

To: IntArchSymposium@yahoo.com

Re: Blurred Lines Interior Design Symposium at FIU – Call for Papers

Abstract Title: Mischief-Makers and Rabble Rousers: Building a culture of engagement and activism

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Bio: Liz teaches interior design studio and courses focused on drawing representation. Her research focuses on of healthy communities, cultural identity and the everyday.

Image:



Mischief-Makers and Rabble Rousers: Building a culture of engagement and activism



Oxford defines activism as “using vigorous campaigning to bring about social change.” Activism is an essential part of the design process. We see a problem, design a solution, and intervene to make it better. Designers are advocates and engaged participants in our built environment. In design school, we are taught not to be complacent, but to improve our surroundings through design. There is a culture of engagement in the design professions, an understanding that through change, our communities are enhanced.

The Millennial Generation has been described as both civic-minded and self-absorbed. Many students begin their design education with little experience in applied learning or critical thinking. Yet as educators, we expect students to develop the skills necessary to take what they have learned and apply this knowledge in the studio. Design education is based on the ability of the student to initiate proactively critical dialogue concerning their design work, contribute to critique and foster a community of inquiry. A recent seminar introduced ways freshmen can engage their campus through activist design intervention. Learners designed and built interventions that elicited change, promoting risk-taking and critical thinking.

By interrogating the blurred lines of generational design pedagogy, this presentation for design educators will discuss methods of promoting student-led engaged scholarship. The purpose and objectives of the session are to evaluate the learning outcomes and we will conclude by reviewing future implications and adaption for the imminent Pluralist Generation. By considering the civic-mindedness of these generations, we can build a culture of engagement and activism.