

Introduction

How do designers shape the world around us? Many different answers to this question have appeared in the pages of *Design Issues*. Designers are involved in the creation of signs, symbols, individual artifacts, and coordinated sets of products and services that configure both the environments we inhabit and the experiences we have. The editors of this journal seek to bring to the design community articles that deepen our understanding of design. We are interested also in discussions that enhance our appreciation for ever-expanding areas of design activity and that stimulate us to consider design in new ways. This special issue edited by Richard Buchanan on “Design and Organizational Change” falls into this latter category and continues the journal’s practice of devoting entire issues to themes of particular importance. That designers work for or with organizations is a familiar concept. That design can have an impact upon organizations and that design thinking can shape organizational behavior in productive ways is less well established within the literature devoted to design and design practice. The essays collected in this special issue pull together various perspectives on design and the life of organizations. The authors suggest new avenues for design practice and fresh topics for design research.

How should designers approach the challenge and opportunities inherent in the act of designing? “Brighton 05-06-07,” a document included in this issue, suggests the concept of wellbeing should serve as a fundamental principle animating design efforts in the contemporary world. Composed by a small group of designers and design educators last June, the title “Brighton 05-06-07” acknowledges the time and the place of origin. But the argument advanced in “Brighton 05-06-07” is global rather than local in its significance. Its publication in these pages continues another of this journal’s practices: publishing original documents addressing vital themes within the culture of design.

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