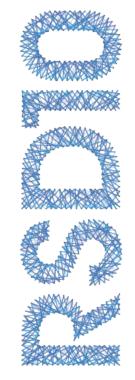
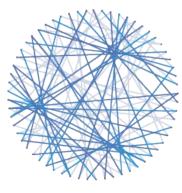
POLITECNICO DI TORINO Repository ISTITUZIONALE

Design-driven Industrial conversion during COVID-19 Global Outbreak. A systemic business strategy and design approaches to face a complex market crisis

Original Design-driven Industrial conversion during COVID-19 Global Outbreak. A systemic business strategy and design approaches to face a complex market crisis / Bruno, Eva Vanessa; Lerma, Beatrice ELETTRONICO (2021), pp. 379-384. (Intervento presentato al convegno Relating Systems Thinking and Design (RSD10) 2021 Symposium tenutosi a Delft, The Netherlands nel November 2-6, 2021).
Availability: This version is available at: 11583/2945332 since: 2023-02-02T21:55:23Z
Publisher: Systemic Design Association
Published DOI:
Terms of use:
This article is made available under terms and conditions as specified in the corresponding bibliographic description in the repository
Publisher copyright

(Article begins on next page)





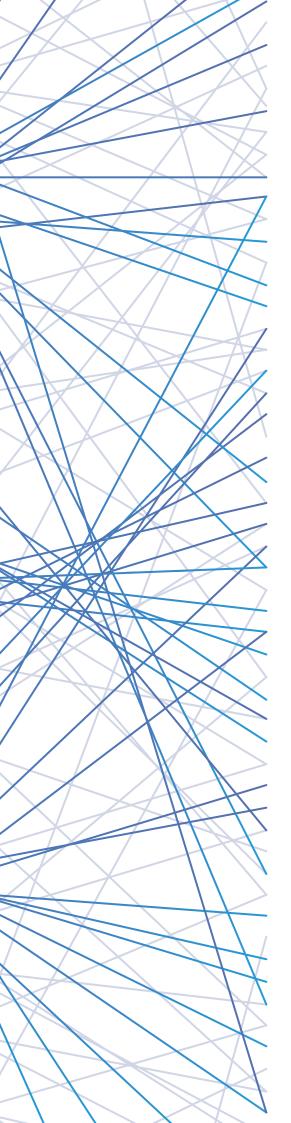
Relating Systems
Thinking & Design
Symposium

Delft 2-6 November 2021

PROCEEDINGS

Playing with Tensions

Embracing new complexity, collaboration and contexts in systemic design



Organised by:





Delft, The Netherlands November 2021

Published by:

Systemic Design Association

Editors:

Jan Carel Diehl, Nynke Tromp & Mieke van der Bijl-Brouwer

ISBN/EAN: 978-94-6366-507-0

Attribution

These proceedings are licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivatives 4.0 International License (CCBY NC ND 4.0). This permits anyone to copy and redistribute the material in any medium or form according to the license terms: https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0/

Citation

Author. (2021). Article title. In J.C. Diehl, Nynke Tromp & Mieke van der Bijl-Brouwer (Ed.) Proceedings of Relating Systems Thinking and Design (RSD10) 2021 Symposium. Delft, The Netherlands, November 2-6, 2021



RSD 10 Team

Symposium Chair

Mieke van der Bijl-Brouwer

Scientific Committee

Silvia Barbero Mieke van der Bijl-Brouwer Jan Carel Diehl Peter Jones Nynke Tromp

Program Committee

Sine Celik Yumiko Henneberry Jotte de Koning Leandra Koolhoven Hanneke Sosef-de Haan Rebecca Price

Symposium Support

Cheryl May

Graphic Design

Mariana Barrientos Parás

TABLE OF CONTENTS by THEME

Chair: Nynke Tromp	
Elin Engström, Matilda Legeby, Pia Mcaleenan, Hanna Andersson, Karin Petrusson, Manuela Aguirre & Josina Vink. Exposing the Emotional Dynamics of Making Tensions Tangible in Systemic Design	15
Emīlija Veselova and İdil Gaziulusoy. When a tree is also a multispecies collective, a photosynthesis process and a carbon cycle. A systemic typology of natural nonhuman stakeholders when designing for sustainability	25
Track 2: State-of-the-art Chair: Nynke Tromp	
Deger Ozkaramanli. Dilemmas and conflicts in systemic design: Towards a theoretical framework for individual-system dialectic	37
Elise Talgorn, Monique Hendriks. Storytelling for systems design Embedding and communicating complex and intangible data through narratives	45
Track 3: Education as research platform Chair: Praveen Nahar	
Caroline Hummels and Pierre Lévy. Education as a transforming practice: designing together for complex, sustainable living	54
Louise Dumon and Francesca Ostuzzi. Relate systems archetypes and collaboration, A case study in the context of DIY bio-based materials in design education	65
Evan Barba and J.R. Osborn. Between Heaven and Earth: Design Tensions in the Book of Changes	74
Track 4: Design of food or water systems: a case study Chair: Emilija Veselova	
Francesca Carraro, Silvia Barbero and Tobias Luthe. Mountain water management through systemic design: the Monviso Institute real-world laboratory	82
Enrica Ferrero, Giulia Ferrero, Elisa Ghignone, Martina Motta and Marco Ruffa. A systemic project for a local fruit farm and the valorisation of by-products	88
Mariaserena Di Giovanni, Chiara Campolmi, Daniel Jaramillo Rueda, Tommaso Muzi, Domenico Devanna and Alisia Pellegrini. Sustainability and its paradoxes: the case study of a big coffee roasting company in the Turin Metropolitan Area on the lens of Systemic Design	94

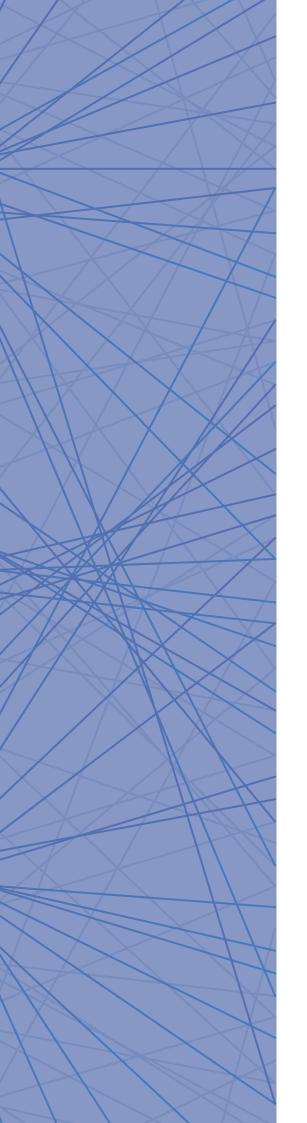
Troppino and Xinwei Wu. Acting on a company to relaunch a territory: the application of the Systemic Design Methodology	
Track 5: Design methodological research to develop tools for dealing with systemic conflicts Chair: Prof.dr. Paul Hekkert	
Hannah Goss, Nynke Tromp and Hendrik N.J. Schifferstein. Mapping Transition Readiness	105
Anshul Agrawal and Maya Narayan. Leveraging creative tension between Sustainable Development Targets for developing micro-macro level collaboration	111
Bruno Martins Rizardi and Daniela Gomes Metello. Bottom-up-down approach	116
Track 6: Theoretical explorations of synergies between disciplines Chair: Prof.dr. Caroline Hummels	
Zijun Lin, Beatrice Villari and Birger Sevaldson. Towards Speculative Services for an inclusive society: Understanding the relationships between Systemic-, Service- and Speculative Design	122
Gerhard Glatzel, Mehdi Mozuni and Maren Ohlhoff. Option Evaluation in Multi-disciplinary Strategic Design: Using Scenarios for System Prototyping	130
Tobias Luthe, Justyna Swat, Haley Fitzpatrick, Tiphaine Mühlethaler and Abel Crawford. Enriching synergies in Systemic Design - hybridizing science, design and transformative action	138
Track 7: Debunking Implicit Bias Chair: Dr. Tom Maiorana	
Cornelia Böhm, Mattias Arvola and Jonas Lundberg. Simulations in Service Design Prototyping: Drone Deliveries with Society-in-the-Loop	144
James Lomas, Nirmal Patel and Jodi Forlizzi. Designing Data-Informed Intelligent Systems to Create Positive Impact: Design Methods, Questions and Recommendations	154
Jessica Meharry and Hillary Carey. Designing against oppression: A conceptual framework for an anti-oppressive design praxis	171
Track 8: Sensing Momentum in System Dynamics Chair: Palak Dudani	
Christine De Lille and Anja Overdiek. From system to local to system, Design principles to scale for a system in transition	185
Maria Belén Buckenmayer, Milene Gonçalves and Ingrid Mulder. Fruitful friction as a strategy to scale social innovations	195
Ryan Murphy, Nenad Rava and Peter Jones. Balancing acceleration and systemic impact: Finding leverage for transformation in SDG change strategies	211

Alice Marchesi, Mariapaola Puglielli, Florina Denisa Moldovan, William Tonelli, Martina

98

Track 9: Recognizing Trouble for Changemaking Chair: Dr. Josina Vink	
Mikal Giancola and Eve Pinsker. Design by Doing in Louisiana Farmers Markets: Adaptive Cycles, Learning, and Innovating in the Time of the COVID-19 Crisis	227
Shivani Prakash, Felicia Nilsson and Josina Vink. Troubling care - A critical look at the systemic shift toward healthcare digitization	239
James Lomas and Willem van der Maden. MyWellnessCheck: Designing a student and staff wellbeing feedback loop to inform university policy and governance	247
Track 10: Transforming design to engage with complexity Chair: Prof.dr. Gordon Rowland	
Danielle Lake. Jane Addams and Ecosystems Design: What might we learn?	262
Goran Matic and Ana Matic. The Other Side of Design - Tension Manifolds and Collective Action	271
Thomas Maiorana. The Failures of Prototyping: A Call for a New Definition	280
Track 11: Transforming dominant paradigms through action research Chair: Dr. Peter Jones	
Marie Davidova, Shanu Sharma, Dermott McMeel and Fernando Loizides. CO-DE GT BETA: The 21st Century Economy App for CrossSpecies CoLiving	293
Lindsay Cole. Moving toward paradigms and patterns of transformative innovation in public sector labs	303
Ina Valkanova. Tensions of infrastructure space	311
Track 12: Providing new lenses for systemic design Chair: Prof.dr. Kees Dorst	
Elena Porqueddu. Triggering spontaneous self-regeneration in cities. Towards a systemic approach to spatial design	318
Sojung Kim and Joon Sang Baek. Infrastructuring for social innovation inspired by social insects	330
Tore Gulden. Allopoietic Design - Designing of the not-thing	344
Track 13: Conceptual analyses of systemic design as a field Chair: Dr. Deger Ozkaramanli	
Evan Barba. Field Notes: Tensions Between Systemic Design and Systems Engineering	355
Suhaib Aslam. To Slow Down or Speed Up? Uncovering the Pace Tensions in Systemic Design for Social Innovation	359
Desmond Wong and Shan Shan Tan. Antimonies in systemic design: Dilemmas, paradoxical tensions, and Werner Ulrich	364

Track 14: Crises as context for studying systemic design Chair: Dr. Remko van der Lugt	
Irma Cecilia Landa-Avila, Gyuchan Thomas Jun, Isabel Sassoon, Ozlem Colak, Corina- Elena Niculaescu, Tina Harvey and Panagiotis Balatsoukas. COVID-19 immunity certificates as complex systems. Applying systems approaches to explore needs, risks, and unintended consequences	373
Eva Vanessa Bruno and Beatrice Lerma. Design-driven industrial conversion during COVID-19 global outbreak. A systemic business strategy and design approaches to face complex market crisis	379
Hemul Goel, Aditya Sharma and Sanika Harshe. Value Metamorphosis: Investigating the Impact of COVID-19 on Indian Weddings as a System	385
Alexander Nieuwborg, Suzanne Hiemstra-van Mastrigt, Marijke Melles, Sicco Santema and Jan Zekveld. Designing for Pandemic Antifragility in Multimodal Transport Hubs	392
Track 15: Analyses of language, metaphors & narratives Chair: Dr. Derek Lomas	
Hillary Carey, Chris Costes and Mihika Bansal. Gleaning Racial Justice Futures: Past promises and an unequal present	399
Dulmini Perera. After Work: questions concerning transition imaginaries towards a post-work society and the use of Second-order Design Fictions as frames that resist consensus	406
Dan Lockton. Metaphors and Systems	419
Palak Dudani. Making Metaphors Matter within SOD	426
Track 16: On Critical Contexts & Circularity Chair: Dr. Silvia Barbero	
Svetlana Usenyuk-Kravchuk and Nikolai Korgin. Arctic Design: The systemic development of a new domain	435
Twisha Mehta and Jenny Bentley. Leveraging Indigenous Knowledge, Collaboration, and Emergent Technology: How to Embrace Tensions in Conservation Interventions in a Vulnerable Himalayan Region	442
Amina Pereno, Asja Aulisio and Silvia Barbero. Design circular colours. A cross-sectoral project for the systemic design of regional dyeing value chains	448
Track 17: Philosophical accounts of tensions & sensing wholeness Chair: Dr. Marie Davidova	
Michael Arnold Mages and Stephen Neely. The Question of Intimacy	456
Esther Kang. Reverberations at the Edges	465
Charul Heu Transversal Design: Climpsing the Emergent Whole with the Trouble	460



Track 14:

Crises As Context For Studying Systemic Design

Chair: Dr. Remko van der Lugt

Design-driven industrial conversion during COVID-19 global outbreak

A systemic business strategy and design approaches to face complex market crisis.

Eva Vanessa Bruno, Beatrice Lerma

This paper highlights the evolution of designers' responsibility during an unexpected emergency period like the COVID-19 outbreak. This process will be described through a set of case studies showing that the design discipline is resilient and capable of gathering the proper needs at the right time and relieve market tensions. Indeed, designers can help companies in the process of industrial conversion, an ambidextrous strategy that allows producing what is missing but extremely urgent during an emergency. The paper describes via case studies the way firms converted to produce necessary goods such as clean hand sanitiser, lung ventilators and the personal protective equipment needed by citizens and medical personnel. During the COVID-19 emergency period, what are, and have been, the challenges for designers? What new expertise, skills, activities will the designer have to gain? How designers give innovative answers with new activities to support companies during emergencies? The answer was found in the designers' ability to examine the problem holistically and choose the most innovative and contextually appropriate solutions. Together with management ingenuity, they also fit in with ambidextrous strategies that direct the company towards new opportunities by exploiting the resources already belonging to the firm, untangling the economic complexity.

Keywords: Design for Emergency; Industrial conversion; Ambidexterity; Innovation management; Market tension

Introduction and background

In the modern global economy, pioneering and disruptive business strategies has become a central topic for dealing with complex market crises. Strategic, systemic designers and innovation managers can play an essential role in addressing the challenge of new business models and mitigate market tensions.

Design for emergencies is not currently widespread in the mosaic of the disciplinary areas of design research in Italy, according to the Design Research Map (Bertola et al., 2018) by SID (Italian Design Society). However, the role of designers becomes relevant in all those situations where time is a crucial factor because designers suggest long-lasting practices and processes, not temporary solutions (Traldi, 2020).

The "emergency" is defined as a permanent and implicit condition of contemporary society (Piscitelli, 2019) because of the presence of prolonged crises, such as the climate change that the whole world is facing. However, this condition of permanent emergency has been strengthened with the COVID-19 outbreak because it awakened society from the habituation to the state of emergency. Indeed, the COVID-19 global pandemic was an unforeseeable event that had overturned political, economic and social structures since 13th January 2020, when the Chinese government announced the first case of a novel coronavirus recorded in November 2019.

This study provides new insights into the designer's role during the COVID-19 outbreak: designers from all over the world have proved to react to the emergency based on their attention on human needs, especially needs that do not yet exist are still unknown. According to Donald Norman, designers answer the question: "how do you discover a need that nobody yet knows about?" (Norman, 2004, p. 70). How to respond to those needs before the system collapses? In this paper, the authors aim to show the design contribution for the COVID-19 global



emergency in Italy and abroad through a selection of case studies with immediate and short-term effects of industrial conversion. Firms switched a part or all of their production to manufacture much-needed personal protective equipment (PPE) and medical devices. Industrial conversion has been a winning strategy not to close firms, continue producing goods, respect safety measures, and help countries supply medical equipment. It was essential in Italy due to the lack of medical devices and PPE like masks, ventilators, scrubs, gloves. Indeed, Italy was not autonomous in terms of their production, and some medical supplies purchased abroad have been blocked at the border by the producing countries. The fear of running out of these precious pieces of equipment has reduced or suspended exports, causing inconvenience to countries that needed them.

The paper argues that designers who collaborate with risk managers can work to forecast emergency needs that do not exist yet, get the market ready for upsetting events with design-driven innovative projects (Verganti, 2019) and new methods of using services and products.

Industrial Conversion to re-open closed firms

The industrial conversion is an ambidextrous strategy (Duncan, 1976) that allowed companies to enter higher-demand production sectors through new plants or the transformation of existing ones, maintaining high manufacturing know-how. Below are some examples of industrial conversion in the COVID-19 pandemic, proof of the desire of companies to find new opportunities achieving the demand for equipment avoiding plants closure.

Textile firms: masks and scrubs

The need for surgical masks has been met by fashion companies, which have used their implants to produce non-woven fabrics (TNT) and so-called community masks. Companies like Armani, Bulgari, Prada, Miroglio, Calzedonia, H&M started running their plants to produce scrubs and masks with TNT supplied by other companies. Companies that produce sportswear, like Santini, have used their technical fabric to produce washable and reusable masks. Even when the plant could not open, the seamstresses of Scervino, from Florence, sewed masks and scrubs from home with the fabrics that the company had bought on purpose.



Figure 1: A Worker Irons Masks in the Atelier Miroglio Headquarters in Cuneo, Italy. Source: Bertorello 2020

Fabric and filter material suppliers have made their contribution too. The company Ahlstrom Munksjo is a helpful example. Its plant in Turin produces non-woven fabric to filter diesel fuel. Due to the emergency, they have identified this production line as filter materials suitable for the virus.

Alcohol and perfume firms: sanitizer

Sanitising gel was another good missing immediately from supermarkets and pharmacies at the beginning of the pandemic. Firms that produced alcohol converted their plants to produce denatured alcohol (tax-free), made with a chemical process that makes undrinkable edible alcohol (not tax-free, which is more expensive than the previous one). It has classic pink colouring. For example, Bacardi partially converted the Martini plant in Pessione (Turin, Italy), supplying denatured alcohol to the local community and the Red Cross. This new production was not affecting the production chain of the products in the company's portfolio, but it expanded it. Big companies such as Campari (Milan, Italy), Amaro Ramazzotti (Milan, Italy) and brewery BrewDog (Ellon,



Great Britain) and also small local distilleries did the same. In these cases, part of the production has been devolved free of charge to the Civil Protection, partly for sale, in small quantities, to make up for supply difficulties in supermarkets.



Figure 2: BrewDog's beer bottle hand sanitiser packaging. Source: insider.com.uk 2020

Luxury cosmetic and perfume companies like Christian Dior, Guerlain, Givenchy, Bulgari switched the production lines from perfume to hand sanitiser, exploiting the pre-existing ethyl alcohol supply chain.

Mechanical firms: ventilators

The final analysed product is slightly different from the two previous ones, as it is not a common good. However, it is intended for hospitals and first aid: mechanical lung ventilator. It is a mechanical ventilation machine to help patients with respiratory failure, one of the most severe COVID-19 symptoms. The ever-increasing demand for lung mechanical ventilators due to the high number of patients with respiratory failure has led to the use of a single ventilator for multiple patients (multiplex ventilation). However, studies have confirmed several risks (Chatburn et al., 2020). Therefore, firms with high technological content, especially in the automotive sector, converted their plants to produce lunge mechanical ventilators. Big companies like Lamborghini, FCA, Mercedes, Ferrari, General Motors, Ford, Tesla started to produce ventilators, like Ferrari's FI5 fan, which can be massproduced using materials that are easy to find. Manufactured ventilators have a much lower cost than ventilators currently available on the market. Other non-automotive companies contributed, too, like NASA, Belkin, Fitbit.



Figure 3: FI Ventilator by Ferrari. Source: Ansa 2020

Designers, universities and local SMEs: pre and post COVID-19 approaches

In this section we describe the relationship between designers, companies and industries from the 1990s to the present. The authors proposed a categorisation according to Germak (2014) and expanded it with different approaches due to the COVID-19 outbreak.

In the 90s, companies proposed collaborations with designers within universities to define a new product or a new collection. The answer from universities was not simply applied creativity but a breakdown of the problem that offers a meta-design project as output. In the 2000s, the companies' demands changed radically: designers



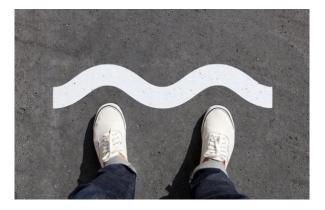
did not answer: "What to do?" but "Where to do?". (Germak & De Giorgi 2008). As explorers, they aimed to find new markets, new products, or to produce innovation discovering potential or hidden design opportunities. In the second decade of 2000, the role of the designer within the company changed once again. They became those figures able to connect different knowledge and coordinate it, creating interaction between team-members, key figures within cross-functional teams. In the last ten years, companies have been looking for more specialized figures, such as product designers, graphic designers, service designers, and system designers. Besides, designers in the companies also deal with research and development and with the team and process managing (Cooper et al., 2009). Designers can merge, thanks to the collaboration with other experts, skills related to project management and organization, communication, marketing research and business management (Eroglu & Esen, 2016). In addition, in recent years, there has been an evolution in the target market of projects. The consumer was the real object of the brands' campaigns, but now they want to communicate to the prosumer as an active user and producer of information simultaneously. The designer now designs objects and advertising campaigns for these new consumers through a careful analysis of the environmental market (Tapscott & Williams, 2010).

During the COVID-19 health emergency, the relationship between designers, companies and universities strengthened. In fact, with the forced closure of the spaces of the university and the facilities, they have brought into play what they could: intellectual resources on the one hand and technical expertise on the other. This synergy has allowed designers and researchers to respond to the health emergency, designing community masks, applications to manage queues, and delivering goods, no-touch tools to interact with objects safely, advertisements, and infographics. How can universities or design-oriented research centres and designers help companies during the COVID-19 outbreak? Design can be helpful in three main aspects: environment sanitising, respect for social distancing, and products' dematerialisation. As far as the sanitisation of spaces is concerned, designers could orient their project to sanitising products, such as UV lamps, automatic gel dispensers, portable ozone generators, and surfaces with antibacterial treatments.



Figure 4: Hand Sanitizer Loop. Source: JPA Design 2020

Concerning social distancing, designers could realise products such as totems, dividers, protective devices, and stickers, infographics, and advertising from a graphic point of view.





Finally, the services designer and UX UI designers could be the protagonist of the digitisation of actions or enhancement of all the services used to contact people. That now cannot be done to avoid the spread of the virus. There are many examples, such as new queue-jumping applications for supermarkets and post offices, QR-readable menus, online shopping or virtual dressing rooms, panels to entertain during the queue.



Figure 5: Safetable, QR Code Reader for Digital Menù. Source: barro 5-5 2020

Final Considerations

Design expresses its full potential when people chase away the idea that design is only about something beautiful. As Vignelli (2011) said, "the function of design is to design things that always last, not ephemeral. When something is ephemeral, it is worth what it is worth: nothing". Designers look from other points of view at the products and spaces to be used after the emergency. People will probably have to get used to spaces that were previously considered closed, open, inspired by biophilic design (Söderlund, 2019), to be in public space where products or graphics remind us to be careful and not to be too close, to talk through a mask, and to eat in a restaurant with plastic barriers.

Designers, universities and companies have shown that they can work together to manage market tensions. For this reason, the authors believe that the industrial conversions analysed in this paper will be carried on, in parallel with the previous production, in a reduced size to add products to the portfolio. Industrial conversion during the health emergency has shown how it is a helpful tool to answer new questions and find new technological challenges.

Will the state of permanent emergency ever end? What should we be ready for in the future? There are many questions about what will happen in the coming years and how designers will deal with future problems. How might designers rethink homes to better support the remote working and workplaces and school and universities during social distancing? How might care of sick or weak people when visitation or is not safe? How might designers rethink place-based and presence-based activities to be successful virtually? More generally: how will designers plan in the future? For short, medium- or long-term emergencies?

The figures who will find new design proposals to respond to new emergencies (related to the environment, health, social and war) will be the systemic designers, the strategic designers and the designers for the emergency in collaboration with a risk manager. Together they can bring design-driven innovation (Verganti, 2019). Universities should, therefore, work to educate and train these professionals, who will be the designers of tomorrow.

References

Bertola, P. & Maffei, S. (2008). *Design Research Map. Prospettive della ricerca universitaria in design in Italia [Design Research Map. Perspectives of university research in design in Italy]*. Edizioni POLI.design.



Chatburn R. L., Branson R.D. & Hatipoğlu U. (2020). Multiplex Ventilation: A Simulation-based Study of Ventilating Two Patients with One Ventilator. *Respiratory Care*, 66(5), 920-931. https://doi.org/10.4187/respcare.07882

Cooper, R. & Jungingers, S., (2009). The Evolution of Design Management. *dmi: Journal*, 4(1). https://onlinelibrary.wilev.com/doi/abs/10.1111/j.1942-5074.2009.00002.x, 4-6.

Duncan, R. B. (1976). The ambidextrous organization: designing dual structures for innovation in Kilmann. *The Management of Organization Design*, 1, 167-188.

Eroglu. E. & Esen. O. C. (2016). A Research on Designer Roles in Industries. Paper presented at 6th International Forum of Design as a Process. Systems & Design: Beyond Processes and Thinking. Valencia.

Germak C. (2014). Progettazione per le PMI locali. Il ruolo dell'Università nella società e per l'impresa [Design for local SMEs. The role of the University in society and for business]. In Ceppa C., Lerma B. (Eds), *Towards conscious design* (pp. 12-15). Allemandi.

Germak C. & De Giorgi C. (2008). Exploring Design. In Germak C. (Eds), *Man at the Centre of the Project* (pp. 53-70). Allemandi.

Norman, D. A., (2004). Emotional design: why we love (or hate) everyday things. Basic Books.

Piscitelli, D. (2019). First Things First. Comunicare le emergenze [First Things First. Communicating emergencies]. ListLab.

Söderlund, J. (2019). The Emergence of Biophilic Design. Springer International Publishing.

Tapscott, D. & Williams, A. D. (2010). Wikinomics 2.0. Atlantic Books.

Traldi, L. (2020, March 21). Design in the era of emergency. Nawal Bakouri explains what should be the role of the discipline and whys. *Designatlarge*. https://www.designatlarge.it/nawal-bakouri-emergency-design/?lang=en

Verganti, R. (2019). Design-Driven Innovation. Rizzoli Etas.

Vignelli, M. (2011). Lectio magistralis. Salerno.



