



# Systemic Design

Emerging contexts for systems perspectives in design

## Relating Systems Thinking & Design 2013

### Emerging Contexts for Systemic Design

**AHO –  
Oslo School of Architecture &  
Design**  
Oslo, Norway

**9th-11th October 2013**

Relating Systems Thinking and Design is a free and open symposium over two days with a preceding full day with diverse workshops and a subsequent special issue in **FORMakademisk**. We encourage you to submit your abstracts and to consider joining the workshops. We are interested in both work in progress and more developed contributions.

9th October: Workshops

10th – 11th October: Symposium

**The submission deadline is now passed.**

#### Call for abstracts

The emerging renaissance of systems thinking in design responds to the increasing complexity in all challenges faced by designers and transdisciplinary innovators. Our worlds have become too complex for linear and goal-driven management, resulting in hopelessly complicated social, economic, and political systems. The global demand for sustainability, democratic economies, and the emerging social arrangements for better education, employment, and development have become too complex for conventional thinking.

## Relationships

Hosts



**Systems Oriented  
Design**

**OCEAN**  
design research



**reDESIGN**

**FORMakademisk**

Affiliated  
Organizations

The interrelationship between systems thinking and design action was the theme of **last years RSD seminar** at the **Oslo School of Architecture and Design**. In re-examining the relationship of systems thinking to design we believe it possible for systems thinking and design praxis to develop the foundations for new, interrelated practices. This synergistic relationship will launch a new generation of systems-oriented thinkers empowered with the creativity and perspectives of design thinking. As educators and researchers, we also seek better theoretical foundations and rigor in design thinking.

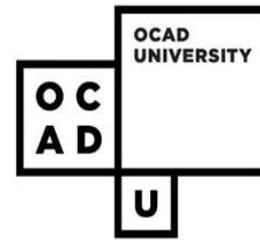
We are interested in proposals that draw from recent case studies from fieldwork, design inquiry and research, and mixed methods in systems-oriented design.

Sociotechnical, service, and activity systems are characterized by highly complex and emergent human-system relationships, and benefit from nonlinear and creative design practices and engaged research perspectives. Design practices found effective in fields such as healthcare, governance, environmental stewardship, organizational management and social change, are of particular interest for cases and discussion in the conference.

*Systemic Design* has been suggested as a term for this emerging movement in design with its multiple expressions including e.g. **Systems Oriented Design**, Whole Systems Design, and is closely related to Dialogic Design. What binds systems related theories and practices together with design approaches may be the desire to reintroduce systems approaches *with* design toward a more effective integrated praxis, becoming more useful to designers (and stakeholders and clients) than evidenced by past performance. This implies the reshaping and design of systems approaches and the related practices so that they are better integrated into design processes.

We invited to submit an abstract within the following themes:

- New systemic practices in design



- Rethinking systems approaches from a design perspective
- Relating Design Praxis and Systems Thinking
- The role of systemic design when developing design practices in new areas
  - Teaching (systemic design or), systems thinking in design. (or design in systems approaches)
  - Relating systems and design theories, conceptually and pragmatically

**Deadline for abstracts was 15 May 2013**

Accepted abstracts will be asked to submit a presentation.

**The best presentations will after the symposium be invited by the program committee to submit a full paper to be published in a planned special issue on systemic design in the Norwegian bilingual scientific design research journal **FORMakademisk**. These papers will go through a blind peer review evaluation process as normal for this journal. See the journal website for details.**

Email questions to: linblaa at gmail dot com

For more information, please see  
<http://www.systemic-design.net/>

March 4th, 2013 | Category: Symposium | One comment