

DESIGN EDUCATION STRATEGIC WORKSHOP

On February 29 2000 a Design Summit was held in Cape Town in which a large number of stakeholders participated, including representatives from the design industry; from national, provincial and local government, from the school, further education and training sectors; from the tertiary education sector, including both engineering design and design; and from the craft sector. One of the task teams concentrated on design education in South Africa and identified the following critical issues:

- An overall strategy is required to address the fragmentation of sectors and initiatives, to develop a more coherent approach and to systematically establish linkages across the matrix consisting of:
 - - a) Sectors:
 - Design: communication, product, industrial, ceramic, clothing, textile, jewellery;
 - Built Environment: architecture, interior, town & regional planning
 - Engineering design: industrial engineering, mechanical, electrical
 - Craft
 - b) Education levels:
 - General
 - Further Education and Training
 - Tertiary
- Design educational content in the education system needs to be addressed in terms of national priorities
- Funding of design education, and the creation of an enabling environment
- Design awareness and its impact on national prosperity

One of the recommendations of the summit was to organise an extended workshop to focus on strategies for promoting cross linkages and integration in design education. With this in mind it was decided to set aside a day, in the Design Education Forum of Southern Africa Conference programme, to workshop some of these issues.

As a preparation for this one-day workshop which is scheduled for June 21 at the Cape Technikon, Cape Town, it is proposed that regional workshops be organised to debate the issues and for delegates to come to the Cape Town workshop prepared to share the outcomes and

arrive at a consensus that we can present to the Ministers of Education, Arts, Culture, Science and Technology, and Trade and Industry.

The regional workshops will be required to address the following in the context of both national and regional priorities:

1. How can we establish cross-sectoral linkages?
2. How can we establish linkages across the different levels of education, with a view to mapping design learning and career paths right through the system?
3. What are we training students for and how should design education content be shaped and integrated across the entire system?
4. How can we promote greater design awareness in society and within the educational environment?

At the end of the workshop a written report should be produced which will summarize the discussions and regional problems or issues, and will include specific measurable and achievable strategies, together with an action plan.

This document will be brought to the Conference workshop.

The Cape Town workshop will take place at the Cape Technikon's Design Building on Saturday May 27. The programme will be as follows:

8.30	Coffee and Registration
8.45	Plenary session to discuss the programme
9.00	Break up into four separate groups each to deal with one of the questions (Each group will consist of a range of sectors and education levels)
10.30	Tea
11.00	Continue with discussions: finalise proposals
12.30	Lunch
13.30	15 minute presentation of each groups proposals
14.30	Discussion and finalisation of complete document.
15.30	Closure

Lunch, coffee and tea will be provided.

WORKSHOP CONCLUSIONS

[Note: Regional Reports should be used to amplify these conclusions]

1. **Create a Forum using existing bodies – Identify all possible bodies: Design Education Forum, Advisory Committees, National Standards Bodies, Standards Generating Bodies, Design South Africa**
2. **Needs analysis should be done**
3. **Identify Stakeholders**
4. **Injection of Funds needed together with commitment and resources to retrain teachers.**
5. **Review training of teachers – where it takes place, across disciplines**
6. **Create Incentives**
7. **Recognition as valid teaching qualification of Technikon degrees + HED immediately**
8. **Definitions needed for 'Design' (needs to be broadened), and 'Technology'.**
9. **Investigate new terminology to liberate disciplines from pre conceptions. Cross-cutting terminology.**
10. **Get approval of Higher Grade Design syllabus as matter of urgency.**

The Workshop was unable to develop an action plan given the time constraints. The recommendations will be taken forward by the Design Education Forum of Southern Africa as part of its Missions and strategic initiatives