



Maker Library

Papanek, Victor. *Design for the Real World: Human Ecology and Social Change*. Academy Chicago Publishers: Second Revised Edition, 2005.

“Too often, design happens in a vacuum. Even for well-informed, highly empathetic designers, context is hard to ascertain and apply, because of the silos we’re encouraged to occupy professionally and the personal worlds we necessarily live in.

Today’s highly stratified economy, practically regardless of what we do for a living, demands lots of specialization. Papanek’s book, originally published in 1971, is a rallying cry for the generalist designer, a primer of raw professional curiosity.

His ideas about usefulness as the most significant burden any new product must bear, and using design as a means to solve real problems, continue to inform academic design programs—see Allan Chochinov’s Products of Design MFA curriculum, for example. For Papanek, making products specifically so as to be easy to repair *should* go without saying.”

Derrick Mead
Featured Librarian
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