

# RESEARCH FOR OUR FUTURE

IN 2014, AN INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE CONDUCTED THE ASSESSMENT OF OUR RESEARCH IN THE PERIOD 2007-2012. THE COMMITTEE CONCLUDED THAT THE FACULTY TAKES A UNIQUE LEADING POSITION IN THE WORLD. IN THIS LEAFLET WE HIGHLIGHT SOME OF THE IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENTS IN DESIGN RESEARCH AT IDE, AND ILLUSTRATE IT WITH QUOTES FROM THE COMMITTEE'S FINDINGS.

## WHAT WE DO

At IDE, we see the integration of people, technology, and business concerns in design as a necessary basis of doing design. At each of the three corners we link to the neighbouring disciplines, conduct strong research, and connect findings toward integration and design.

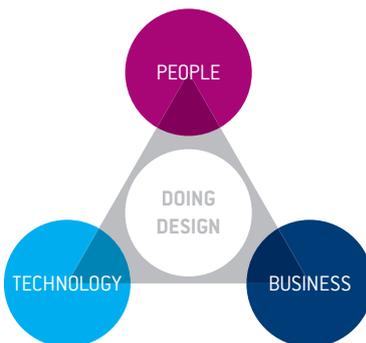
### FILLING THE TRIANGLE

Our research spans the entire triangle. At the corners of the triangle our research groups connect to 'mother disciplines' in various fields. Between the corners we can strengthen connections to grow the emerging transdiscipline of design research to a mature field.

### FOCUS OUR FACULTY

In this process, we have made good steps in setting up new themes, starting initiatives in the faculty, and fostering connections with industry and design practice, as in CLICKNL and the CRISP programme. Informal connections work well between individuals, but we can be more explicit about our rules and procedures, our cross-departmental collaborations, and in the naming of sections and departments. This would also help to make choices, and to get our message across more clearly.

"UX is doing well by creating a good mix of applied and fundamental publications. The Committee finds the quality of the products to be extremely high."



"The guiding sustainable practice and emerging global standard through the EVR (Eco-costs Value Ratio) contribution is excellent."

"The quality of the research is very good with publication in high impact journals."

"The Committee considers this bottom-up approach as one of the key pillars underpinning the success of the themes. It recommends that the faculty make this strategy explicit."

- "IDE face(s) a problem in creating a sharp profile while remaining open to diffuse challenges in a growing, changing field."



## HOW DO WE DO IT?

The committee was impressed by the labs that we built, which support prototype-making at an advanced level, and promote a healthy culture of collaboration and exchange.

### CONNECTING AND SUPPORTING

Especially the connections between research and education, and the way education provides links across the departments was recognised as unique and valuable. This is fully in line with the education assessment of 2014.

### GRADUATE SCHOOL & EDUCATION

Across Europe, PhD supervision is receiving a more structured approach, with guidance along the process, and attention to providing explicit training to PhD students and those supervising them. In 2011, the TU instated its Graduate School; at IDE, we used this to further develop the PhD mentoring system that we had explored for a decade.

### SHOW WHAT WE MAKE

The standards of what makes good quality university research is developing across the disciplines, and is moving in a broader way that has more attention for designerly output. For instance, the new assessment criteria give equal prominence to both scientific quality and societal relevance. This is made visible not only by numbers of publications and by citations, but also by the societal use and impact of prototypes, methods, tools, and theories.

Especially the tangible results of prototypes and demonstrations are recognised as being important channels for bringing our results to others, and promoting their use in society.

"Delft University of Technology is leading the way in design education worldwide."

(Education assesment 2014, page 19)

- "The facilities of IDE are among the best in the world."
- "The scale of IDE and the range of resources in one faculty give IDE unique strength compared with other design schools and institutions."
- "The clear and close alignment of teaching and research are particularly noticeable."

- "The Graduate School has a systematic, formal approach to doctoral education and the mentoring infrastructure is extraordinary."
- "The Committee also recommends a mentoring programme to support research staff."



- "The Committee considers it important that the research is also published in disciplinary journals [...], next to the trans disciplinary design journals."
- "The Committee recommends showing demonstrable outcomes more to the public in visible ways."
- "During the lab tours, the Committee became convinced that working prototypes can be tremendously valuable tools in organising and synergising researchers from different design disciplines. They can also communicate and disseminate key insights from the research to a wider audience."



## AMBULANCE DRONE

# RESEARCH FOR OUR FUTURE

As Management Team of the faculty of Industrial Design Engineering (IDE) we are proud of the achievement of our teams, and see the assessment as an encouragement to continue and further grow our efforts to be leading in the field of design research.

*"The faculty and its members impressed the Committee with its rare combination of size, quality, commitment and spirit of collegiality."*

*"The quality of the programme is varying between very good and excellent."*

## ASSESSMENT OF RESEARCH 2007-2012

In this period, 151 researchers at the faculty of IDE published 2015 scientific publications, and 71 PhD candidates became doctors.

Research programmes (and departments) at IDE: Strategic Design (Product Innovation Management), User Experience (Industrial Design), Technology Transformation (Design Engineering).

Master programmes at IDE: Design for Interaction, Integrated Product Design, Strategic Product Design.

This leaflet, the self-study report and the assessment report can be found on our website.

[IDE.TUDELFT.NL/RESEARCH](http://IDE.TUDELFT.NL/RESEARCH)



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