* Fullure Scouting *

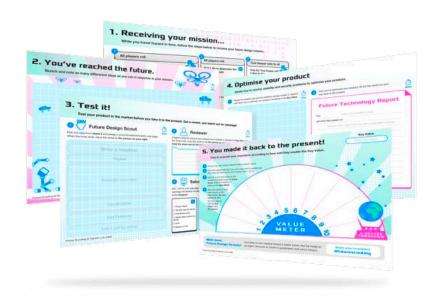


Simplifying the learning of speculative and values-driven design with gamification

A design game as a teaching tool



Digital version



Print version

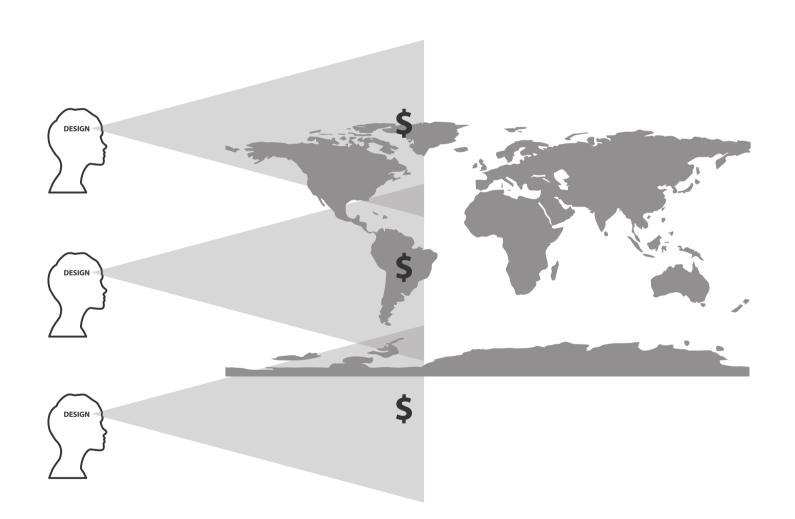
Future scouting is a gamified educational tool to introduce designers (and anyone interested in better futures) to speculative and values-driven design.

Design skills experienced during play:

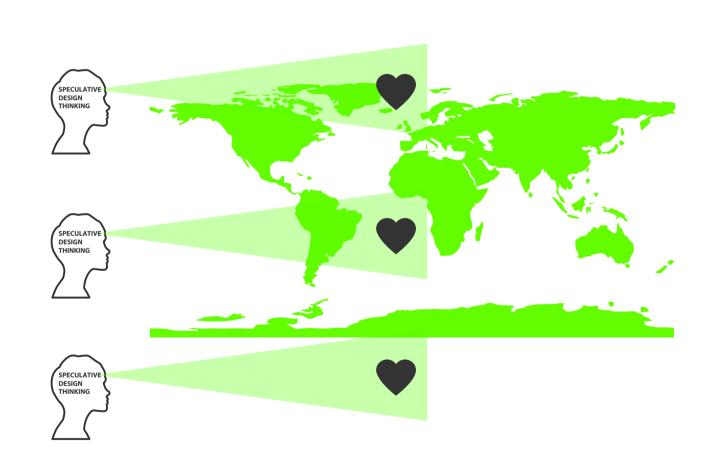
- Speculation
- Empathy
- Bad actor consideration (e.g. hackers)
- Brainstorming
- Sketching
- UX/copy writing
- Iteration

Problem 1

Much of the world's design thinking is focused on profit-driven projects, creating a future world limited by this focus.



If we invest even just a small amount of design focus on values-driven projects, then might we create a more harmonised and kinder future world?



Problem 2

The tools for speculative design were scattered far and wide, and few end-to-end methods were easily accessible (expensive courses) and/or user-friendly to designers new to speculative design (heavy in new terminology and acedemic language).

If speculative design is condensed into a simple flow, will these engage more designers new to the practice.

Problem 3

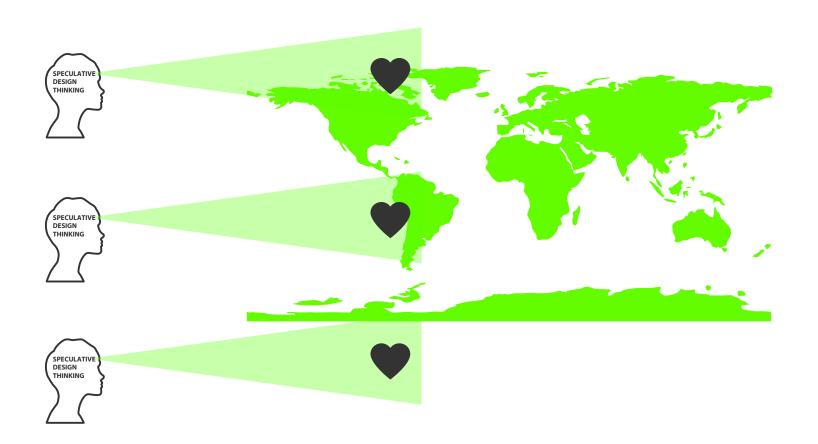
Full design processes are long and have high cognitive load.

Why can't learning how to save the world be fun?

Project Purpose

Consolidate speculative tools into one simplified and gamified process to make future-thinking and values-driven design more accessable for designers wanting to shape a better future.





Design ikagi

Future Scouting was born from the spare time granted to me by the COVID-19 lockdown. I reflected on my design career and how I might align it more with my values.

I began with what I designed for passion—science fiction technologies and worlds for my sci-fi novels—as speculations about our future help us see today from different perspectives.

As I mapped my design processes, I discovered speculative design—designing future inventions that make us rethink the direction of today.

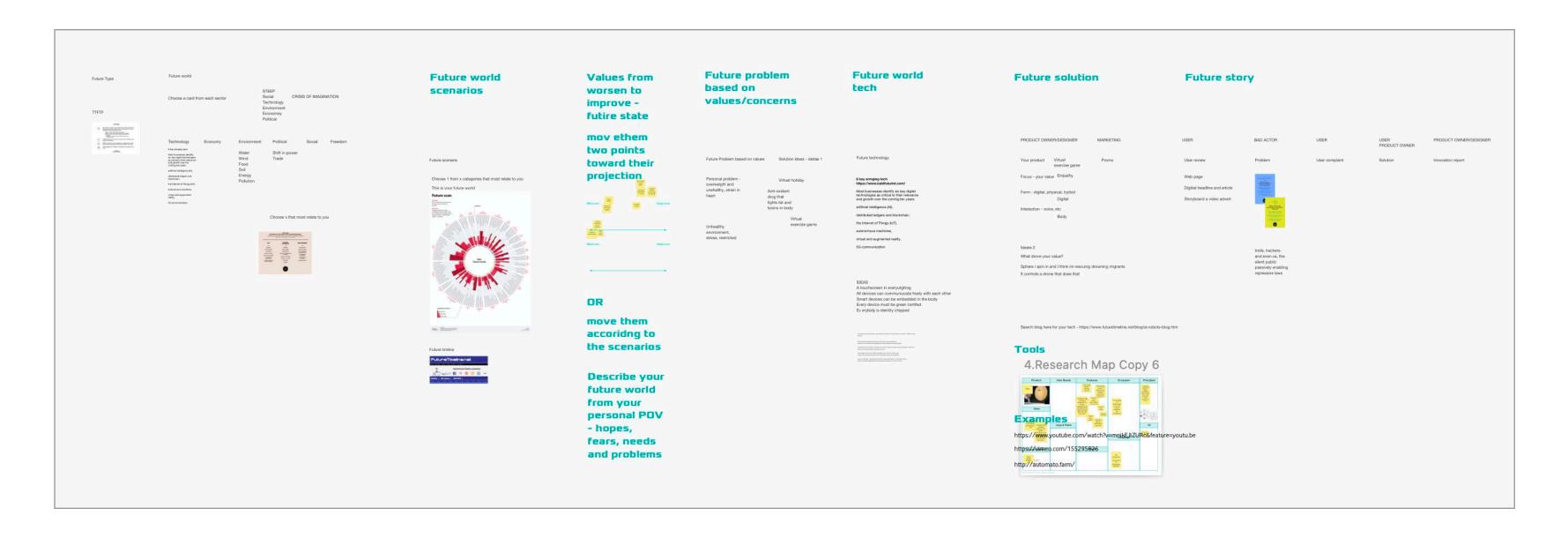
This, I knew, was my 'ikagi'—to use design for exploring what's important to us rather than just applying it to profit-driven projects, and to assist other designers in finding their own design ikagi.

Combining speculative tools scattered far and wide, I combined them with my own processes to map a simplified speculative design method to make it easier for other designers to discover and learn.



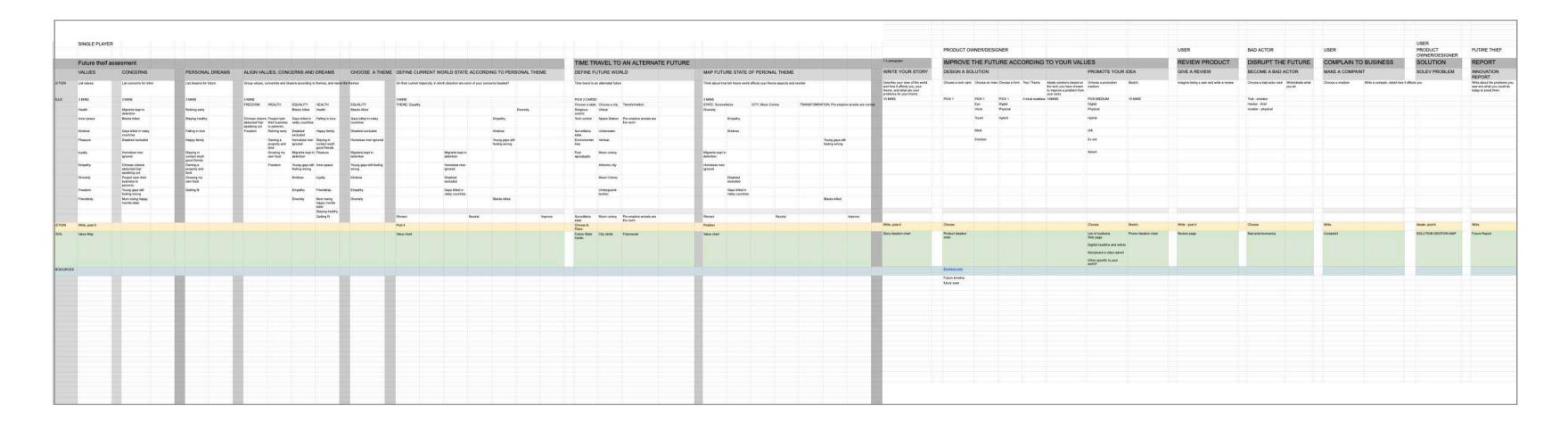
Tool & method research

Collating speculative design tools from around the world and combining with my own.



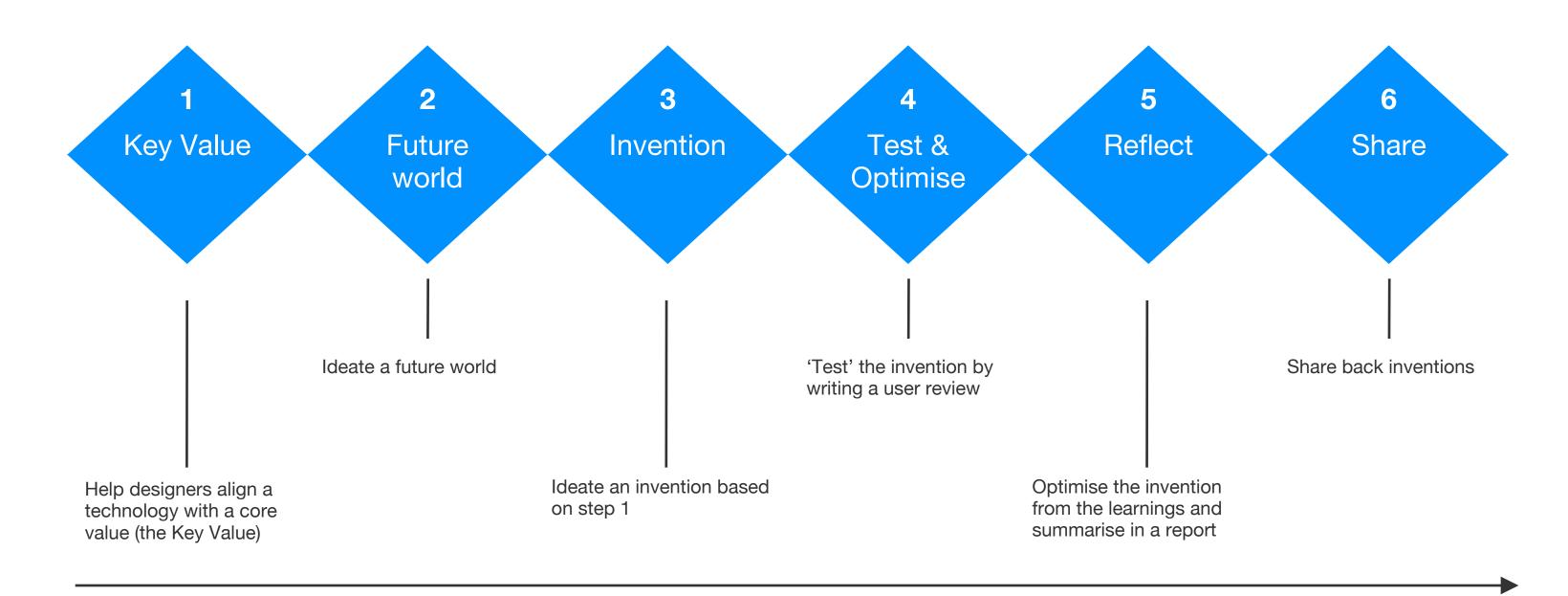
Putting tools in a process order

To begin creating a complete method, I mapped the tools according to back-casting processes, starting with ideation and world-building.



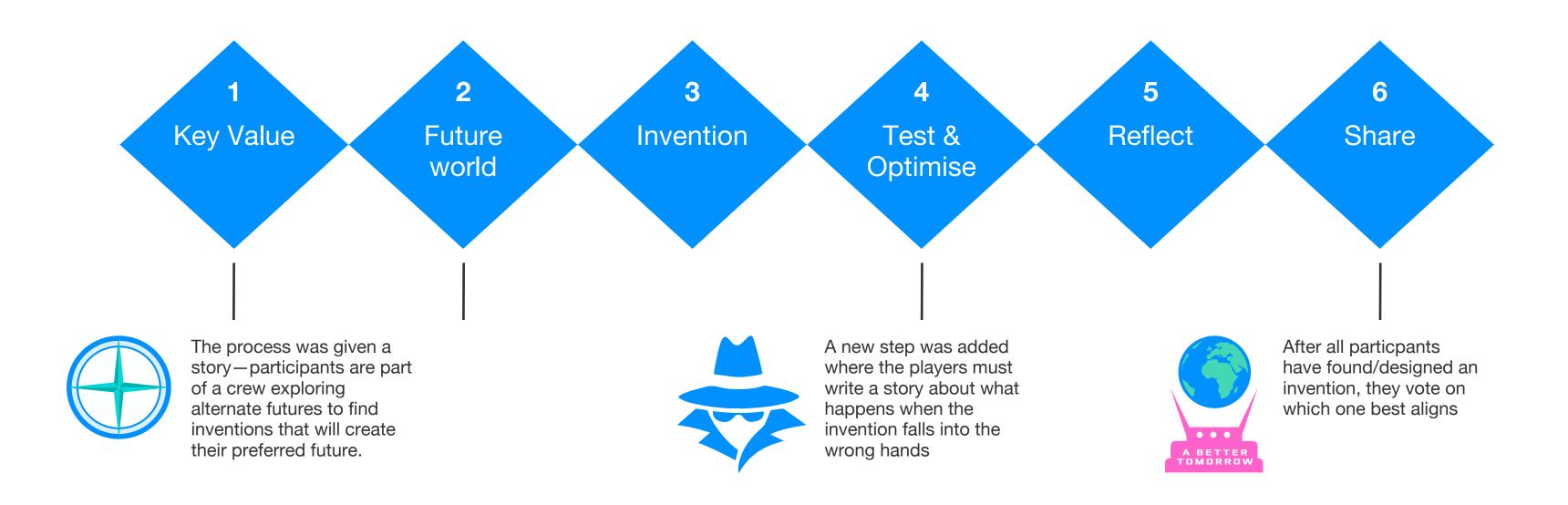
Simplified process

I ideated a process that could be done in one sitting, and included a step to encourage values thinking.



Adding engagement

I then used gamification to lighten the cognitive aspects.



The story and game mission

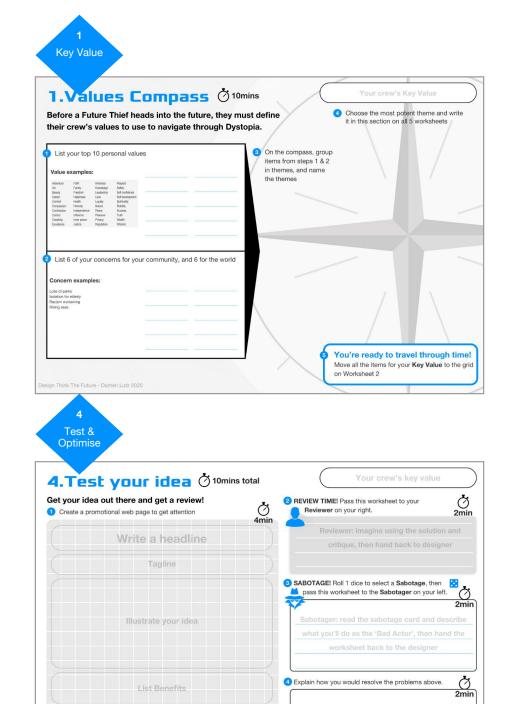
Humans have left a dying earth aboard a fleet of space ships, but they are flying blind toward uncertainty

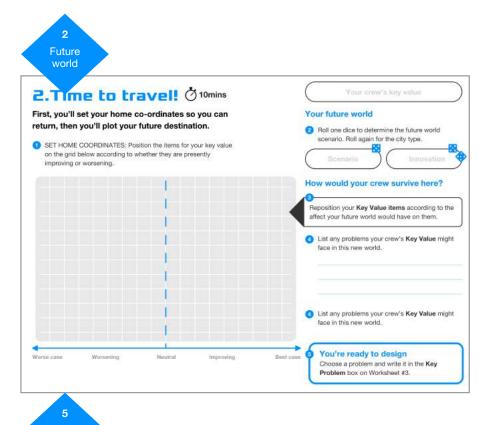
Discovering a worm hole to alternate futures, each ship sends a Future Scout forward in time to learn how to steer the fleet toward a better future more aligned with Key Values.

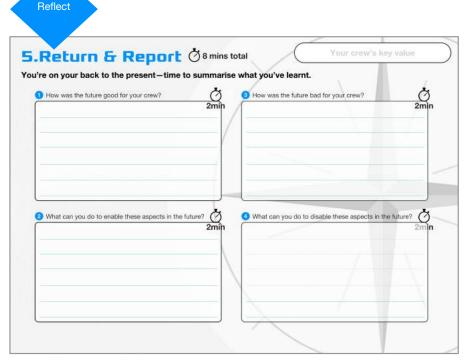
Playing against other Future Scouts representing different Key Values, you'll assist and sabotage each other in your quests to save your own crews' future.

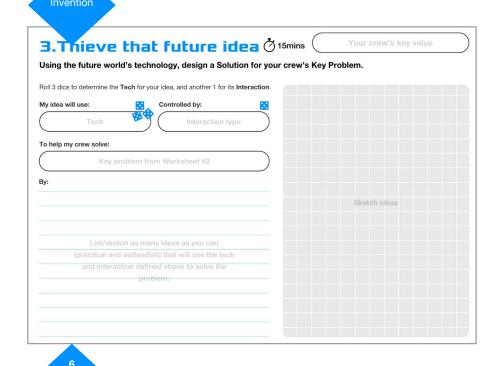
Version 1

Game sheets

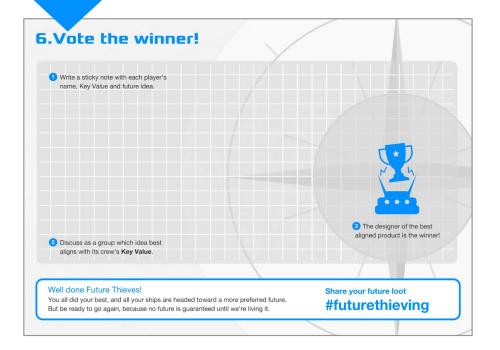


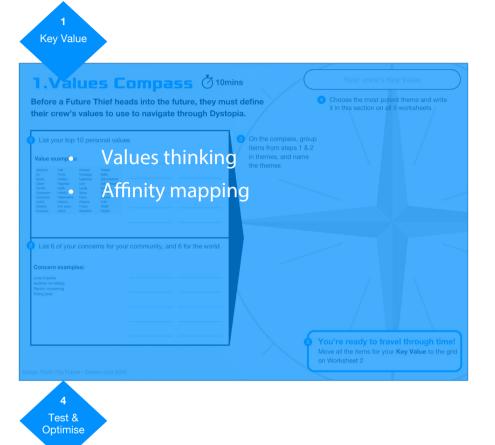


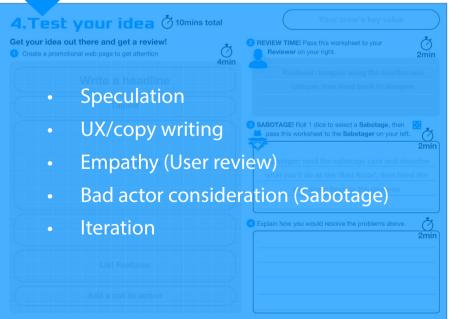


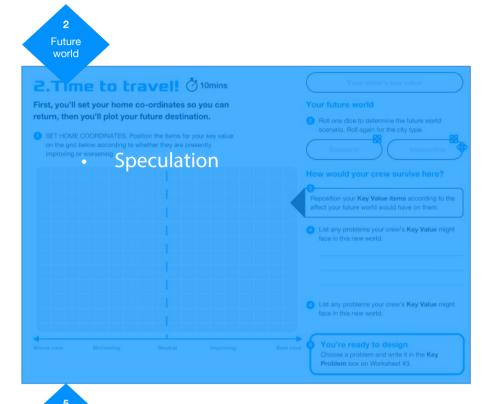


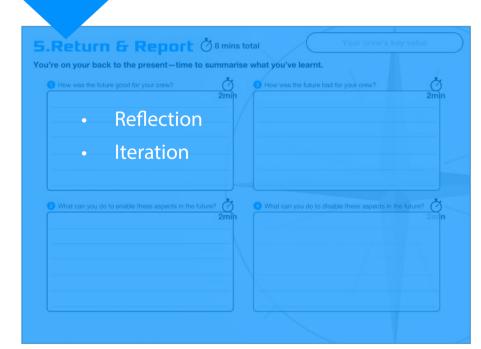
Share

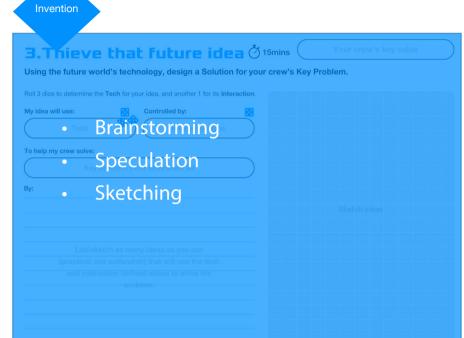










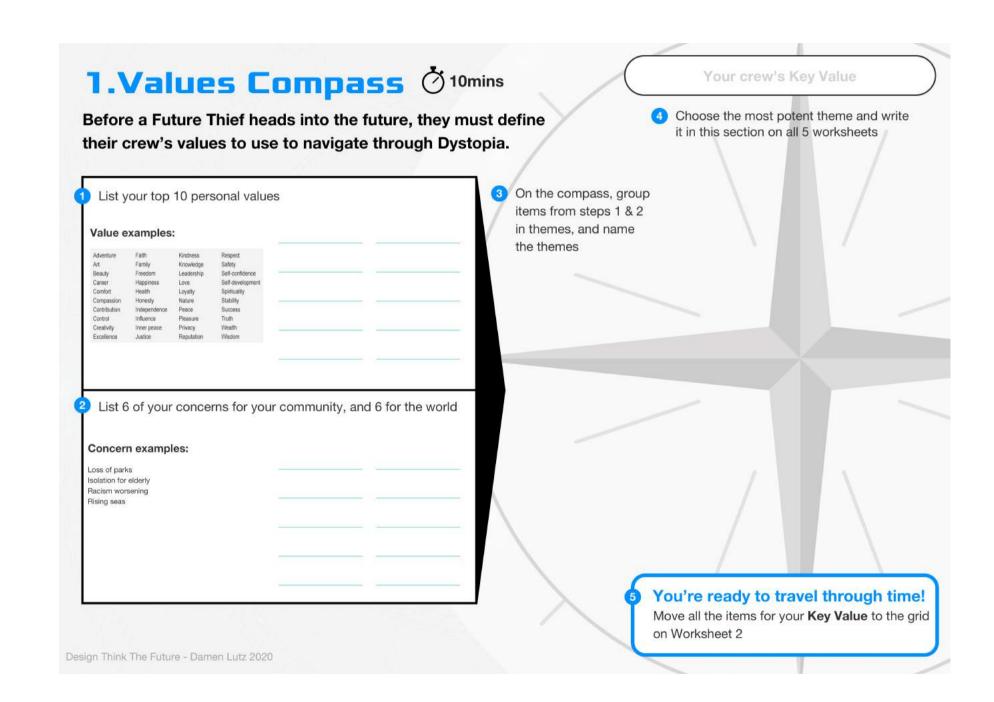




Values

The first step guided players to identify the Key Value (kindness, empathy, etc.) that they would design for.

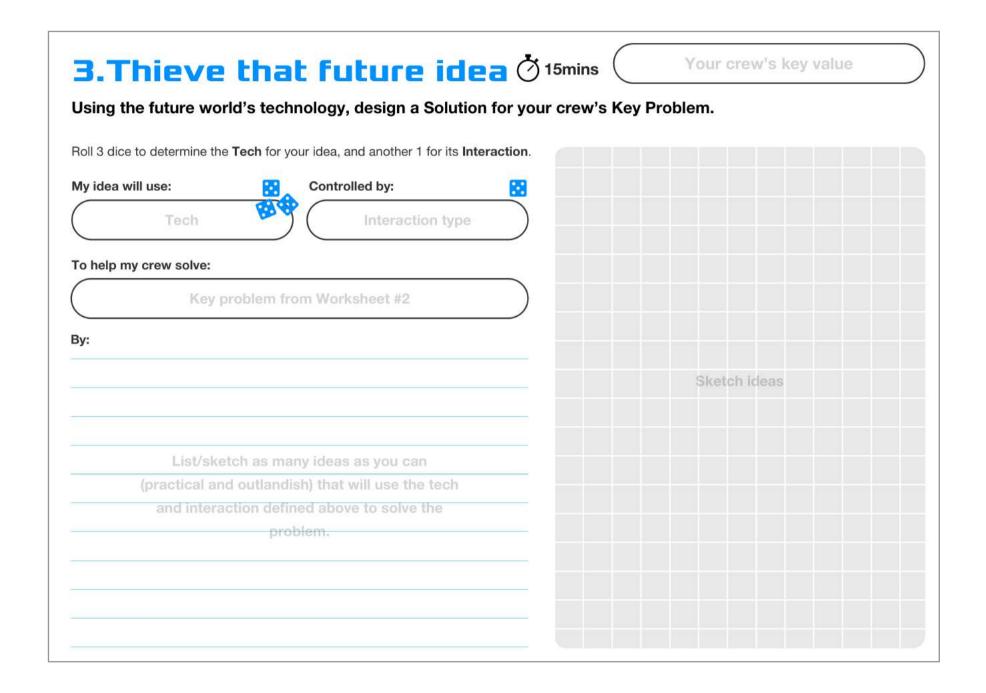
- Values thinking
- Affinity mapping



Invention ideation

After speculating a future world problem, players rolled dice to determine what future technology their invention must include to foster the Key Value.

- Brainstorming
- Speculation
- Sketching

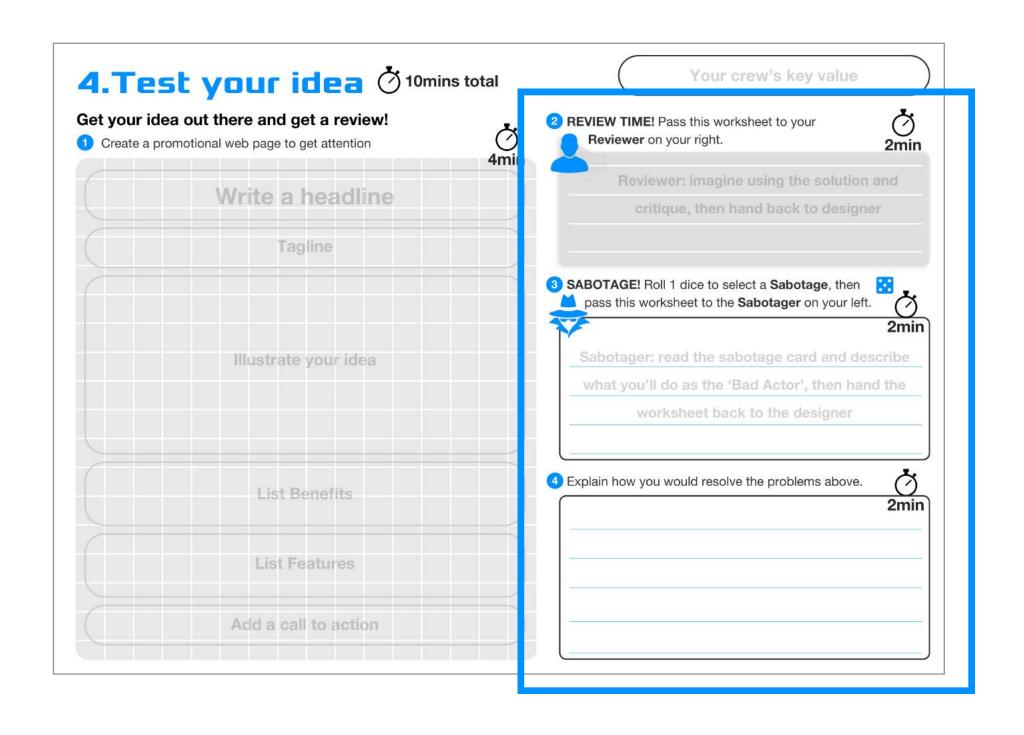


Testing and optimisation

After players reviewed each other's inventions, they rolled dice to choose a type of sabotage, which they then wrote a description about what happend.

Designers then optimised their invention based on the review and sabotage.

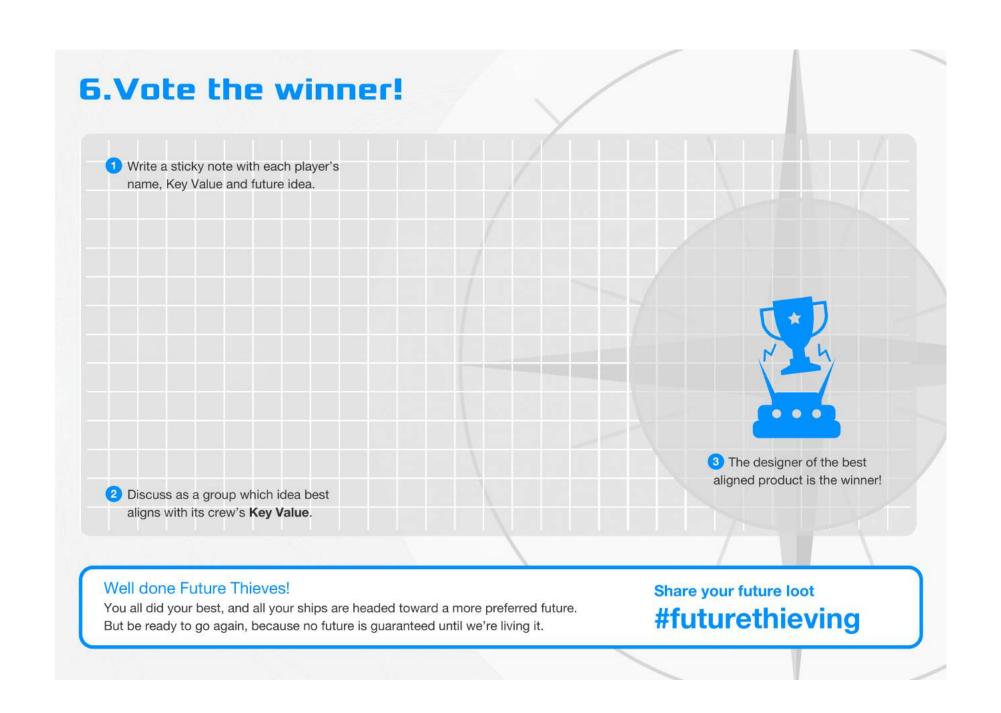
- Speculation
- UX/copy writing
- Empathy (User review)
- Bad actor consideration (Sabotage)
- Iteration



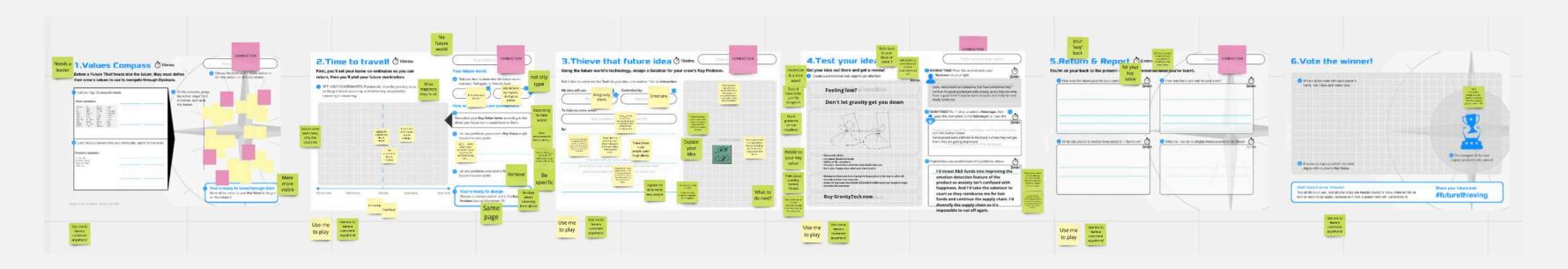
Sharing and voting

Each player then placed a sticky note on the final sheet with their name, invention, and Key Value. Players talked through their optimised invention and voted on who's invention best aligned with the Key Value —the winner!

- Values thinking
- Design feedback

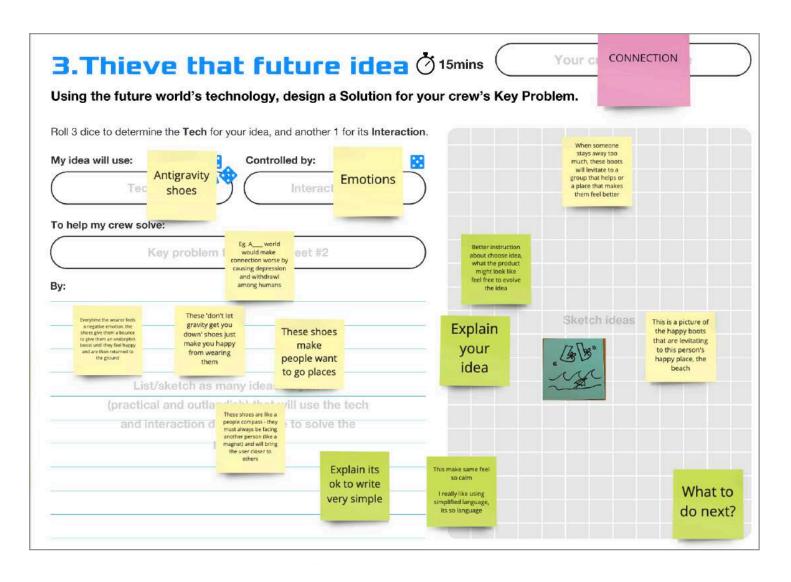


Testing



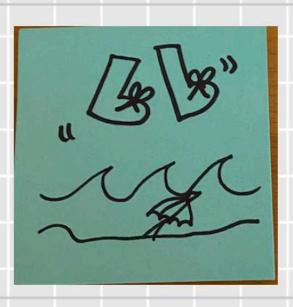
1st Invention!

Up Boots | Steph Lieu 2020



Up Boots

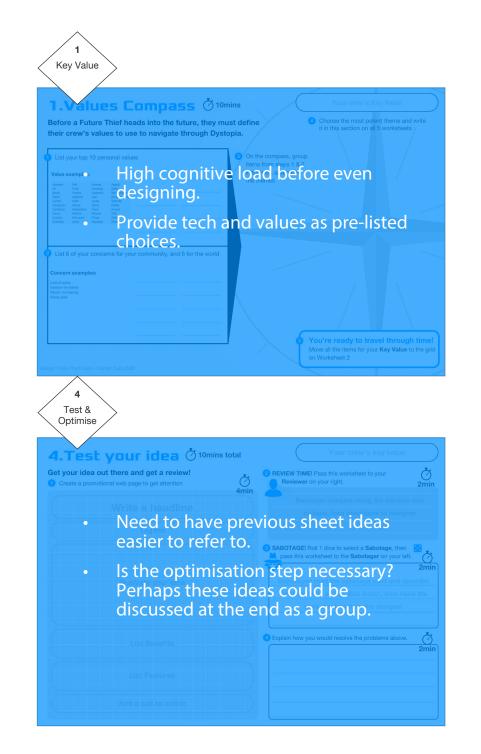
Don't let gravity get you down



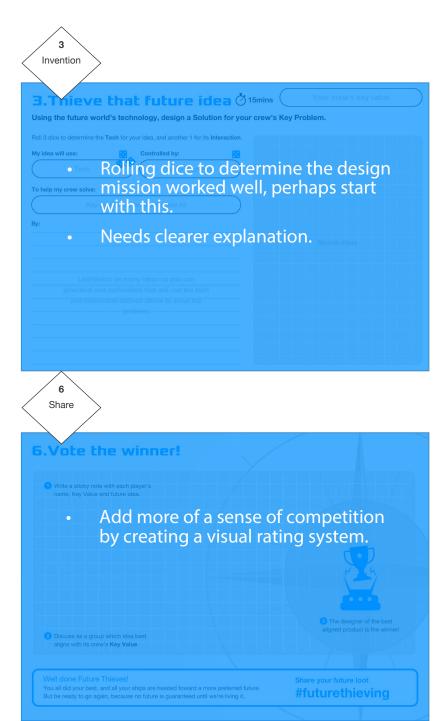
- More endorphins
- Increased dopamine levels
- Ability to fly...anywhere
- Stronger connections wherever your boots take you
- Be in your happy place when you most need it
- Waterproof (because lots of people's happy place is the beach, after all)
- Soundproof (because why not)
- Sadproof (because these boots are made to withstand your toughest days)
- Durable (life warranty)

Get Up Boots now and stay high!

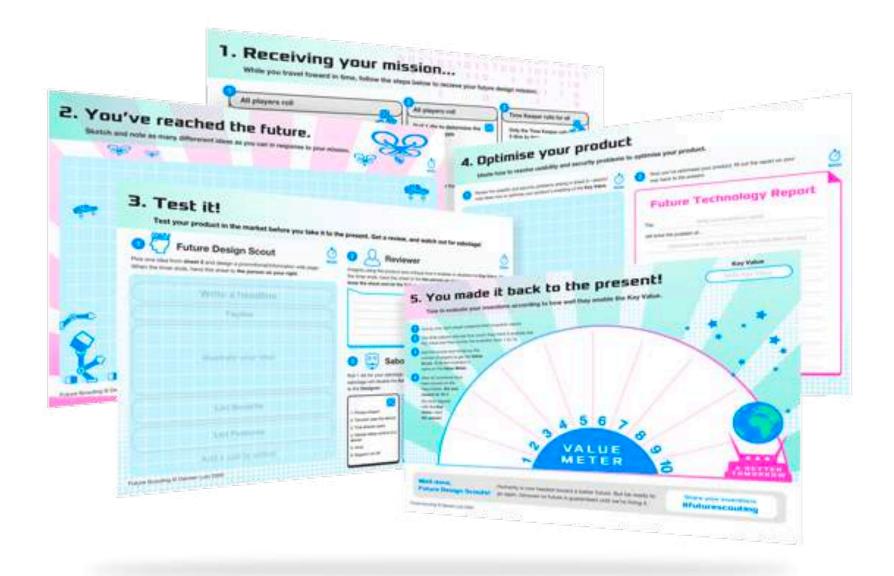
Learnings



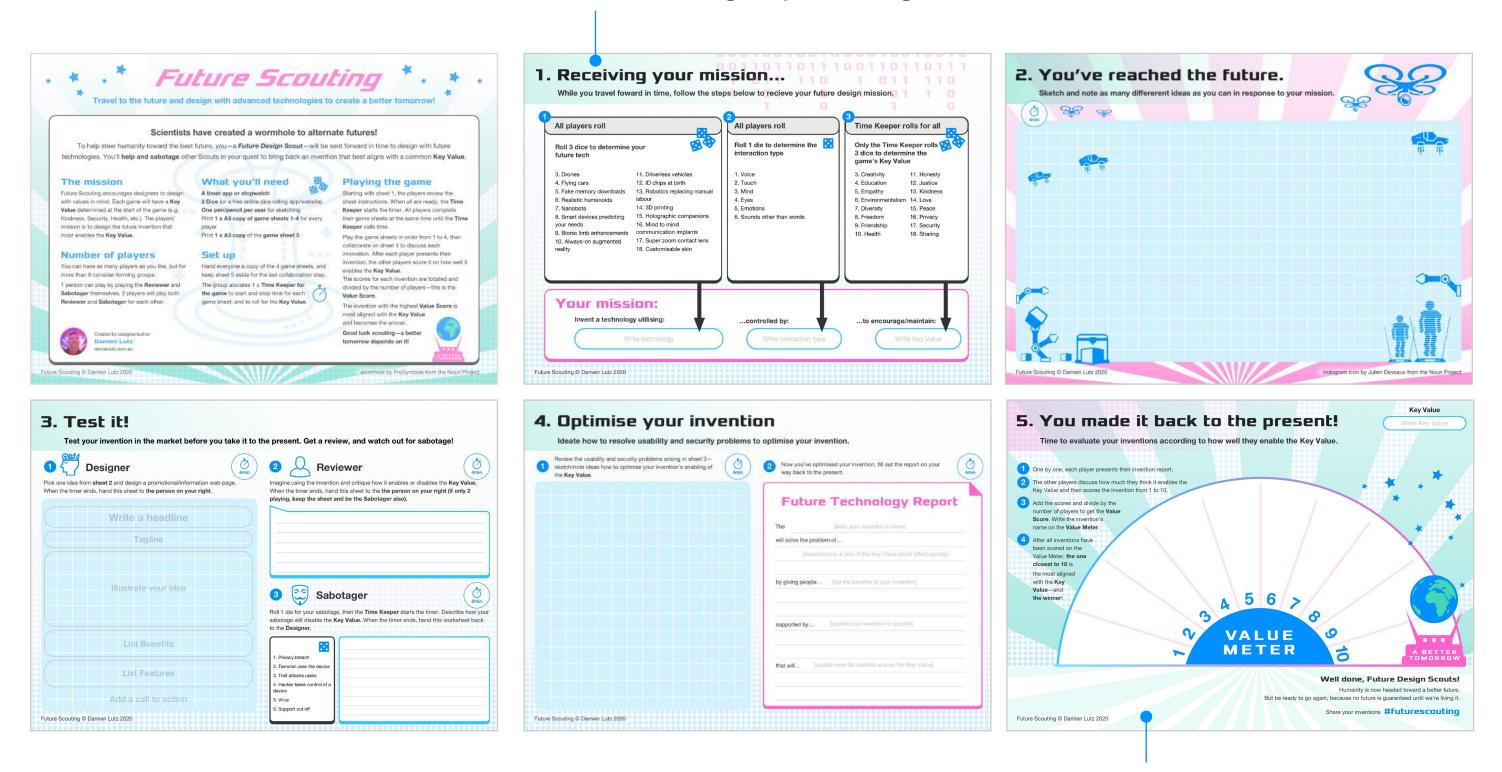




Version 2



Game now begins with players rolling dice to determine their design mission, reducing steps and cognitive load.

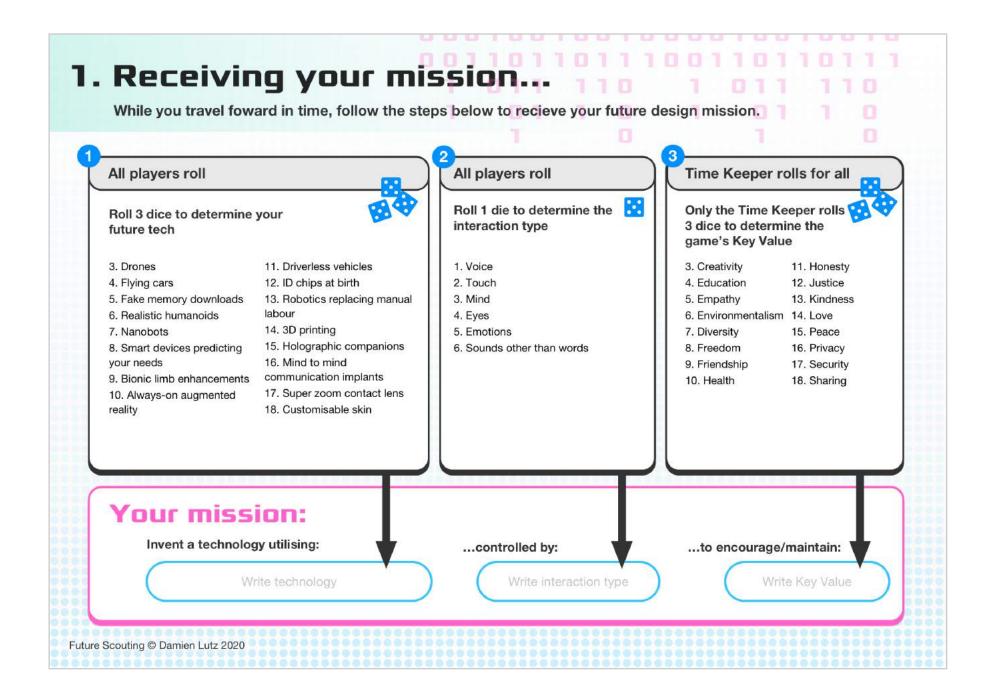


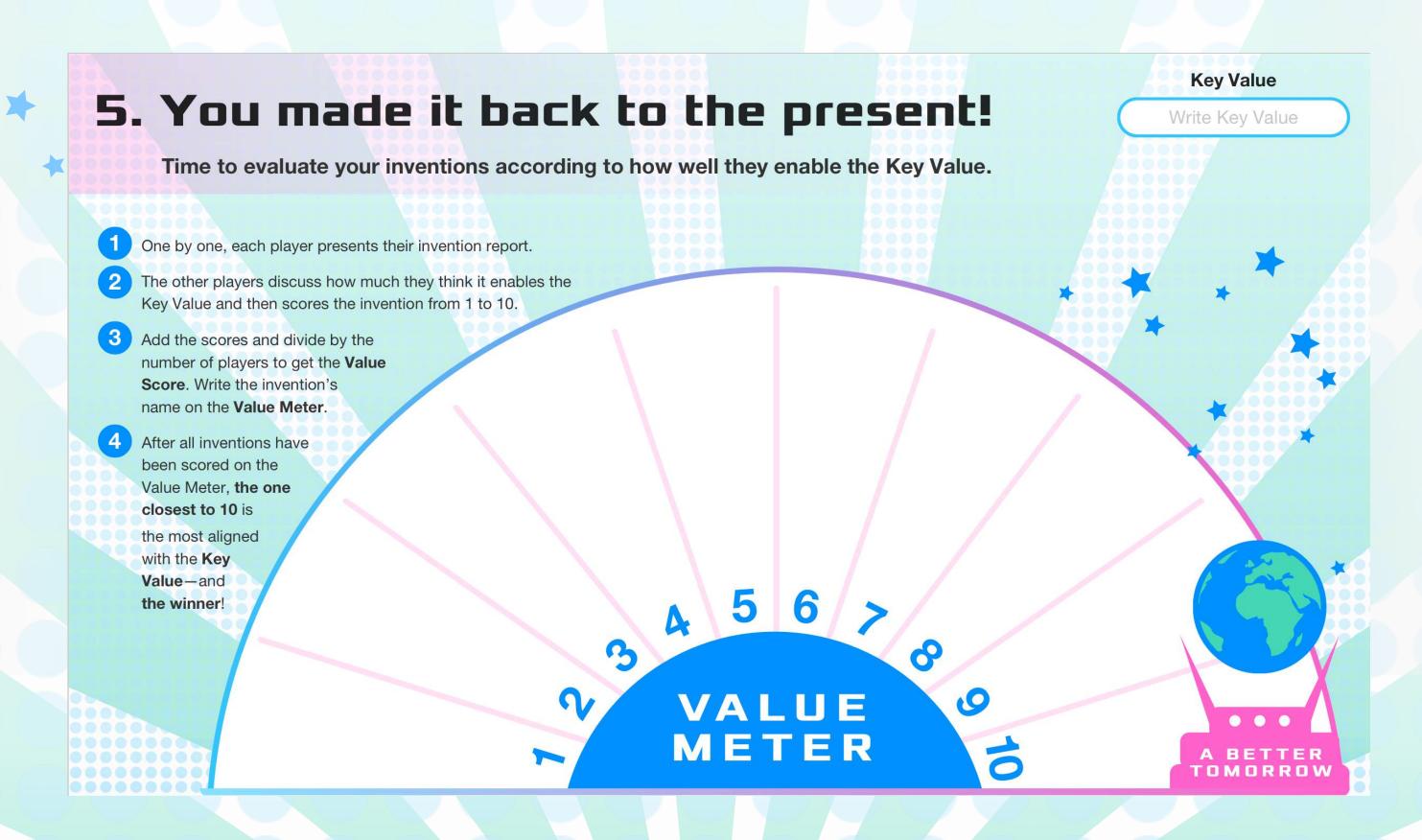
The voting page is now a Value Meter. Players rate each other from 1-10 on how well their inventions fostered the Key Value—the one closest to the trophy wins.

Prompts to ease and simplify

Solutions were to use pre-listed prompts to ease some steps, and from that came the idea of rolling dice to randomise choosing from the lists.



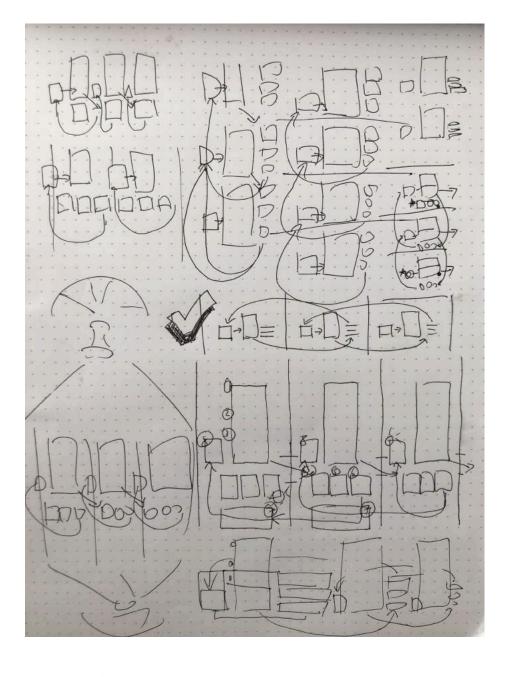




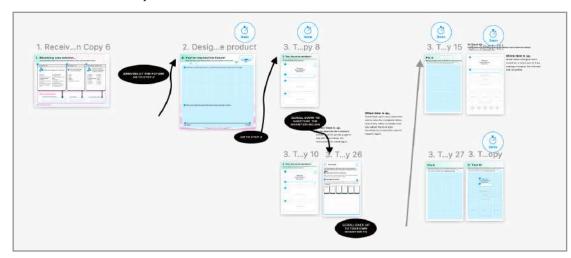
Designing a digital version

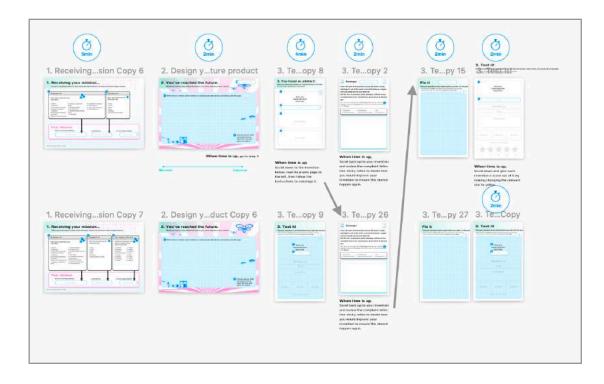
Design challanges

1. How to layout large game sheets in a collaborative online space like Miro for multiple players.

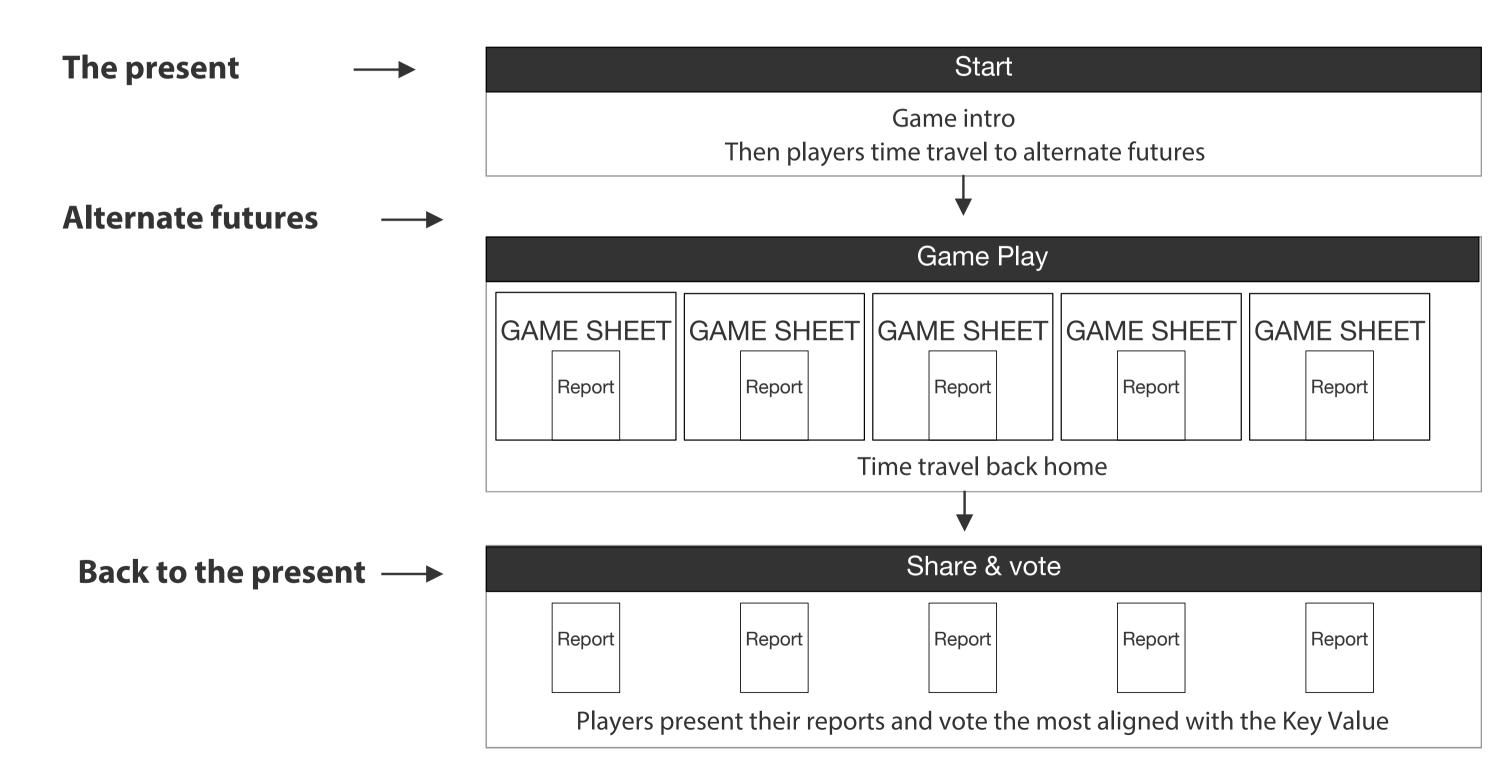


2. How to layout the game so players can swap sheets mid game (to review and sabotage each other's inventions)

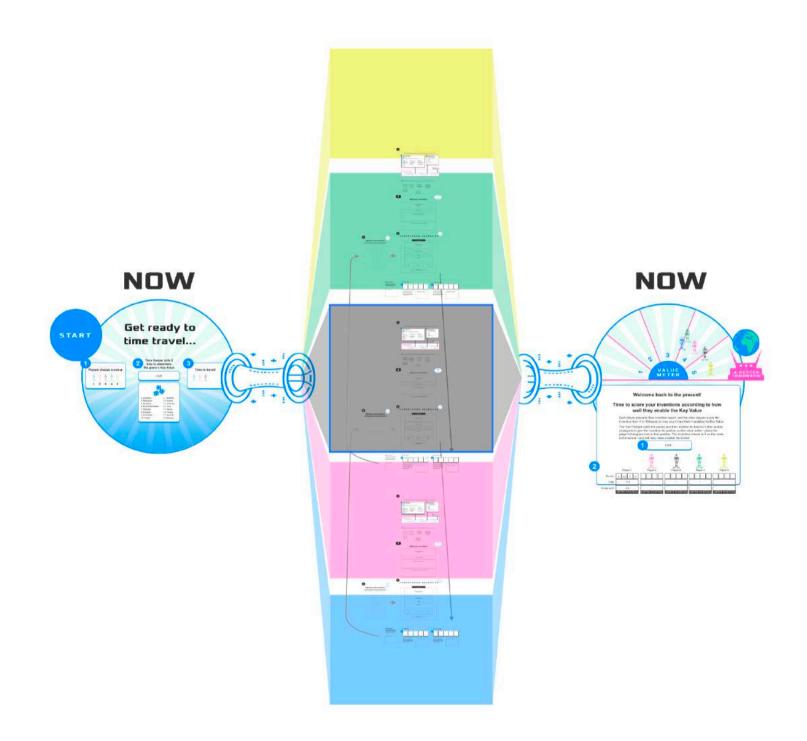


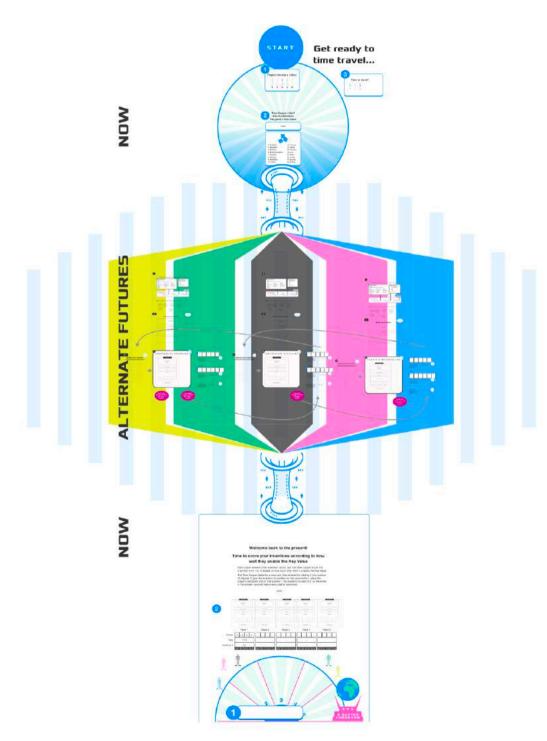


Digital game layout blueprint

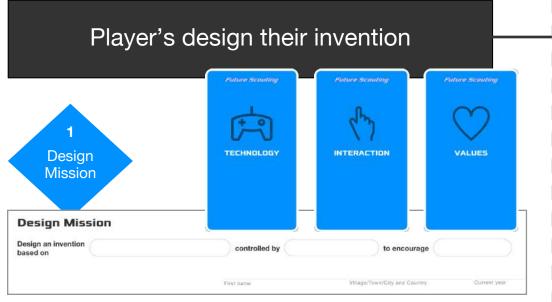


Vertical and horizontal layout iterations

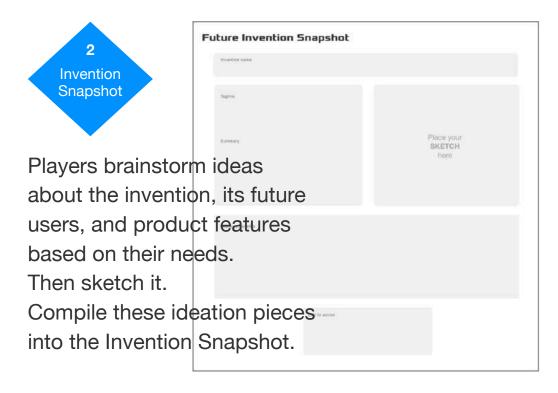




Digital gamesheet steps

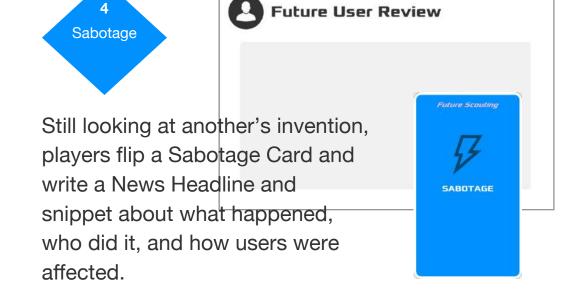


Players flip Tech, Interaction and Key Values cards to determine the invention they must design.

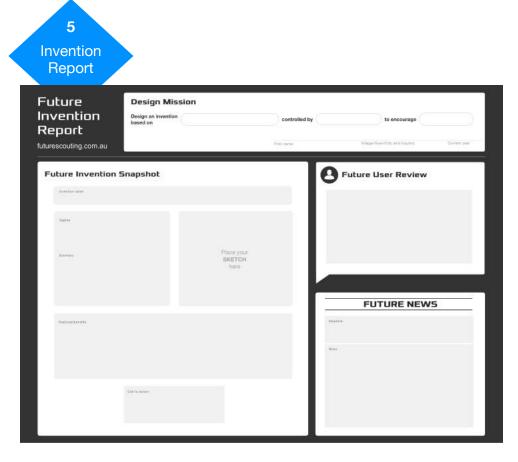


Player's review and sabotage each other's inventions





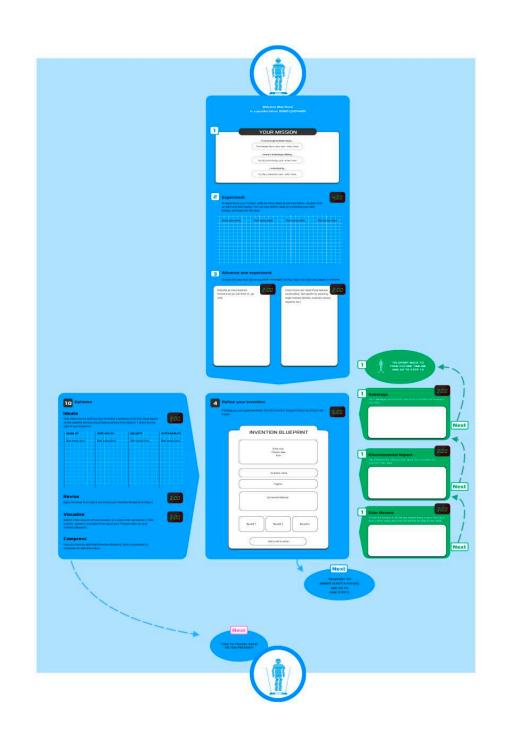
Player's share back invention and vote

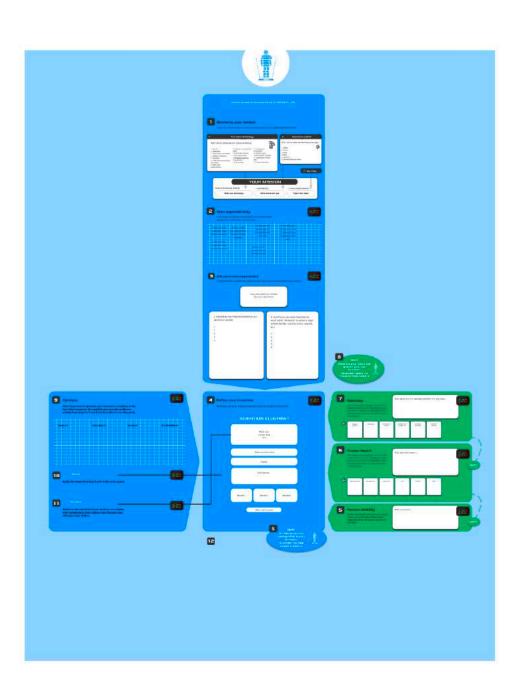


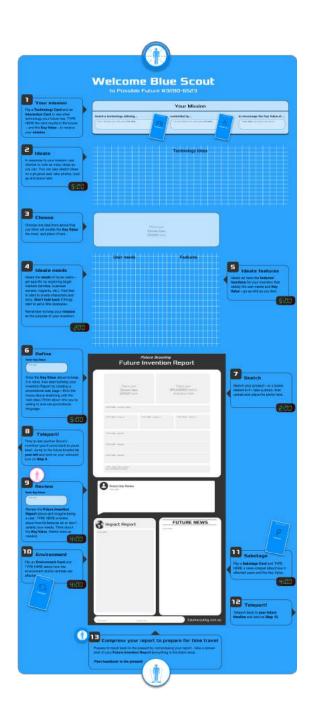
Players then share back their Invention Report, presenting what it is, the user review, and sabotage news story.

Players vote which invention most enables the Key Value

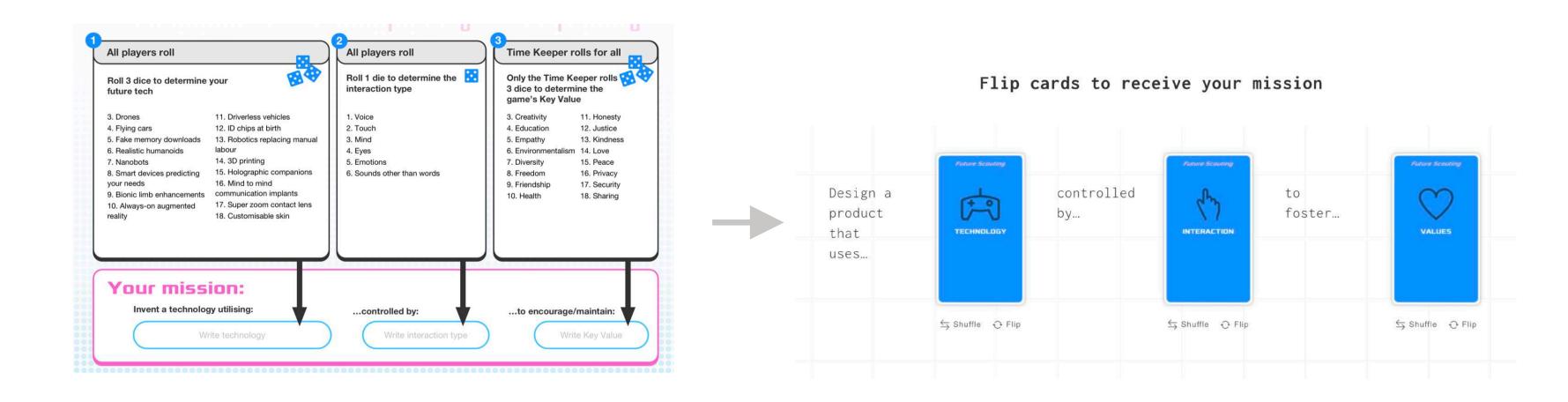
Individual game sheet iterations







Prompts converted to flip cards online



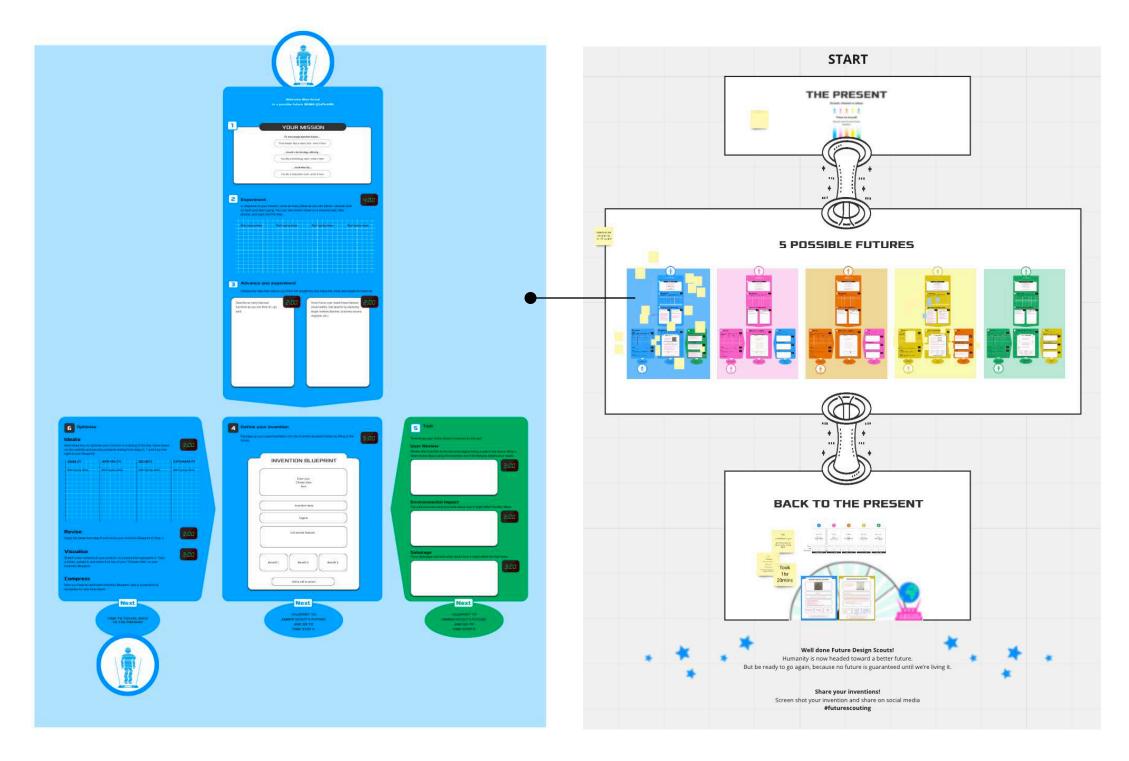
Simplified story and game mission

Scientists have created a wormhole to alternate futures!

To help steer humanity toward the best future, you—Future Design Scouts—will be sent forward in time to design with future technologies.

You'll help and sabotage other Scouts in your quest to bring back an invention that best aligns with a common Key Value.

Game Version 1



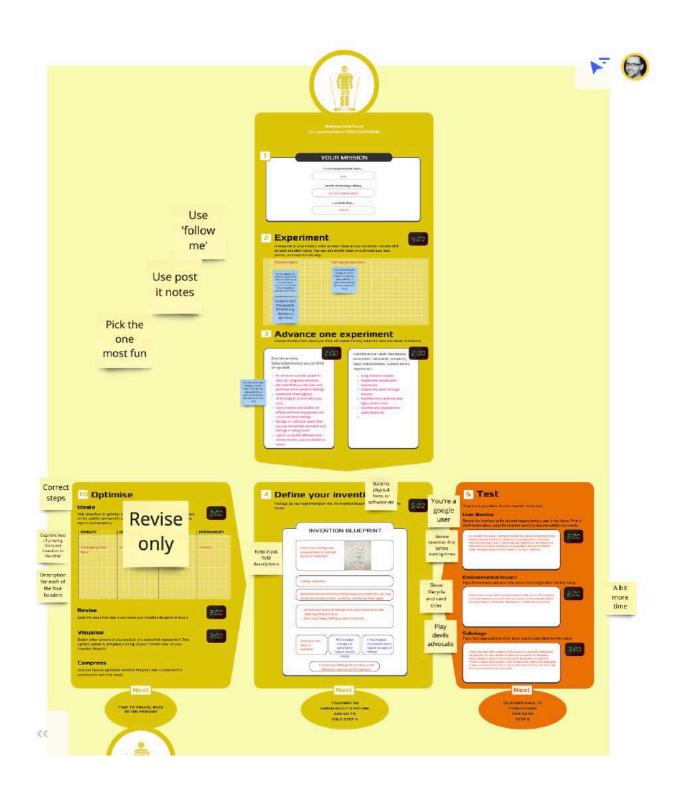
Individual game sheet

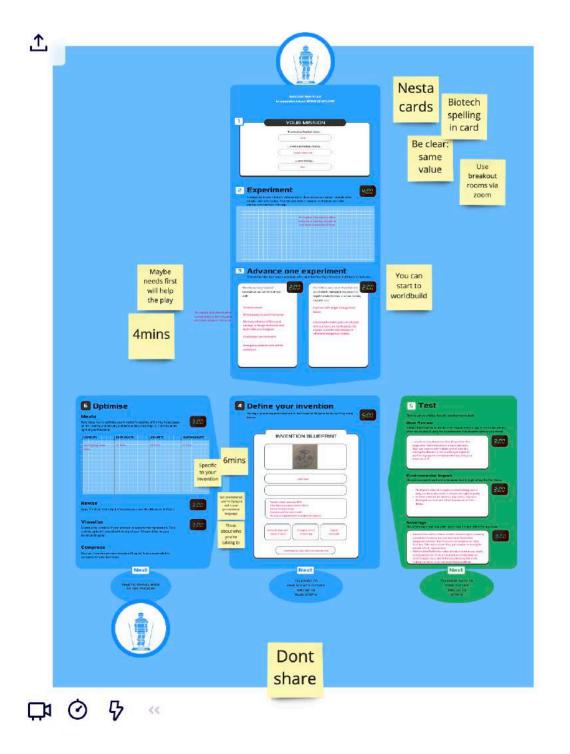
Full game layout in Miro

Testing

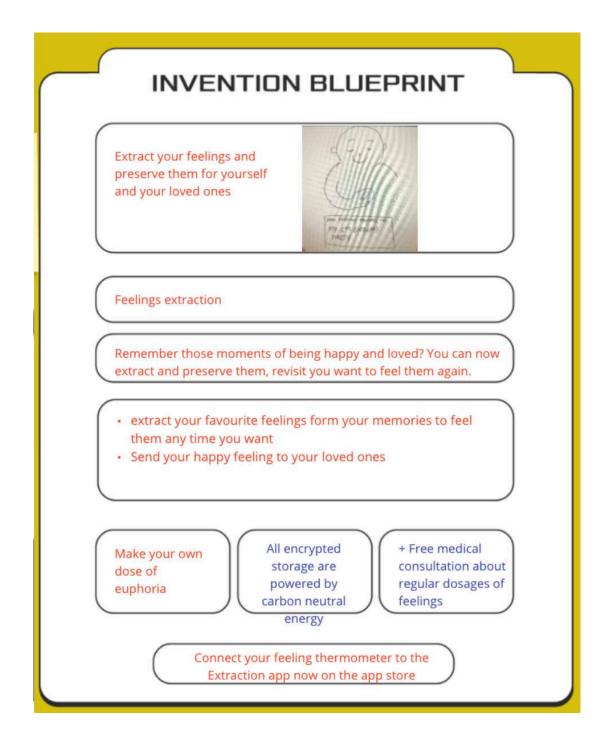
Tested in the online collaboration tool Miro

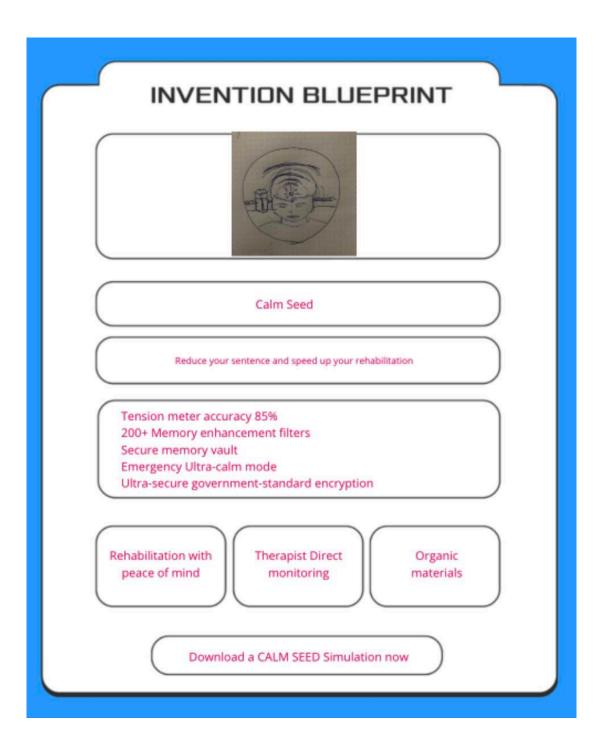


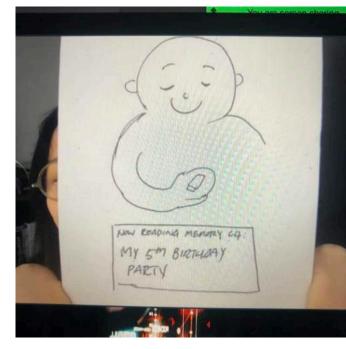


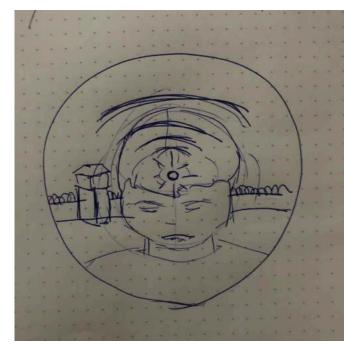


Inventions

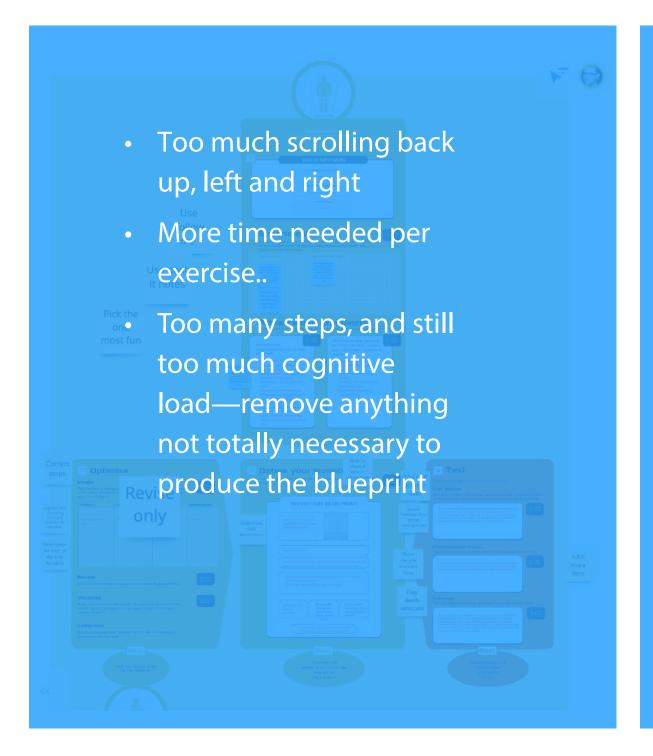


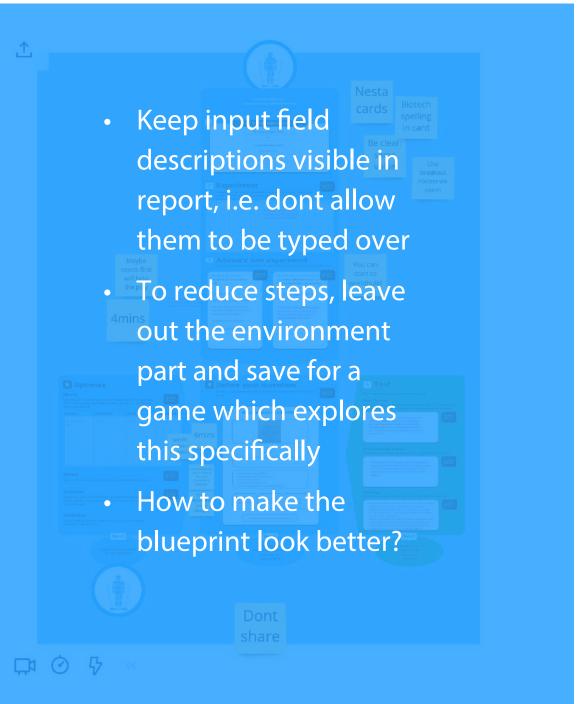




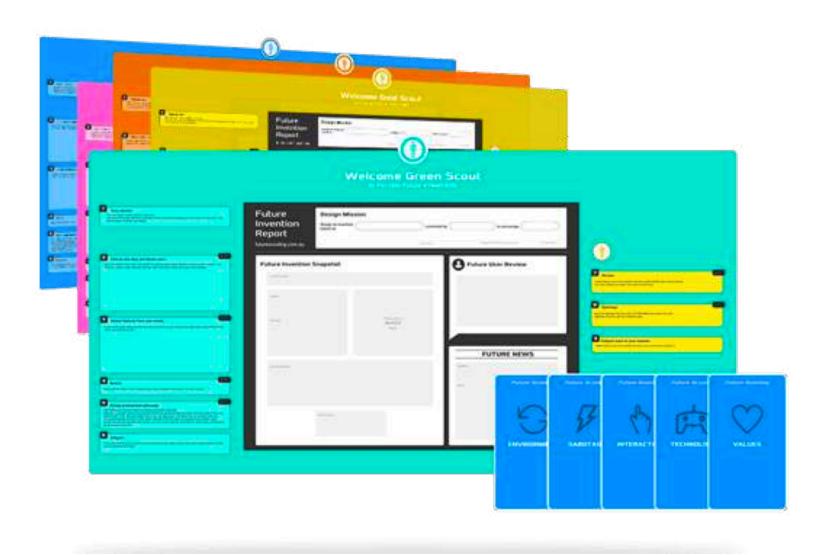


Learnings

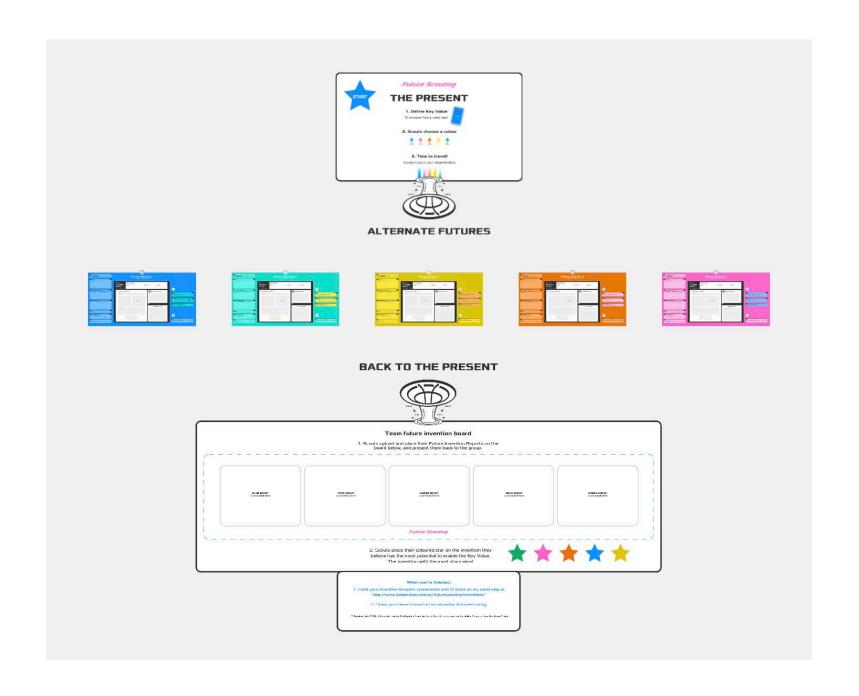




Final version



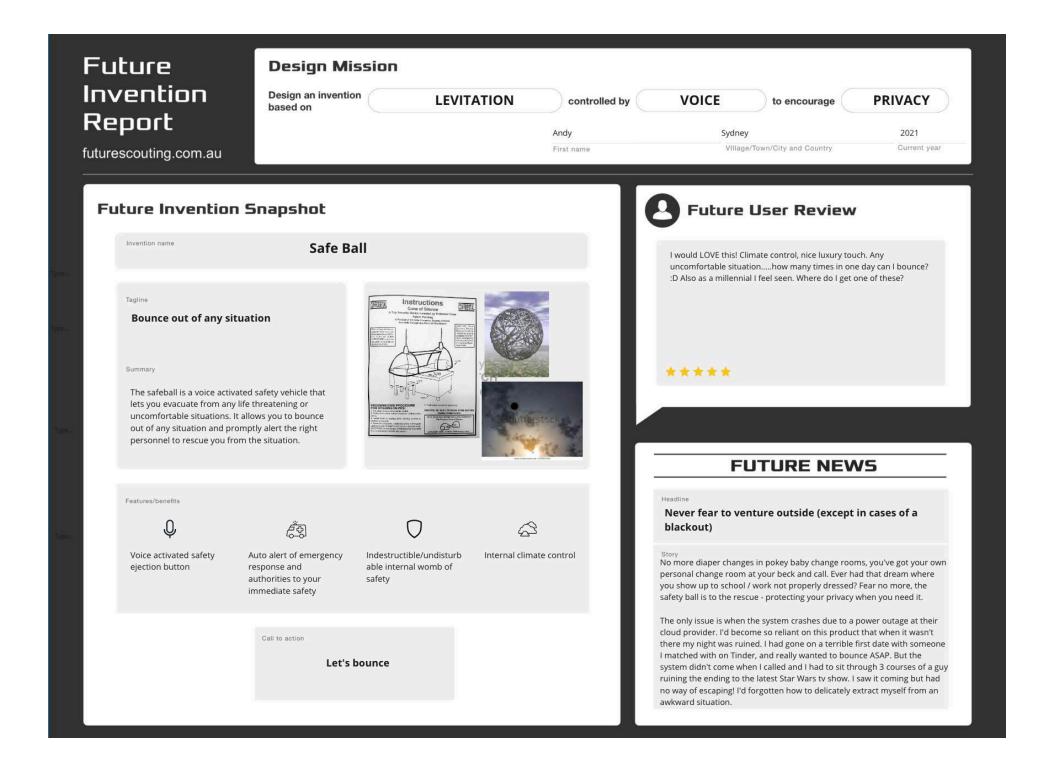
Game layout in Miro



Gamesheet



Invention example





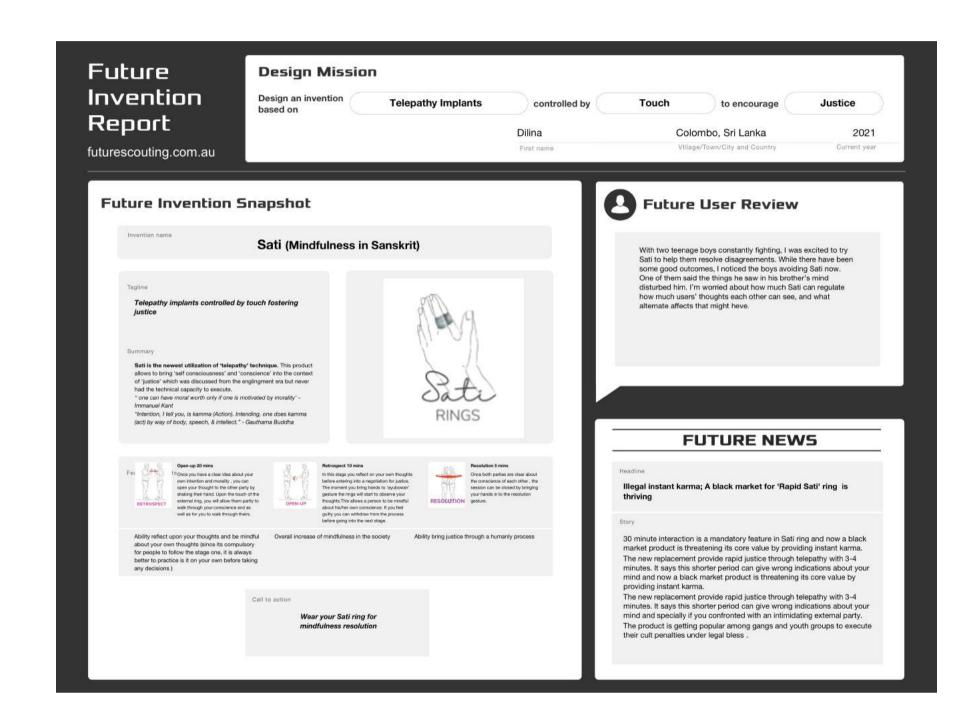
Dilina Janadith





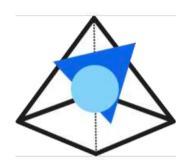
Lecturer - University of Moratuwa, Colombo, Sri Lanka

Dilina discovered the Future Scouting game online while researching 'designing with values', and he shared this beautiful invention.



Interactive World Invention Map

This generated the idea of capturing future inventions from around the world. **Pakistan** Flying cars controlled by http://www.damienlutz.com.au/futurescouting-inventions/ the sound to foster freedom

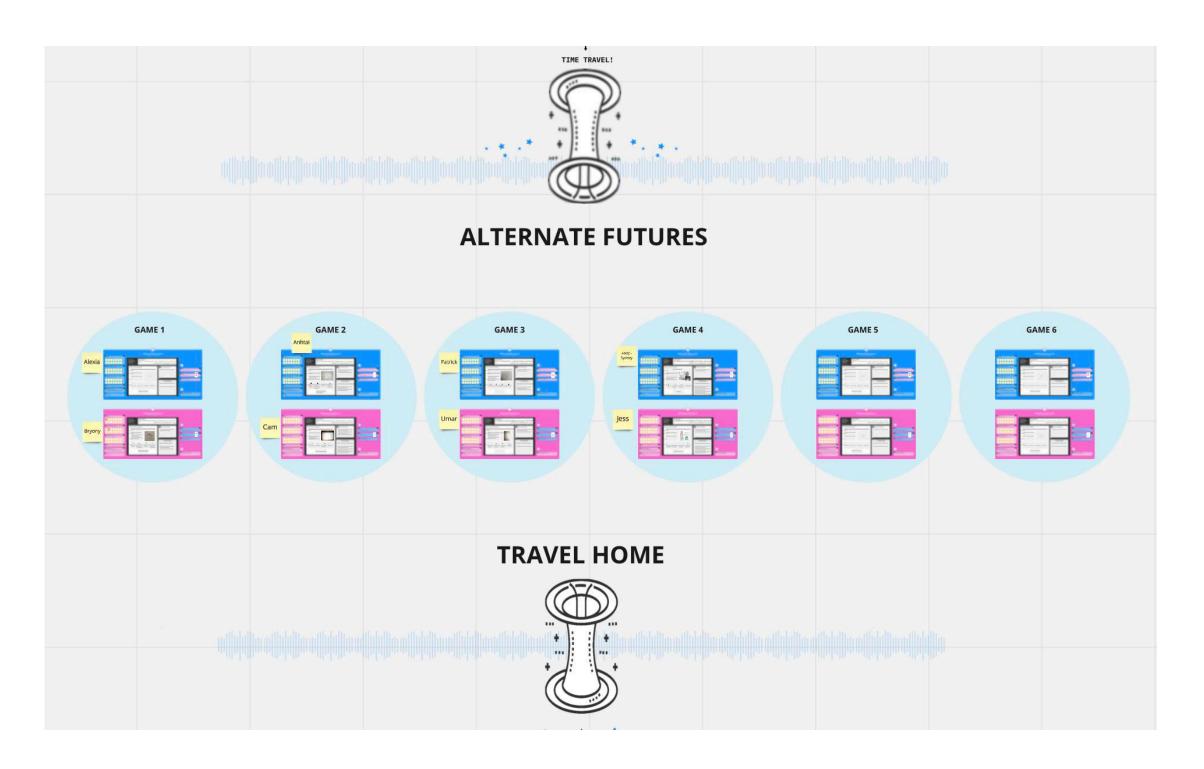


Speculative Futures Sydney

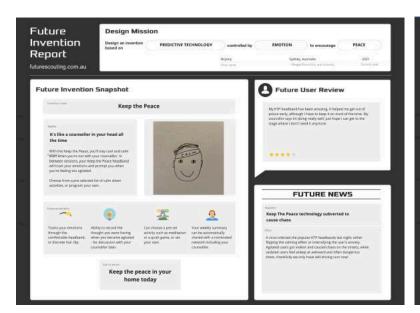
In March 2021 I was invited to facilitate an online Future Scouting session with 7 players from Australia, Netherlands, and Pakistan

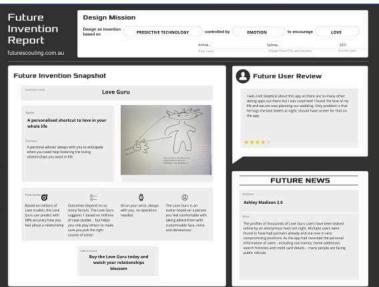


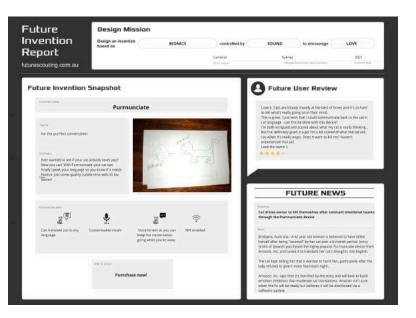
Game layout in Miro

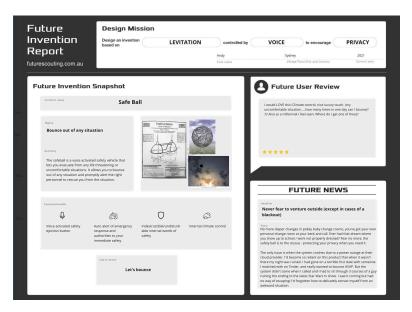


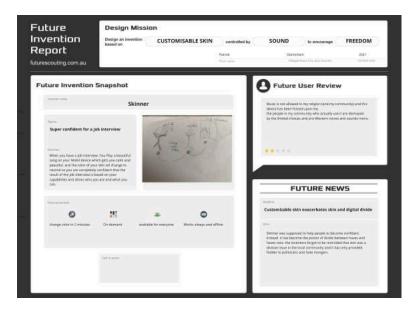
7 inventions from 3 countries

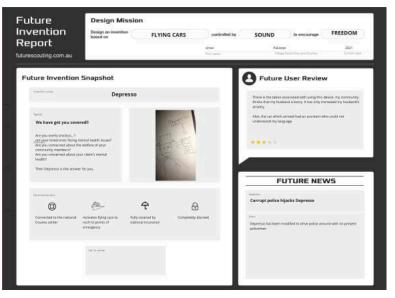


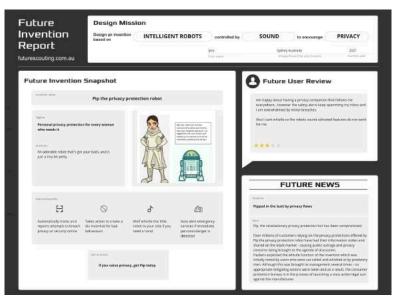












Interactive Future Invention Map

Inventions from 4 countries

http://www.damienlutz.com.au/futurescouting-inventions/



Outcomes

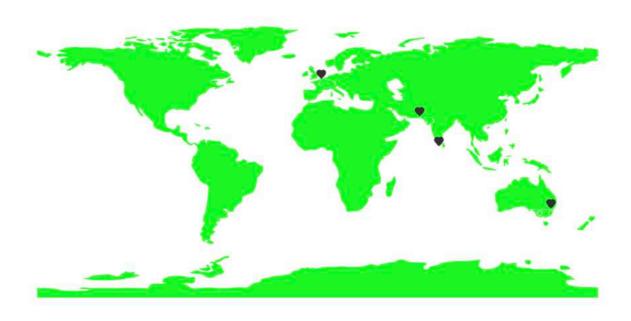
Project purpose recap

Consolidate speculative tools into one simplified and gamified process to make future-thinking and values-driven design more accessable for designers wanting to shape a better future.

Outcomes to date

Approx 70 players...

from at least 4 different countries...



have now experienced these design skills:

- Speculation
- Empathy (User review)
- Bad actor consideration (Sabotage)
- Brainstorming
- Sketching
- UX/copy writing
- Iteration

