



The Politics of the Artificial: Essays on Design and Design Studies

By Victor Margolin

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The Politics of the Artificial: Essays on Design and Design Studies By Victor Margolin

Emerging from the world of commercial art and product styling, design has now become completely integrated into human life. Its marks are all around us, from the chairs we sit on to the Web sites on our computer screens.

One of the pioneers of design studies and still one of its most distinguished practitioners, Victor Margolin here offers a timely meditation on design and its study at the turn of the millennium and charts new directions for the future development of both fields. Divided into sections on the practice and study of design, the essays in *The Politics of the Artificial* cover such topics as design history, design research, design as a political tool, sustainable design, and the problems of design's relation to advanced technologies. Margolin also examines the work of key practitioners such as the matrix designer Ken Isaacs. Throughout the book Margolin demonstrates the underlying connections between the many ways of reflecting on and practicing design. He argues for the creation of an international, interdisciplinary field of design research and proposes a new ethical agenda for designers and researchers that encompasses the responsibility to users, the problems of sustainability, and the complicated questions of how to set boundaries for applying advanced technology to solve the problems of human life.

Opinionated and erudite, Victor Margolin's *The Politics of the Artificial* breaks fresh ground in its call for a new approach to design research and practice. Designers, engineers, architects, anthropologists, sociologists, and historians will all benefit from its insights.

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Editorial Review

Review

"A superb collection of essays by the only internationally regarded scholar to thoroughly and systematically interrogate design from all conceivable perspectives. It addresses equally well the more familiar issue of design as object and the more problematic issue of design as process and carries design studies forward to a higher plane of conceptualization and self-consciousness." - Jeffrey L. Meikle, author of *Twentieth Century Limited: Industrial Design in America, 1925-1939*

From the Inside Flap

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About the Author

Victor Margolin is a professor of art and design history at the University of Illinois at Chicago. He is the author, editor, or coeditor of a number of books, including *The Struggle for Utopia*, *Discovering Design*, and *Design Discourse*, all published by the University of Chicago Press.

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