



December 2020

Editorial

Follow this and additional works at: <https://repository.vtc.edu.hk/ive-de-signed>



Part of the [Art and Design Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

(2020) "Editorial," *SIGNED: The Magazine of The Hong Kong Design Institute*. , 2-3.

Available at: <https://repository.vtc.edu.hk/ive-de-signed/vol24/iss24/3>

This Front Matter is brought to you for free and open access by the Design at VTC Institutional Repository. It has been accepted for inclusion in *SIGNED: The Magazine of The Hong Kong Design Institute* by an authorized editor of VTC Institutional Repository. For more information, please contact wchu@vtc.edu.hk.

EDITORIAL

DESIGNING A POSITIVE FUTURE IS A COLLECTIVE EFFORT

As these last three issues of Signed have highlighted, when designers use their considerable creative powers to bring people together to identify and then rethink the problems they face, it is possible to make a dramatic difference to their lives. Whether it is painting street intersections, joining a running group, collecting rubbish, baking bread, or talking about death, the projects introduced in these issues highlight a simple fact—the actions around connecting people are at the heart of substantive and meaningful change.

Human-centred Design has served as the overarching concept for the spectrum of approaches over the three 2020 issues of Signed. The stories have introduced a variety of Design concepts, including: community design, place making, citizen science, co-design, co-operative design, and more. But without exception, all the activities featured have the core objective of connecting people, and using their combined power to address problems they face in their lives. These examples fit comfortably into the idea of Human-centred Design, and hold valuable lessons for anyone wanting to help build a better and more people-friendly society.

At its simplest, every design project is the same—understand the problem, agree upon objectives, decide a plan of action, and then carry it out. But, as we have seen with the difficulty and gravity of the issues covered in the 12 stories featured, when it comes to societies, communities, and individuals, few problem of significance are uncomplicated and easy to solve. However, given the creativity and effectiveness of the activities introduced, it is clearly possible to make a difference, and the flow-on effects of successful projects can exceed expectations.

Our extended exploration of socially beneficial design has focused on the most vulnerable in society, and those in need of tangible improvement in their lives. The stories contain a hopeful message to take into the future. Namely, designing for social change works best when it is inclusive, engaging, meaningful, fun, and generates appropriate solutions to the problems being addressed. It is a message for our times, more important than ever as the world collectively struggles with communicable diseases, increasing social dislocation, and uncertain economic and environmental challenges.