

# Preface

This book grew out of a single question: what is the impact of design research on practice? The question was sparked off by the persistent belief that design research has little impact on practice.

The question led to a collaboration between the two editors in the summer of 2013, when Amaresh Chakrabarti took his sabbatical at Technical University of Munich to visit Udo Lindemann. An international workshop was organised by the editors at the Institute of Product Development, Technical University of Munich, Germany in 2013 called “International Workshop on Impact of Design Research on Practice” (IDRP 2013).

Most of the authors of the book participated in the workshop and deliberated on two major questions:

- What guidelines can be formulated for successful transition of outcomes of design research into practice?
- What kinds of platform are needed for supporting ongoing interactions between academia and practice for carrying out academically worthwhile yet practically relevant design research?

These questions were further discussed in breakout sessions, and summarised by Rapporteurs; the goal of the workshop was to learn from each other as to what contributed to the success of cases where research were transferred to practice, so as to achieve the following: to formulate guidelines for other researchers, especially young researchers, to support transition to practice; and, to help evolve common platforms on which transition of design research to practice could be discussed and supported as an ongoing process.

This book is intended to provide an anthology of work that together showcases exemplars of how various aspects of design research were successfully transitioned into, and influenced, design practice. The chapters are written by both academics and practitioners. It also contains surveys: of organisations engaged in design practice; of views of researchers and practitioners of design; and of publications and research outcomes from the academic community. Further, it documents learnings as to what worked in the successful cases of transfer, and what did not in some

failed cases. Through the surveys, several of these chapters encapsulate experience of a much wider community than the one that participated in the IDRP 2013 workshop.

The work and the success stories shared in the chapters in this book show, emphatically, that design research has indeed made a significant impact on design practice. People trained in academia play a key role in impacting practice; therefore, education plays a key role in this process. Further, the impact of design research is not only via design research being transferred to existing practice; it is also about how design research helps create new practice, new jobs, new philosophies of practice, and so on.

This book is meant to instill confidence in the community that the work being carried out in its research and education are indeed important and impactful. It is also meant to provide areas in which the community needs to improve so as to further enhance its impacts on practice and education of design.

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