

DESIGN AND ANTIQUARIANS — SCHEDULE

The Antiquarian Foundations of Contemporary Design Thinking

A seminar of conversation, experiment and exploration – Fall Quarter 2014
hosted by Peter Miller (Bard Graduate Center, Manhattan) and Michael Shanks (Stanford)



What have the Humanities and Liberal Arts to do with design? How can contemporary design be made more human-centered?

A key component of the history of the Humanities and Liberal Arts has been our relationships with the world of things, of making and consuming goods. A key component of contemporary design is a human-centered perspective that puts experience in all its human richness before physical product. This seminar brings together design and the Humanities in a unique way guaranteed to provoke and generate insight.

Design is widely acknowledged now as a most interdisciplinary field of practice, research, and learning. Design includes product design, interaction design, material culture studies, the sociology and anthropology of popular culture, behavioral and cognitive science, histories of design and architecture, archaeology.

How does design practice connect with such disciplinary fields as anthropology and psychology, humanities-based

research into people's relationships with things? How do these disciplines contribute to the design process?

The heart of design is a process for imagining and realizing positive change that is sensitive to people's needs. What is this design thinking? Where does design thinking come from? How is design thinking human-centered, and how might we make it even more so?

This seminar answers these questions with a dramatic assertion: that knowledge of the past, and specifically, past scholarship, as modeled in the work of antiquarians from the seventeenth century onwards, is essential for understanding and developing the most innovative of contemporary design thinking and practice.

When: every Tuesday from 23 September 2.00 pm

Where: Building 500 Room 204

More information: mshanks@stanford.edu | mshanks.com
| 650 996 8763

Here's the schedule for our ongoing conversation about design, design thinking and the antiquarian paradigm – history through things, collection, documentation, ethnography.

[Link] – to more information

I. Orientation

Week 1, 23 September – What is antiquarianism? What is design?

The importance of history in design.

Antiquarianism as the model for the pre-disciplinary world.

The emergence of human-centered design since the 1960s.

Human-centered design is implicitly about history; we want to make this dependency explicit.

Human-centered design – a model for the post-disciplinary world?

Week 2, 30 September – History of the History of Design: concepts, categories, narrative

With Paul Stirton on the history of three design museums in the Nineteenth Century

Week 3, 7 October – History of Antiquarianism: concepts, categories, narrative and a case study from the Eighteenth Century.

With Jeffrey Collins on neoclassicism in Rome in the Eighteenth Century

II. The convergence of antiquarianism and design

Week 4, 14 October – History and things

Week 5, 28 October – Description

Week 6, 4 November – Assemblage

Week 7, 11 November – Connoisseurship

Week 8, 18 November – Community

Week 9, 25 November – Care

III. Conclusions

Week 10, 2 December – Where does this take us? What next?

Design, the humanities and the liberal arts.

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