



2013 DEFSA conference

Design Cultures: Encultured Design

Conference proceedings of the 2013 DEFSA conference

Compilers

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PUBLICATION OF DEFSA CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS

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FOREWORD

Brief overview of the conference theme

The 2013 DEFSA conference was titled Design Cultures: Encultured Design. A design is shaped by the communities in which it is to operate, and, conversely it shapes those communities. Thus “design cultures” refers both to the communities of design, but also to the way in which design shapes community – “to design communities”. The designer shapes and is shaped by the communities in which the designer operates.

A total of 38 abstracts were received of which 27 papers were presented over a two-day period, addressing a range of topics that were pertinent to the conference theme. All 27 papers were accepted for publication in the conference proceedings.

Subthemes

Within this broad framework, contributors are encouraged to address their papers to one of the following sub-themes and are encouraged to present both theoretical underpinnings and practical applications of their work:

1. Individuated design

(practices, products, personalities, purposes, principles);

2. Educating designers, designing educators

(the cultures of praxis in the academy);

3. Design-in/for-community, community-in-design

(the communal in design, the design in the communal);

4. Reflective design

(acts of reflection on design – ‘the reflective practitioner’ in community, according to Donald Schön);

5. The symbiotic design

(enculturation between the designer and the natural and urban environment).

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Four internationally acclaimed design education visionaries delivered keynote talks at the conference. A short biography of each speaker is presented below with the title or focus area of their presentations.

Prof. Roy Marcus

Prof. Marcus graduated with a BSc in Mechanical Engineering from the University of the Witwatersrand in 1972. In 1974 and 1978, he was awarded an MSc and a PhD respectively for research work conducted in the field of the pipeline transportation of solids. In 2004, he received an Honorary Doctorate in Technology from the Technikon Witwatersrand.

Prof. Marcus was appointed to a range of positions in both the academic and commercial world and was responsible for the establishment of the Materials Handling Research Unit and was founding Director of the Science Park at Frankenwald.

From the inception of the new democracy until 2004, Prof. Marcus played an active role in the development of the new government's science and technology initiatives, acting as the Ministerial Advisor on science and technology and the Chairperson of the National Advisory Council on Innovation. He was elected as Chairperson of the Council of the University of Johannesburg in March 2006.

He is currently the Chairperson of the Da Vinci Institute for Technology Management: a private postgraduate school of business that specialises in the management of technology, innovation and people. He also chairs the Honorary Consul of the Republic of Belarus and the South African Power Utility Research Advisory Board. He is an honorary professor at the University of Warwick and the University of Johannesburg and a Fellow of the South African Academy of Engineering.

Prof. Marcus has been appointed by the Deputy President to the technical working group of JIPSA and represents South Africa as a board member of the International Sustainable Trade and Innovation Centre.

Dr. Ian Campbell

Dr. Campbell has experience in both academic and "real world" applications of CAD technology. At the 2013 DEFSA Conference he presented a paper on "Using New Technology to Improve Students' Opportunities".

In South Africa, the UK and around the world, students' learning opportunities can be disadvantaged by their geographical location, social background, physical impairments and so on. This may engender an entire culture of low expectations amongst the students, their educators and society in general.

The solution to this problem is multi-faceted and complex, and no single intervention should be seen as a panacea. However, the use of leading-edge design and build digital technology undoubtedly has a role to play.

This presentation brings an overview of some collaborative research being undertaken by Vaal University of

Technology and Loughborough University, involving high school students from disadvantaged backgrounds and with physical impairments. The students were given access to state-of-the-art computer aided design and direct digital manufacturing technologies and were able to achieve project outcomes that far surpassed the expectations of their teachers.

The specific activities undertaken and wider implications of the research are presented with a view to inspiring similar work elsewhere.

After graduating from Brunel University in 1985, Ian Campbell worked as a design engineer, first in Ford Motor Company, and later in the Rover Group. In 1989, he was appointed as a Senior Teaching Fellow for CAD/CAM at the University of Warwick, where he undertook a part-time MSc degree by research. In 1993, he obtained a lectureship at the University of Nottingham and gained his PhD, again through part-time study, in 1998. His current position, since October 2000, is Reader in Computer Aided Product Design at Loughborough University in the Design School. Currently Dr. Campbell is also engaged as the editor of the Rapid Prototyping Journal.

Prof. Eileen MacAvery

Prof. MacAvery is an art educator, graphic designer, author, and photographer. She is currently with Berkeley College serving as Professor/Chair—Graphic Design. She is the author and designer of the books *Ethics: A Graphic Designer's Field Guide*, *East End Stories*, and *Teacup Secrets* and the blogs www.ethicsingraphicdesign.com and www.chakraspirit.com.

Prof. MacAvery has over 25 years' experience as a creative director, art director, and graphic designer. An expert in creating integrated marketing that reaches every touchpoint, she has worked for some of the biggest names in entertainment and media marketing.

Prof. Deon de Beer

Prof. de Beer is currently the Executive Director: Technology Transfer and Innovation at the Vaal University of Technology, Vanderbijlpark, South Africa. His experience includes 10 years of industrial R&D at the AEC, supplemented by 24 years of Higher Education experience (teaching, research and management).

Last mentioned includes an 18 month secondment to Tshumisano as CEO in 2003 to establish a government agency to promote technology transfer at South African Universities of Technology. He has published widely on topics in product development, technology transfer, innovation, research development and commercialization, is a rated researcher with the National Research Foundation, was the founder/leader of Integrated product development, the Centre for Rapid Prototyping and Manufacturing (CRPM), Product Development Technology Transfer Centre and FabLab at the Central University of Technology, and serves on the editorial boards of various journals. Prof. de Beer is also a visiting professor locally and internationally.

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REVIEWER

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- Department of Visual Arts and Design at the Vaal University of Technology

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