

## **A Phenomenological-Hermeneutic Account of Design Thinking by Way of an Exposition of Four Species of Negatite: 'Not Being', 'Non-Being', 'Absence', 'Non-Existence'**

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**Abstract :** In this paper, it is attempted to chart and exposit terra incognita of the transcendental intuition of 'non-being', a peculiar species of négatité and a form of consciousness which underpins the phenomenal capacity for design thinking, and which serves as the ground of the 'designing being-relation to the world'. The paper's contention is that the transcendental intuition of the non-being indwells the agent's being-relation to the world as a continual tension in that neither does the agent relinquish its ontological leverage and submit altogether to the world's curbs and dictates, nor is it able to subdue satisfactorily or settle into the world once and for all. By way of phenomenological-hermeneutic analysis, it is endeavoured to argue that design thinking occurs by virtue of a phenomenal transition between the a priori 'not-being', the basis of 'that-which-is', and the transcendental intuition of non-being through which that-which-is-not-yet announces itself. Along with this, the other two species of négatité as 'absence' and 'non-existence' are clarified and contrasted with not-being and non-being, which have widely been used in the literature interchangeably as identical terms. In conclusion, it is argued that not only has design thinking in its unadulterated, originary mode historically preceded scientific thinking, but it also has served as the foundation of its emergence. In short, scientific thinking is a derivative, reformed application of design thinking; it indeed supervenes upon it.

**Keywords :** design thinking, designing being-relation to the world, négatité, not-being, non-being

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