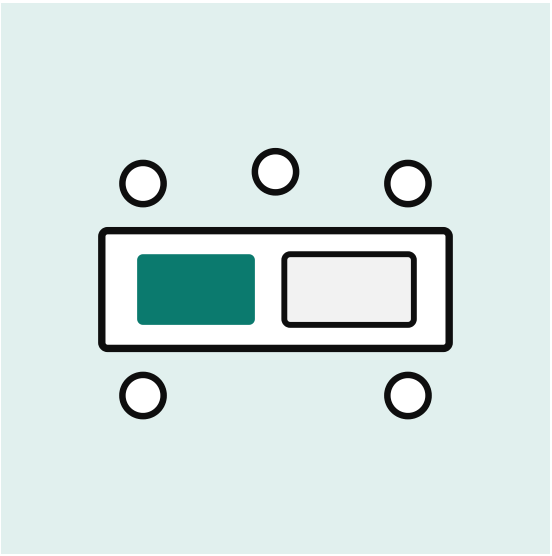
Method

Charrette

An intensive, collaborative workshop, often lasting several days, in which design teams and affected people propose, present and revise solutions in rapid cycles.



Origin

The École des Beaux-Arts in Paris, in the 19th century (the “charrette” was the cart that collected the students’ work); in planning, Lennertz and Lutzenhiser (2006)

Output

Proposals developed and revised as a group over a few days

What it’s for

It keeps projects with many stakeholders from dragging on through back-and-forth: it brings everyone together at once to decide together.

Key elements

Everyone at once

The disciplines and the people affected, in the same room.

Short cycles

Propose, present and revise.

Fixed time

A firm deadline forces decisions.

How it’s done

1

Prepare the problem and decide whom to invite.

2

Work in groups and present to everyone.

3

Revise based on what you hear, until you reach a plan.

Applications in design

When to use it

In urban or service projects with many stakeholders.

Avoid

Calling a two-hour meeting a charrette.

Don't fall for it

Publish afterward what was decided and what happens with each proposal.

Connections

Used by

- Design for policy
- Spatial design

Related to

- Co-design
- Participatory design

Authors and works

2008	**Bill Lennertz, Aarin Lutzenhiser and Tamara Failor**	Explained the charrette in planning: several days of collaborative work with review cycles.
2006	**Bill Lennertz and Aarin Lutzenhiser**	Wrote the National Charrette Institute's reference handbook, with its phases and review cycles.

Sources

Original sources

- Lennertz, B., & Lutzenhiser, A. (2006). The charrette handbook. American Planning Association & National Charrette Institute.

Secondary sources

- Lennertz, B., Lutzenhiser, A., & Failor, T. (2008). An introduction to charrettes. Planning Commissioners Journal, 71, 1–3. View source (https://plannersweb.com/2008/07/an-introduction-to-charrettes/)

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