

In memoriam professor emeritus Jochen Jess

With sadness, we learned that Jochen A.G. Jess, professor emeritus from the Electrical Engineering department, died on October 22, 2022 at the age of 87. From 1955, he studied Electronic Circuits and Systems at RWTH Aachen. This resulted in a PhD dissertation in 1963. In this time he worked with the Zuse Z22 and Siemens 2002 computer systems which are nowadays famous historical systems. He continued his career at the University of Karlsruhe where he contributed to the foundation of the department of Computer Science.

In October 1971, he moved to Eindhoven to establish a new research group called "Elektronica C" at the department of Electrical Engineering. His assignment was to create a group working on Computer Aided Design. This task defined his further career till his retirement age. At that time, the group Electronic Systems had become a leading research group within this research domain. This is in large due to the pioneering role Jochen and his 39 PhD students had.

Throughout his career, professor Jess also played an instrumental role in the foundation of the "Eindhovense Fabricage Faciliteit voor IC's" (EFFIC) and the "Eindhoven's Embedded Systems Institute" (nowadays known as ESI). Together with several other European experts he also established the "Design, Automation and Test in Europe" conference which is still one of the world leading conferences in the area of design automation. For his contributions to the field, he received in 2005 a Lifetime Achievement Award from the European Design Automation Association (EDAA). The EDAA is also one of the many other organizations that he chaired throughout his professional career.

Jochen Jess was a true pioneer in the field of Design Automation. His contributions have a lasting impact on almost everyone on our planet. He will be dearly missed.

Sander Stuijk
Chair of the Electronic Systems group

Memories of Jochen Jess

It was very sad news to learn that prof.Dr.-Ing. Jochen Jess passed away on October 2nd of this year. For many of us, Jochen was more than the master thesis supervisor or the PhD promotor; he was the role model, the father figure, who shaped the first steps of our professional careers. In modern jargon Jochen was an "influencer", who played a key role in molding the course of Electronic Design Automation (EDA) as we know it today -- from broadening the scientific horizon, to promoting it, to crafting a new skyline that many practitioners have followed since. We are talking here of his influence in the state-of-the-art of the mid 80s, when Jochen's prominent role in the scientific community provided leadership in the early stages of fields like high-level and logic synthesis, back-end chip design, formal verification, testing and design for manufacturability, and piecewise linear simulation. This was the time when the big EDA vendors were starting up, when the workstations were merely becoming mainstream platforms for EDA tool development, when the nowadays established forums like ICCAD, DAC, and DATE

(Design Automation and Test in Europe) were only shaping up. Jochen was at the forefront of these developments. In fact, he chaired these conferences and co-founded DATE, and for many years he was chairman of the board of the European Design Automation Association (EDAA).

And all this work and success stories stemmed from his treasured Eindhoven University of Technology where along with his graduate students, he launched the "Vakgroep ES" into world luminary. The world can look back to this research group in Eindhoven as a source of serious innovation and as a source of brilliant graduates infiltrating industry and academia with the Jochen Jess stamp. Jochen shared his knowledge *and* wisdom with us, and we carry on his teachings: to innovate one must have peace and freedom in their heart.

Back in Eindhoven we all remember Jochen's approachability and comradery, the group weekend retreats, the get together events on Fridays, his passion for art and drumming. Some of us knew him closer and sensed the love, trust, and pride he had for his family. This family warmth which was certainly one of the pillars of his accomplishments.

Dear Jochen, we count ourselves lucky to have been part of your journey...RIP

prof.dr. José Pineda de Gyvez
dr.ir.drs. Wim Philipsen
dr.ir. Geert Janssen
dr.ir. Ed Huijbregts