



Designing
Justice+Designing
Spaces

Tool 2



Collages





Description

Collage

Collage – pulling together a collection of images and organizing them in a single composition – is an easy way to explore concrete design ideas for a space or explore feelings such as love and forgiveness and how they relate to the design of justice spaces. Images seen in relationship to one another can take on new associations and more complex meanings than they do just on their own. Collage is useful when we do not feel comfortable drawing or sketching, and the use of photographic imagery can be helpful in conveying more complex emotions, intentions, systems, and ideas. In the case of restorative justice, collage is also a helpful tool for representing spaces that may draw on our past experiences and our visions for a new one.



Participants share and discuss their collages with the rest of the group. The facilitator and other participants discuss and critique the collages to explore their discoveries in terms of commonalities, differences, and other themes within and across participants' work. Emphasis should be on helping participants to discover their own interests and creativity and to help them clarify their thoughts, as the collage illustrates participants' understanding and perceptions of issues and helps them to express complex spatial issues.

Give participants the following prompt:

Reflect on the current criminal justice system as well as a criminal justice system that would be based on love. Select one or two images that represent the design of each of these justice approaches.

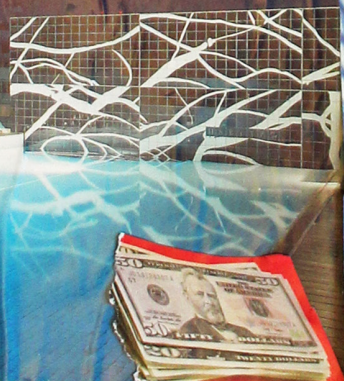
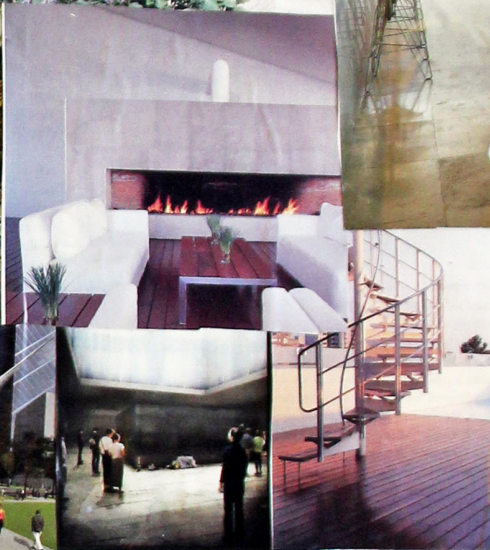
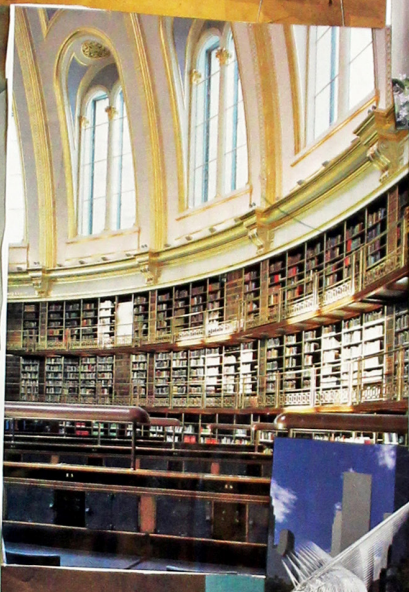
Allow participants approximately fifteen minutes to select their images from magazines or other images provided. While they are selecting their images, post to the wall a blank piece of paper (large enough to hold all the images) and divide it in half with a line or crease. On one side, participants will glue/tape their images of the current criminal justice system and on the other, their images for a justice system grounded in love.

After participants have selected their images, one-by-one they show and explain their images to the group and paste/tape the images on the appropriate side of the paper. In the course of their sharing, participants will create a group collage that represents all their images and perspectives.

After everyone has shared, facilitate a large group discussion about what can be gleaned from the collage:

1. What do you notice about each side of the collage, in terms of its design features?
2. Looking at each side of the collage separately, what are common design elements?
3. How are the two sides similar? Different?
4. What elements, if any, from the “love” justice are available in our current system?
5. How might justice outcomes differ across the two types of justice? What might contribute to these differences?
6. How might justice outcomes be similar across the two types of justice? What might contribute to these similarities?

If used at the beginning of a design workshop or course, the facilitator can use the collage to introduce the themes, goals, and tools to be used in their time together.





Plan and Process

Use this tool to

- Identify literal and metaphorical characteristics of buildings, rooms, and spaces.
- Picture the “feel” of a place or space.
- Analyze existing spaces and envision new spaces.
- Visualize concepts, ideas, or personal experiences.
- Explore participants understanding and perceptions of themes being discussed.
- Assist students to verbalize complex spatial issues by explaining their collages.
- Build community.
- Build empathy.
- Explore a variety of topics in which visual imagery may facilitate learning.
- Encourage participation from those who may be less confident in their verbal communication skills.



Modify the sample exercise

Prompt 1: Imagine you have to do one of the following:

- Face someone with whom you have had a great deal of conflict.
 - Deal with the worst thing you have ever done in your life.
 - Deal with the worst thing that you have ever experienced in your life.
- What kind of space would you need to do that?

Prompt 2: Create a collage that evokes a space:

- That represents love and self-forgiveness.
- That is restorative and peaceful.
- In which a victim offender dialogue could take place.



Exercise 1

When using collage to explore spaces in which restorative justice processes or practices would take place, assign each student a restorative justice stakeholder for whom to design. For example, one student may design a space with just the needs and concerns of the victim in mind, another student the offender, and another community members.

Exercise 2

Images may also be effectively used without compiling them into a collage. For instance, students select an image that represents them as an architecture, design aesthetic, landscape, or building.



Present and debrief the design tool

Sample questions to debrief the tool individually as well as across the collection of individual collages include:

1. In what ways does your collage represent restorative justice values? Which ones?
2. What similarities do you notice across the collages?
3. What differences stand out?
4. How are collages different across culture? Gender? Age?





Make and Build

The process of making a collage is easy and can be sloppy or neat. As long as you have some adhesive and materials to add to the collage, you are ready to go. Here are some specifics on the materials and suggestions on how to use them.



Materials

- Pictures
 - Magazines, related to such topics as architecture (e.g., Architect, Architecture Record, Dwell), art and photography, lifestyle, travel, culture, and nature, like National Geographic.
 - Precut images, especially if you cannot bring magazines into the institution. Precut images can sometimes make the image selection process faster and easier, if time is limited.
 - Photographs you have taken. Print them out on paper, so they are easier to work with and do not resemble photographs, which may not be permitted inside the institution.
 - Note: Ensure that the images represent a variety of socio-economic, gender, race, and cultural demographics, especially those of the people with whom you are working.

- Papers: Various types of two-dimensional media: Vellum (a type of paper), found objects (e.g., tickets or gum wrappers), construction paper, and patterned papers.
- Pens, markers, pencils and/or paint.
- Adhesives (glue sticks and/or double-sided tape).
- Child's scissors or rulers: Sometimes, children's blunt edge scissors will be allowed into a high security setting, which is ideal. If used, it is essential that you keep track of them as these are still considered dangerous to those who live and work in the facility and must be counted in and out. If children's blunt edge scissors are not allowed, the ruler or triangle in Template A is adequate. This should be cut out of two-ply chipboard so that you have a solid hard edge with which to rip sheets. See the image below.
- Base: A 14" x 17" to 18"x 24" board made of chipboard, cardboard, museum board, or multi-use art paper serves as a solid base for a collage. It allows for a range of large scale images coming from a standard magazine. If you choose a smaller size, you will be limited by the number and size of images that you can use.



Process

To start, pass out a base to each participant along with scissors. Small groups can share the adhesives, assorted papers, and piles of magazines. An ideal number of magazines would be two to three per person. If you are using whole magazines or if you have large images, participants can tear them by hand, cut them with the scissors, or tear them out with the Template A ruler. The assorted papers, along with pictures, can be folded, scrunched, or applied in a way that they project out from the board. Participants may focus on images alone or write or draw on the collage. Encourage participants to be creative with their use and application of these materials and to think intuitively, rather than analytically.



Resources

The Collage Workbook: How to Get Started and Stay Inspired by Randel Plowman (Lark, 2012).

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Participant Handout

Collages

Collage – pulling together a collection of images and organizing them in a single composition – is an easy way to explore concrete design ideas for a space or explore feelings such as love and forgiveness and how they relate to the design of justice spaces. Images seen in relationship to one another can take on new associations and more complex meanings than they do just on their own. Collage is useful when we do not feel comfortable drawing or sketching, and the use of photographic imagery can be helpful in conveying more complex emotions, intentions, systems, and ideas. In the case of restorative justice, collage is also a helpful tool for representing spaces that may draw on our past experiences and our visions for a new one.

Collage activity

In this activity, you will be creating a group collage that will include your chosen images as well as those of other participants. Consider the following:

Reflect on the current criminal justice system as well as a criminal justice system that would be based on love. Select one or two images that represent the design of each of these justice approaches.

After everyone has selected their images, you will share your images one-by-one and explain how they represent the current justice system and a system based on love. You will then affix your images to the collage. After everyone has shared you will discuss the collage.



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Templates

