MARKETING ORGANIZATIONS AND CREATIVITY

AGENDA

- Understanding the relationship between the current marketing management paradigm and creativity
- How integrative thinkers unearth marketing contexts to foster creativity

Creativity and innovation are often celebrated as essential for firm success

Review

INNOVATION

Managing for Creativity

by Richard Florida and Jim Goodnight

FROM THE JULY–AUGUST 2005 ISSUE

"A company's most important asset isn't raw materials, transportation systems, or political influence. It's *creative capital* — simply put, an arsenal of creative thinkers whose ideas can be turned into

JUN 4, 2011 @ 03:51 AM   13,738 VIEWS

CEOs Say Innovation Is Most Important Factor For Growth | Voxy.co.nz

Bill Fischer, CONTRIBUTOR

I write about ideas, innovation, globalization & China.

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FULL BIO ∨

Among the "Seven misconceptions" regarding innovation that PwC's 1200 worldwide CEOs identified, there are five that are particularly important [*my comments are in italics*]:

Innovation can be delegated. Not so. The drive to innovate begins at the top. If the CEO doesn't protect and reward the process, it will fail. *So many CEOs either "don't get innovation" or cannot get past their finance-focused mindsets. If we can't get the CEO engaged around innovation, the odds against innovative success are extremely low. Great innovation inevitably*

Tulevaisuuden työelämän taidot

- Uteliaisuus
- Empatia
- Luovuus
- Oppiminen
- Vuorovaikutus
- Tutkijamainen asenne
- Ongelmanratkaisu

… but are businesses geared to facilitate that?

What were the key learning points for you from Holt and Cameron chapter 14?

Inside the Box

People don't actually like creativity.

By *Jessica Olien*

The Bias Against Creativity: Why People Desire but Reject Creative Ideas

Jennifer S. Mueller[1], Shimul Melwani[2], and Jack A. Goncalo[3]

[1]Management Department, The Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania; [2]Organizational Behavior Department, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill; and [3]School of Industrial and Labor Relations, Cornell University

Abstract

People often reject creative ideas, even when espousing creativity as a desired goal. To explain this paradox, we propose that people can hold a bias against creativity that is not necessarily overt and that is activated when people experience a motivation to reduce uncertainty. In two experiments, we manipulated uncertainty using different methods, including an uncertainty-reduction prime. The results of both experiments demonstrated the existence of a negative bias against creativity (relative to practicality) when participants experienced uncertainty. Furthermore, this bias against creativity interfered with participants' ability to recognize a creative idea. These results reveal a concealed barrier that creative actors may face as they attempt to gain acceptance for their novel ideas.
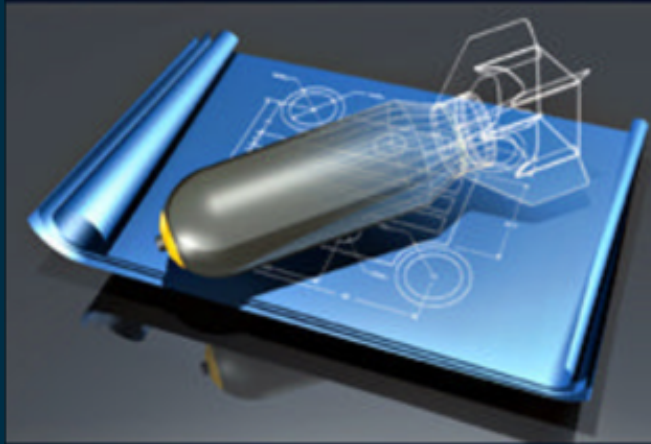
37. Why No One Really Wants Creativity

Barry M. Staw

1. Most creativity or innovation cases 'celebrate the victor', once the dust has settled

2. Individual creatives often make 'the rest' look bad

3. Organizations and groups converge towards stability, harmony, 'not rocking the boat'

The Dark Side of Creativity

Edited by **David H. Cropley**

Arthur J. Cropley

James C. Kaufman

Mark A. Runco

CAMBRIDGE

WHAT DO KEY MANAGERS WANT?

- CEO
- Operations Manager
- Finance Manager
- Human Resources Manager / IT
- Sales Manager
- Marketing Marketing
- Research and Development Manager

THE ELEMENTS OF BRAND BUREAUCRACY

- **Calculable Rules**
  1. Abstraction and reduction
  2. Standardized procedures for consistency and control
  3. Scientific management and quantification
- **Rationalized Management**
  4. Specialized expertise
  5. Hierarchical chain of command
  6. Dehumanized Application of Rules

ABSTRACTION AND REDUCTION

- The brand meanings are reduced to simple, generic, and understandable terms
- This is done to help other org. functions "understand" the brand
- What are the creativity implications here? (linking back to the other books)

STANDARDIZED PROCEDURES

- Objective rules to enable rewarding and managing
- A mechanical logic for all things marketing
  - Product development
  - Sales
  - Advertising
- What are the creativity implications here? (linking back to the other books)

SCIENTIFIC MANAGEMENT AND QUANTIFICATION

- Bringing legitimacy to decision making via 'objectivity' and numbers
- Brings marketing into the same realm as finance, operations etc.
- But leads to studying e.g. consumer behavior only through what can be quantified
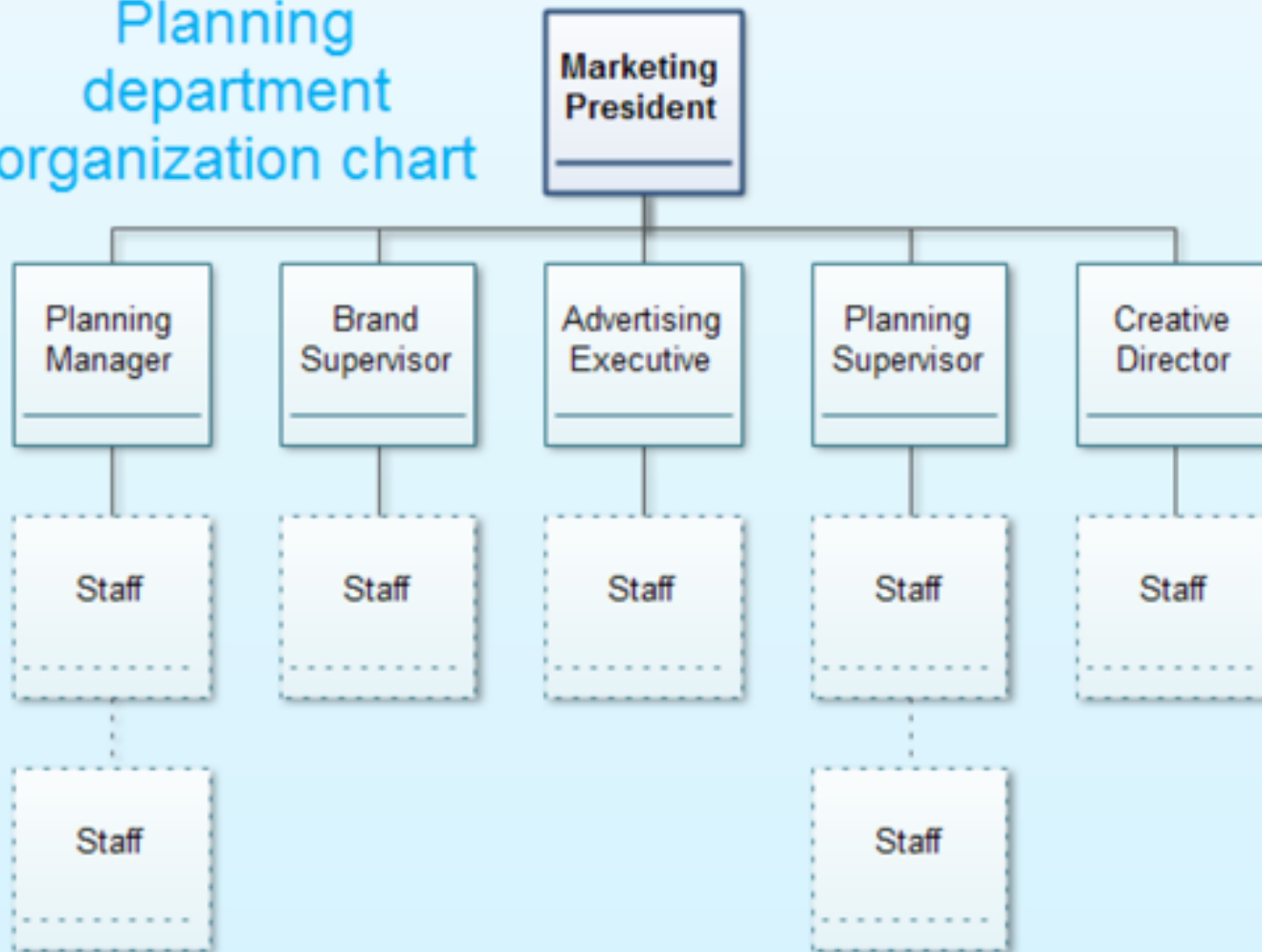- What are the creativity implications here? (linking back to the other books)

SPECIALIZED EXPERTISE

- Rationalized and repetitive tasks
- Creating silos of understanding
- Expert knowledge and a lack of cross-pollination
- What are the creativity implications here? (linking back to the other books)

HIERARCHICAL CHAIN OF COMMAND

- Structures of supervision and subordination
- Chain of commands in decision-making ➔ "broken telephone" effect
- What are the creativity implications here? (linking back to the other books)

Planning department organization chart

Marketing President
_____

- **Planning Manager**
  _____
  - Staff
    - Staff
- **Brand Supervisor**
  _____
  - Staff
- **Advertising Executive**
  _____
  - Staff
- **Planning Supervisor**
  _____
  - Staff
    - Staff
- **Creative Director**
  _____
  - Staff

Chairman & CEO

- Legal Advisor
- External Auditor

Director

Finance & Administration
- Human Resorce & Administration
- Accounting & Finance

Marketing & Business Development
- India Offices
- Overseas Offices
  - Canada
  - UK
  - France
  - Germany
  - Spain
  - Italy

Inbound Division
- Sales Department
- Operations Department
- Product Development
- Tour Escorts
- Transport Department
- Post Sales Department

Outbound Division
- Sales Department
- Operations Department
- Product Development
- Corporate Travel Dept.
- VISA Department
- Post Sales Department

Domestic Division
- Sales Department
- Operations Department
- Product Development
- Post Sales Department

Flights Division
- International Sales
- Domestic Sales
- Airlines Contracting

M.I.C.E. Division

I.T. Division

# *DEHUMANIZED APPLICATION OF RULES*

- "Bureaucracy develops the more perfectly, the more it is 'dehumanized', the more completely it succeeds in eliminating from official business love, hatred, and all purely personal, irrational and emotional elements which escape calculation." (Weber)
- In other words: all staffers are expected to make the same decision if presented with the same problem
- What are the creativity implications here? (linking back to the other books)

THE CONSEQUENCES FOR CREATIVITY

- **Reductionist research:** Keeping culture out of marketing
  - Rich consumer research is reduced to 'language' that can be spread across the organization
- **Mindshare marketing:** Debating abstract adjectives
  - Brands are reduced to essences to ensure they can be "managed"
- **'Concept testing'** approach to problem-solving
- **Command-and-Control Management**
  - Marketing is made into tasks, reports, inputs, deadlines etc.
  - Implies that marketplace dynamics can be and are known

MARKETING PRINCIPLES THROWBACK: "THE BRAND ONION MODEL"

Extended identity

Brand Core Identity
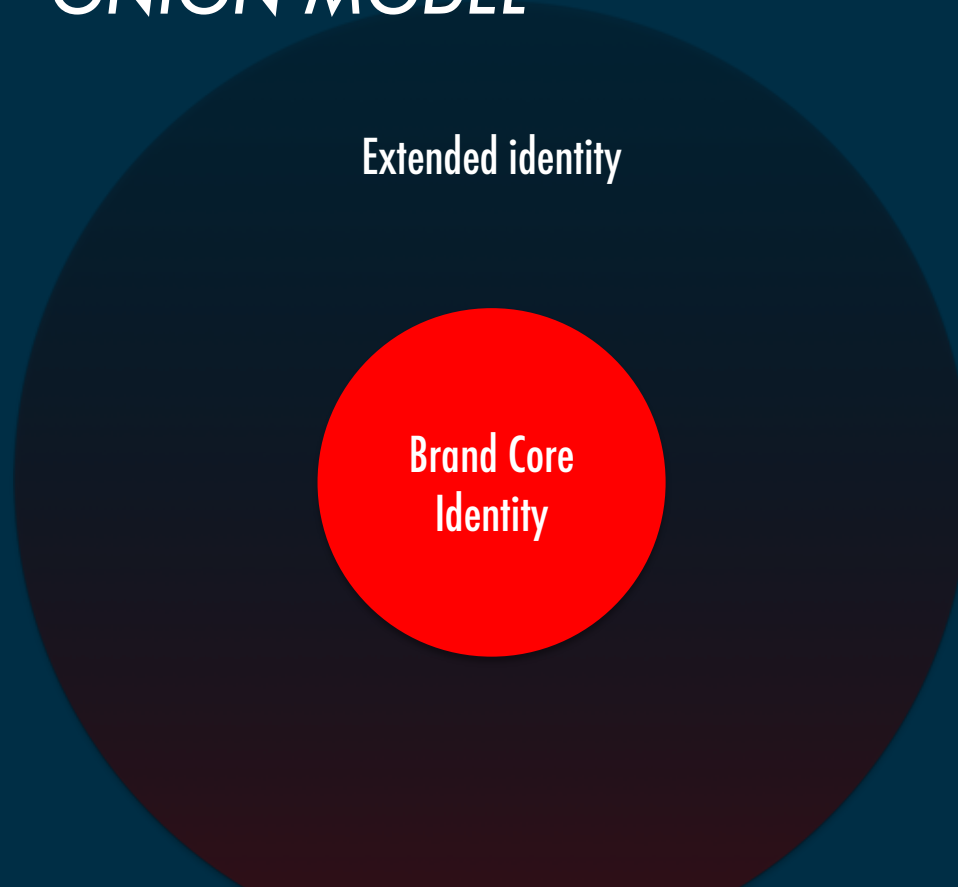
- The core identity remains unchanged
- The extended identity can and should be updated
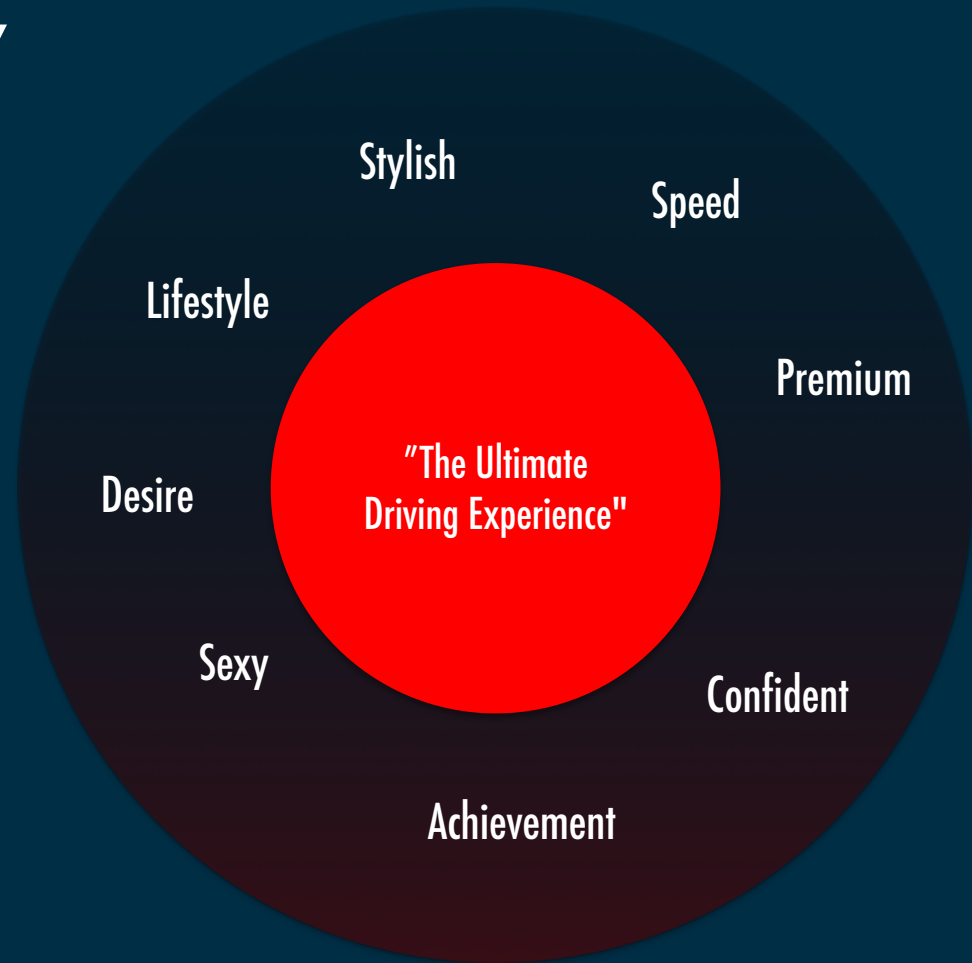
AdvertisingAge

Why Metrics Are Killing Creativity in Advertising
Viewpoint: When Marketing Decisions Are Based on Numbers, We Lose the Desire to Be Creative

By Patrick Sarkissian

Published: March 04, 2010

Patrick Sarkissian

Every once in a while, it happens. An epiphany – fully materialized and smacking you between the eyes. Mine came to me on a recent evening while lounging on the couch, recovering from another day of doing the due-diligence dance with my beloved clients. And this one was a paradigm-shifter: Just as video killed the radio star, metrics are killing creativity.

When the economy takes a nosedive, marketers get nervous. And when sales follow suit, clients stop approving creative ideas and start staring at numbers. No client ever will tell you that the creative way you waded through the fantastically distorted worlds of online branding and social media is wrong. But they can be nothing short of sanctimonious when telling you the numbers don't support the creative. As a result, we have become absolute geniuses in the field of metrics.
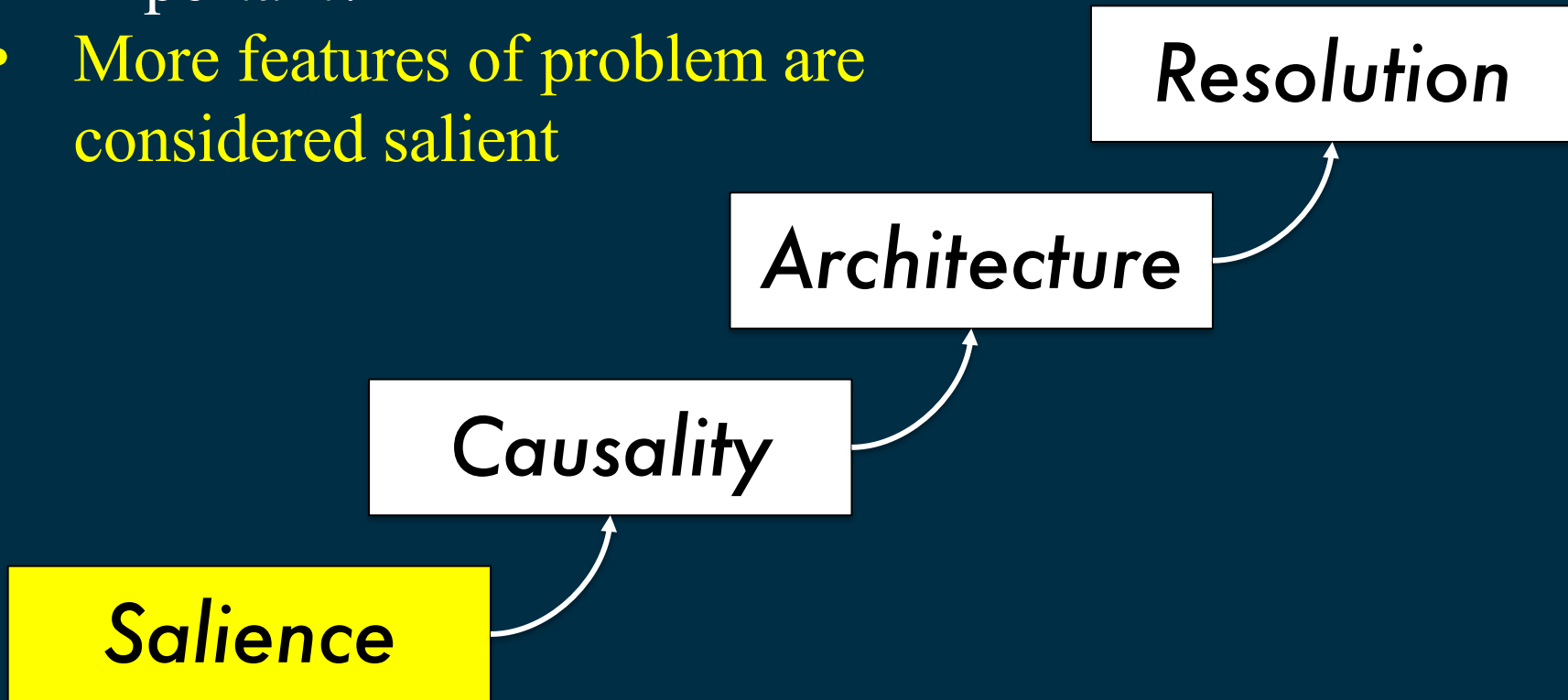
In short:

creativity needs rich and varied understanding of problems / contexts, cross-pollination of ideas, freedom of experimentation etc...

But this is difficult under brand bureaucracies

MARTIN (2009) The Process of Thinking and Deciding

Resolution

Architecture

Causality
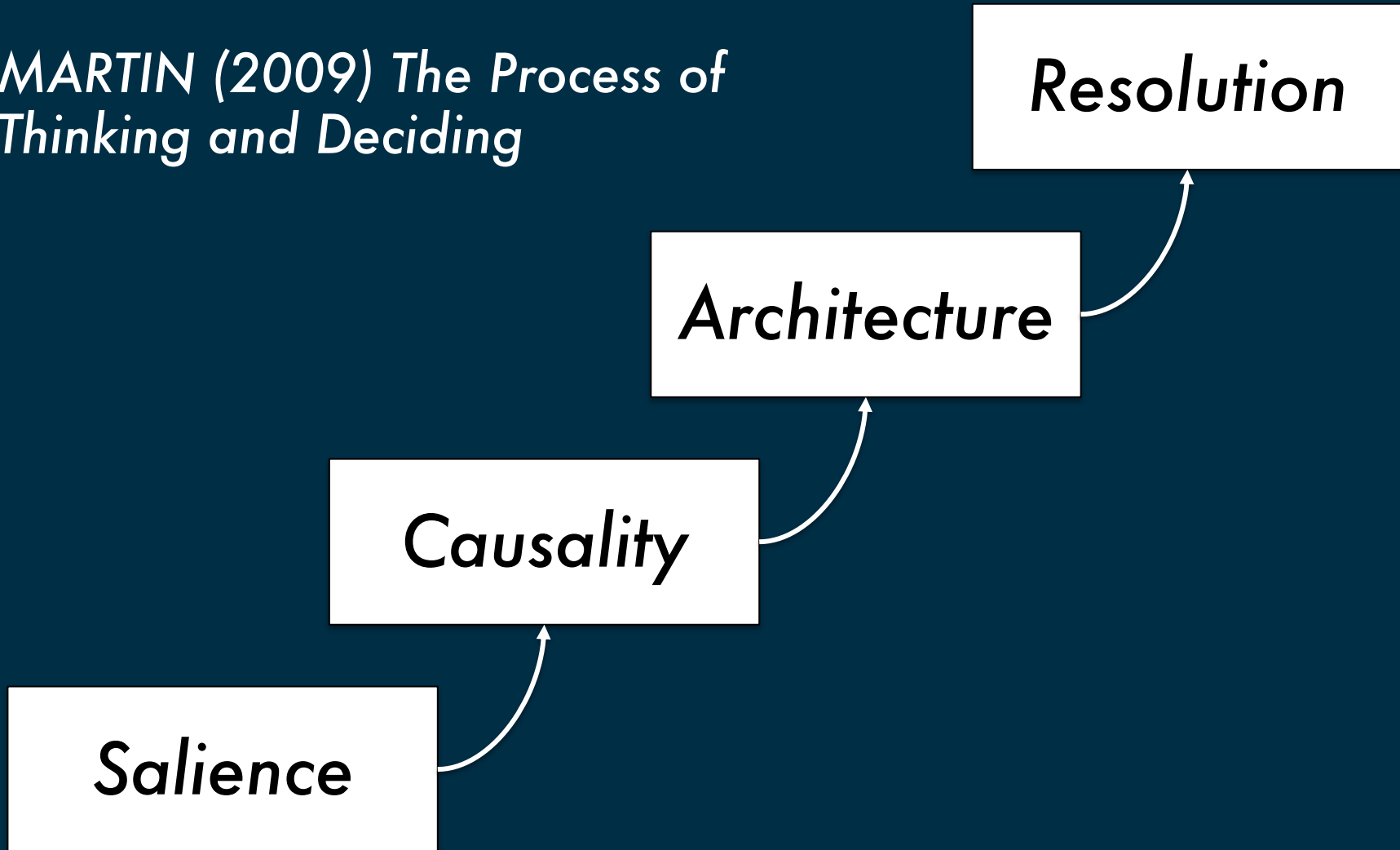
Salience

- What features do I see as important?
- More features of problem are considered salient

Resolution

Architecture

Causality

Salience

- How do I make sense of what I see?
- Multidirectional and non-linear causality considered

Resolution

Architecture

Causality
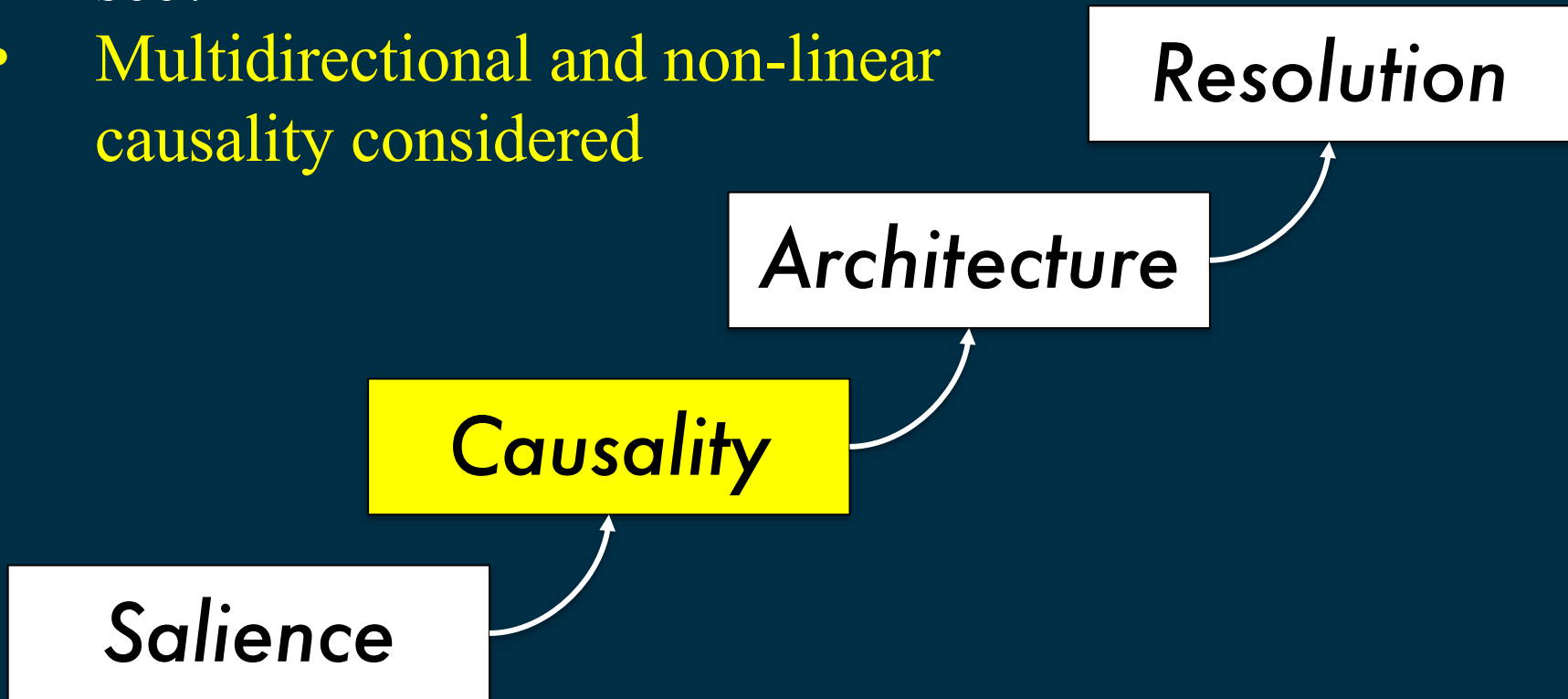
Salience

- What tasks will I do in what order?
- Whole visualized while working on individual parts

Resolution

Architecture

Causality
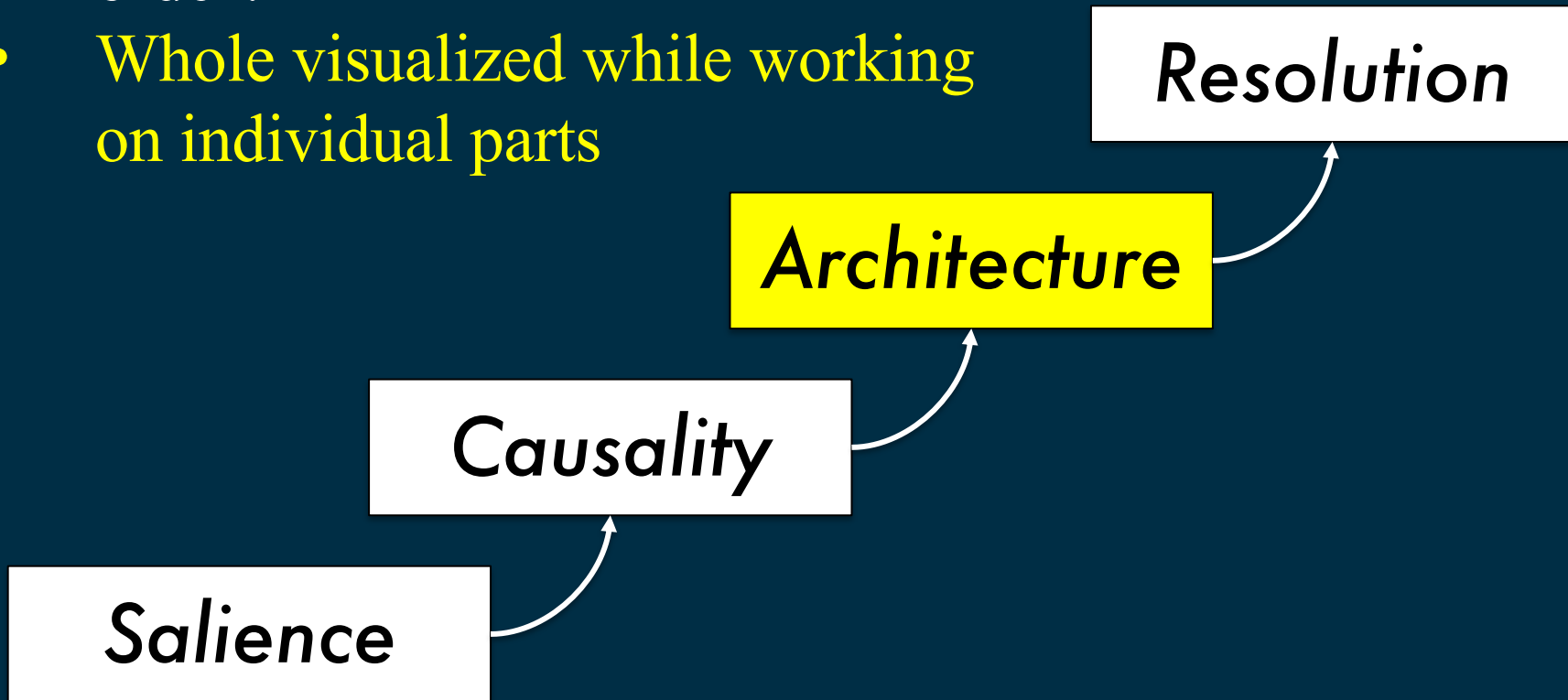
Salience

- How will I know when I am done?
- Search for creative resolution of tensions
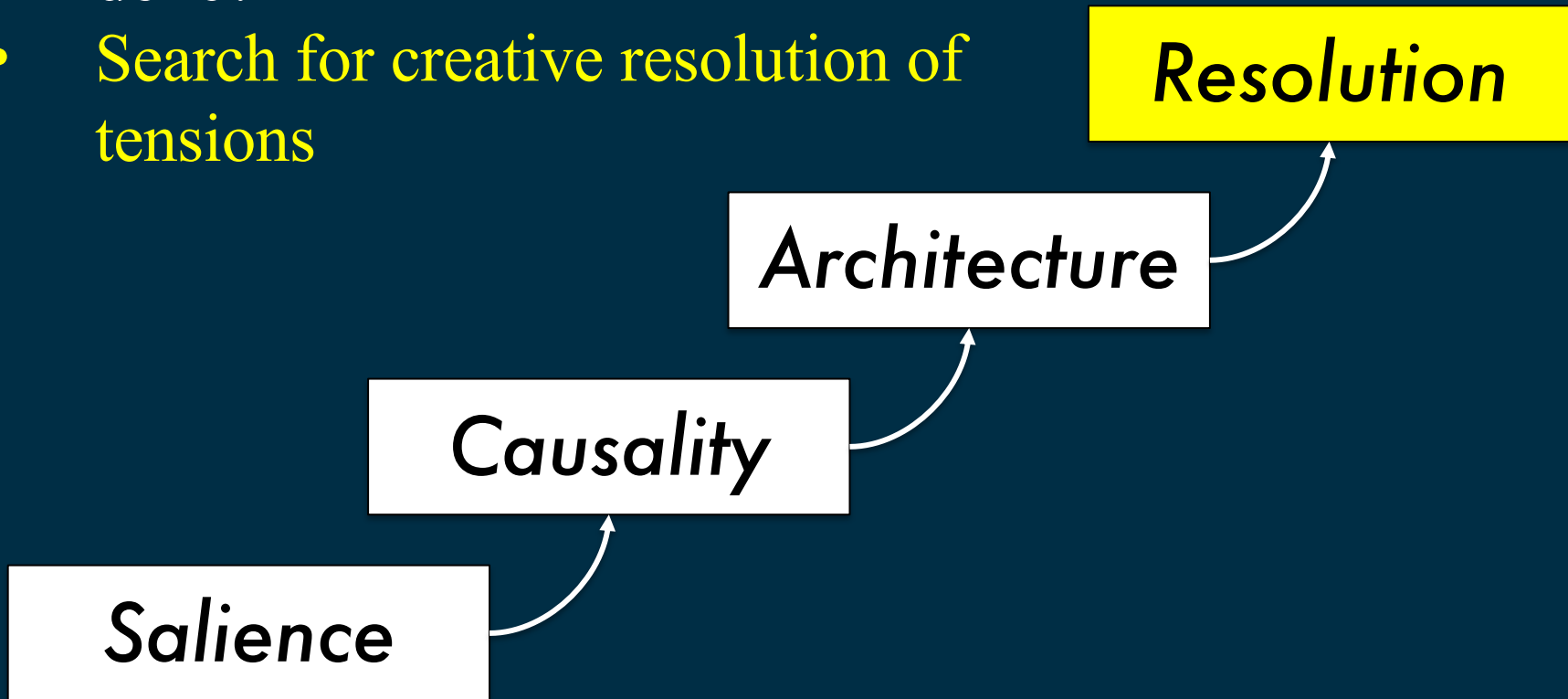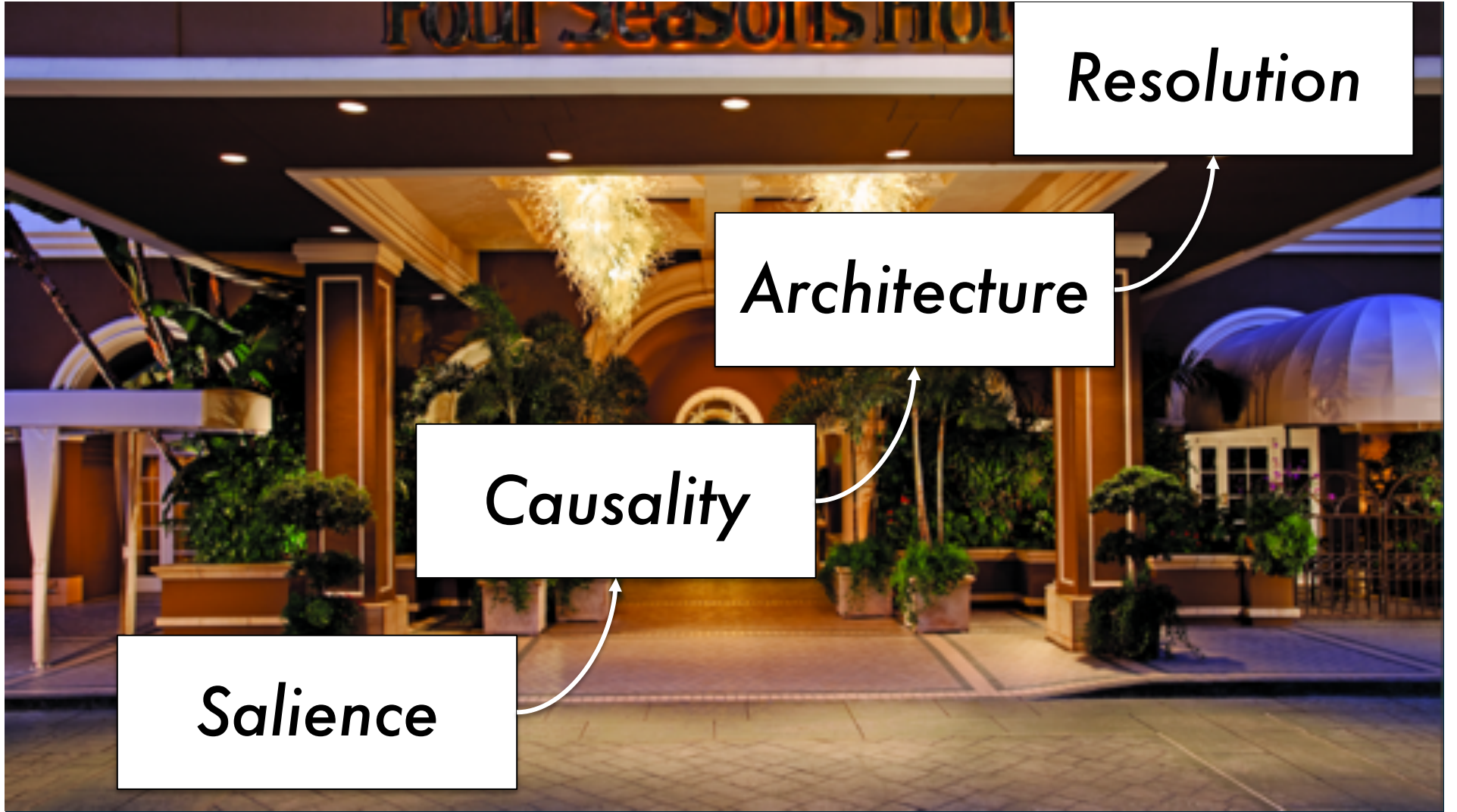
Resolution

Architecture

Causality

Salience

Customer Experience Design

Continuous development

Experience architecture

Experience causalities

Customer understanding

Designing the customer experience

Continuous development

Experience architecture

Experience causalities

Customer understanding

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Customer understanding:
# the *real* needs of business travelers

- Sharpe had and gained deeper insights through interviews, part. relating to the emotional side
- For many travelers, the big hotel rooms were alienating, "too nice" and too big
- Business travel is not glamorous; home sickeness, rush, and sleep deprivation are constant companions
- People did not value the "shiny surface"; rather: speed, reponsiveness, personalization, and empathy
- Smaller observations: business travelers "travel light" with a carry-on suitcase
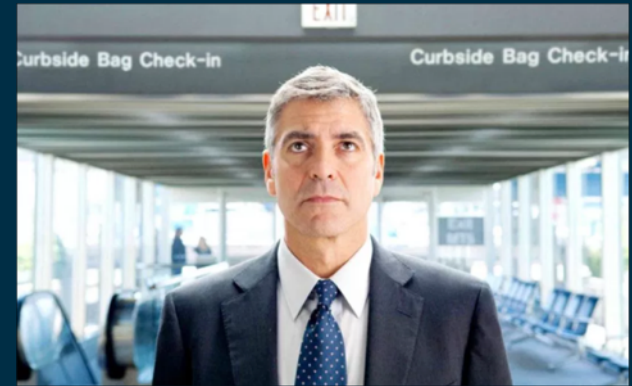
Out-spoken versus deep experience

Out-spoken

- "I want a lot and good service"
- "I am in a hurry"
- "Money is no issue"
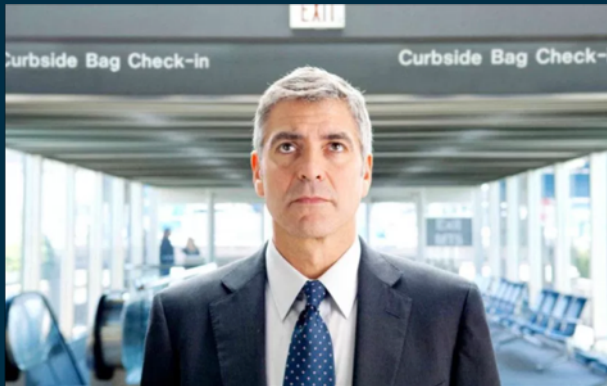
Deep experience

- "I am home sick"
- "I do not like assuming a role all the time"
- "I am not being treated as a human being"
- "I am very tired"

Designing the customer experience

Continuous development

Experience architecture

Experience causalities

Customer understanding

© Henri Weijo

FS's causalities and architecture

- Iron law in the hotel business: price has to work in relation to usage rate and the sale of amenities and extra services (A&ES)

- Big hotels finance their A&ES by having a lot of rooms ➔ minimum of 170 is typical for a hotel meant for business travel

- Four Seasons justified its "too big" (and more expensive A&ES level by tailoring it to business travelers' true needs

- Managing tradeoffs!

Four Seasons' innovations

1. Rooms were motel size, but decorated to be "homey"
2. Desk, two-way telephone, big reading lamp
3. Bathroom: shampoos on walls, hair drier, makeup mirror, bathrobes
4. Overnight shoe shining and laundry service
5. 24h concierge servics
6. All hotels would be tailored according to local traditions and flair (especially restaurants)
7. Encouraging patronage of hotel restaurant over using room sergice (freeing up sergice people)
8. Outsourcing ownership of hotels, renting ➔ managers were freed up to focus exclusively on improving customer experience

Architecture: FS personnel policy

1. More and more frequent training for personnel
2. Appreciating personnel (esp. during downturns)
3. Internal promotions and role circulation ➜ employees are exposed to the entirety of the customer experience and understand their roles in it!
4. Customer and employee complaints were declared equal
5. Getting rid of the customer service department (!)
6. Removing service "scripting", giving employees more freedom (and responsibility!) to do the right thing

Designing the customer experience

Continuous development

Experience architecture

Experience causalities

Customer understanding

© Henri Weijo

Development: FS's measures

1. Global sales and booking numbers
2. Local and global travel awards
3. Local online-information
4. Local guest databases (e.g., frequency, "lost customers")
5. Local employee retention rates
6. Recruitment numbers (number of applications, "best place to work" –surveys)
7. Global procurement, but local evaluation of cost and quality
8. External evaluators and mystery shopping, extensive and incentivized best practice sharing

INNOVATION

How to Kill Creativity

by Teresa Amabile

Motivating Creativity in Organizations:

ON DOING WHAT YOU LOVE AND LOVING WHAT YOU DO

Teresa M. Amabile

KEYS Scale Name	KEYS Scale Description	Direction of Difference	Magnitude of Difference in Phase 1[a]	Magnitude of Difference in Phase 3
CREATIVITY STIMULANT SCALES				
Organizational Encouragement	An organizational culture that encourages creativity through the fair, constructive judgment of ideas, reward and recognition for creative work, mechanisms for developing new ideas, an active flow of ideas, and a shared vision of what the organization is trying to do.	High-Creativity higher	Strong[b]	Strong[b]
Supervisory Encouragement	A supervisor who serves as a good work model, sets goals appropriately, supports the work group, values individual contributions, and shows confidence in the work group.	High-Creativity higher	Strong[b]	Moderate[b]
Work Group Supports	A diversely skilled work group in which people communicate well, are open to new ideas, constructively challenge each other's work, trust and help each other, and feel committed to the work they are doing.	High-Creativity higher	Strong[b]	Strong[b]
Sufficient Resources	Access to appropriate resources, including funds, materials, facilities, and information.	High-Creativity higher	Moderate[b]	None
Challenging Work	A sense of having to work hard on challenging tasks and important projects.	High-Creativity higher	Strong[b]	Strong[b]
Freedom	Freedom in deciding what work to do or how to do it; a sense of control over one's work.	High-Creativity higher	Strong[b]	Moderate[c]

Harvard Business Review

INNOVATION

Creativity Under the Gun

by Teresa Amabile, Constance N. Hadley, and Steven J. Kramer

FROM THE AUGUST 2002 ISSUE

How do time pressures entice creativity?

LOW TIME PRESSURE – LOW CREATIVITY

- Creative thinking under low time pressure is unlikely when people feel as if they are on autopilot. They:
  - Receive little encouragement from senior management to be creative
  - Tend to have more meetings with groups than with individuals
  - Engage in less collaborative work overall
- When have you felt this?

LOW TIME PRESSURE – HIGH CREATIVITY

- Creative thinking is more likely when people feel that they are on an expedition. They:
  - Show creative thinking that is more oriented toward generating or exploring ideas than identifying problems
  - Tend to collaborate with one person rather than with a group
- When have you felt this?

HIGH TIME PRESSURE – LOW CREATIVITY

- Creative thinking under extreme time pressure is unlikely when people feel as if they are on a treadmill. They:
  - Feel distracted
  - Experience a highly fragmented workday, with many different activities
  - Don't get the sense that the work they are doing is important
  - Feel more pressed for time than when they are "on a mission" even though they work the same number of hours
  - Tend to have more meetings and discussions with groups rather than with individuals
  - Experience lots of last-minute changes in their plans and schedules
- When have you felt this?

HIGH TIME PRESSURE – HIGH CREATIVITY

- Creative thinking under extreme time pressure is more likely when people feel as if they are on a mission. They:
  - Can focus on one activity for a significant part of the the day because they are undisturbed and protected
  - Believe they are doing important work and report feeling positively challenged by and involved in the work
  - Show creative thinking that is equally oriented toward identifying problems and generating or exploring ideas
- When have you felt this?

FOR NEXT TIME

- Cayl and Arnould– Ethnographic Stories for Market Learning
- Madsjberg and Rasmussen – The Human Touch
- Both are on MyCourses!