The overarching theme of this journal is design activism. Designers need to be activists, and radical shifts are needed to allow any form of activism to evolve. Institutions of higher learning and the profession need to nurture and equip the next generation of designers with new ways of learning and practice; to achieve any form of positive change, design institutions, scholars and practitioners need to urgently change their models, modes and methodologies. Design pedagogy and practice needs to be realigned away from the current asymmetrical approaches to teaching, practice and research. Over the years, I have been nurturing and expanding an overall agenda that consistently works toward developing innovative solutions to benefit civil society and improve social innovation, sustainability and the environment. Design activism informs the potential of some of the complex interrelationships and strategies between concepts, statements and projects. Design activism takes the form of traditional and non-traditional campaigning methods (placards as iconic building fragments), participatory/temporary environments and workshops.

As educators and practitioners continue to expand on design activism research, we will continue to encounter obstacles. This issue of IDEA Journal is a starting point for exploring design activism research, we will continue to encounter obstacles. As design educators and practitioners continue to expand on design activism research, we will continue to encounter obstacles. This issue of IDEA Journal aims to nurture a shift toward design activism within design pedagogy.

As educators, students and practitioners I believe we are at a crossroad. One possible path is to continue to mould our identity as educators nurturing the next generation of interior design professionals. The other is to methodically step back and rethink where the profession is headed. This issue of the IDEA Journal focuses on moving beyond design activism as a curiosity, to make a conscious effort to work toward a philosophical and pedagogical stance. As educators and designers, we have witnessed the sustainability movement flourish from grassroots to a branded sensation. However, more change is still needed. Educators and future practitioners need to know that we can no longer put our environment at risk. We also need concrete and measurable objectives. Ideally, I am proposing that creating a better future will require a methodology of interdependence that can be disseminated promptly and equally on a global scale within academia and the profession – a mutually shared responsibility.

A small but growing collection of design researchers are working to develop studies to test models, modes and methodologies of design activism. The submissions in this journal identify some notable accomplishments in activism. Many of these design activism acts have been incorporated into pedagogical and practical venues. This issue of IDEA Journal aims to nurture a shift toward design activism within design pedagogy.

Design activism also need to hear the voices of participants, users, elders and caregivers. By eliminating terms like 'expert' and 'expert knowledge', we can encourage a more inclusive modality of thinking and making. Ideally, a civil society is universally inclusive, with flexible goals that can adapt to change. Individuals all have their own 'blind spots', but together we can implement real change by including everyone and focusing on the ethics of caring. Jennifer Webb and Brent Williams explore the concept of inclusiveness, and Fleur Palmer explores a New Zealand Māori community's vision for the future.

The research papers by Cathy Smith and Michael Chapman, and Sally Stone, offer recommendations about explicit responsibilities for protecting the built environment. Their joint findings conclude that design activist models, modalities and methodologies matter in the UK, Australia, or beyond and that as activists, we must ‘save to renew’ and ‘renew to save’ while we try to meet the desires and needs of others (users of the space). In these papers, design activism takes the form of traditional and non-traditional campaigning methods (placards as iconic building fragments), participatory/temporary environments and workshops.

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