

RESEARCH THEME

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Title of the doctoral research Mapping Design Methods: exploring project culture narratives behind methods

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Abstract

Within the design discipline, approaches, methods and tools are in constant evolution undergoing mutations and adaptations to different project contexts. A deeper awareness of why and in what circumstances (time and space - history and geography) certain approaches, methods and tools have emerged and evolved in time will allow us to better understand how to consequently build new methods to respond to future challenges.

The history of design is lacking a history of design methods. Looking to the future of the discipline there is a need for a deeper reflection on the evolution of methods linked to the specific cultures and contexts from which they emerge, also understanding the cross-overs and historical interrelations between these.

This research proposal aims to enrich the international discourse on Design Methods and in particular with those scholars that have recently started to question the origins of design methods with the intention to build a collective narrative of histories of design methods. The aim of the research is to grasp the state of the art of the use of methods in the profession today building past and future trajectories of evolution.

We intend to prototype collaborative formats for investigating the historicity of design methods, in order to critically engage designers and researchers together in exploring limits and possibilities in existing and emerging design processes and practices.

Keywords

Design Methods, Italian Design, Project Culture