

# Introduction

Each issue of the journal tells a larger story about design that emerges from the combination of individual articles. The story in this issue balances several important personalities in design with the elements of disciplined design thinking and design practice. The personalities are diverse. They include Ivan Illich, Julien Hébert, Gui Bonsiepe, Moriya Nobuo, and John J. Graham. Each has made a distinctive contribution to the field based on philosophy, personal vision, and creative energy. For example, Carl Mitcham's memorial to the late Ivan Illich is a careful review of the philosopher's critique of technology and professionalized design practice. For those readers who are unfamiliar with Illich's writings, Mitcham provides an excellent introduction to the range of his provocative thought on the ethical and cultural issues of the field. Teachers, students, and thoughtful professional designers will be challenged by this article to consider the deeper values and goals of design in the contemporary world.

Though it was not entirely planned by the editors, the following articles on Julien Hébert, Gui Bonsiepe, Moriya Nobuo and John Graham are a quiet response to the criticisms made by Ivan Illich. These designers—and a respected design educator and theorist—represent the complex mosaic of design as the field attempts to discover and fulfill its mission in a responsible manner. Despite our distrust and skepticism about the occasional cults of personality that emerge in the popular journalism of design, personal values and preferences play an important role in the development of the field. Each of the articles tells a personal and professional story about an individual who has made a difference in the larger story of design.

Articles on important elements in design thinking and design practice balance the story of personalities. Dennis Doordan discusses materials in the design process. Bruce Hanington discusses the emerging methods of human research in design. David Cabianca provides a comment on a recent debate in the field of graphic design. Cal Swann and Artemis Yagou discuss design in national and international contexts—icons of the Australian bush and the effort of Greece to present a new face to the international community in the Great Exhibition of 1851. These articles represent the complex web of issues in design history, criticism, and theory—as well as one of the signature themes of *Design Issues*.

Richard Buchanan

Dennis Doordan

Victor Margolin