Design Exercise Theoretical Framework – Possible Questions

Theory is seen as a vital part of research.

Theory is generated outside of design and within design.

Theories generated by the design community are **about** the cultural / social impact and influence of design as well as the theories about the internal discourses **in** the design community and its multiple discourses.

Theories generated outside of design by other disciplines (sociology, anthropology, linguistics, cultural studies, philosophy etc.) are applied to design by designers, design theoreticians and academics.

Theory enables us to view what we do while we are involved in design through a distanced lens or perspectives. This viewing can help us to:
contextualise a practice
develop a critical perspective (through criticality and analysis)
apply a critical perspectives to the practice
reform, **inform** and **perform** from this altered perspective

The foundations of the theory are based on the adversarial nature of philosophy (Eastern & Western). It employs critical analysis and reflective processes in order to arrive at an insight (synthesis).

Not all design is the same and not all design practices apply the same theories to their understanding of their discourses **about** and **in** design.

Design is also reflective but not necessarily analytically critical. Design can arrive at a point of synthesis through intuitive processes.

If employed in an appropriate manner theories form outside and inside of design can be applied ,in such an order so as it operates **through** design and give **form** to design. This demands of the design practitioner a multiple skills set and is complex.