

Introduction

Since the Crystal Palace exhibition of 1851 in London, design has been a significant part of the globalization process. Yet in recent years, when the pace of globalization has accelerated dramatically, questions of design's implication in it have not been given sufficient attention. The editors of *Design Issues* are therefore pleased to devote a special issue of the journal to this subject. As our guest editors, Karen Fiss and Hazel Clark, point out in their respective essays, there is much at stake in studying how design contributes to numerous aspects of social, economic, and cultural transformation. Questions of national identity, tourism, cultural hybridity, and authenticity are all issues that the study of design in a global context can help to unpack. We are hopeful that this special issue will make a valuable contribution to the globalization debates and insure that design retains a central place in them.

Also included in the issue are reviews of two exhibitions at the Museum of Modern Art, one on the design uses of advanced technology and the other on modular housing. In both instances, the reviewers provide critical commentary that emphasizes the rhetorical nature of all exhibitions, even when they purport to be objective surveys or overviews of new objects and ideas.

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