

Editorial

EDITORIAL-SPECIAL ISSUE DESIGN EDUCATION FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

We are grateful to be allowed to publish an issue which presents current views of design education by many of the foremost educators in this field. It is a timely subject, which has been experiencing a renaissance in importance, after years of a less than prime position in the hierarchy of engineering education topics. In particular, the realization of the role of design education in the USA has been associated with the revival and modernisation of manufacturing activities there. The teaching and practice of design for engineering is an exciting adventure as manifested by the authors' approaches, both from the 'people' side, the creativity, the innovation and the technical execution. Design, is the essence of all engineering education and practice. It involves all disciplines an engineer has to master before being released to serve society.

My sincere thanks go to Clive Dym and Sheri Sheppard who have been the champions and guest editors of this issue. My thanks also go to Holly Hauck, of Harvey-Mudd College, who has been pursuing authors relentlessly to update and revise papers and complete information required by us for publication in an archival journal.

We are also happy to announce the expansion of our website to include online papers only, not to be published in print, but fully compliant with our strict refereeing process. These papers will comprise materials that are web related, or specialised papers for a more limited audience than normally served by the journal.

Finally, it is a great pleasure to announce that our journal has been selected for inclusion in the Science Citation Index and Current Contents listing in Engineering, Computing and Technology by the Institute for Scientific Information. This is a prestigious database and information resource, which qualifies the journal as an accountable source of reference. The evaluation standards for the inclusion of journals are high, and only about 10 percent of submitted journals are accepted. The editors, guest editors and the technical staff have been working hard to reach a level of quality that has now been recognised by the foremost evaluation body for scientific literature. It is an important milestone for the journal, and my heartfelt thanks to all who helped us get there.

Michael Wald