Resource Guide: Learning About Design Thinking

Organizations

We are active learners and love to participate in events and workshops. These three organizations are all great places to learn, and they have robust resources available online:

Stanford's d.school (https://dschool.stanford.edu/)

Our favorite place to learn, Stanford's d.school, offers incredible workshops. If you can't make it to Palo Alto, their website is a great place to start. Check out their resources section, which they describe as "a curated collection of resources from our classes and workshops."

School Retool (https://schoolretool.org/)

School Retool's primary focus is a fellowship for principals to learn about hacking toward the big ideas from the Deeper Learning framework. We are including them here because we are huge fans of their work, and they have a great website. Be sure to check out their videos introducing the hack mindset.

IDEO.org (https://www.ideo.org/)

IDEO.org is a nonprofit design studio. In addition to doing design work, they also create tools that help people learn and practice human-centered design. Their tools are free and easy to access. We loved their online course on Human-Centered Design and have a copy of their Field Guide to Human Centered Design on our desk right now.

Reading

A curated list of our favorite design books and articles:

Creative Confidence, by Tom & David Kelley

If you read just one book on design, make it this one. Not only will it introduce you to human-centered design, it will make you believe in your own creativity.

Make Space: How to Set the Stage for Creative Collaboration, by Scott Witthoft and Scott Doorley

Visiting the d.school makes you a believer in the powerful role a space can play in driving collaboration and creativity. This book is sure to have you thinking about the design of your meeting rooms and other spaces for collaboration.

Human-Centered, Systems-Minded Design, by Thomas Both, Stanford Social Innovation Review

And while we admit to complete bias, we're big fans of Thomas Both's article in the Stanford Social Innovation Review, "Human-Centered, Systems-Minded Design" because it highlights our work at Substantial while also doing an excellent job of

highlighting how both human-centered and systems-thinking methods fit within an effective design approach, and can work in conjunction to address social challenges.

Exposing the Magic of Design, by Jon Kolko

This isn't the book to start with, but it's a great deep dive into synthesis - perhaps the most opaque part of the design process. We loved it.

Additional Reading

The Art of Innovation, by Tom Kelley

Insight Out, by Tina Seelig

Change by Design, Tim Brown

Weird Ideas That Work, by Robert Sutton

Wired to Care, by Dev Patnaik

Rapid Viz, by Kurt Hanks and Larry Belliston

The Third Teacher: 79 Ways You Can Use Design to Transform Teaching and Learning, by Cannon Design, VS Furniture, and Bruce Mau Design

Designing Your Life, by Bill Burnett & Dave Evans