



**THEORY**

**DESIGN SCIENCE**  
mirror to methodological process stuff of the 1990s

**COGNITIVE REFLECTIONS**  
mirror to mindset movement we are in now

**PROCESS METHODS**  
mirror to science stuff of the 1960s

**MINDSET**  
mirror to cognitive reflections stuff of the 1980s

**METHODOLOGY**

Participatory Design: technological (integrating end users)

Participatory design: interaction design (integrating science methods)

**what designers do and how they think.** Sometimes called the "Design Methods" movement (Buchanan 1992; Jones 1992; Buchanan and Margolin 1995), these researchers sought to understand the processes and methods by which (successful) designers went about design activity especially in circumstances in which design problems were increasingly complex and Simon's "desired state of affairs" could not easily be defined in advance. Schon's (1983) description of individual, professional practices, focuses on the work by practitioners during their "reflection-in-action" as they move to reframe problems, based on judgement. Work by Rowe (1987), Cross (2006) and Lawson (1980/2006), for example, involved attempts to describe the thought processes of designers in action: their design way of knowing (Cross 2006) or design thinking (Rowe 1987).

User Centered Design: Don Norman (shift from participatory Design)

Meta Design (Manzini)  
Service Design  
participatory design

Human Centered Design  
practice oriented product design

Death of design thinking 2011

**DEBATE**

process and methodology of design  
Design thinking as cognitive style

1969 SPLIT between design as about objects and their form (Alexander) and design about problem solving and rational procedures (Simon)

concerned with designers knowledge about objects and how to make them

cognitive aspects of design; what it means to be creative, how much relies on intuition and how personal is the process.

Design Thinking as a general resource for design

concerned with designer's knowledge about what people do with objects

1987 (Suchman) design as situated form of social action, informed by anth, soci etc

Design thinking as a resource for organizations

the development of design thinking and its manifestation into methods, minds and all that has come before it

concerned with what designers do AND what people do with objects, and what the social impact of this is?

**TIME**

1960  
1962  
1965  
1969  
1972  
1973  
1979  
1980  
1982  
1983  
1984  
1987  
1988  
1991  
1992  
1995  
2001  
2005  
2007  
2008  
2009  
2010  
2012

**INFLUENCE**

1960 First computer programs for problem solving, desire to scientize design through computer use.

1962 The First Conference on Design Methods, London, UK. Books on methods and theories of design in different fields are published by **Morris Asimow** (1962) (engineering), **Christopher Alexander** (1964) (design patterns), **L. Bruce Archer** (1965) (industrial design), and **John Chris Jones** (1970) (architecture). The first notable books on methods of creativity are published by **William J. J. Gordon** (1961), and **Alex Faickney Osborn** (1963).

1965 First use of term DESIGN THINKING by **Bruce Archer** in his book "Systematic Method for Designers"

1969 **Herbert Simon** (gets credit for concept of design thinking) establishes science of design

1972 **Victor Papanek**: Design for the real world - Human Ecology and Social Change

1973 Robert McKim publishes *Experiences in Visual Thinking* which includes "Express, Test, Cycle" (ETC) as an iterative backbone for design processes.

1973 First use of WICKED PROBLEMS **Horst Rittel** and **Melvin Webber** write "Dilemmas in a General Theory of Planning" showing that design and planning problems are **wicked problems** as opposed to "tame", single disciplinary, problems of science. Rittel proposes first/second generation split in design methodologies

1979 Bruce Archer DESIGN THINKING starts off the next decade's inquiry into design ways of knowing, stating: "There exists a design way of thinking and communicating that is both different from scientific and scholarly ways of thinking and communicating, and as powerful as scientific and scholarly methods of inquiry when applied to its own kinds of problems."

1980 **Bryan Lawson** *How Designers Think* about design cognition in the context of architecture and urban planning

1982 DESIGNERLY WAYS OF KNOWING **Nigel Cross**: professor of design studies and editor of *Design Studies* journal, writes *Design Ways of Knowing* showing design as its own culture to be taught in schools by contrasting it with science culture and arts and humanities culture. This is based on the idea that "There are things to know, ways of knowing them and ways of finding out about them that are specific to the design area"

1983 **Donald Schon**: *The Reflective Practitioner* in which he sought to establish "an epistemology of practice implicit in the artistic, intuitive processes which [design and other] practitioners bring to situations of uncertainty, instability, uniqueness and value conflict"

1984 **Buciarelli** - Reflective processes in engineering design

1987 **Peter Rowe**: *Design Thinking*

1988 AMBIDEXTEROUS THINKING **Rolf Faste**, Stanford, becomes a required class for graduate product design majors that extends McKim's process of visual thinking to design as a "whole-body way of doing"

1991 Formation of IDEO, IIT program in Chicago

1992 **Richard Buchanan** *Wicked Problems in Design thinking*

1995 **Victor Margolin** and the product milieu - focused on the relation between design and social action

2001 Design ways of knowing (design models vs science models) Cross.

2005 Stanford's D School begins  
participatory design: Design as influenced by ethnography to examine user's situated practice **Blomberg et al 1996; Kensing & Blomberg 1998; Squires & Byrne 2002**  
**Krippendorff** (2006) suggests that design is about creating meaning

2005 **Roger Martin**, *The Design of Business: Why Design Thinking Is the Next Competitive Advantage* (2009) Design thinking as a way to balance organizational tensions between exploration and exploitation

2007 Practice oriented product design suggests that a change in product is precipitated by a change in practice (**Shove 2007**)

2007 Robert Bauer and Ward Eagan: critique of design thinking in organizations - call for more focus on analytical thinking WITHIN design thinking and talk about epistemic modes within the design process (design thinking as epistemology of creative work)

2009 **Lucy Kimbell** (critical of the focus on designers within design thinking, wants a practice focused approach) Ethnography of art-trained designers designing for service, suggestion of DESIGN AS PRACTICE and DESIGN IN PRACTICE as models for analysis  
**Ryalnder**: its hard enough to understand design and thinking, let alone design thinking!

2010 **Robin Adams et al** (2010) study of what it means to be a design professional and how designers become professionals: locating designers knowledge and thinking within the contexts in which they work  
Extension of design thinking into world of business and management: **Tim Brown** leads one of the world's most influential design consultancies, IDEO, and is the author of *Change by Design: How Design Thinking Transforms Organizations and Inspires Innovation* (2009), **David Kelley, Nusbaum, Dan Pink**  
(**Badke-Schaub et al. 2010; Cross 2010; Dorst 2010; Tonkinwise 2010**) highlight how recent popular accounts of design thinking ignore the extensive research on designers' ways of working over previous decades since the first Design Thinking Research Symposium in 1991 (Cross et al. 1992), let alone earlier events such as the Conference on Design Methods of 1962 (Jones and Thornley 1963).

2010 **Nigel Cross** - Design Thinking: How Designers Think and Work

2011: **Nusbaum** calls design thinking a failed experiment

**DESIGN AS SCIENCE guy**

**WICKED PROBLEMS guy**

**The INSTINCTIVE guy**

**The REFLECTIVE guy**

**The WICKED PROBLEMS IS DESIGN THINKING guy**

**The PRACTICE OF DESIGN THINKING lady**

**The DESIGN THINKING IS INNOVATION guys**

distinguishes between design and the social sciences

believed that our world is made up of 'artifice'; objects create by man. His most notable book titled, *The Sciences of the Artificial*, analyses in great depth (from economics through to psychology) of the artificial world we have designed. As a result, Simon concludes that the ultimate artifice known to man is in fact the human brain.

famous definition of design process which aims to improve existing environments into preferred ones

begins human centered and sustainable design movements, and design thinking as problem solving

designer at the core of the process  
forms of intuition that are unique to designers, based on tacit knowledge and instinctive process that generated design ways to know, things to know, and ways of finding out about them

believed in intuitive aspect of design, not interested in how problems are solved, just how they are framed.  
totally focused on process, likened design to science, focused on cognitive thinking models

popularized wicked problems and design thinking  
rejected the notion of design as a science. He describes design thinking as a 'liberal art' reflecting contemporary culture and used by professionals as 'insight' into resolving (Rittel's) wicked problems.

loosely-structured organizational process to stimulate innovation  
Analysis and Synthesis, divergent and convergent thinking, design as problem solving, wicked problems

balancing between exploration and exploitation  
Tim Brown 2009 Design thinkers know there is no right answer to a problem. Rather, he argues, through following the non-linear, iterative design process that he calls inspiration, ideation, and implementation, the design process can convert prob- lems into opportunities.

We must aim to SATISFICE because our brains have limits

resolving one problem opens up a whole new set of problems which can never achieve a finite 'true or false' solution

a wicked problem is: "unique, ambiguous and has no definite solution" and we need design, not science to tackle open ended and evolving problems

not a creative leap, but the ability to build a bridge: analogical thinking and abductive leaps  
not bisociation (papanek), but a natural process

problem setting as the key act in design thinking: designers as examining how to approach a problem before it is taken on.  
saw "wicked problems" as swampy lowlands

Connected design thinking to innovation, design thinking as multidisciplinary mindset  
shifted the concept of design thinking away from a cognitive style toward an intellectual approach to problem framing and problem solving that acknowledged the social aspects of design work.

difficulties associated with the word "thinking". The practice approach serves to emphasize the embodied nature of professional design work: how designers and stakeholders involved in design processes move, what they think, what they do and how it feels.

the emphasis on individual designers in design thinking overly privileges the roles that design professionals play in constituting the meaning and effect of design outcomes. Should consider the role of objects and users in the process as co-creators (Shove 2007)

design thinking neglects to account for the artifacts without which design practice cannot proceed and which constitute design.  
descriptions of design thinking that focus on individual designers and cognition fail to account for the situated nature of knowledge production and the institutions that serve to validate it.

investigating outputs rather than internal processings of the designer or team. In other words, we now evaluate the result of design thinking rather than the thinking itself.  
Martin (2009) sees design thinking as combining abductive, as well as inductive and deductive, reasoning and argues that managers are ill-served by contemporary management education which neglects the former.

design thinking as human centred activity based on empathy

In light of today's large-scale, complex environmental and social issues, Simon stressed the most important factor for successful solutions is an understanding amongst all stakeholders- a common problem understood by all. When faced with large scale societal or environmental problems, Simon knew that the result had to be open and evolving, one without final goals.

Began focus on prototyping

The phenomenon of study in each culture is  
- in the sciences: the natural world  
- in the humanities: human experience  
- in design: the artificial world

The appropriate methods in each culture are  
- in the sciences: controlled experiment, classification, analysis  
- in the humanities: analogy, metaphor, evaluation  
- in design: modeling, pattern-forming, synthesis

The values of each culture are  
- in the sciences: objectivity, rationality, neutrality, and a concern for "truth"  
- in the humanities: subjectivity, imagination, commitment, and a concern for "justice"  
- in design: practicality, ingenuity, empathy, and a concern for "appropriateness"

1. Symbolic and visual communication
2. The design of material objects
3. Activities and organized services
4. The design of complex systems or environments for living, working, playing and learning (Buchanan 1998, p. 9)

Ways that managers and designers judge reliability and validity