



CUBIC JOURNAL issue #1 vol. 1 - DESIGN SOCIAL Technology - Activism - Anti-Social

The inaugural issue of Cubic Journal questions the conditions of design-social in a wide range of different disciplines, groups, and stakeholders, in dynamic communities of practice that can lead design beyond its mere capabilities of synthesis into new forms of a social design praxis, whereby design is co-dependent on synthesis as well as analytic practices.

The emergence of social media and the networked society, as exemplified by (but not limited to) the Internet of things, generates enormous potential that reposition design as a means to synthesise emerging social complexities into new constellations. These have the capacity to foster new social forms and social design as a knowledge field in its own right.

One of the ways design in this context becomes reconfigured is as the dynamic interconnections between people, practices and artefacts, in which the interactions lead to relational rather than objectified forms of design. Such approaches tend to be process driven rather than outcome based and activate design's potential within both knowledge generation and knowledge transfer processes - that can be understood as 'information' or as design before design and design after design. Often misconstrued as purely a design approach, participatory design is, in fact, a rigorous research methodology involving a complex system of knowledge generation and co-design processes where the interactions of people, design artefacts, technologies, practices (activism) and knowledge, steers a course between participants' tacit knowledge and the designer-researchers' analytical or technical knowledge. Design in this context is a complex mesh of tangible and intangible factors, (anti) social forms and networks, information, contexts, and people, able to frame design processes and praxis that are adaptable for inter-disciplinary collaboration (horizontal); and for user and designer collaboration (vertical).

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