On the Analysis of Intuitive Design Processes, written by Charles M. Eastman is a comprehensive report focusing on the cognitive processes that take place in the minds of those in the process of designing. An analysis of the decisions designers make is a driving force in his research. The article describes some of the results from ongoing studies. It provides several experiments for the reader to observe and the findings from each specific experiment. By analyzing thinking and information processing in designers, Eastman found correlations that form strategies to solve problems.

General conclusions found that there is a clear correspondence between identified design problems and the way they’re represented. It is more beneficial the designer to rely on past design processing for identifying design problems rather than relying on purely external sources.

Eastman broke down five steps to identify the approach for analyzing intuitive design processes. 1). The collection of accurate protocol, 2). Identifying the processes used to identify information of protocol, 3). Organization of information, 4). Determination of consistencies, 5). Incorporation of consistencies into organization of design problem-solving.

Of course these approaches are broad enough that they can be applied to any problem solving process whether or not specific to design. This proved to be a less feasible method of analysis when compared to Akin and Lin’s Analysis Design Activity.

The Akin and Lin article presents a more feasible analysis of the design process. Earlier studies like Eastman’s were concerned with characterizing the design process in general form. Researchers like Akin and Lin built upon this earlier work. In observing the frequency of design decisions, designer’s span of attention, activity modes, design drawings, and predictability of data, the physical process of design can be precisely documented. However, this study, like many others, fails to identify a specific design process. This research documented in this article is more about observation than design process. These observations are valuable information that is an integral part of
identifying physical process of design. If further developed, it could lead to the breakthrough discovery of how and why designers think certain things, process information, and then communicate it to others.