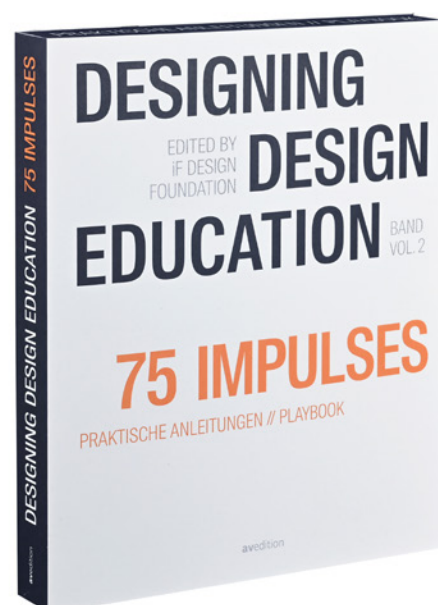


DESIGNING DESIGN EDUCATION

EDITED BY
IF DESIGN
FOUNDATION

BAND
VOL. 2

75 IMPULSES



On the future of design education

What is the current state of design education? How can it respond appropriately to the rapid changes in professional practice? The if Design Foundation comes up with 75 impulses in its new study, as documented in the book *Designing Design Education*. Read an excerpt:

What is the current state of design education? How can it respond appropriately to the rapid changes in professional practice and prepare graduates for their future?

Designers are expected to take on more relevant roles in the economy and contribute to more holistic and effective solutions.

These questions guided our work since 2016. As part of a multi-year study, more than 250 designers and educators from 28 countries shared their thoughts with us on the current state and future of design education. We published the findings in spring 2021 in the white book "Designing Design Education".

The findings left no doubt: design education is undergoing a major transformation – unsurprising given the societal, technological, and ecological upheavals of our time. Accordingly, many educators are grappling with broad, often abstract or systemic challenges: sustainability must be inte-

grated in teaching programs; competencies such as resilience, critical thinking, and courage have come into focus. New methods are needed to prepare students for the increasingly complex fields in which design is applied. Designers are expected to take on more relevant roles in the economy and contribute to more holistic and effective solutions.

The study also made clear: there is no lack of willingness to change or openness to new approaches among educators.

But the key question remains: how can the necessary changes be achieved in practice?

A radical transformation of design education, as tempting as it may sound, is rarely feasible. Design education often happens in the context of rigid university structures; bureaucracy, accreditation processes, and curriculum regulations make a holistic redesign difficult.

That's why we have deliberately chosen the path of small steps: we are convinced that the transformation of design education can be achieved through many small changes.

From 2022 to 2025, we curated a series of events called Open Campus together with the design museum Die Neue Sammlung in Munich. Design educators were invited to explore a range of topics during these three-day events: learning sciences, personal growth, values-based leadership for sustainability, artificial intelligence, innovation, and creativity.

Speakers were deliberately chosen mostly from outside the field of design. These experts from around the world shared new perspectives and offered thought-provoking input from diverse disciplines.

The structure of the events was entirely focused on hands-on, practice-oriented learning: each talk was paired with a workshop in which participants immediately developed ideas on how to translate the inspiration they had just received into their own teaching practice.

This quickly fostered a learning community, anchored by a core group of regular attendees who returned to each event and enriched discussions by sharing how they applied the impulses in their own work.

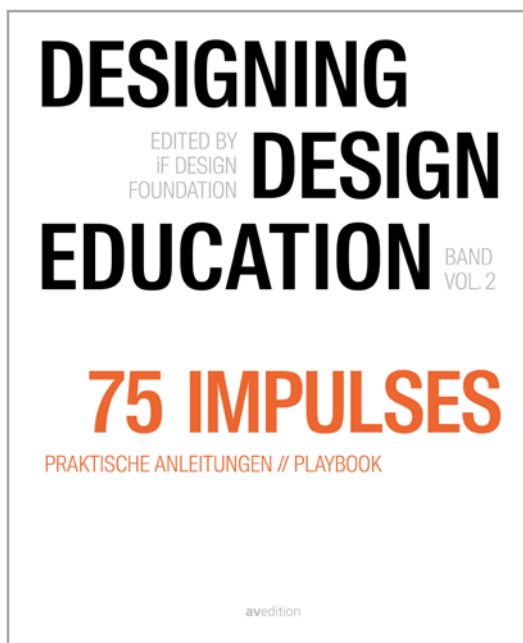
Practical suggestions and illustrative examples help you implement them right away in your own teaching.

With this book, we aim to expand this learning community: the insights of the 26 speakers are each briefly summarized here – highly relevant insights and inspiring examples from neuroscience and philosophy, AI and robotics, art and theater studies.

Practical suggestions and illustrative examples help you implement them right away in your own teaching. We invite you to adapt these ideas as you see fit, as some may seem impractical depending on your context, while others will be already familiar.

Please integrate these impulses in your own practice with creativity and openness – whether in formal design education, professional development, or any other areas where we can all contribute to the future of design education. After all, this is how transformation happens.

From the Introduction by
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Board of the iF Design Foundation



Designing Design Education Vol. 2 – 75 Impulses

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How can design studies be made more practical? How can e. g. innovation, creativity, sustainability or resilience become an everyday part of training events? In 2021, the iF Design Foundation published its white book on the future of design education on the basis of international research. The key conclusion was: design studies must change radically in order to master the challenges of the future. This was followed by a three-year cooperation with Neue Sammlung Munich that provided concrete impulses.

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