



What we noticed?

Research Insights

We spent a week identifying the issues currently facing Irish society. These are some of the insights we discovered.



There is a disconnect between what people think the government is for what the government thinks it should do and what the government actually does.



People struggle to find affordable homes in key areas.



Our current education system is overly focussed on teaching limited

What's happening?

Lack of Purpose

In reaction to the scientific revolution and the abusive use of power by the Catholic Church we are slowly erasing religion from various aspects of Irish life, including the State, Education, Geography, and Community. This has resulted in a sense of purposelessness within Irish Society.



The State

The State's constitutional justification, rooted in religion, fails to provide a clear sense of purpose.



State Institutions

When State Institutions inherit this ambiguous sense of direction, their actions often fail to align with a bigger picture.



Us a society via struggle to halance:
Logic removal, there is a logic removal of the logic removal o



Individuals are no longer dependant on their local ecosystems which is causing a decline of inter-reliance within geographic communities.



With the decline of religion, we are losing its community aspects which knitted neighbourhoods together through shared storytelling.



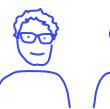
Community Less inter-relian to an interaction while Communities results in neutropours having

less common ground, leaving individuals feeling disconnected,



Disconnected individuals become more self-focused and less attentive to the interests of others.









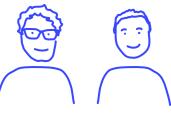
Intro

Having just graduated from NCAD in 2023 we (John & Tom) thought it would be fun to test our skills on a personal design project. We considered many topics but settled on the following project focus:

"How might we improve Irish Society".

We then spent two months working on the project part time.

This booklet shows the source of our ideas so that others can follow our process and better understand where we are coming from.



Springschaft origin

Spring

- We started our project in spring
- Spring symbolises new beginnings and rebirth

-schaft

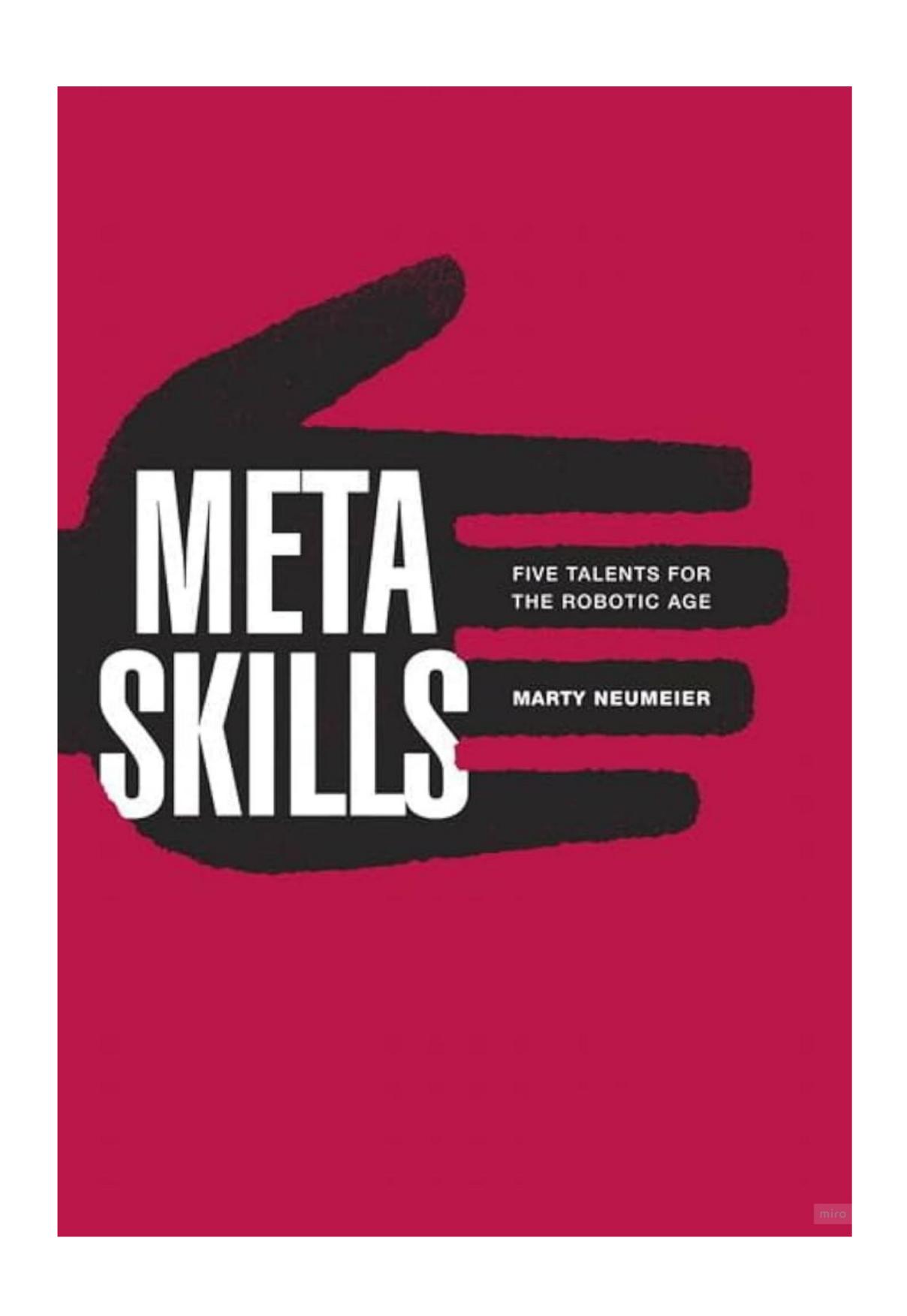
→ Taken from the concepts of 'Gemeinschaft'
 → and 'Gesellschaft', translated from German as Community and Society.



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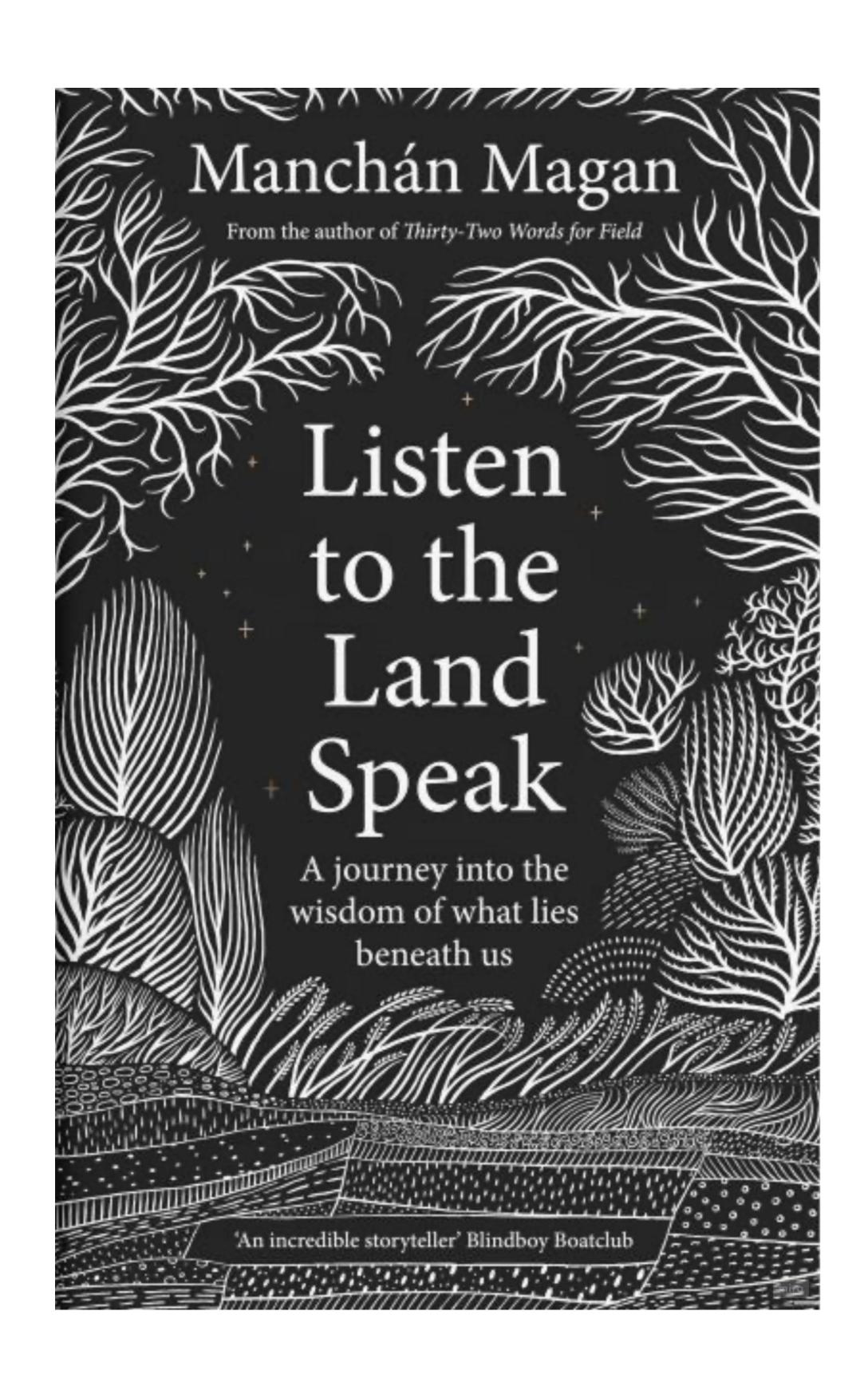
Meta Skills - Five Talents For The Robotic Age

~ Marty Neumeier

In Metaskills Neumeier examines what we've got wrong about human creativity.

Unfortunately, our education system has all but ruled out genius. Instead of teaching us to create, it's taught us to copy, memorize, obey and keep score.



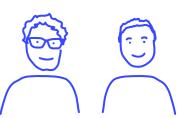


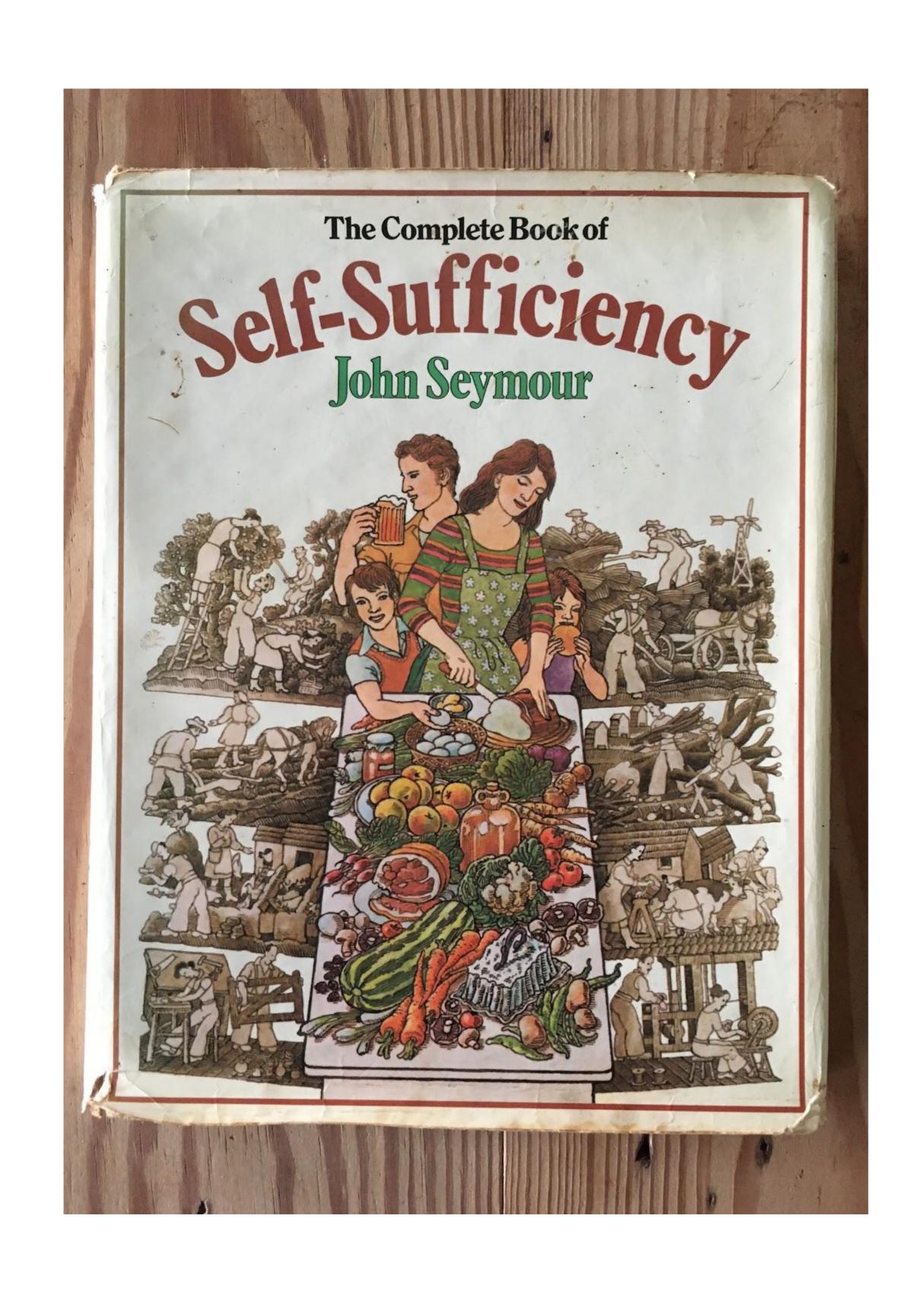
Listen To The Land Speak

~ Manchán Magan

Listen To The Land Speak explores the historic wisdom hidden in and preserved by the landscape around us.

All was well until the Age of Reason dawned and the urge to define and delineate our reality became an oppressive compunction.





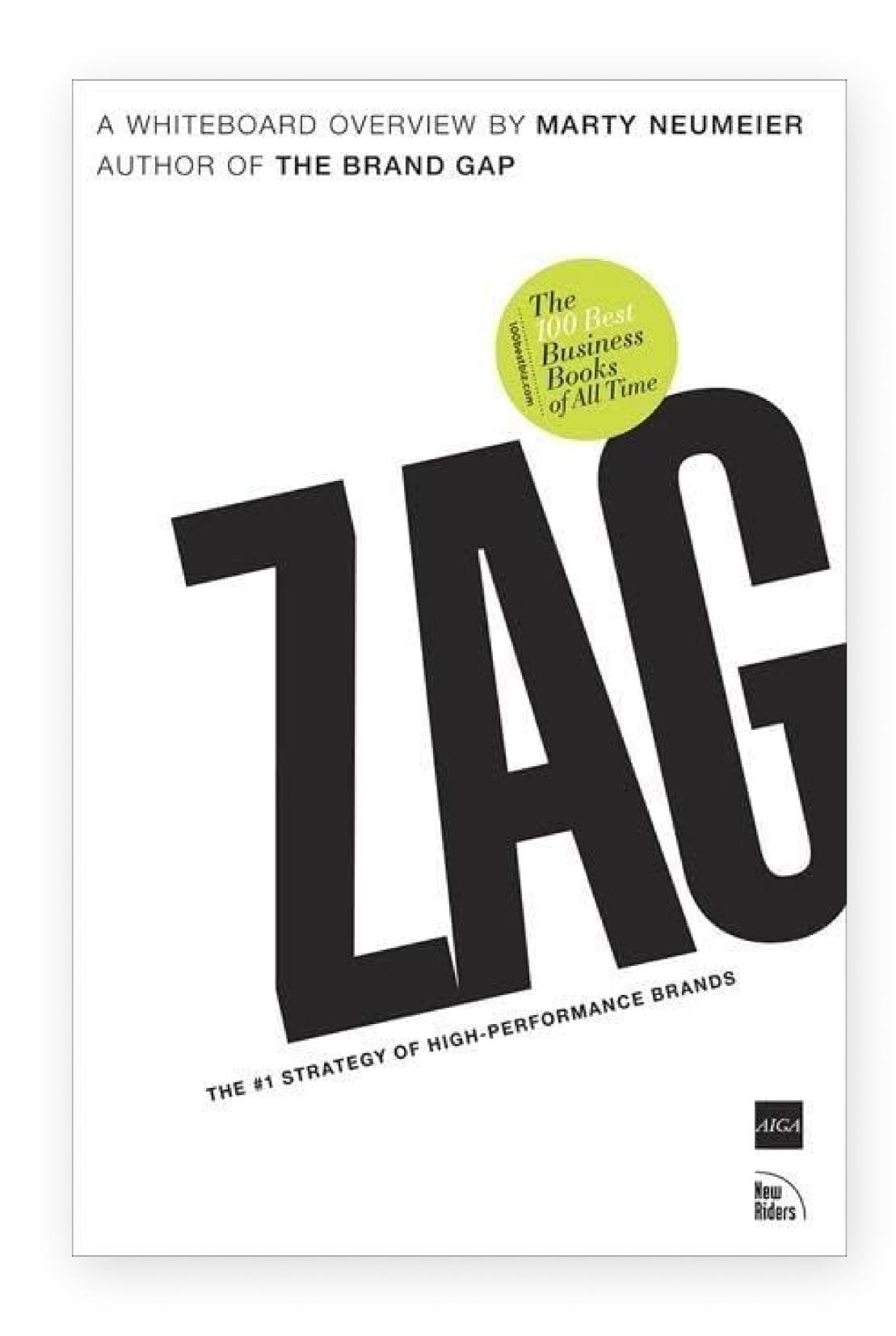
Self-Sufficiency

~ John Seymour

Self-Sufficiency explains how individuals can develop self reliance and in so doing achieve a more fulfilling lifestyle.

Self-sufficiency is not 'going back' to some idealised past in which people grubbed for their food.





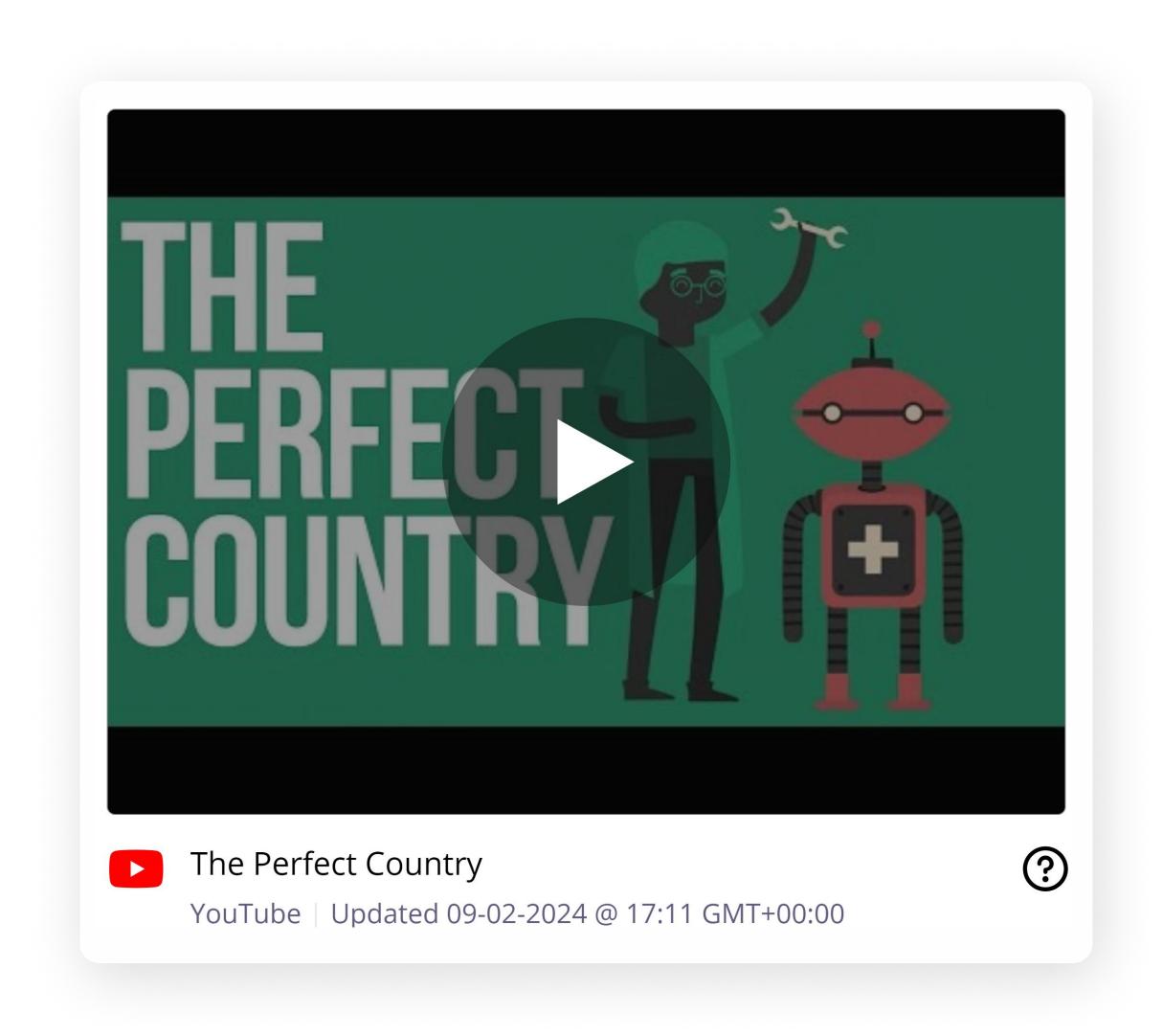
ZAG - The #1 Strategy of High-Performance Brands

~ Marty Neumeier

This is a short book designed as a guide to help people understand and build brands in the modern world.

We humans are more adept at adding elements than subtracting them.





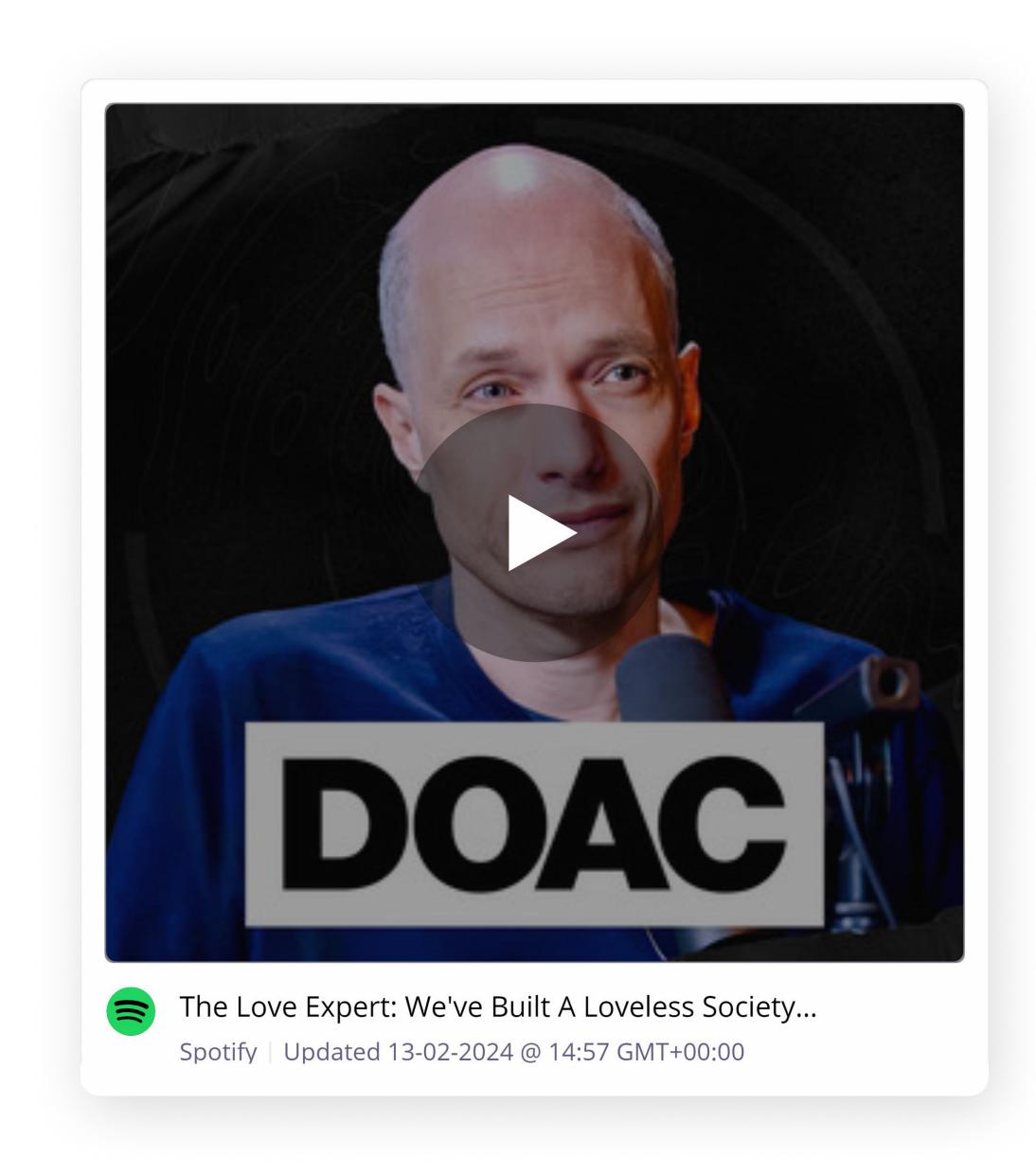
The Perfect Country

~ The School of Life

The *Perfect Country* speculates about what a perfect country could look like as a means to address current problems.

When it's the right sort, work can be far more fulfilling than leisure.



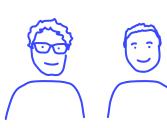


The Love Expert - We've Built A Loveless Society & It's Making Us Depressed

~ Alain de Botton, Diary of a CEO

Alain addresses why mental health issues are on the rise and how our society's ideologies affect the ways in which we love and live.

"If you really believe in a world in which those who get to the top deserve to get to the top by implication you are also positing the existence of a world in which those who are at the bottom deserve to be at the bottom."





Cultivating Purpose and Leading with Optimism

~ Simon Sinek

In this talk *Simon Sinek* answers questions related to why purpose is important when it comes to organising people.

Absent Idealism: All we look for is right or wrong. Absent Idealism: We no longer see ourselves on the same team in pursuit of the dream we see each other in opposition to me being right or you being wrong.









www.theguardian.com

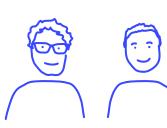
Ireland's housing crisis is a disaster for its people - and a gift to far-right fearmongers | Rory Hearne

Decades of skewed policy have led to one of Europe's worst shortages of affordable homes. Now it is being weaponised against refugees, says Rory Hearne of Maynooth University Ireland's housing crisis is a disaster for its people - and a gift to far-right fearmongers

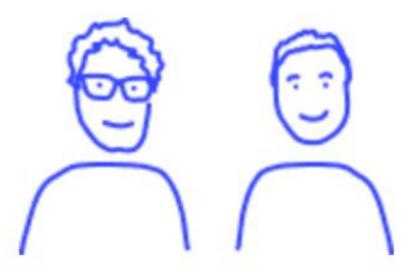
~ Rory Hearne

Hearne examines the effects of the Irish housing crisis, its causes and the current situation.

Ireland used to have one of the highest rates of home ownership in the EU. But despite near full employment and record economic growth in recent years, just 66% of housing is owner-occupied now, down from 79% in 1991.



Springshaft - Research



Hello, this survey is designed to gather research for our design project. We are spending five weeks exploring how we might improve Irish society. If there are any questions you don't want to answer that's fine. Have fun!

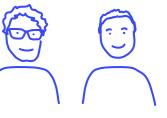
Thank you, John & Tom

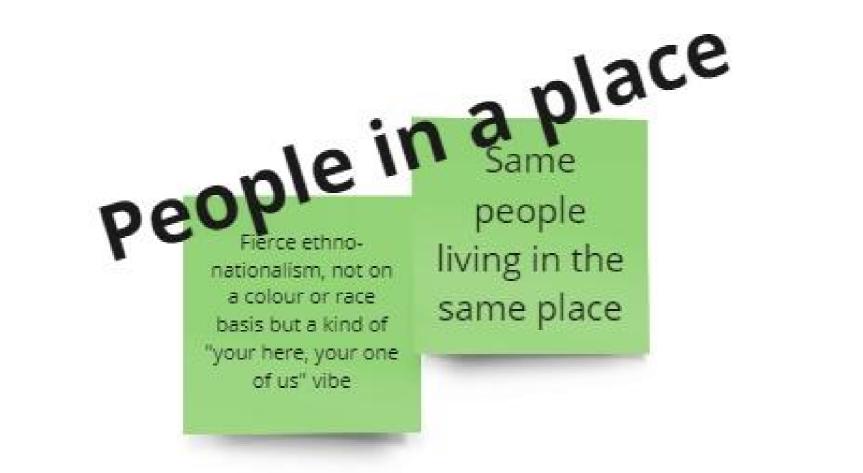
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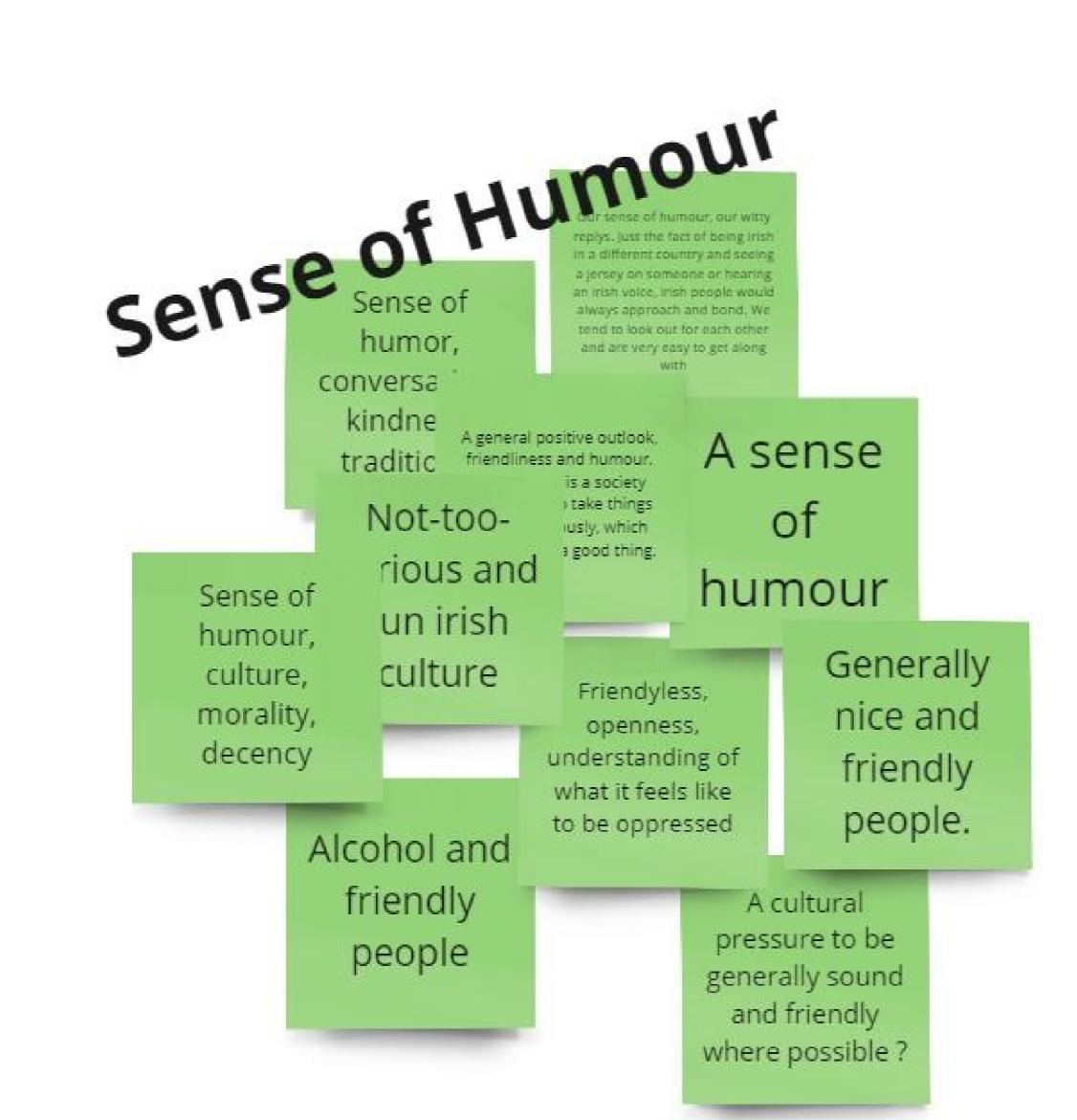


Survey

As part of our research we conducted an online survey during February 2024 with questions centred around the topic of 'How we might improve Irish society'.







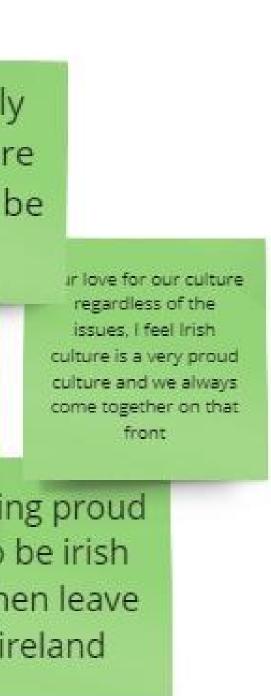




What do you think binds





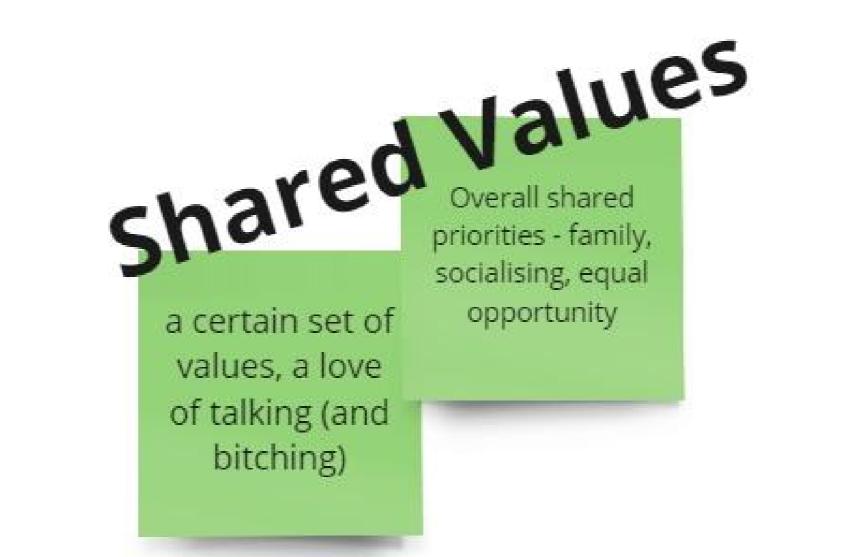


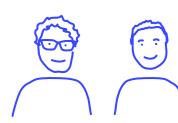
Sense of humour, Music, drinking culture, sport - gaa and rugby



Irish society together?

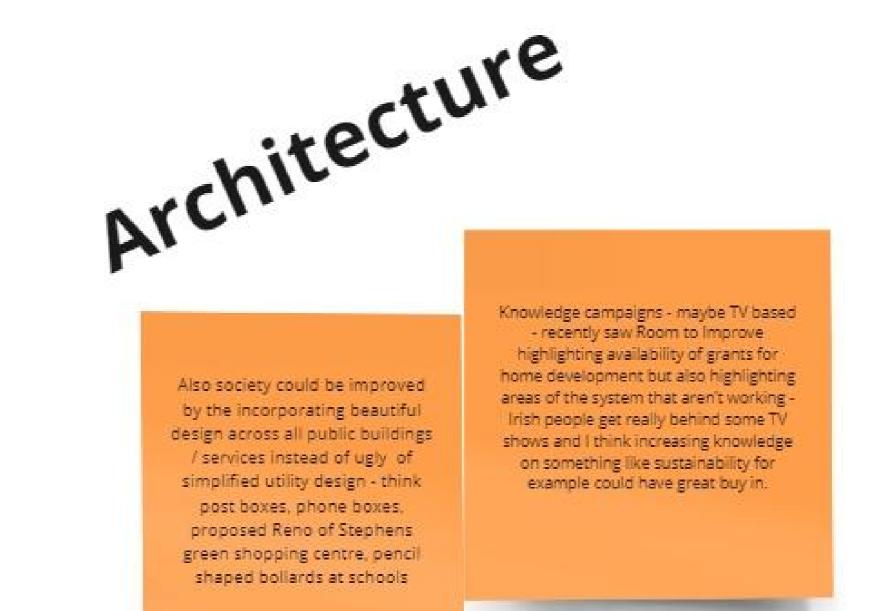
Diversity for the most part, always going to be those opposed that are set in their old ways





Honestly no idea Space / communities running groups, yoga in the park More community based events/ I think we need systems such as More funding for more public spaces public spaces like community that aren't hostile to outdoor humans and even centres, free swimming pools, encourage human courses etc playgrounds etc interaction. More communities, by community improving housing ingrained and health care or bypassed) rather than an number. housing extates coopers studin. More grants for small businesses, black modely policies, by making for the arts. That should be reservine /initiatives Irish people proud of our country We need to find a new way to knit Toolkits - within communities tagether since much of communities what our small communities revolved white it, recignise and articials their experiences. around has been or is being eroded. empowering people quite rightly eg catholic church. needing neto. Letti croney spens on Provine ammosticionaryeg the SSN of the ENSK (SSS), SSS, SSS to work with each, compulsory heteronormativity, shame? so maybe we make more efforts to share skills and the next extraordinate project to communities can set encourage the growth of communities in new positive ways that keep young ppl common goals here? Especially in Ireland outside of dublin where it feels like there is literally as studies. More greats for small businesses. More nothing to do but be heteronormative og noney for the acro. Than should be neader the son. play football, drink; go to mass, get married, have bables, die 7 More community projects eg free concerts, more benches, social clubs

SOZ



Bring back the Trolley on the trains!

What are some fu Irish society coul

Festivals



Not sure, I think developing biodiversity in rural areas would be good



Go through military service

Share what makes us different whilst respecting our individuality

n ways you think d be improved?...

Offically I don't know if there

don't know if there are fun ways, we just need better budgeting and perhaps a better government. Offer incentives to allow more people make/ create a liveable wealth standard and stop living off taxpayers money.

Emigration

More affordable housing to stop people emigrating.

In terms of fun, more events
people together and more oppositions
for young adults to stay in Ireland. Young
people are living the country at an
alarming rate and have no reason to stay
due to the issues of Irish society. I think
something needs to be done to give Irish
people incentive to stay because most
people don't want to leave family and
friends behind but haven't got many
options to do otherwise. Maybe finding a
way to provide more options would be a
good way to begin ©

Bringing people together

Raising money for charities. Children bring communities together, maybe something through kids.

More activities to do on bank holidays, Ireland is really lucky that we get so many bank holidays, but nearly everywhere is often shut on these days, especially local businesses. I wonder if something nice could be done on these days to get people out instead of being in the house all day.

Offer more extracurrr activities, especially for kids, in local to mainty centres. Not tecessarily sports either, as some kids may want to do other stuff. Organise more local festivals and markets to get people to go outside and interact. A good example is the people's park market in Dun

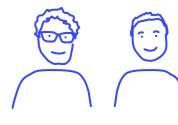
Laoghaire

More emphasis on allowing children to learn at their own pace, recognise and articulate their experiences. More support for parents and less shame around needing help.

Teaching, studying

Education target learning difficulties

aifficulties



Hardworkers

Everyone Sheep follows

Always changing

Small bird eg: swallow

Horse

Not the biggest, not the scariest, but by their own will they'll go further and do more than any other could

Hardworking with nice temperaments. Outdoor

creatures

Loyal Lives in Fox or packs, strong, wolf clever, wild Small but Mother protective and loyal to Hen. the end

Mythic Magpie Wolf - asso

A very tired Tired - n current iss wolf

face

If you had to pick an ani society which animal we

Hippo

Beautiful solid string but potential if above are not addressed to be fldangeroys, violent and unpredictable

Herron

The way Irish people gently walk through the brush trying not to upset people / each other, a gentle country - which got (government) a wake up call in November 2023



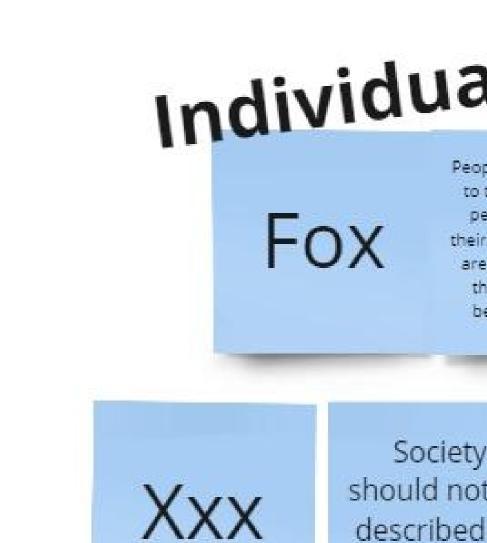
deer

Hyper sensitive to their environment, capable of being elegant and graceful, and fierce, often floundering about.

Fresh Air for Mental

Fresh Air for Mental

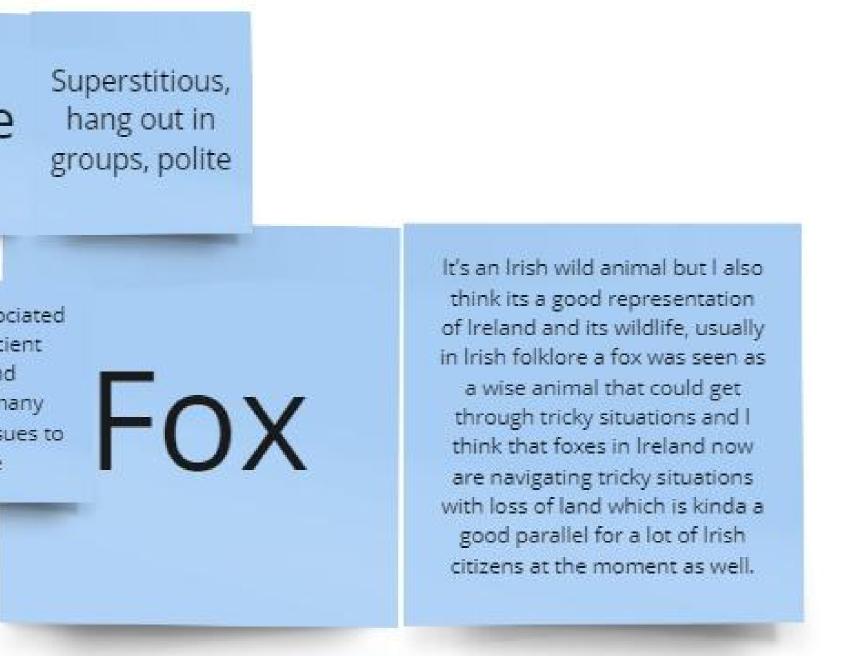
Ai



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animals





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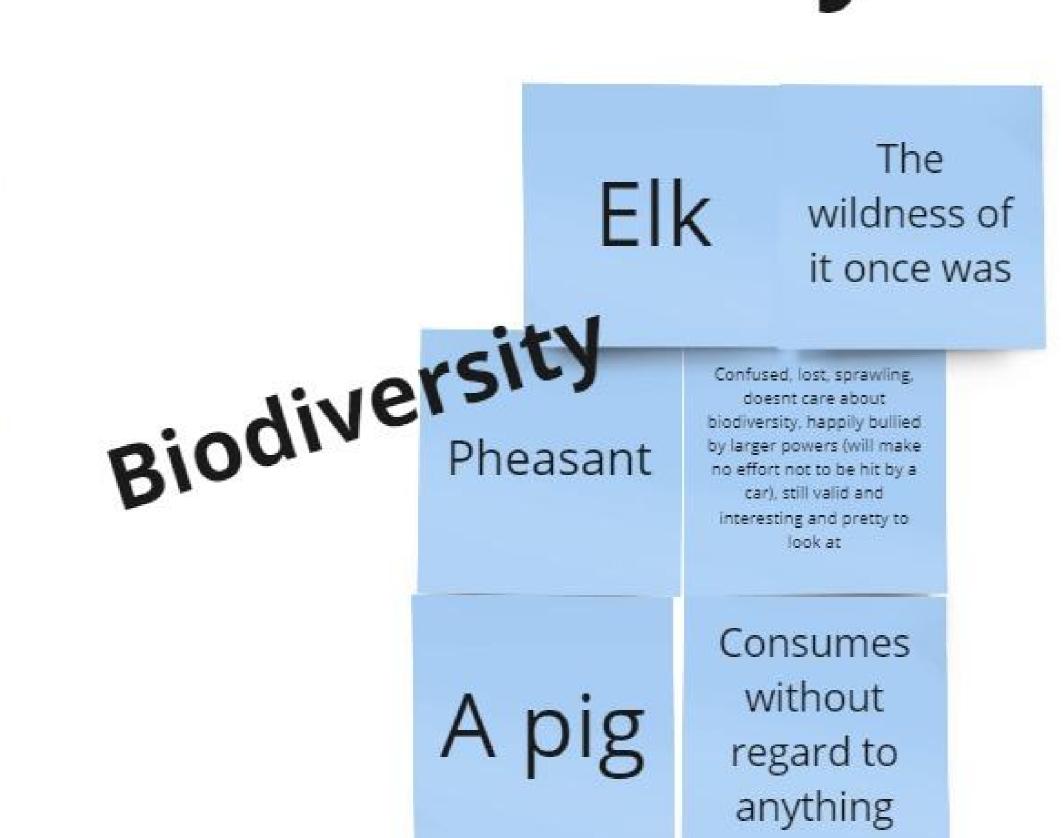
come the same

neighbours. Foxes solitary animals I





mal to describe Irish buld it be and why?

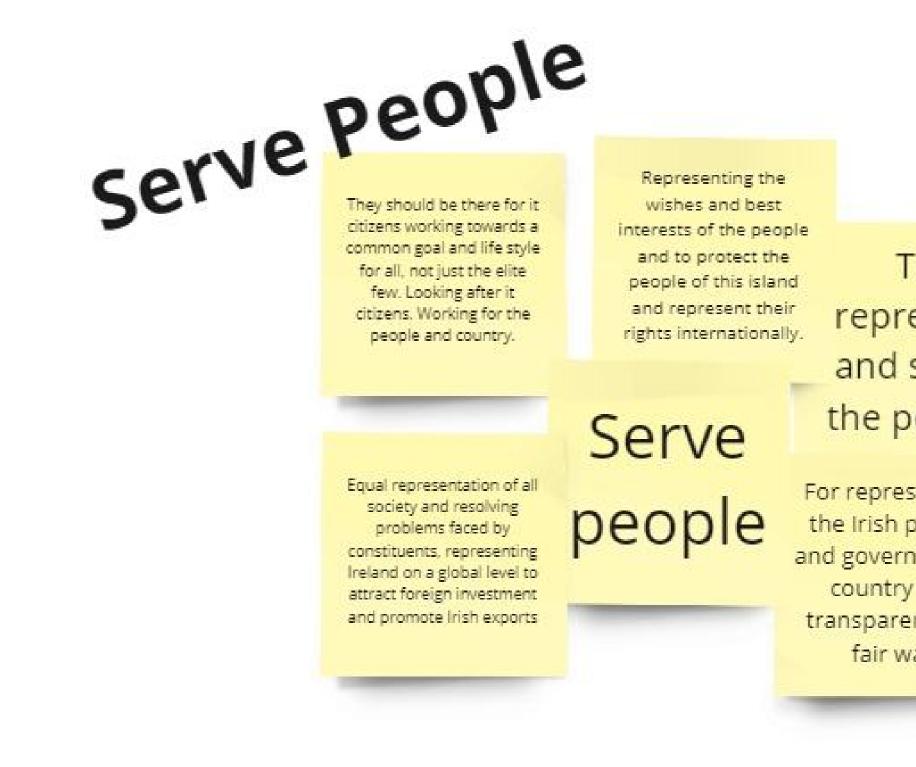






idk

I would like to hear taking General from the government what the government regulation, law thinks the government our setting, but is for because im not sure at this time gobshites all of money em Local level it's more about the needs of Hard to Serving the area. Government is itself at tell about making the big bigger not this point. really! growing the rest. Making sure Very little, the poor stay get sinn poor and the feinn in rich get richer



What do you think the g





The government is do the best for the people. It should

esent

serve

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ing our

supposed to be for the people, it's supposed to represent our nation in Europe and the world.

Policy implement fairness supports care system

interests of its citizens. Of the people for the people.

It should be for the spread of wealth and regulation of services and goods to meet the populations needs. But, like, it's not.

Improve Society
Transported the country the country to make the co on trying

> Giving the people their wants and needs in the best way possible

To present a future proof society in which the people have the best chance at a decent life...to uphold justice and champion the actions required to ensure we are moving forward.

overnment is for?

mplement Policy
Creating policies
and legislation

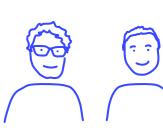
To make policies to improve the country while balancing issues such as finances, security, legislation etc.

In theory: implementing policies to help the general population Often in practice: implementing policies to help themselves and their friends

To carry out the policy, actions, and affairs of the state. They should be identifying the issues in our society & putting plans in place to fix them

between.

) implement policies dentified by ²arliament

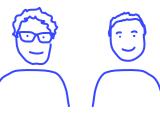






Co - Design Workshop

On the 24th of February we held a Co-design workshop with a small group of participants. We used this to gain insights, gather feedback on our research so far and come up with some fun ideas.

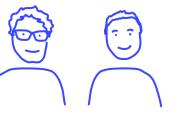














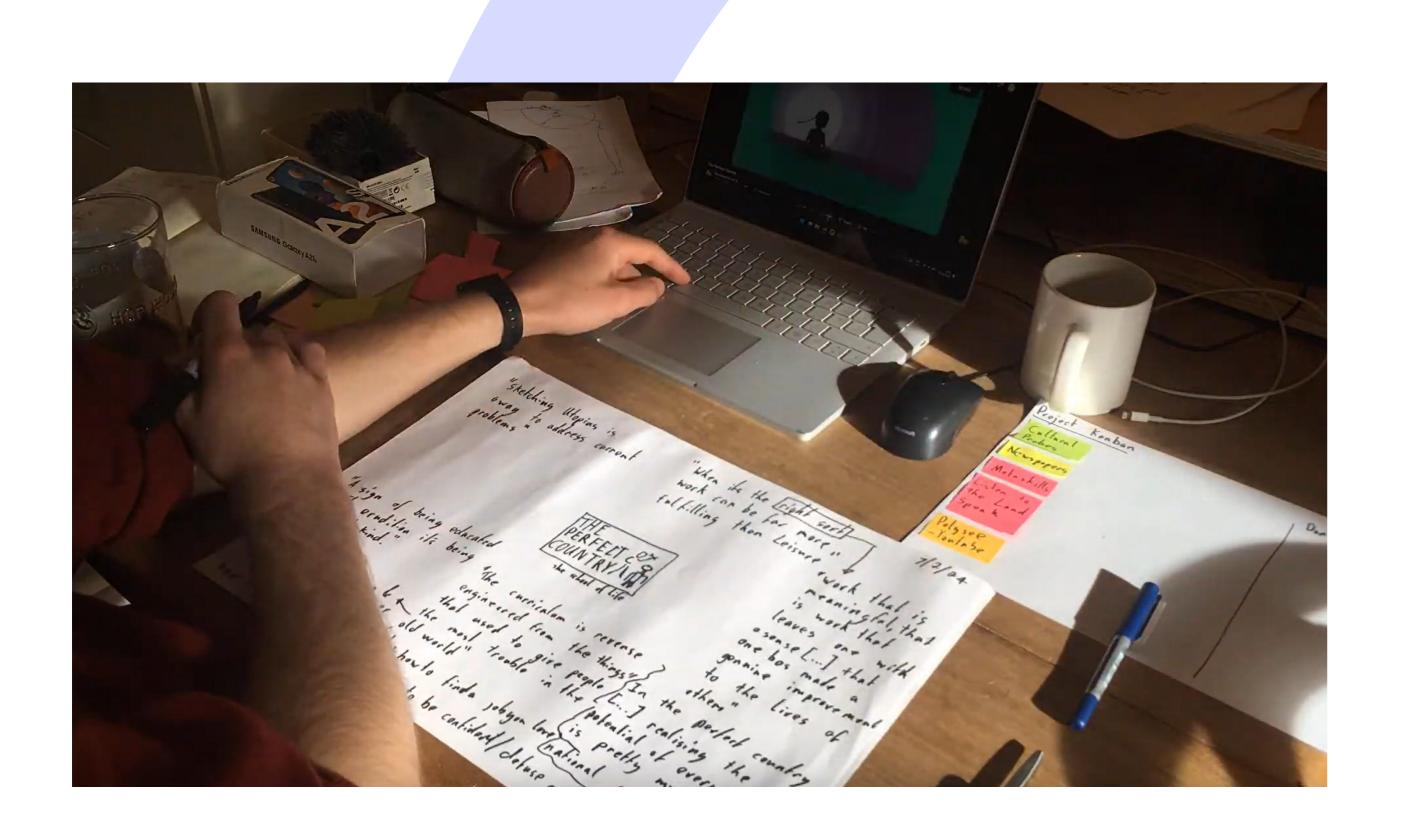






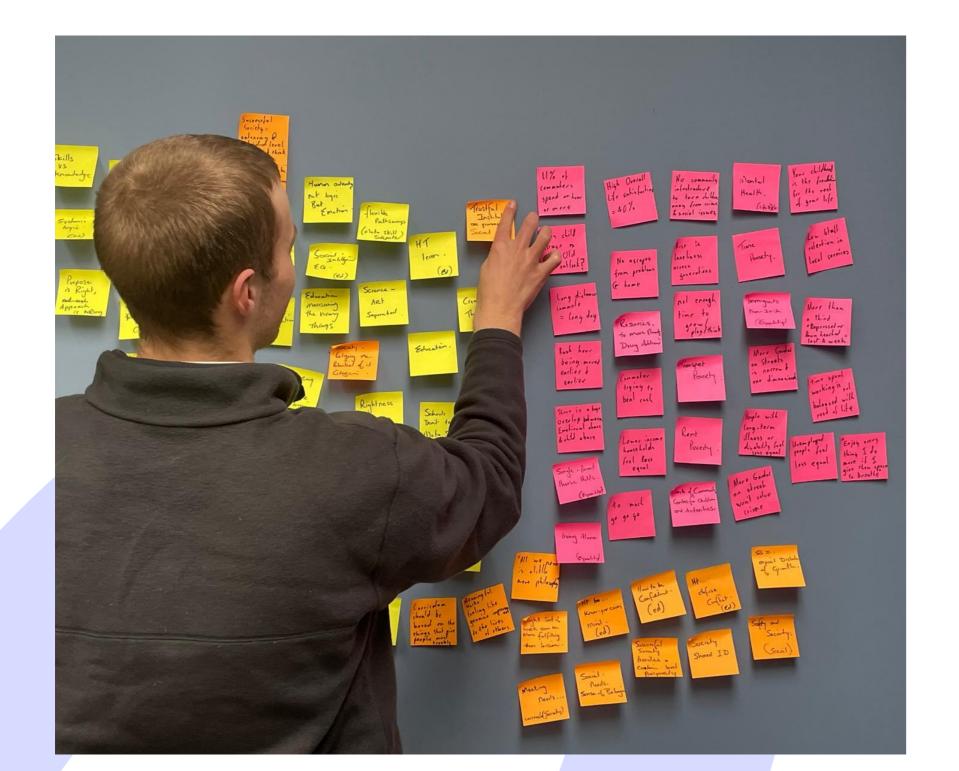


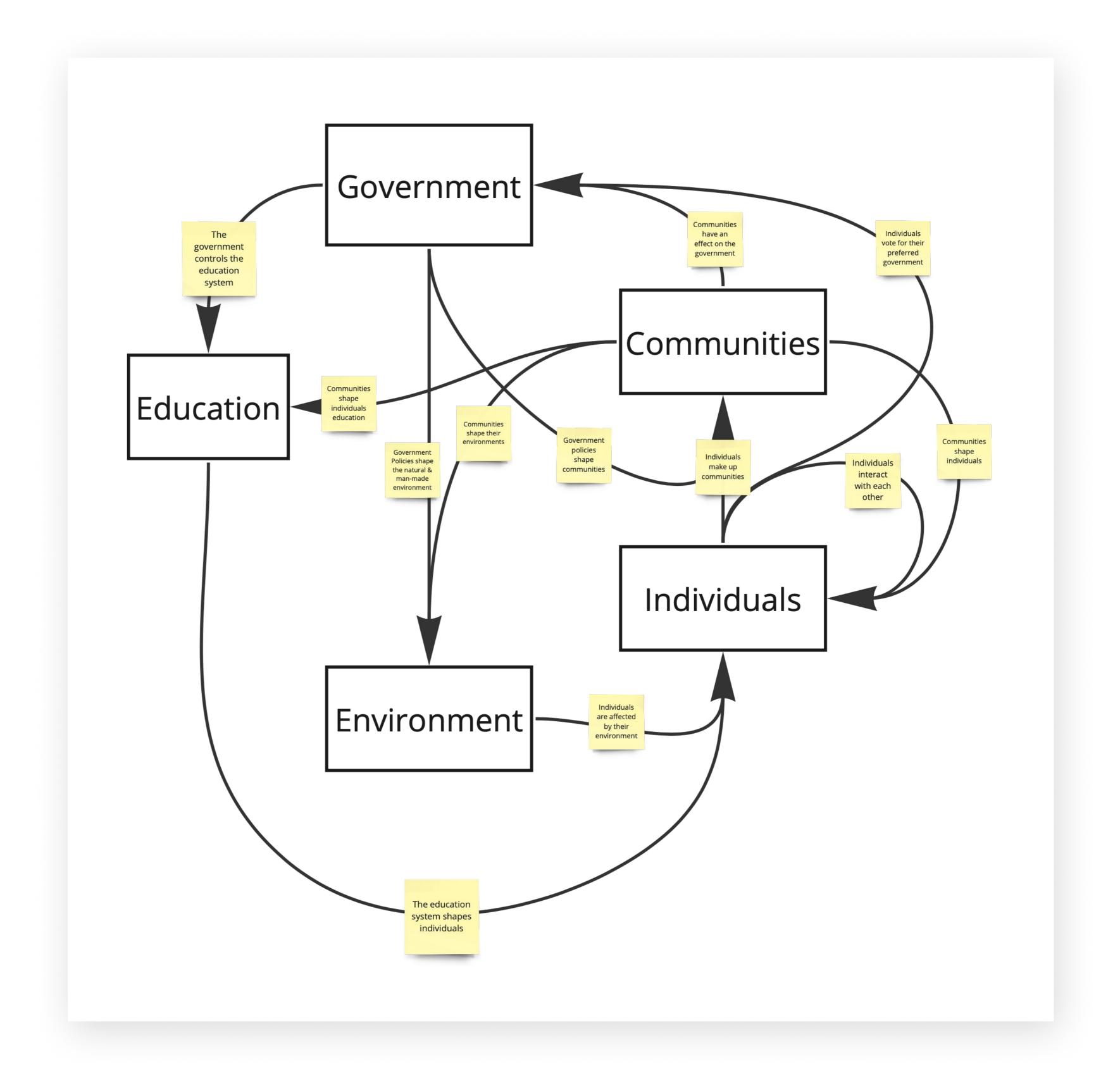










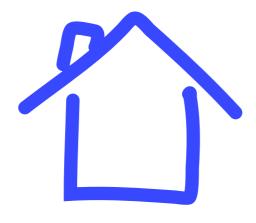




Research Insights



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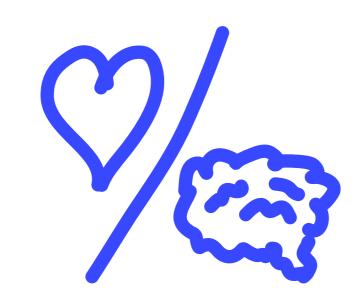


People struggle to find affordable homes in key areas.



Our current education system is overly focussed on teaching limited content in a restrictive manner.

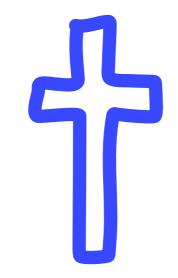




As a society we struggle to balance: Logic & Emotion, Science & Art, Knowledge & Creativity.



Individuals are no longer dependent on their local ecosystems which is causing a decline of inter-reliance within geographic communities.



With the decline of religion, we are losing its community aspects which knitted neighbourhoods together through shared storytelling.



Springschaft?

Research Summary

Having just graduated we thought it would be fun to put our skills to the test on a project with no restrictions. That's why we are spending 5 weeks exploring how we might improve Irish society. This is a loose summary of our research so far.

Springschaft - Survey

Springshaft - Research

Purpose 🎯

Insights



- There is a disconnect between what people think the government is for, what the government thinks it should do and what the government actually does.
- The state institutions that fail in the eyes of the people lack focus & a clear purpose.

Secondary Research



to the

Metaskills ~ Marty Neumeier In Metaskills Neumeier examines what we've got wrong about human creativity.

> "Unfortunately, our education system has all but ruled out genius. Instead of teaching us to create, it's taught

us to copy, memorize, obey and keep score."



Listen To The Land Speak ~ Manchán Magan

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"All was well until the Age of Reason dawned

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Self-Sufficiency ~ John Seymour

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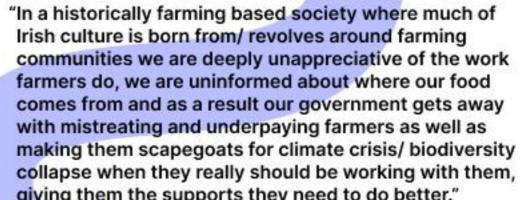
people grubbed for their food."

"Self-sufficiency is not 'going back'

achieve a more fulfilling lifestyle.

"I would like to hear from the government what the government thinks the government is for because im not sure at this time"

Recent Graduate



"Our health system is archaic, poorly run by

change to keep up with our modern society."

an aged workforce with no capacity to

Laura ~ Privacy & Compliance

Anonymous

giving them the supports they need to do better."

"Too much autonomy is taken from people in the educational systems we have, and not enough emphasis is placed on organic curiosity and the opportunities to safely explore things. Moreover, the things that

are studied in school are not conducive to supporting a genuinely healthy and compassionate life."

Lucy ~ Actor

DOAC

The Love Expert: We've Built A Loveless Society & It's Making Us Depressed

~ Alain de Botton

Self-Sufficiency

Alain addresses why metal health issues are on the rise and how our societies ideologies effect the ways in which we love and live.

"If you really believe in a world in which those who get to the top deserve to get to the top by implication you are also positing the existence of a world in which those who are at the bottom deserve to be at the bottom."

"We need to find a new way to knit communities together since much of what our small communities revolved around has been or is being eroded - quite rightly eg. catholic church, compulsory heteronormativity, shame?"

Anonymous

Reliance 💥



- causing a breakdown in society. Modern society is dependent on elaborate and
- expensive technology that individuals have no control
- We have forgotten that our shared reliance on the -> ecosystem we co-inhabit (land, plants & animals) is one of the founding factors that binds us together as a society.



- Our current education system is overly focussed on teaching limited content in the wrong way.
- The speed of modern life doesn't allow individuals time to reflect and understand.

Logic & Emotion



- As a society we over focus on Logic, Science & Knowledge and forget the power and importance of Emotion, Art & Creativity.
- The continually growing belief that individuals are in control of their own destiny is having an unrecognised impact on mental health.
- With the decline of religion, we have lost its community aspects which knitted neighbourhoods together through shared storytelling.

Housing 1



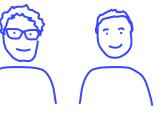
Due to governmental policy over the last 30 years there is a lack of affordable housing in key areas.

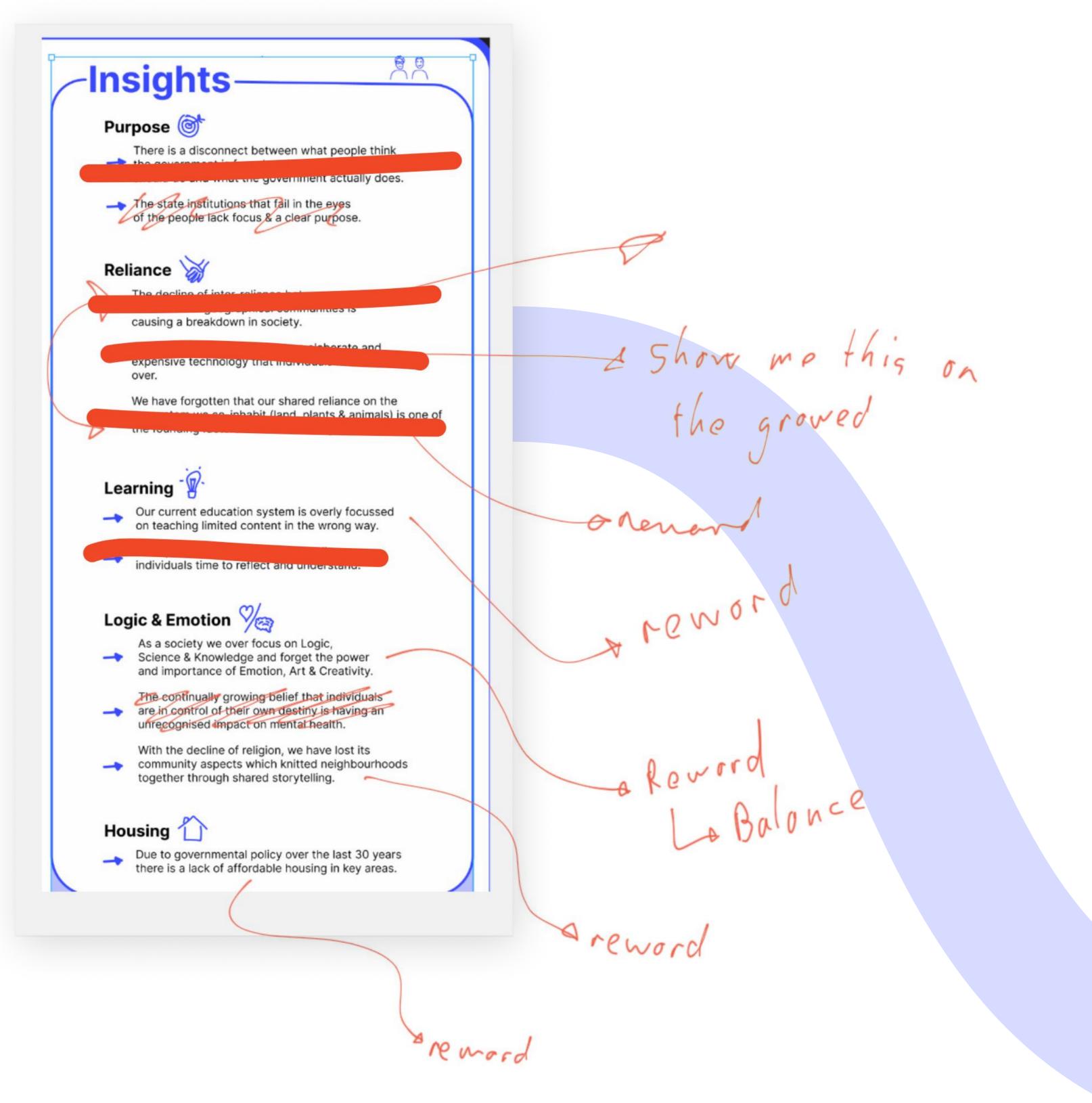
We recognise that some of these insights may be factually incorrect but we believe that they are a good starting point for coming up with ideas and that the feedback we gather from sharing them will help improve them.



Research Poster

Once we had wrapped up the research phase of our project we created this research poster to summarise our research so far and to gather feedback by sharing our insights.





miro

What's Happening?

Lack of Purpose

The combination of the scientific revolution and the abusive use of power by the Catholic Church has steadily erased religion from various aspects of Irish life, including the state, education, geography, and community. This has resulted in a sense of purposelessness within Irish Society.

The State

The state's constitutional justification, rooted in religion, fails to provide a clear sense of purpose, leading to actions that often fail to align.

State Institutions

When state institutions inherit this ambiguous sense of direction, they tend to excessively concentrate on a limited set of activities, resulting in ineffective outcomes.

Environment

This ineffective concentration on a limited set of activities leads to an uncoordinated approach in the creation and management of our physical environment. This is contributing to the breakdown of our natural and social ecosystems.

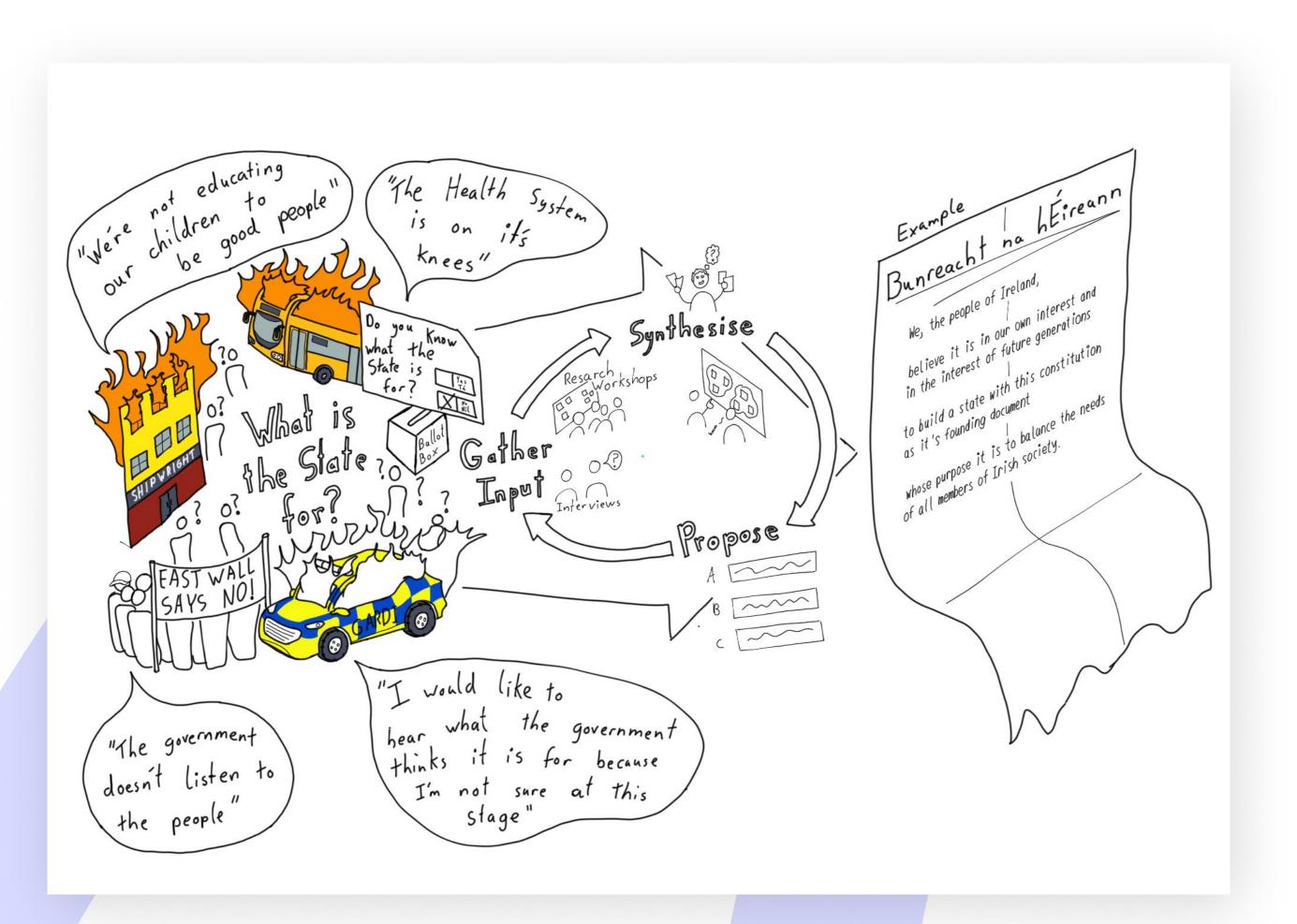
Community

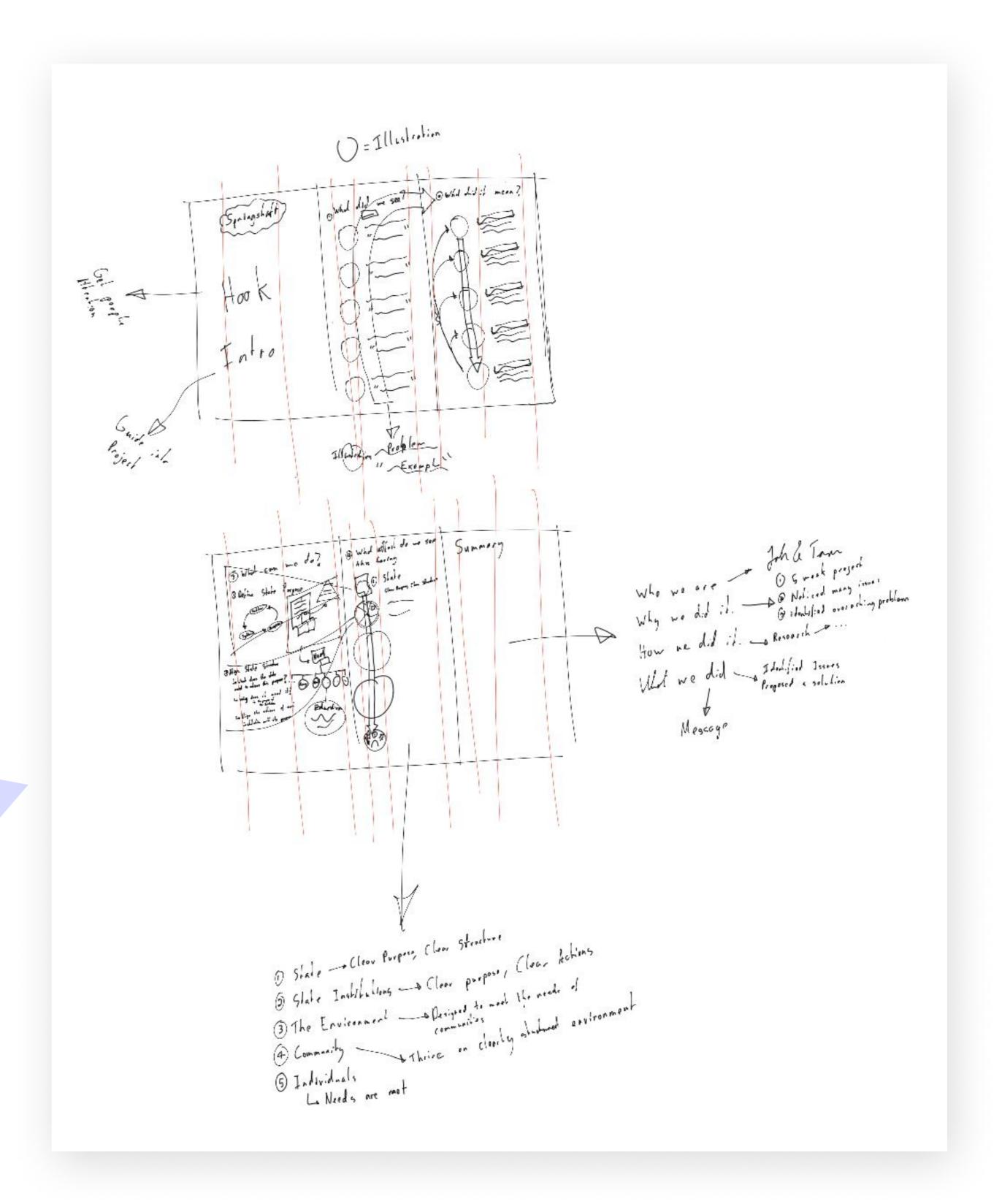
The breakdown of inter-reliance and interaction between members of geographical communities results in neighbours having less common ground. This leaves individuals feeling disconnected.

Individuals

When individuals feel disconnected they become more self-focused and less attentive to the interests of others. This can be observed when examining their interactions with society.













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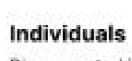
Environment

This failure produces an uncoordinated management approach to our physical environment, leading to the breakdown of our natural and social ecosystems.



Community

Less inter-reliance and interaction within communities results in neighbours having less common ground, leaving individuals feeling disconnected.



Disconnected individuals become more self-focused and less attentive to the interests of others.

Summary

e're John & Tom





graduated from NCAD it would be fun to put skills to the test by ve weeks exploring how nprove Irish society.

arching we noticed many cted issues and identified ning cause.

has a brand problem. The as of the people and the ns of the State don't align.

solved by working with the to clearly define what the and by then aligning its nd actions with this purpose.

> Isn't it easier if we know what the goal is?... What is the State for?

Contact Details & More Info! \

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Environment

that helphos the needs of all

members of society.

Sets where the - botance bas

Sources can be found on our website: www.springschaft.ie Legislature Executive

Works to achieve Judges if consisting meets that bolance that belongs. Health To create and maintain environments To help people actions:

Edwostion To seach people the Isola they need to help themselves and others achieve their needs.

Judiciary



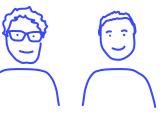
Individuals

Individuals feel connected and fulfilled and work to help other members of their communities.



What is the State for? - Flyer

We created this final flyer in order to share our ideas. It summarises our research insights and highlights our proposed solution.

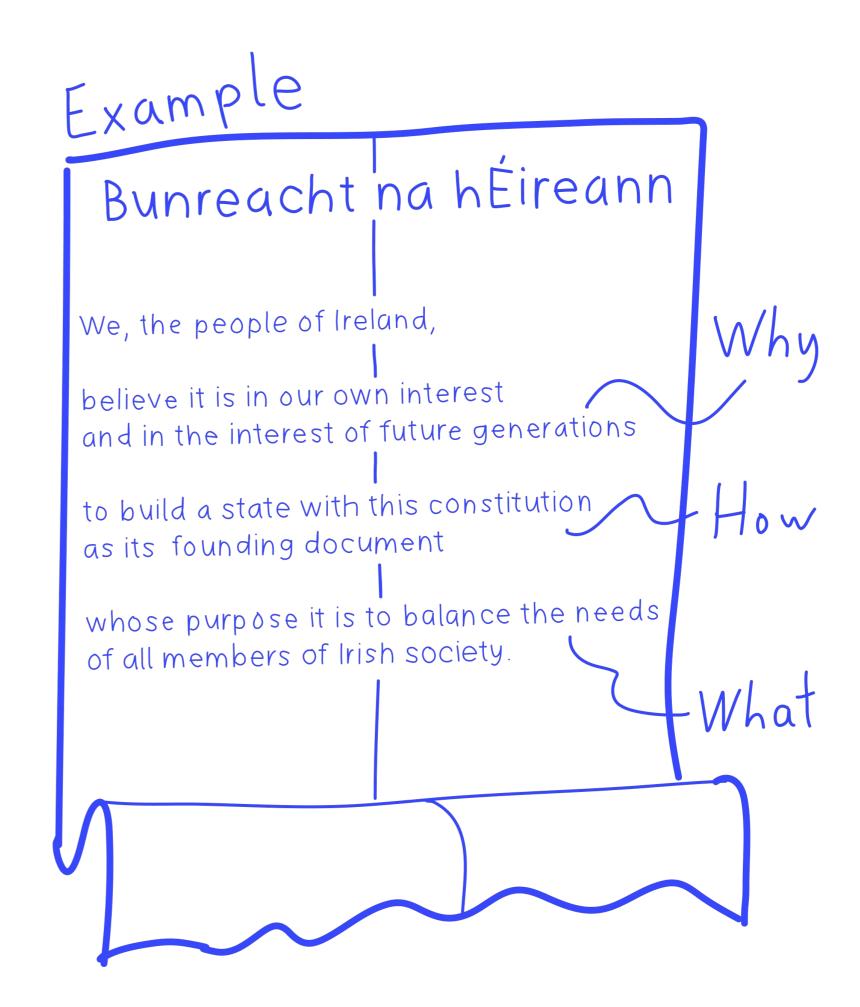


Conclusion

Irish society faces many seemingly unconnected problems.

At the heart of these issues is a lack of purpose. It is not clear what the State is for. Because of this the expectations of the people and the many actions of the State don't align.

This can be solved by working with the Irish people to clearly define what the State is for and by then aligning its structure and actions with this purpose.



In short the State has a brand problem. To solve this it needs to define what its brand is and align itself with that brand.



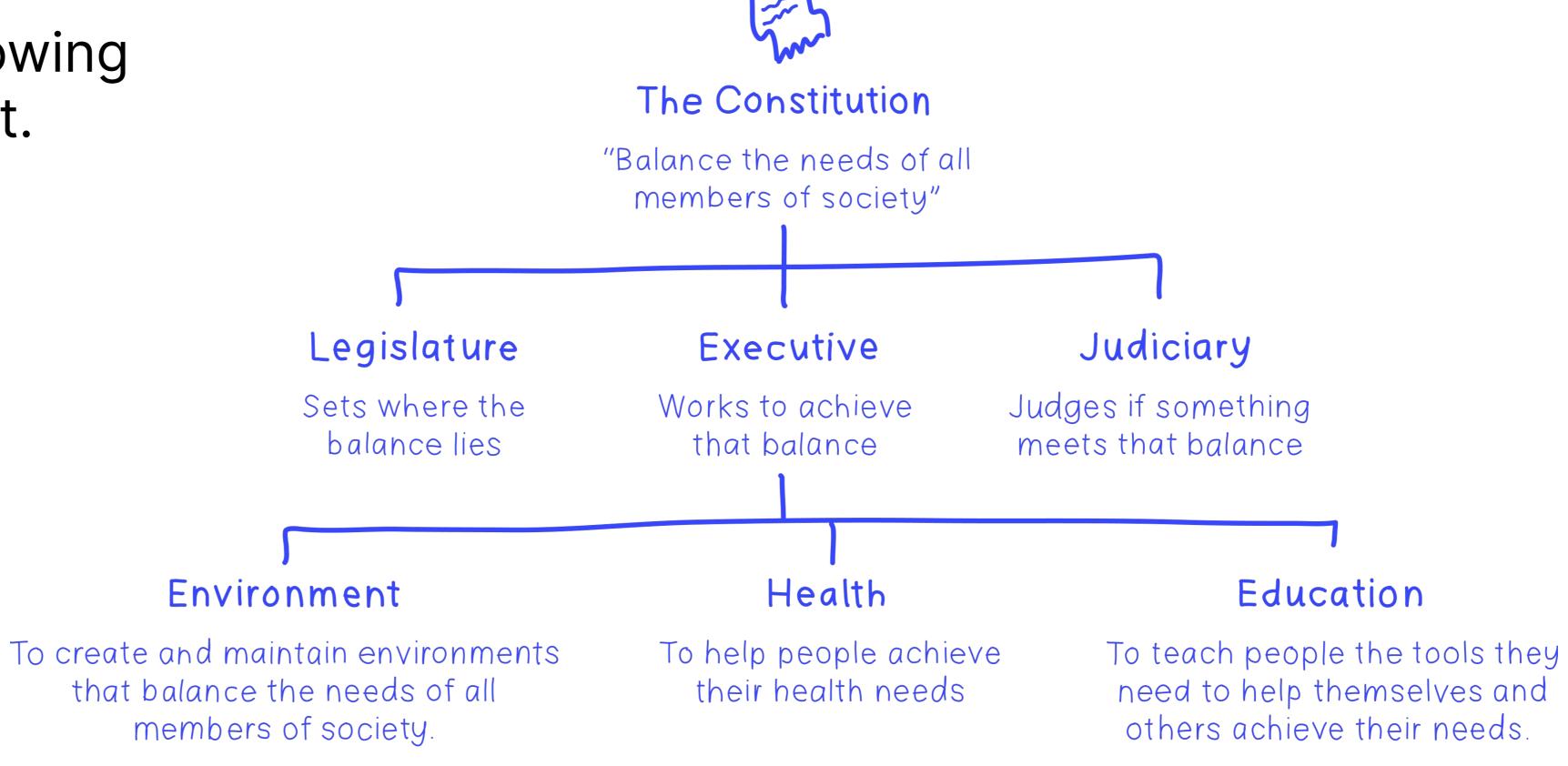
Thank you to everyone who helped make this project a reality.

These include: Enda, Daniel and Flora,

All the wonderful people who were kind enough to answer our Survey,

and those who participated in our Co-Creation workshop.

Lastly thank you for showing an interest in our project.



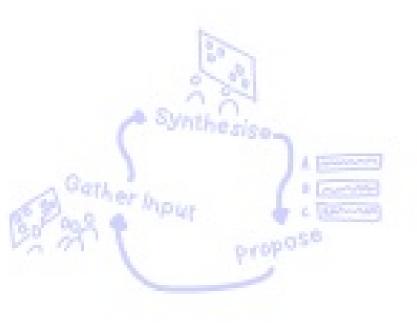


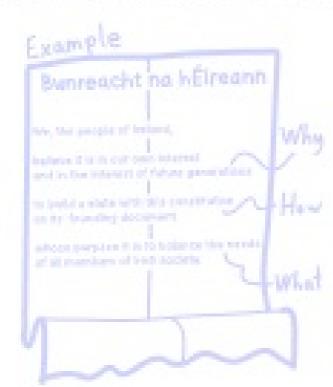
What can we do? State Alignment

There are a number of steps the State can take so that its actions align with people's expectations.

1. Define State Purpose

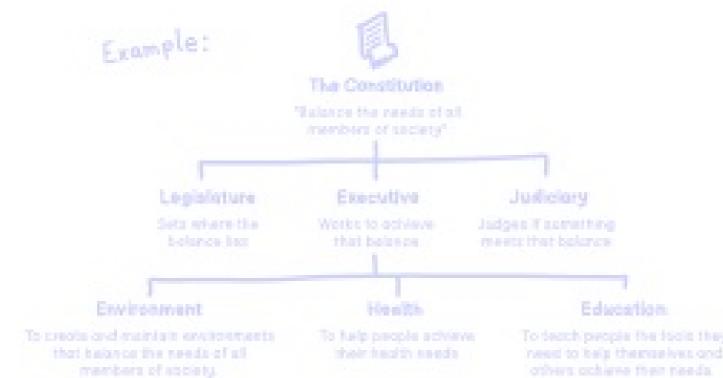
- Work with members of the public to gather feedback, analyse what they say and propose potential concepts.
- Create a simple clear statement defining what the State is for.





2. Align State Institutions

- Give each State Institution a simple clear singular purpose that fits under the state's overall goal.
- Remove all Institutions that don't fit underneath this goal.
- Align each Institution's actions with its purpose by asking: "Does doing this help us [insert institution Purpose]?"



Effect?

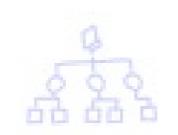
Clear Purpose

When a goal is clear it is easier to take the steps necessary to reach it. If the constitution clearly lays out why, how and what the state's goal is, the following will happen...



The State

Has a clear justified purpose and a clear understandable structure.



State Institutions

Clearly fit under the State's overarching purpose. Actions align with stated purpose.



Environment

Physical environment is created and managed in line with the State's purpose.



Community

Communities thrive in an environment designed for them to prosper.



Individuals

Individuals feel connected and fulfilled and work to help other members of their communities.

Summary

Hi, we're John & Tom





Having just graduated from NCAD we thought it would be fun to put our design skills to the test by * a few spending five weeks exploring how we might improve Irish society.

While researching we noticed many interconnected issues and identified an overarching cause.

The State has a brand problem. The expectations of the people and the many actions of the State don't align.

This can be solved by working with the Irish people to clearly define what the State is for and by then aligning its structure and actions with this purpose.

> Isn't it easier if we know what the goal is?...

What is the State for?



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