

Editorial

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When a journal of interior design/interior architecture comes into being what does it mean for its related field and those with whom it intersects? In Bourdieu's terms, a field is a domain of meaning in which its constituent players and acts align to give it definition and generate practices that become the evolving rules of the game that continue to be contested. With the appointment of a new executive editor and editorial board in 2008, the *2007 IDEA Journal* marks a point of transition and, as such, provides an opportunity to reflect on the evolution of the journal over the past years, its contribution to the field of interior design/interior architecture, and its potential to continue to inform and transform the discipline.

While few in number, the papers in this current edition reflect a diversity of themes and research approaches. Issues generic to design education are raised in Thomson's paper on assessment criteria as a means for studio dialogue and their role in constructing shared meanings between tutors and students; while Crowther explores the use of drawing as a vehicle for design studio dialogue and in-depth conversations about emerging ideas. In contrast, Walker's literary framework challenges the reader to seek what is embedded within the act, the narrative and the interpretations within processes from which ideas and artefacts surface. In addition, the paper invites debate about the nature of research and its potential to be more fully considered and realised as a creative act in itself. Providing an international perspective at the broader discipline level is the paper by Milligan et al who report on a recent 'interiors' conference in Scotland, the context leading to the convening of the conference, and its potential impact for participants and the profession.

As a chronological collection, the various editions of *IDEA Journal* reflect the evolution and growth of interior design/interior architecture research in Australia and New Zealand and the emergence of the journal as a reputable international publication and primary research forum for educators and post graduate students. The collection reveals a desire to experiment with format and content and to question what it means to undertake and re/present research. While early editions emphasise the design studio as a focus of research, later editions show an increasing interest in exploring the nature and parameters of the interior design/interior architecture discipline, with the outcomes being presented as either discussion papers or traditional academic papers. This is particularly apparent in the editions aligned with IDEA

conferences, such as the 2003 'Between Excess and Austerity' conference and the 2005 'Insideout' symposium.

Through its very existence, the journal has also helped to inform, construct and promote interior design/interior architecture. We can now say that:

- Interior design/interior architecture intersects, embraces and therefore transforms other disciplines to foreground the importance of the environment in human interactions and the human condition.
- The interior design/interior architecture studio is wide ranging moving beyond 'the interior of architecture', as it is often conceptualised and described, to explore relationships, experiences, technologies, materiality, social constructs and the beyond.
- Interior design/interior architecture education and practice are not isolated activities but are seamlessly part of a field that is informed by and opens up areas of research.
- Designing within the field of interior design/interior architecture includes modes of educational and professional practice that are not formulaic but that are reinterpreted and contested through research and the process of scholarly reflection.
- Interior design/interior architecture in Australia and New Zealand is informed by and informs international issues and practices – not at the expense of regional relevance but in ways that critique and/or embrace differing positions.

With changing social and environmental contexts, and an erosion of boundaries between academia and practice challenging the nature of research and who does research, the journal stands at an exciting and important threshold.

The greatest danger for interior design/interior architecture in its endless 'becoming' is the closing off to traditions and/or the mimicking of seductive facets of practice and/or conceptualisation. The *IDEA Journal* in its evolving presence challenges all authors and referees and readers to situate the fragments which constitute 'the field' in a fluid process that is able to foreground each in innovative yet constructive and responsible ways.

Recognising increasing emphasis on internationalisation, interdisciplinarity, multiple interpretations, blurred boundaries, and the need to transform, we as members of the previous editorial committees since the journal's inception are excited by plans to extend and consolidate the journal's presence and to realise more fully its potential as 'an insertion' that not only reflects, but also disrupts, interior design/interior architecture in the 21st century and beyond.