

alex m. chong's *youth studio*

for
**creativity
& design**

how do you teach experience?

portfolio development

design skills development

real-world application of creative thinking

preparation for next generation of creative thinkers

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importance of creative thinking

creative thinking is for everyone

It's time to unfold a new generation of creative thinkers, and to get on board. There has always existed the traditional mentality that creative thinking is only for artists or designers - however just ask yourself this: who are the individuals creating new innovative cures in a rigid field such as medicine? Or the individuals devising new formulas and innovations in engineering? Creative thinking isn't profession-specific - it's merely a mindset that allows individuals overcome mental obstacles in very effective ways. In our new generation where creative thinkers are said to be the ones who will save us from the recession - creative thinking becomes the greatest asset allowing individuals to effectively adapt to situations and come out on top.

From the greatest entrepreneurs to the most successful businessmen, from well renowned scientists, leaders, and philanthropists to the most famous inventors and designers - these are all individuals who have harnessed creative growth and understood the importance of innovative, creative, and critical thinking. The common misconception is that not everyone has this potential to be great - but the beauty of creative thinking, is that it is a skill that anyone can develop.

the push for creative thinkers

As our generation takes a shift, so do the circumstances in which we live. We can no longer rely on the traditional mentality of relying on a university degree to automatically hand us our success. Degrees now merely expected in professional fields. And in our time of educational inflation - what differentiates one person from another?

The Government of Canada is starting to invest money in creative sectors as they've recognized its importance for our economic future. Companies are even taking a new value to a modular approach of working with other companies. Corporate ladders are starting to mean less, as we're now taking value into judging individuals by their creative assets.

The ability to creatively and critically think, and the ability to effectively adapt to situations has become more important now than ever in the history of humanity.

in preparation for a new generation

We're living in exponential times - when new information and technologies grow on an exponential level. It is estimated that the amount of new information we will produce this year alone, will surpass the entirety of information produced in the past 5,000 years. By 2010, the amount of new technical information is expected to double every 72 hours.

So how do students prepare for a new generation in exponential times, when the information they learn quickly becomes obsolete? How are we preparing students to have skills to adapt to new technologies, situations or jobs that have yet to be invented?

It's now time to start focusing on developing the ability to critically think and adapt to the wave of our new generation of creative thinking.

your instructor

Alex M. Chong, a talented student at Carleton University's Azrieli School of Architecture and Urbanism, is starting up a youth studio for creativity & design that will assist students with portfolio development, design skills development, and promote creative & critical thinking. The studio is targeted to high school students interested in developing and pushing their potentials through the process of creative thinking.

topics of focus

portfolio development

- Industrial/Product Design
- Architectural Design
- Interior Design
- Graphic Design
- Photographic Arts
- Advertising Design

Most traditional portfolio clinics and after-school art academies only assist in portfolio development by instructing students to prepare a cookie-cut portfolio. Alex instead will be working with students to develop their own ideas, and will provide resources to bring concepts into reality. Additionally, Alex will be sharing his wide network of students in various different design programs that can become a valuable resource when consulting on portfolio applications.

design skills development

- Freehand Drawings (Pencil, Pen)
- Detailed Renderings (Pencil, Paint)
- Drafting (Technical Drawings)
- Model Making (Wood, Plastic, Card)
- Photography (Film, Digital)
- Graphic Design (Logos, Print Design, Web Design)

Design is a universal principal that applies to all fields of design, and can be transferred from one field to another. Alex's studio sessions work on developing that fundamental design skill before students enter their university design programs. These universal skills learned through understanding and practicing the extremely powerful process of design can also be applied in everyday situations that require problem solving and the creation of innovative ideas.

creative thinking development

- Creative Thinking
- Visioning Innovating Ideas
- Effective Brainstorming Practice
- Design as a Problem Solving Process
- Presentation Skills
- Communication Skills
- Leadership Development

Critical and creative thinking is often an under-developed skill that is vastly under-appreciated. If students do not learn the fundamental skills to think critically and effectively adapt to situations, they will become lost in our new generation where adapting and innovating become the most greatest skilled asset. Alex's studio sessions not only help develop effective brainstorming practices, but also develops communication skills, leadership skills, and how to think critically and creatively about one's potential.

about alex m. chong

education

Alex is entering his third year of studies in his Bachelor of Architectural Studies (BAS) at Carleton University's Azrieli School of Architecture and Urbanism, which is becoming recognized as one of Canada's top architecture schools. Upon the review of his final project in his core studio class, guest professors and architects shared positive feedback agreeing that the project was "beyond its years" where Alex achieved one of the top marks of his class. Alex has become recognized within his school community and has been recommended for Carleton's official publication of student works after only his first year of studies.

advocacy of creative thinking

Alex has been passionately working with multiple youth groups (including Richmond Hill High School, the Korean Canadian Scholarship Foundation's Student Development Committee) promoting and advocating the importance of creative thinking, and motivating individuals to reach their fullest potentials. Alex loves working with youth and maintains a very personable approach in conversation. While working with students brings out Alex's exciting youthful energy - he is still able to maintain a professional stature in the many organizations and initiatives that he is involved with. His adaptable personality has allowed him to meet a variety of interesting individuals and build strong relationships that can easily be connected through this tutoring service.

Since his year off between high school and post-secondary studies in architectural design, Alex has become an active role within the Richmond Hill community, Korean-Canadian community, the Carleton University Architecture Students community, and in the general Carleton University student community. This summer, Alex's involvement will expand and extend to the Toronto community with several urban initiatives and collaborative projects involving numerous creative individuals working to push their own creative potential.

related experience

Alex has a vast amount of experience working with high school students. In his year off between grade 12 and his first year of university, Alex founded the Art + Design Society at Richmond Hill High School which became a significant student support group for portfolio development within the student community. Alex has provided consultation and portfolio mentoring advice, and prepared weekly lessons and seminars for design development. Alex also owns his own personal graphics design company.

After entering his Architectural Studies at Carleton University, Alex launched the Richmond Hill High School Alumni Association which hosted a seminar where he presented his well-received lecture "Empowering Youth Through Creativity" to promote creative thinking among high school students and to motivate them to become the best that they can be. After two years of his undergraduate experience, Alex has been assisting several first-year students as the unofficial TA giving support and advice from technical drawing skills to design development. These students have resulted with positive feedback in their final project reviews. Alex has also been working as a mentor for Korean-Canadian high school students with his involvement in the 2009 Konnect Leadership Retreat hosted by the Korean-Canadian Scholarship Foundation's Student Development Committee.

personal references

richmond hill high school

Elizabeth Kennedy - Teacher, RHHS Student Council Advisor

Victor Cheng - Teacher, RHHSAA Staff Liaison (reference for RHHSAA, Creativity seminar)

Vivian Chan - Teacher, RHHS Art Department Faculty Head (reference for Art + Design Society)

korean-canadian scholarship foundation

Lucy Shin - KCSF Student Development Committee (reference for Konnect High School Retreat)

carleton university's azrieli school of architecture & urbanism

Philam Nguyen* - Studio Instructor (reference for craft, drawing, design skills)

Renee Hynes* - Studio Instructor (reference for drawing, design skills)

John Cook* - Studio Instructor, Adjunct Research Professor, Architect (reference for architectural design skills)

* Reference letters available