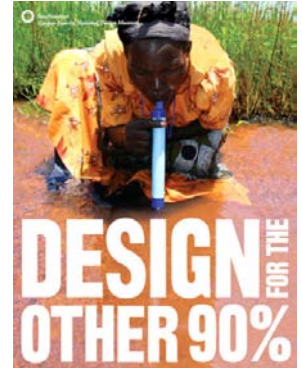


ID 4843 | Design + Community

School of Industrial Design, College of Architecture
Georgia Institute of Technology
Raja Schaar, raja@gatech.edu
Early Summer 2011, Monday – Thursday, 1:20 – 3:20
3 credit hours



Design for the Other 90%, catalog cover.
Photograph by Vestergaard Frandsen; design by Tsang Seymour Design.

Course Objectives

This Course is designed to provide students with a deeper understanding of the social and environmental impact of design through exposure to current practices. In this course students will explore and discuss how designers can effect positive social and environmental change in local, national, and international communities. Students will also look for opportunities to partner with local organizations in the metro-Atlanta area to develop a design-based solution to community-based problem.

Students will have the opportunity:

- To gain exposure to issues that local, national, and global societies
- To examine current scholarship that addresses design involvement in social and environmental issues
- To identify and understand the impact of current global design initiatives and organizations
- To identify and evaluate products designed with a social conscience
- To practice the theory of designing for good by developing a community-based design project

Course Procedure and Organization

Although much course information will be delivered through traditional multimedia lectures and presentations, active discussion and participation is crucial to the success of the course. We will also be going on regular field trips to local organizations that will build on our knowledge of the Metro-Atlanta community and guide us on how designers can get involved at the local, national, and global levels.

The topics covered will examine the issues that impact design and community at expanding scales—local, national, and global). Students will conduct research on organizations or initiatives that have the potential for designer involvement. We'll look at designs influence on ethics, social justice poverty, health and well-being, transportation, architecture, communication design, collaboration, democracy, education. We'll critique products designed with a social conscience, and try to glean ideas from architects, artists, and designers. Overall we're trying to evaluate the best way for industrial designers to get involved at a community level.

Required/Suggested Readings

Design for the Real World, Victor Papanek
Expanding Architecture: Design As Activism, edited by Bell and Wakeford

Course Requirements

Blog, Sketchbooks Assignments	25%
Mid-Term Paper + Presentation	25%
Class Project	25%
Final Exam Presentation	25%
Total	100%