A dialogue is not just a conversation. It is not about establishing the truth: a temporary, fragile, and often deceptive one. A dialogue is not a matter of winning an argument but of looking at different opinions and making them interact and cross-fertilise. Dialogues have an extraordinary capacity to draw energy from people's differences and channel it towards something new.

This book presents the most updated developments of design research in the form of six dialogues between scholars of the Politecnico di Milano and international scholars. Each dialogue focuses on a specific topic recently addressed on the Politecnico di Milano's PhD programme: the role of users, social innovation, fashion design, colour design, interaction design and urban design. Accordingly, the book deals with a variety of topical issues for designers, such as recent forms of co-design and co-creation as well as design in relation to the Internet of Things and smart cities. It also addresses more problematic, controversial issues, such as the tyranny of the “thin ideal” in fashion design and the influence of social dynamics in determining the meaning and use of design products.

Many perspectives, then, are brought together to depict the challenges facing design, and especially design research, over the coming years.

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Over the last few years the international design research network has become an important reality, which has facilitated the sharing of ideas and opinions, improved understanding of the subject and increased awareness of the potential of design in various socio-geographical contexts. The current expansion of the educational network allows teachers, students, researchers and professionals to meet, both online and in person. It would seem therefore that the time is now right to propose a new series of books on design, contributing the construction of the international design community, helping authors bring their work onto the world scene. The Design International series is thus born as a cultural setting for the sharing of ideas and experiences from the different fields of design, a place in which you can discover the wealth and variety of design research, where different hypotheses and different answers present themselves, in an attempt to draw up a map of Italian design, though in a continuous comparison with the world scene. Different areas of design will be investigated, such as for example: fashion, interior design, graphic design, communication design, product and industrial design, service and social innovation design, interaction design and emotional design.

Books published in this series are selected by the Scientific Board and submitted to two referees for peer-review.
DIALOGUES ON DESIGN

Notes on Doctoral Research in Design 2018

edited by Luca Guerrini and Paolo Volontè
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