Design Education for Future Wellbeing

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Design Education for Future Wellbeing

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Foreword

DESIGN EDUCATION FOR FUTURE WELLBEING

The 14th International Conference on Engineering and Design Education (E&PDE) was held at the Artesis University College Antwerp on 6th and 7th September 2012.

The conference was hosted by the Department of Design Sciences, Product Development at the Artesis University College in Antwerp (Belgium) in close collaboration with the Design Education Special Interest Group (DESIG) of the Design Society and the Institution of Engineering Designers (IED).

The E&PDE conference was initiated in 1999 in the United Kingdom and was consolidated as an international conference in 2004; alternately taking place in the UK and abroad. Its objective is to facilitate in bringing together people from education and industry who have are keen on sharing expertise, knowhow, new views and ideas on design education. It provides a platform for educators and researchers from product development, engineering and industrial design, together with industry and government representatives to discuss topical educational issues and design education as it is now and might be in the future.

Conference theme

As a host institution for E&PDE 2012 we thought of a broad, relevant and topical theme: *Design education for future wellbeing*. This theme covers topics such as: people centered design, sustainable design, design for emerging markets, ethical design, act-local-think-global design, design for the base of the pyramid, design for health care and medical contexts, design for elderly people, etc . Topics that are integrated within design education throughout the world. Together with the organisers of the conference we felt that future wellbeing is a theme that liaises with most recent developments within the field of people centered design where the general wellbeing of people now and in the future matters the most. The aims are to:

- o Provide a networking platform for a broad variety of participants
- Explore how design education can set the scene for the future wellbeing of people within the society, economy, industry and the global village the world has become
- Discuss how engineering and product design education can lead to innovative products for an innovative world

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- Explore how the focus on future wellbeing can contribute to the development of creativity and design success
- Encourage innovators to provide feedback to educators with ideas and practical opportunities in order to facilitate an innovation platform for future (ad)ventures

Conference programme

The committee was very happy in receiving 277 contributions that explored the full depth and diversity of the conference theme. After reviewing abstracts, full paper submissions and subsequent revisions 130 contributions were selected to be included in the proceedings, of which 17 poster presentations at the conference. The received papers allowed the committee to build a conference programme with 5 major streams: method, practice, creativity & innovation, wellbeing and interfaces. As such, the programme covers the issues and meets the needs that arose when the conference theme was defined.

Three keynote speakers were invited at the conference to initiate questions, start discussions and raise interest in the conference theme: convergence in designing products for future wellbeing, multidisciplinary research and design practices and finally, best practices in design processes for health care and medical contexts.

Conference host

E&PDE 2012 is hosted by Product Development, Department of Design Sciences at the Artesis University College in Antwerp, Belgium. Artesis counts 7 faculties some of which go way back in time, even as far as 1661 when the Faculty of Fine Arts was established and 1898 when the Faculty of Dance, Music and Drama was set up. Even now Artesis is still evolving. It will soon merge with the Plantijn University College and see some of its major faculties getting fully integrated into the University of Antwerp, e.g. Faculty of Industrial Sciences and Faculty of Design Sciences (including the master programme in Product Development). Product Development was established in 1968 and fought for its recognition as a separate field of study throughout the years. With the prospect of full integration into the university, the master programme has undergone some drastic but very rewarding changes and is planning to manage this even more consistently so that its education, research and business relations will benefit from its aspirations to spearhead product innovation within an educational and academic context.

Hosting the E&PDE 2012 will grant Product Development the opportunity to become an even more relevant and visible stakeholder for all possible educational, academic and industrial partners and to promote it as a centre of educational excellence, nationally and internationally.

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Acknowledgements

This 2012 edition of the E&PDE conference was made possible through the commitment and efforts of many people. I would like to thank Chris McMahon, William Ion, Judith Grace and Lyndon Buck for their excellent leadership in organizing this conference and their dedication to the common cause: guaranteeing a conference series of growing quality and impact. I am also especially grateful for having been able to work together with Alison Parker and Nadine Pearce from the Institution of Engineering Designers without whose practical support, hands-on experience and in-depth knowledge in organizing this conference I would have had a harder time in managing all practicalities.

I would definitely like to thank all the members of the international academic review board. They succeeded in timely reviewing a vast set of papers that exceeded our expectations, while retaining a true professional and academic stance in reviewing the intrinsic value and qualities of all papers submitted.

I am very much indebted to Els Maldoy from the University of Antwerp who provided me with the best possible support and feedback in drawing up the conference guide, acquiring items for the conference bags and contacting hotels in Antwerp. I would also like to offer my special thanks to Fien Dequecker from Artesis University College who made sure that the student assistants were formally supported by the college and fully geared up for accomplishing their tasks at the conference.

Naturally, I would like to express my gratitude to all colleagues from the Department of Design Sciences, Product Development who helped to organize the event, ensured that it ran smoothly and enhanced my feelings of wellbeing throughout – especially Chris Baelus, Guido De Grande, Koen Van de vreken and Stijn Verwulgen.

On behalf of the Conference Programme Committee:

Geert Frateur Product Development Department of Design Sciences Artesis University College Antwerp

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