

Adam de Eyto, Lead Editor

Welcome to the inaugural edition of Iterations!

Iterations is a forum of considered reflection, critique and presentation for design practitioners and researchers. While there is plenty of noise and self-promotion in the fast moving digital world, this is perhaps the first time that Irish design practitioners and researchers have the critical mass to tell their stories on a local and international stage in a formal publication format. Interesting spaces lie between design practice and research. By working in these spaces we can collaborate to inform design education and emergent practice, while demonstrating research that impacts meaningfully on users, citizens, policy, society and our environment.

This first edition of Iterations presents fine examples across a broad spectrum of design activity, from reflections on setting up consultancy, to insights into established professional practice. Articles in the education section reflect on live projects which highlight the benefit of collaborative work. Curatorial and policy issues are explored in detail through innovative case studies and critique. The review also seeks to contextualise quality artefacts and crafted visuals as part of the essential language of design practice and research.

Writing does not come naturally to many designers. Reflection on design is something we regularly do in private or verbally with colleagues and clients, yet we are often reluctant to present our reflections in the written format. We would much prefer to be sanding, sewing, sketching or building, experimenting with materials, textures, inks or images, we like to allow the artefact to speak for itself. In some instances, writing becomes one of those necessary evils that has to be endured in order to compliment design work. Writing can sometimes be seen as an activity that 'others' do, in order to sell design work, promote a brand or demonstrate impact.

Conversely, there are design practitioners who have evolved into researchers and academics, applying their design skills in research and educational arenas. Traditionally these people have had limited platforms through which to present their work. Design research can at times make for an unconventional output

and the dialogue between practitioners and design researchers can be disconnected. Iterations seeks to enrich practice and inform research through a presentation of both, on the same stage.

Iterations is testament to the fact that design research has come of age in Ireland. Our educational institutions and public funding agencies recognise this, and are realising the potential of design by providing focus and funding. Irish Design 2015 is providing a platform for collaboration and engagement in design across the island and has placed Ireland confidently on the international stage. The blurring of the traditional disciplinary and geographical boundaries is refreshing, displaying a confidence and mutual respect for uniqueness and diversity. Hence Iterations' place as an Interdisciplinary design review.

We would like to express our deep gratitude to the authors who trusted us to present their work in an open, accessible context; those who went through the blind peer review process with a view to critiquing and improving their written work and who gave form to the first Iteration of the review. We also thank Irish Design 2015 for seed funding the initiative and providing the voluntary editorial board with support and wisdom throughout.

The journey has been incredibly enriching and we hope this presentation is of long-term value to Irish design and our society as a whole.



Adam de Eyto