces concise design
 - Highlights relationships in the system
 - Aids problem solving

 The goal of design is to efficiently communicate ideas.

 It can take a lot of time and effort, but isn't that what you are getting paid for?

People will read your designs!



Thank you!

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