

# Hedgehog Innovation Teams

## *Focused, Nimble, Dangerous*

*International Product Development and Management Association*



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VP of Marketing,  
Predicta*



*Ty Hagler  
Principal, Trig*

— ABOUT TRIG —

# Full-Service Industrial Design Firm... Virtually Connected



## Insights & Ideation

## Design & Development

## Brand Asset Management

Consumer Insights  
& Design Strategy

Facilitated  
Virtual Ideation

Design Thinking  
Workshops

Consumer Product  
Design

Medical Device  
Design

Industrial  
Design

Brand  
Development

UX/UI Design &  
Web Development

Marketing  
Automation



"The fox knows many things, but the hedgehog knows one big thing."  
- the Greek Poet Archilochus





Since 1942, Liberty Hardware Manufacturing Corporation has built its reputation by offering high quality decorative and functional hardware products at an exceptional value. The company proudly offers its extensive line of hardware products through fine retail outlets and original equipment manufacturer (OEM) distribution channels across the country.



— A Recipe for Incrementalism —

# How Companies Traditionally Approach Innovation



Project Manager



## Scaled Down for Time

Line extensions

Existing infrastructure

Easy to execute

New soap scent, but  
miss the Tide Pod

**80%**  
**Operations**  
(keep the  
lights on)

**20% Innovation**



Product Manager



## Scaled Down for Scope

Near adjacencies

Existing market

Only chase the obvious

Miss the emerging trends  
in the market

**80%**  
**Operations**  
(keep the  
lights on)

**20% Innovation**





\*Using sticky notes does not guarantee innovative ideas

## — Pitfalls of BlueSky Teams —

# BlueSky Teams

Throw money at BlueSky Teams that don't execute

- Spend lots of time scanning the market
- Solutions looking for problems
- Hire expensive groups to look “innovative”
- Go down many paths without execution
- “Hey, look! A squirrel!”



— A Recipe for Disruption —

# Hedgehog Innovation Teams: Focus

Dedicated team with no P&L responsibility  
Focus on new categories, not just “things”



**Project Director**



**Project Manager**



**Marketing Manager**



**Engineering**





— A Recipe for Disruption —

# Hedgehog Innovation Teams: Clarity

Only projects outside the Core

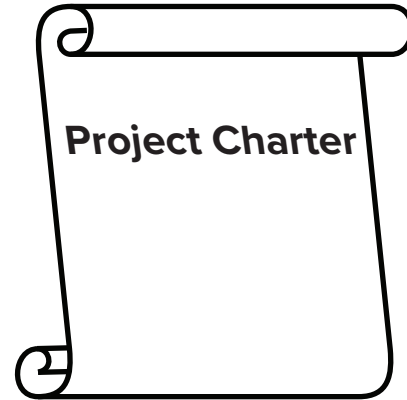
Complacent incumbents

Stagnant or commoditized categories may have opportunity

Start with categories \$200M+

Leverage cross-functional people

Identify external partners early



Vision for change - make the consumer value proposition meaningful

— Finding Talent —

# When the Required Talent isn't In-House

## Downside of the RFQ Process



— WHERE WE'VE BEEN & WHERE WE'LL GO —

# Explore, Prototype, Build

## INSIGHTS and IDEATION



Creative Brief



Field  
Ethnography



Consumer  
Macrotrends



Cross-industry  
inspiration



Stakeholder  
Interviews



Stakeholder  
Journeys



Persona  
Frameworks



Virtual Ideation  
Sessions



Concept Validation  
Surveys

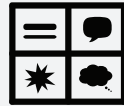
## INDUSTRIAL DESIGN and DEVELOPMENT



Materials and  
Processes



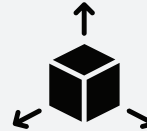
Concept  
Development



Testable  
Concepts &  
Storyboards



Massing  
Models



Refined CAD  
Models



Prototype-to-  
Learn methods



Color Spec  
Marketing  
Materials



DFM Tooling  
Materials  
Specifications



Assembly  
Guide

## BRAND ASSET MANAGEMENT



Competitive  
Landscape Analysis



Industry Trends  
Analysis



Market Gap &  
Opportunity Identification



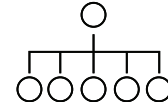
Brand  
Archetypes



Brand  
Positioning



Core Values  
Development



Brand Architecture  
Selection



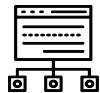
Brand  
Audit



Brand Messaging  
& Voice



Logo Design  
& Development



Website/App  
Layout



Website/App  
Design



Digital &  
Print Templates



Digital/Print  
Assets +



Brand Guide  
Creation & Tutorial



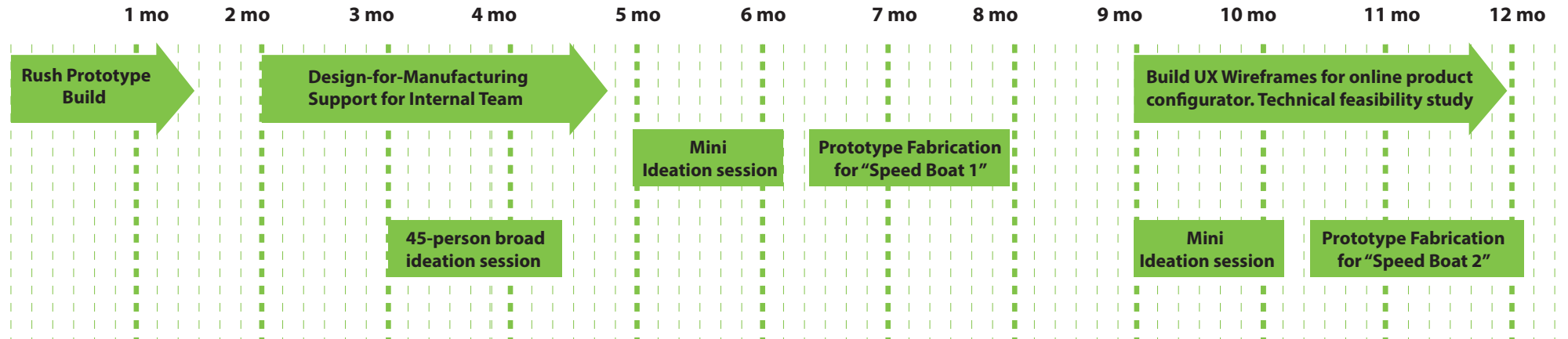
Packaging  
Design



— Finding Talent —

# When the Required Talent isn't In-House

## Trig Managed Services Model



— A Recipe for Disruption —

# Disciplined Exploration

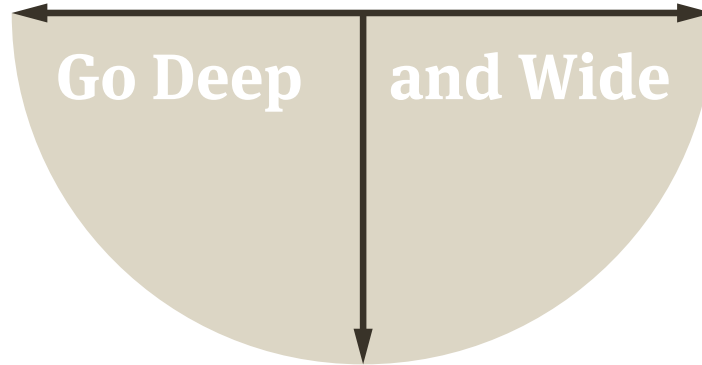
## Going Deep

Consumer Dissatisfaction

Industry

Supply Chain

Regulatory



## Going Wide

Look Across Channels

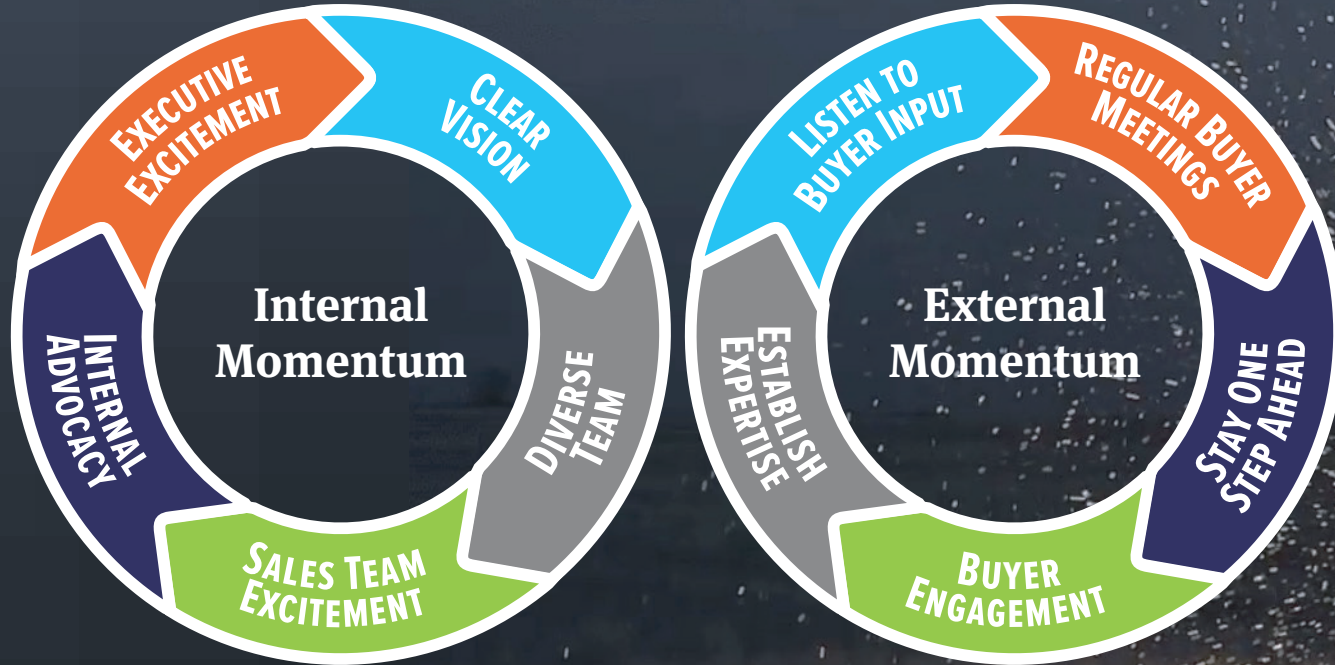
Clear Definition

Cost Modeling

Roadmapping

— A Recipe for Disruption —

# Build Momentum





— A Recipe for Disruption —

# Speedboats vs. Oceanliners



## **Speedboats / Things:**

Specific consumer pain  
Launch something that works  
MVP - Make it, test it, kill it  
Iterate, then launch

## **Oceanliners / Categories**

Significant potential  
Deep and Wide  
Large categories  
New to the company

— A Recipe for Disruption —

# Experience Prototyping



## In-store intercepts

Anyone who stopped at bay,  
ask questions

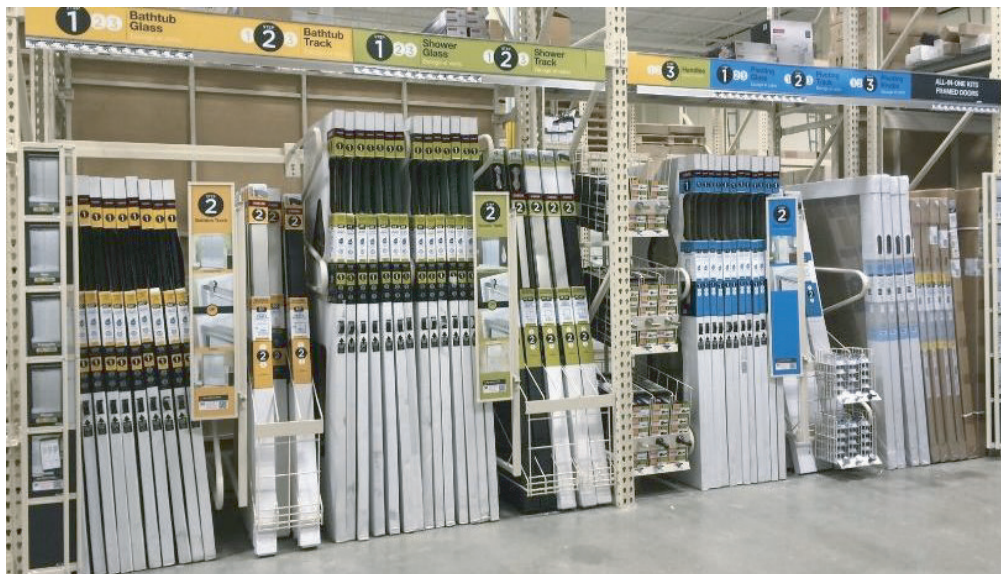
Quickly found dissatisfactions  
Choice limitations of the set



## Experience Prototypes

What if we break it up into smaller  
components?

Built prototypes of bay, ran  
diverse customers through shopping  
experience to test, adjust, re-test



**22 minutes  
to 7 minutes**



**13% to 83%**



**14% to 4%**



**Continued  
Growth**



— Closets by Liberty —

# Testable Prototypes



— Closets by Liberty —

# Hedgehog Team Dynamics

## Peak Hedgehog

Collaborative research

Patentable solutions

Drawer designs that assemble  
in **less than 2 minutes!**

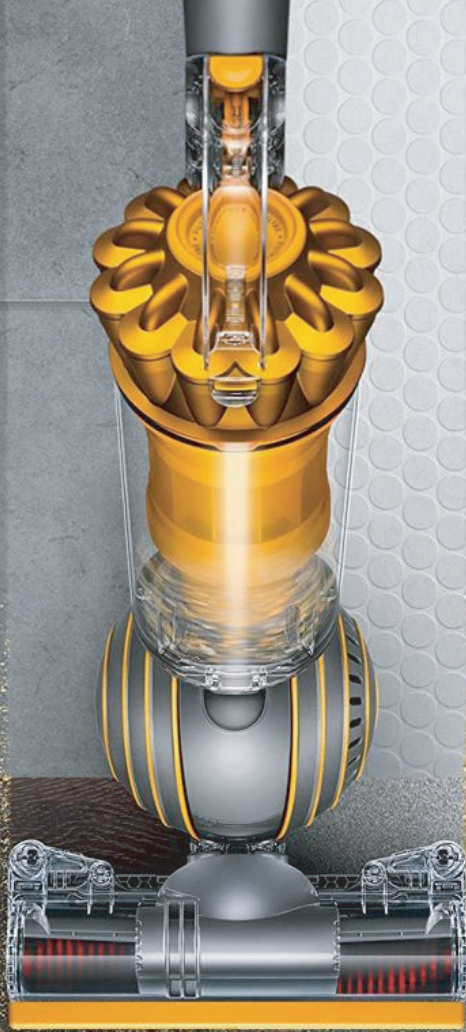






— Lessons Learned —

**Don't Let the Market  
Solely Define Your Price**





— Lessons Learned —

## **FOCUSED:**

**Trust Your Teammates  
Let Them Play Their Position  
Play Your Base and Play it Well**







— Lessons Learned —

## **NIMBLE:**

**Adapt to Change  
Validate Assumptions  
Think Creatively**

# DANGEROUS:

Take on big projects  
Disrupt categories  
Eye on the prize



*Thank you!*



INSIGHTS



DESIGN



BRAND



