**Commensality: Beyond the Belief That You Are What You Eat.**

*New Zealand, is both a bicultural nation and a multicultural society. So the need to prioritize culture in design pedagogy and practice is not only palpable but well overdue. Although acknowledged as highly valuable within higher education, diversities when explored as non-western cultural and creative practices are still side-lined as optional or as extensions to the current teleological pathways carved out within tertiary design curricula and practice. Building on the ‘indigenous wisdom’ framework outlined in the newly emergent design provocation Transition Design, this research introduces how an appreciation of cultural acumen can benefit, enrich, critique, and quite possibly radicalise current design thinking, process and praxis. This study will discuss both Maori and Pasifika world views and ideologies and illustrates how these can enrich and enable design education. The aim of this paper is to highlight an appreciation for the reciprocity and respect imbued within kaupapa Maori and the Pasifika ideology of Ta Vā (time and space) and how these considerations can enhance design when they are purposefully, knowingly and respectfully imbued in design thinking and praxis. This research specifically focuses on the establishment of connections as essential to both the discipline and the learning experience. To achieve this, this study will introduce commensality, the coming together around a table to break bread and boundaries, and place it within the framework of Transition Design. Having offered an appreciation of commensality through these lenses, this research will exemplar instances where students have engaged with these frameworks to enhance their design solutions and where commensality has been used to specifically enhance an appreciation of individuality and social connectivity within the learning space.*