

Preface and Acknowledgements

This book developed from a reflection on the current state of Design Methodology. It aims to determine the strengths and weaknesses, finding solutions to overcome these weaknesses while maintaining the strengths. This goal can only be reached if the various viewpoints, assessments and perspectives of the international community are considered. These prerequisites are met by the fact that almost all authors are DESIGN SOCIETY members. The institution, as an international community, embraced product development and supported its further development, with many projects in the areas of research, application, education and training.

This book does not aim to determine which course is to be taken to further expand design methodology to meet the rapidly changing needs of design practice in industry and provide findings for teaching. Rather, this book is a collection of reflections, ideas, approaches and propositions for optimisation, additions or alternatives. Every author is passionate about formulating better approaches, strategies and methods to support development work. There will be the denomination of possible spheres of activity and the formulation of solution propositions, rather than *The Future of Design Methodology* being prophesied. If the book initiates discussion about the further development of design methodology within the DESIGN SOCIETY, as well as in other communities, it will have achieved its goal.

Thanks to all of the authors for their willingness to explore the future of design methodology, which they demonstrated with substantial contributions. Accepting the various obligations proves their engagement with the cause and their willingness to provide support. Special thanks go to Mogens Myrup Andreassen and Ken Wallace, who critically reviewed contributions and helped with valuable suggestions.

Special gratitude must be expressed to Shulin Zhao and Benjamin Röder at TU Darmstadt for their dedicated commitment to the editorial work and thoughtful assistance with this project. Thanks also go to Nils Lommatzsch for the English revision of this book. Additionally, Julian Sarnes performed meticulous formatting. Finally, thanks to my department, Product Development and Machine Elements (pmd) at TU Darmstadt, and employees for their willing and professional assistance on very short notice.

Springer UK provided the opportunity to publish this book. Their spontaneous acceptance and professional support is much appreciated.

Darmstadt, December 2010

Prof. Dr. h.c. Dr.-Ing. Herbert Birkhofer



<http://www.springer.com/978-0-85729-614-6>

The Future of Design Methodology

Birkhofer, H. (Ed.)

2011, XI, 302 p., Hardcover

ISBN: 978-0-85729-614-6