



## Design Philosophy Politics ... Coming Soon

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## PREVIEW

# Design Philosophy Politics ... Coming Soon

### **We're looking for writers, thinkers, designers (and of course readers!)**

**Design Philosophy Politics** ezine is an extension and development of *Design Philosophy Papers*.

The political implications of design are frequently addressed in *Design Philosophy Papers* – in theoretical and scholarly ways. Many of the papers published have engaged design in relation to concerns such as: ethics, user-centredness, technology; otherness; dematerialisation; aesthetics; sustainability; urbocentrism; homelessness; politics and the political.

The kind of radical thinking being developed through *Design Philosophy Papers* will inform the briefer, more hard-hitting content of **Design Philosophy Politics**. The two websites will be closely linked, with their content complementing each other.

The objectives of **Design Philosophy Politics** are: (i) to widen the constituency that recognises the importance of the relation between design and politics, and (ii) to create a global community of critical, politically informed designers, design thinkers and critics.

Above all **Design Philosophy Politics** will take up the challenge of confronting unsustainability as the deep structure of contemporary existence, a condition that has arrived largely by design. The articles it will publish will expose the enormous power of design: how it shapes what we desire, and how we live; how it drives demand for resources and energy and with what consequences. They will demonstrate that design is always already political. Realising this is a pre-condition for changing direction and harnessing design as a force for sustainment.

**Design Philosophy Politics** will be rigorous in its criticism of the unsustainable and affirmative in its embrace of potentially effective actions towards sustainment.

**Design Philosophy Politics** will be free and published online four times a year. Its content will be organised under the following categories:

### **Features Interviews Reviews Fictions Redirections Solutions Eliminate**

**reviews** – not just of books, exhibitions, events, products, etc, but also of social change organisations and projects. For example, in our first issues we will be critically assessing the politics of organisations like Architects for Humanity, WorldChanging.org and Green Cross International.

**redirections** – the promotion, documentation and analysis of the emergent activity of redirective practice. People across a disparate range of disciplines, who are committed to the development of sustainment are beginning to self identify as redirective practitioners.

**eliminate** – this is where we (and you) get to nominate products (or anything else designed) as candidates for elimination. Anyone for the leafblower? What about the incandescent lamp? Or the deep fat fryer? Dishwasher? Electric clothes dryer? We want to unravel exactly how particular products contribute to unsustainability and why the world would be better off without them.

**solutions** – here we'll document promising projects – speculative, proposed and actual.

**fictions** – this is the biggest challenge of all. We're aiming to create 'design fiction', a new genre of writing towards the future, which isn't just wacky science fiction or utopian fantasy; writing that is alert to how designed environments shape how people (read characters) are, and how they could be otherwise; writing that's insightful, compelling, exciting – a tall order, but necessary!

*Coming in the first issue of **Design Philosophy Politics***

**interview:** with Ziauddin Sardar, muslim scholar, cultural theorist, editor of *Futures* and co-editor of *Third Text*

**redirective practice:** designing for the yet-to-be

**solutions:** retrofitting a town in rural Australia for the coming climate

**review:** humanitarian architecture: building change?

**fiction:** the steel garden

**feature:** hung out to dry: washday blues

**feature:** carbon neutrality and other designed illusions

Want to contribute or want to be put on our mailing list? Get in touch with editor Anne-Marie Willis [amwillis@teamdes.com.au](mailto:amwillis@teamdes.com.au)