

THE FATE OF OUR EARTH

When will we learn? Even small increases in pollution can knock ten years off our expected life span. The oxygen in the air is declining making it less breathable, and the ozone becoming thicker by the second, resulting in shocking health impairments.

The sun is cooking us. This is becoming far more apparent through the devastating increase in frequency of droughts, and the intensity of heatwaves where before they were rarely experienced, a massive cause for the ice melting throughout colder climates, diminishing wildlife survival and having a collateral effect on the earth and living conditions required to survive. (UWTSD)

Our planet is slowly killing us through the damage we might be responsible for. This isn't news to anyone, and although it is hard to see through all of the scare tactics begging us to act promptly, the inevitable is becoming more evident at an alarming pace. The weather conditions; a rise in the number of hurricanes, the worsening of destructive storms, and the drowning thudding fall of rain which will all eventually spiral out of control. (UWTSD)

Mitigation is taking action to reduce emissions and improve air quality putting a halt to, if not reversing part of the harm already inflicted on our world and the home of life as we know it. Adaptation then reflects our ability and willingness to change in order to combat these issues, the vital reaction of human kind. (UWTSD)

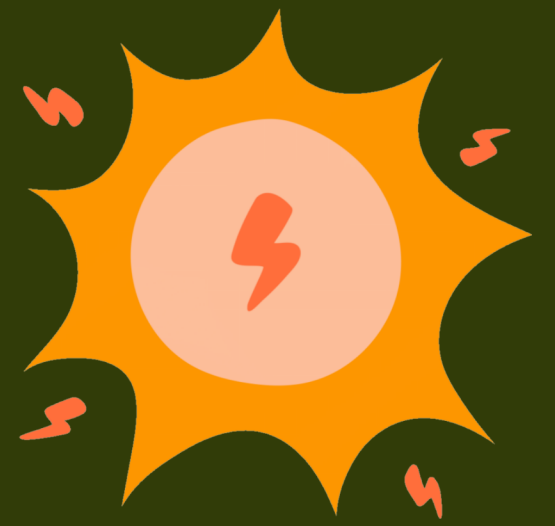
We are drowning. There are numerous illustrations of the unsettling rises in sea levels, and there are no signs of this stopping unless urgent, powerful action is taken against it, even so, the damage already caused will remain in force for a vast number of years and we must fear that soon many towns and cities may be underwater. We have already experienced these consequences first hand through the substantial increase in floods all over the world and even more prominently in coastal habitats. (D.W-Wells)

The actively rising temperature is setting fire to our forests and the homes of many endangered species. As this continues the risk of our atmosphere becoming inhabitable increases until one day all of earth's treasures turn to ash. How can we forget to mention the end of food. As most crops require specific temperatures and conditions in order to grow effectively to feed the masses, as temperatures rise, the chances of plants surviving quickly decreases meaning it won't be all that long until many are required to go hungry. Moreover, drought may prove to be a more prominent worry than heat, due to this being the cause of growing land morphing into deserts. (D.W-Wells)

This may well be the biggest threat known to not only humans, but to all living organisms and day by day we are major contributors to the irreversible destruction of nature.



making a difference



First and foremost, it is important to remember it would be nearly impossible for us to act upon and make effective changes regarding a hugely serious issue without enough information and a solid foundation of knowledge. Therefore it would be sensible to set off by looking into reliable sources available to us, including the World Wide Web, books, podcasts, news and scientific evidence, remaining vigilant to misinformation we may stumble upon and implicit bias by public figures (campaigners/politicians or individuals in power) (UWTSD)

In today's advanced world, it is relatively easy for us to access the internet and fumble upon thousands of articles/sources containing information on how to help save the planet and doing our part in reducing emissions and our carbon footprint, but what is even more important is our learned ability to think critically. This is a skill which is constantly enforced within education, helping us to determine our beliefs, what is important to us and what is not. Individuals with the ability to think critically are automatically more favourable for jobs, as they are better equipped to problem solve, connect ideas, notice mistakes or inconsistencies in their work and the work of others, and the ability to evaluate and reflect.

Remember to set realistic goals. While it is great to feel as though we are making a positive difference, there is only so much one person can do alone, and ultimately it must be a shared effort. Encourage others to make small, effective changes to their life where they can, and spread only positive honest information. We will get there together. (UWTSD)

Despite global warming becoming an increasingly recognised threat to humanity, and although vital information is being shared more frequently, we remain ultimately responsible for making a vital choice; to tackle the problem head on, or to ignore the wake up calls and proceed to act as though everything is fine so that we don't have to make sacrifices to better the situation.



Disinformation is another obstacle faced in day to day life, with this being different to misinformation, which can be defined as inaccurate information and sources, disinformation is intentionally incorrect, toxic or biased, containing falsities that are purposefully widespread in order to obtain a reaction. It is essential that we always remain alert of disinformation when carrying out research. (Merriam Webster Dictionary Online)

Every body is biased. Whether we like it, or not, whether it is consciously, or subconsciously, we are all programmed to make associations and generalisations. In terms of climate change this could be yet another rather significant setback, we may just be more inclined to believe what we want to believe, and follow the people we look up to or who hold views similar to our own. Where we live, our social and economic backgrounds and family opinions through generations can all influence our judgement, and may cost us in the long run if it holds us back from taking action. Independence is key in making a difference. (Sinclair, Dunn and Lowery, 2005)





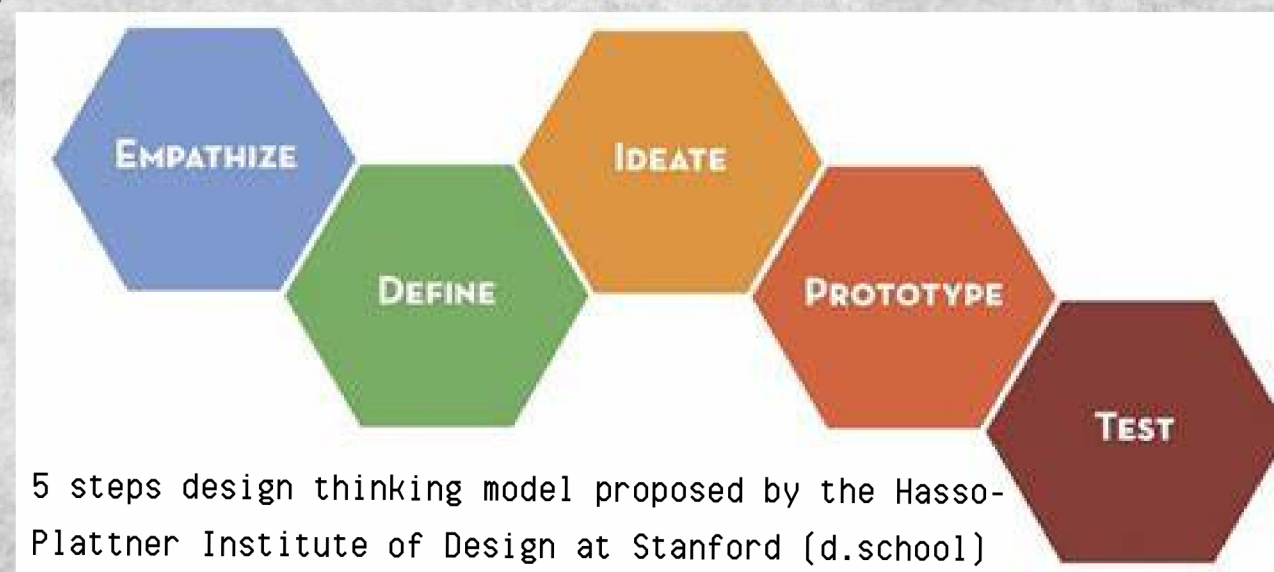
CHANGE BY DESIGN

DESIGN THINKING: "THINGS TO KNOW, WAYS OF KNOWING THEM, AND WAYS OF FINDING OUT ABOUT THEM." (CROSS, 1982, p.221) DESIGN THINKING IS AN ESSENTIAL SKILL FOR SOLVING INTRICATE CHALLENGES



Design thinking is an umbrella term and there is no right or wrong definition. What we can all agree on is that design thinking is a crucial skill to see the world in a healthy and productive manner. Although we cannot confirm design thinking as a fail-proof approach to problem solving, it is definitely an increasingly approved and recognised skill to learn and apply to everyday matters, more so when the challenges we face within the world become greater as time progresses. (Brown n.d)

Climate Change is considered a non-linear challenge where there is no straight-forward solution. It requires thinking outside the box and that is where design thinking and the Plattner model come in to play. This is a strategic step by step guide to assist in cracking a contemporary dilemma, where facts aren't the solitary assets required. Poverty, obesity and the rise of the machines are other modern day challenges that require non-linear thinking (UWTSD)



MINDSET

If we do not change our mindset, the way we perceive the world can be very different, a negative mindset leads to poor outlook, whereas a positive mindset leads to healthy projection

SKILLSET

How we choose to act and behave based on what we learn and how we interpret the things we experience, ability to act appropriately and productively as opposed to making rash decisions.

TOOLSET

How you accomplish great things, the set of equipment required to be able to reach our goals and execute ideas, how we use our skillset to complete tasks for the desired outcome.

Barrett (2015) The three key elements of Design Thinking

Empathy, Define, and Ideate are three composites of the Design Thinking method and they all require us to consider both our mindset and our skillset. In terms of empathy it is crucial to always keep an open mind and be prepared to change to adapt to the demands of the problem we are faced with. It requires a skillset of observation and listening. Define asks us to synthesise our findings, using a convergent thinking mindset. It is good to have a skillset of superior pattern observation, but remember we at this stage we are still looking closely at the problem, rather than the solution. Ideate is the part where we are expected to build on nascent ideas and touching on the required skillset, we have the need to continue to bring our ideas forward rather than waiting on one genius moment. (UWTSD)



E-portfolio Reference List

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David Wallace-Wells (Intelligencer) The Uninhabitable Earth - July 10, 2017, issue of New York Magazine. URL - <https://nymag.com/intelligencer/2017/07/climate-change-earth-too-hot-for-humans.html>

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Blog 2

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Blog 3

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