Education, Design and Practice – Understanding skills in a Complex World

• Paper / Proposal Title:

Designing with Indigenous Knowledge: Policy and protocols for respectful and authentic cross-cultural representation in design practice

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• University or Company Affiliation:

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• Abstract (300 words):

Designing with Indigenous Knowledge: a Journey to develop policy and protocols for respectful and authentic cross-cultural representation in design education and practice.

This article is a reflective exploration of strategically aligned, research activities spanning a twelve-year period (2006-2018). These activities precede, include and follow a PhD dissertation completed in 2015 by the author of this article. Described as ongoing, this practice based, cultural innovation research continues to explore ways to improve, promote and maintain the respectful representation of Indigenous culture in professional design practice. This thematic case study includes a number of activities and events that have acted to build understanding by ameliorating complex cultural narratives. The article describes associated events leading up to the completion of a PHD dissertation titled: Designing with Indigenous Knowledge: Policy and protocols for respectful and authentic cross-cultural representation in communication design practice. It goes onto explain how four researchers (2 X Indigenous and 2 X non-Indigenous) then collaborated and consulted globally to develop actionable outcomes that expanded on the PhD findings. The collective aim was to further investigate the notion of best practice protocols to assist design practitioners and educators. In 2016 they produced the Australian
Indigenous Design Charter (AIDC), a ten step guide for the respectful application of Indigenous knowledge in communication design education and practice. The Design Institute of Australia (DIA) subsequently recognized the AIDC by publishing it on their website as ‘Practice Notes’. In 2017, an expanded iteration of this document was launched in Montreal, Canada, titled the: International Indigenous Design Charter (IIDC). This globally focused document broadened the scope from communication design to include all design disciplines including architecture. This multidisciplinary guide has been endorsed by the International Council of Design (ico-D) and currently appears on their website as a best practice document for architects, designers and educators. Jefa Greenaway (Wailwan, Gamillaraay), prominent Indigenous Australian architect, University of Melbourne academic, and co-founder of Indigenous Architecture and Design Victoria (IADV) suggests the reason why the Charter has been so well embraced internationally among first nations peoples is because the protocols have been articulated and codified in an accessible and legible way (Greenaway 2018). In Australia, Deakin University, Monash University and the University of Melbourne have all formally embedded both the Australian and International Indigenous Design Charters in their design education curricula. The authors of the Charter envisage that in time this approach to design pedagogy will adopted globally. This article not only describes the journey of this cultural innovation research project but it also provides a parallel commentary on how understandings and attitudes changed during the period of its development. What started out as an awkward discussion in 2006 has matured steadily to a point where the need for respectful representation of Indigenous culture is now recognized by design stakeholders worldwide.


http://www.ico-d.org/resources/indigo#international-indigenous-design-charter


• Author(s) Biography (200 words each):

Dr Russell Kennedy is an academic and practitioner of both communication design and filmmaking. He is a Senior Lecturer and Course Director of the Bachelor of Design at Deakin University in Melbourne, Australia.

In 2015 Kennedy was awarded a PhD from Swinburne University. The title of his dissertation was Designing with Indigenous Knowledge: Policy and protocols for respectful and authentic cross-cultural representation in communication design practice.

Kennedy received his Master of Arts from Monash University in 2000. His research investigating cultural representation in communication design centred on Indigenous visual culture and
Before joining Deakin University in 2014, Kennedy was a Research Fellow at Swinburne University of Technology and prior to that a Senior Lecturer at Monash University 1994-2010.

In private practice he was the principal of Russell Kennedy Design Pty Ltd, a design consultancy, and co-owner of motion picture and documentary company, Onset Productions Pty Ltd.

Kennedy is a Fellow of both the Design Institute of Australia (DIA) and the Royal Society for the encouragement of Arts, Manufacture and Commerce (The RSA).

He was a board member of ico-D, the International Council of Design from 2003 to 2013 and served as President between 2009 and 2011.