ABSTRACT

Designers’ Perceptions of Interdisciplinary Design Education

by

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The perceived value of interdisciplinary design among designers and the application of the design process was investigated. The research was designed to determine if interdisciplinary design was perceived to be beneficial to practitioners and educators. An 11-item survey was produced by the researcher and consisted of general demographic information, undergraduate education and training, and the benefits of interdisciplinary design. The sample was composed of representatives of the top 100 interior design firms of 2003 and members of the Interior Design Educators Council (IDEC). Respondents indicated training in Architecture, Graphic Design, Interior Design, and Industrial/Product Design, with Architecture and Interior Design comprising the majority of responses. The greater part of those surveyed indicated training in only one discipline. Results showed that interdisciplinary design is perceived to be beneficial; specifically, interdisciplinary design education makes designers professionally more marketable.