

# Preface

... we need a more joined-up way to design for living. This means rethinking everything, including the way humans feed, clothe, shelter, assemble, communicate and live together. It means designing at the level of behaviors, habits, beliefs and language. In short, it entails re-designing design itself. (Wood 2012, n.p.)

One of the main aims of *Perspectives on social sustainability and interior architecture: Life from the inside* is to look at interior architecture through a lens which enables the embedded process, knowledge and skills to be interrogated. Another is to see how interior architecture can add to the debate and discussion concerning worldwide issues of social concern, across disciplines that are directly and indirectly associated with the design professions.

A number of fields in this transdisciplinary spectrum have been emerging over the last 30 years, but in more recent years, the literature has increased. Since the publication of our first edition, *Life from the inside: Perspectives on social sustainability and interior architecture* in 2011, fine distinctions between concepts have been defined. For example, social innovation, social economy, social development, and community development are areas described and discussed in relation to social responsibility and social sustainability. In addition, more common terms in relation to design processes and thinking in interior architecture and related disciplines, including wicked problems, participatory design, co-design, and co-production, are being rediscovered. These terms are applied to discussions of working with people within their contexts, and therefore, engaging with processes that generate insider perspectives of complex and ambiguous situations.

In Chapter 1, An introduction to Social Sustainability and Interior Architecture, we revisit the strong continuing focus on sustainability that pertains to ecological or natural environmental concerns within the literature. Although social, cultural or human aspects are interwoven and open up the discussion, the pendulum still tends to rest with the concepts and rhetoric of the interrelated terms that compose our title—social sustainability and interior architecture.

Therefore the essays contained in this publication continue to inform, extend, and challenge these discussions. We hope that the ideas proposed and questions raised by the authors' contributions will serve to stimulate your practice and research. We also invite information regarding any projects that sit within the realm

of social responsibility or social sustainability and interior architecture. In addition, we hope to contribute to the clarification of how interior architecture can play a role in the changing global context.

...we are driven by two core principles. Firstly, a need for equity of access to good design for all, privileging social justice; and secondly, a need to engage with community through student and staff projects, so that we increase the relevance of interior architecture and foster positive change. (Smith and Lommerse 2010, p. 7)

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## References

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