How to do an Analysis of Research

It is always easy to find research, but what do you do when you have got it? Well, you need to use your research to help you design, remember, good research informs good design. So you need to pull out good information to help you. If the research does not help, remove it. Good analysis is one way to get this information.

So first:

Where did you find it?

Note down the website, book or magazine. If you like something it may be worth exploring the site/designer more. For example if you find a building you like, most architects/designers have a website so it may be worth looking at what else they have done in a similar style that you like. If you take photos whilst out, do note down where, as you may want to return at a later date. There is nothing worse than trying to locate a place you have been to before and not being able to find it

What does it tell you?

Here are some headings to help, but they are not the only ones so be flexible:

Materials - What are they? And how have they been used?

- How have they achieved a ‘quality’ finish?

Construction - How is it made? What fittings were used?

- What fixtures were used?

Design - What special design features does it have?

- What clever design features does it have?

Effect - How was this achieved and why?

- How was colour/pattern, etc. used and why?

How can you use it for your project?

Materials - I could use this material because…

Construction - This method would be good because…

Design - This feature would be good because…

Effects - It could use ….effect/technique to make my

design look good because…

Remember this is only a guide and a suggestion, you can add items or remove items from these lists depending upon the project you are undertaking, but the three basic headings remain the same. The secret is to be flexible.