

DesignInquiry is a non-profit educational organization devoted to researching design issues in intensive team-based gatherings. An alternative to the design conference, it brings together practitioners from disparate fields to generate new work and ideas around a single topic. www.designinquiry.net
DesignInquiry 2009: DesignLess EMILY LUCE sept 30 2009

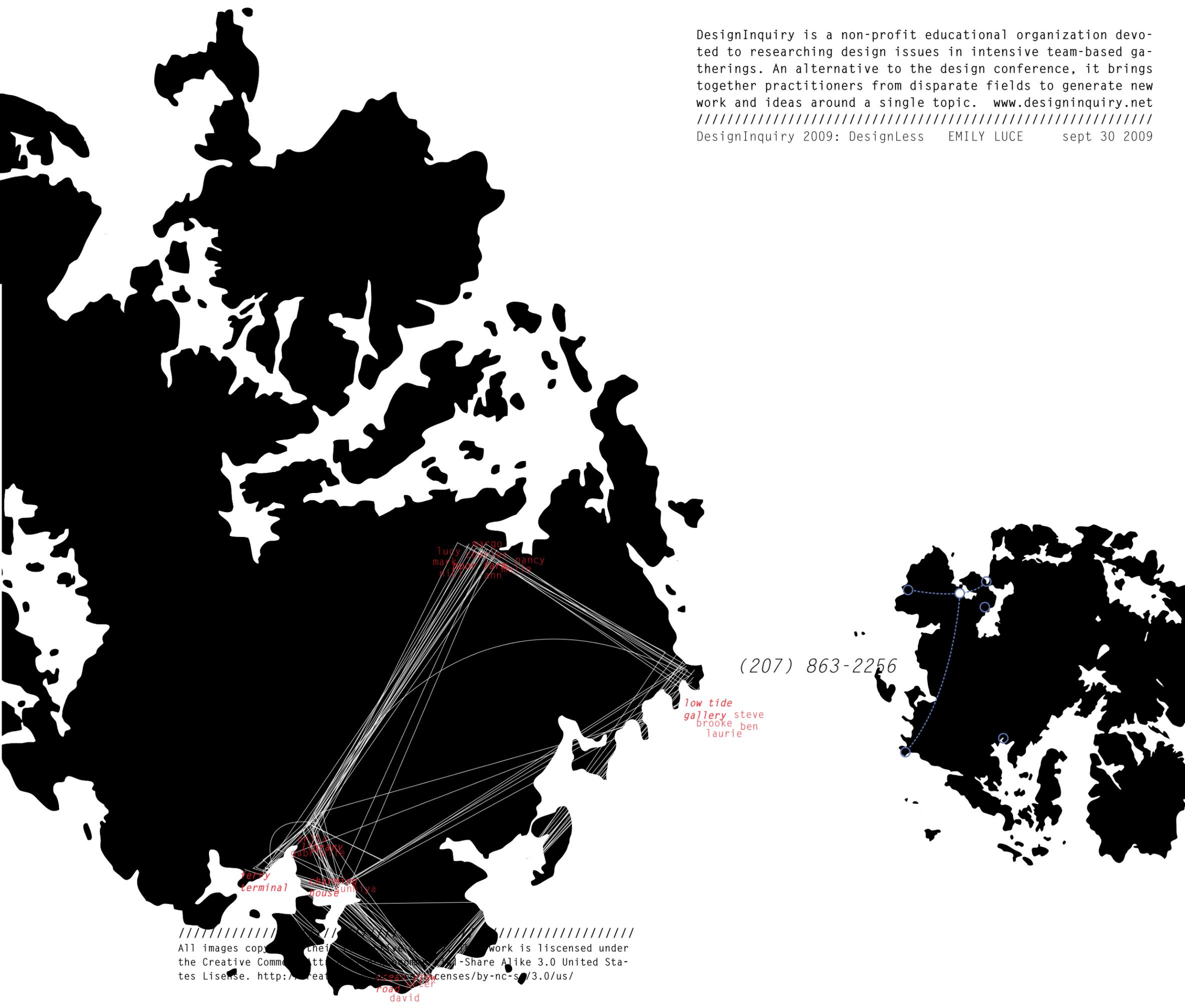
At Vinalhaven, my own norms for staying connected--emailtextsvoicemailblogsnewsthephonesthescreenthecar--were dropped. To my surprise, the theme 'design-less,' resulted in genuine connection, experimentation, and possibility.

Throughout the week, participants are called upon to respond to queries or design problems put forward by other presenters. As the time goes on, we get used to the space around us, and the queries pile up. Unexpected design solutions reveal themselves right where you are, coming out of a crack in the woodwork, some leaves on the ground, the sky. This project is a finding from the design-less topic, and the work that we did throughout the week.

The letterforms drawn here are constructed based on points of cell phone reception that the group discovered across the island, and includes the shared landline at the Poor Farm. Strokes are drawn across the air based on these points, as if a phone call were mapped. Peter stands in front of David's vacation rental, and phones the Ferry Terminal where Ann is waiting for her phone to be dropped off. Sunniya stands in front of the Charming House, and calls Ben at the Low Tide Gallery; the tide has come in, the call is dropped. These calls form the letter T.

T was my assigned Love Letter from Lucy. The project also responds to Steve's challenge to construct letterforms in space. It thinks about tools, at Denise's suggestion. It plays with Peter's posted cell phone reception map uploaded to the online discussion forum where DI09 began.

The title of the project is (207) 863-2256, the phone number at the Poor Farm.



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