
Design Research Now
Essays and Selected Projects



Board of
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Colophon

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Preface

If international design research is to continue to develop, we need to have fundamental discussions, not only on what we understand design research to be, but also on the most important questions and issues, on exemplary design projects, and on the most promising subject areas now and in the future. Rather than asserting unilaterally that a particular conception of research is the only valid one, or that a single type of approach is exemplary, however, our aim should be to present a diversity of viewpoints and research projects to a wider audience of design researchers, introducing specific research areas and giving reference points for more extensive debate on the focus, issues, objectives, approaches and methods of design research.

The significance of *Design Research Now* by Ralf Michel in this context is that it collects together a number of positions that have come to prominence over the past few years and are now repeatedly cited in discussions of design research. At the same time, it has the courage to present exemplary projects that are particularly exciting for contemporary discussion of design research. The selection here resulted from an evaluation procedure in which Ralf Michel compiled key positions on design research according to his own assessment of the research community. This compilation, then, is definitely not representative of BIRD's individual preferences but rather an attempt to show the state of design research today.

BIRD's various publication projects help to make the central positions in design research available to others by presenting interesting projects appropriately, publishing key reference books and anthologies in the original language and/or in translation, and compiling a set of reference points and materials that are vital for international design research. The aim is to illustrate the enormous heterogeneity of these key positions, to convey an idea of the vigorous and controversial research debate, and to encourage and stimulate further discussion.