

ENGAGING STUDENTS AND THEIR COMMUNITIES THROUGH SOCIAL DESIGN

Design as a discipline is highly fluid and sensitive to political, industrial, economic and cultural changes. In the recent years multiple trends affecting our profession have emerged with one common theme: integration. Geographic, disciplinary, gender and other traditional divides are being blurred, creating a better integrated, and consequently more informed dialogue. This presentation will focus on yet another boundary that has begun to blur in the recent years – specifically, the division between the designers and their communities. As design leaders, are we doing enough for our communities, locally and globally? What measures can be taken to encourage faculty to take their students beyond the university walls, without compromising curricular standards? What role could the professionals play in supporting socially-minded community projects? How can students be trained to design with, and for, the other 90%? To address these questions, authors will present and analyze case studies from their academic, professional and non-profit design experiences, and will identify strengths, shortcomings, challenges and future goals in an effort to blur the boundary between designers and their surrounding communities.

Type of Presentation: 45 minute Group Presentation
Intended Audience: Design Academics, Students, Design Professionals
Topic: Teaching: Engaging Students in Social Design
Purpose: Best practices and lessons learned from community-based projects