

Executive Board

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Position of the Executive Board of Eindhoven University of Technology regarding the assessment of the department Industrial Design

In December 2017 an international review committee assessed the quality and relevance of research conducted in the period 2009-2016, the viability of the department Industrial Design, its research strategy and the quality of the research training, research integrity and diversity. The assessment was carried out using the Standard Evaluation Protocol 2015-2021 for the research assessment of public organizations in the Netherlands.

The assessment committee consisted of:

- Professor Cees de Bont, School of Design, Hong Kong Polytechnic University, Hong Kong;
- Professor Jodi Forlizzi, Human Computer Interaction Institute, School of Computer Science, Carnegie Mellon University, United States;
- Professor Hiroshi Ishii, MIT Media Lab, MIT, United States;
- Professor Johan Redström, Umeå Institute of Design, Umeå University, Sweden;
- Professor Toshimasa Yamanaka, Faculty of Art & Design, University of Tsukuba, Japan.

The committee was supported by Dr. Meg van Bogaert, who acted as secretary on behalf of QANU.

The committee concludes:

The committee is of the opinion that the general level of research at the Department of Industrial Design is very good. The committee recognises that at all levels many very good researchers have a position in the Department, as well as very good designers. In a number of targeted areas, the Department is considered to have a leading position, in other areas it is doing very good and in some areas there is a lot of potential.

The committee also gave the following recommendations:

- The mission of the Department Industrial Design in Eindhoven is unique among design departments worldwide and provides an excellent basis for international research collaboration and strengthening partnerships worldwide. The committee is of opinion that the mission could be pushed even further. The Department is in an excellent position to redefine the

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- field of industrial design and to emerge as one of the leaders in the discipline.
- The strategy on reorganization of the Department into two clusters is still in development. The Department should make use of the momentum to shape its future. This could include, but is not limited to: mentoring students and junior faculty members; developing collective knowledge about the discipline of industrial design as it is taught at Eindhoven; refining research methodology; guiding collaborative work with other disciplines; seeking research funding; hiring and project staffing; communications; collaborative relationships with industrial partners; reporting research results worldwide; and most importantly, increasing the awareness and importance of industrial design within TU/e, nationally, and worldwide.
 - The Department of Industrial Design has ambitions, but the impact of the research – also in comparison with international departments in industrial design – is not always clear and according to the committee could improve. It is therefore recommended that the Department conducts a data-driven scientific analysis to compare itself with top-class rival institutes in order to position itself on the international research map. Defining quality indicators will also help to focus in the upcoming period of review.
 - Despite the very high quality of the research, the communication of results towards peers could be improved. The building of capacity over the past years will help the Department to deliver in the upcoming period. The committee recommends that – to have even more recognition – the Department should articulate more explicitly on developments and methodological contributions to the field of industrial design.

The Executive Board highly appreciates the work of the committee and the recognition of the quality of the research of TU/e's department ID. It is equally appreciative of the recommendations of the committee. The Executive Board will discuss these with the Department Board. The recommendations will help the department to not only maintain its quality, but also improve in the future.

The Executive Board of TU/e has accepted the report and its recommendations and wishes to thank the assessment committee for the considerable time and effort it has spent on this assessment.

On behalf of the Executive Board,



Prof.dr.ir F.P.T. Baaijens
Rector Magnificus Eindhoven University of Technology