

# SHOULD DESIGNERS UNIONIZE???

## & IF SO WHY?

The path to becoming a designer is much different than many others. There are many niches within design and practices. What I specialize in might be different than you!

This however can cause issues for job hunting, hiring, and receiving compensation. Many of the meeting participants in this book stated they felt their pay was too low to support housing & food. Many industries pay designers way under the amount to make a living due to their jobs being freelance contracts. Many designers also fear asking for a higher amount.

**CRITICALITY  
EQUALS INCOME  
MEANS CRITICALITY  
IS NOT EQUALLY  
AVAILABLE.**

Who can afford criticality? The book keeps coming back to this. Critical practice costs something. It costs clients, commissions, & stability. The people most able to afford it are often the people who need it least.

**"I JUST CAN'T  
SPEND ALL  
SUMMER NOT  
HAVING ANY  
MONEY COMING IN"**

a quote from pg. 70 from Meeting No 3 said by participant named as "N.M." also probably a quote said by me every year of my life since finishing undergrad

  
this zine is part of the lit review project  
find or learn more @ [zahrabaxi.com/  
thelitreviewproject](https://zahrabaxi.com/thelitreviewproject)



^  
or scan me :)

zine #15 - designed & illustrated  
by zahra baxi

Framing design as art or as an ontological life force is all fun and games until you have to pay your rent.

This book is a collection of meeting

transcripts, essays, and conversations asking what it actually means to be a

critical designer when you are also a worker who needs to survive. It's a fun

one and helped me understand how I could create a publication that was fun,

exciting, and crazy. If theres any book I think you really need to read yourself

out of this 20 zine series...  
ITS THIS ONE!

# WHO CAN AFFORD TO BE CRITICAL

*the lit review project #15  
based on the book by Afonso Matos*

## THE LIT REVIEW PROJECT

- a collection of visual literature reviews combining research, reflection, and design.  
This project reimagines academic literature reviews as something personal, tactile, and creative.

Each zine in the series explores a single book or theme through illustrated spreads, diagrams, and design elements rooted in fieldwork, annotation, and care.

This edition looks at Who Can Afford to Be Critical? by Afonso Matos.

