

Implications

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www.informedesign.umn.edu

A Newsletter by InformedDesign. A Web site for design and human behavior research.

A Look at Our Features

With the launch of InformedDesign a mere quarter of a year ago, we thought it a good time to highlight some of the most interactive, exciting features of our Web site--in addition to the informative Research Summaries, of course! Please take the time to engage with these features, now that you have had time to explore the Research Summaries, or if you're new to the site, you will find that these key features will enrich your experience. The three that we wish to highlight this month are site registration, collaboration opportunities between designers and researchers, and the calendar of research-related events.



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Registration

So...just why would I want to register on InformedDesign? Won't I get bothered with e-mail offers or advertising?

Let us answer the second question first. We will not ever sell or give away our list of registered users and information you receive from InformedDesign will be **information you requested**. We promise!

Why register? Do we have a deal for you! You can register on InformedDesign, absolutely free...of course the whole site is free...and you get some special benefits. We'll tell you all about them. Oh,

and the entire process will take you about three minutes. Of course a side benefit of registration is that we will have a better idea of who is using the site in terms of areas of practice and/or interest, which will help us refine the site over time to meet your changing needs. But here are the benefits you'll receive:

Notification of new Research Summaries in your area of interest!

When you register, in the last part of the process, you will have the opportunity to click words in a list of topics that you are interested in learning more about--catalogued under three major headings "Space," "Issues," or "Occupants." For instance, under Space, you could select "corporate," "residential," or "health care." Under Issues, you could select "ergonomics," "building codes," or "space planning." And if you selected topics under "Occupants" they might include topics such as "children," "ability/disability," or "worker."

Then, any day that a Research Summary **of interest to you** is posted to the Web site, InformedDesign will email you the new Research Summary that was added to the database. Now that's a deal!

Oh, and you can go back into the registration through *Member Login* at any



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time and change your selection of topics, not to mention any of your registration information, such as your email address. Some users change their selections whenever they are working on a project of a different type or have a new study underway.

But remember, if you do change your topic areas of interest, be sure to **do an initial search** using the *Search Research Summaries* box or the three category buttons (the yellow ones), as you will receive all of the Research Summaries that pertain to your list of topics, but only from the date you add that topic in the registration. If you don't, you will miss out on some great Research Summaries previously posted. Currently there are over 300 Research Summaries posted to the Web site, so you could be missing a lot!

Comments!

Have you ever noticed the line at the end of each Research Summary that says, "Comment on This Research Summary?" If you **login to the site**, you can add comments after any Research Summary to start a dialogue with other InformedDesign site users.

Do you have some experience with the topic you've just read about and have a comment or question you'd like someone to answer or discuss with you? Write a comment! That way other interested people will be able to read your comments and they might start a conversation with you.

Do you think the information you found is wonderful? Let the author and other readers know about it. This is a great way to give the author(s) a pat on the back or start a dialog with practitioners, educators, the public, or maybe even a legislator. All kinds of people are on this Web site! Remember participation in this feature of the Web site is available once you've registered with the site.

Collaboration!

You can find a person to team up with to do some research on your own. Read more about this in the next section.

Collaboration: Practitioner and Researcher

Are you a design practitioner who has completed several design solutions and you've made some interesting discoveries? Are you a researcher who is looking for a "live" project from which you could conduct a case study or identify innovative design processes or solutions? Hit the *Collaboration Opportunities* button on the *Main Menu* and see how you can find someone to team up with on a research project. It is as simple as filling out the Collaboration Request form and then waiting for prospective researchers/practitioners to contact you.

We've given several presentations to design practitioners and researchers/educators at venues such as ASID's SuperCampus and the annual convention of the Interior Design Educators Council (IDEC). Many had no idea that others were looking for help with research. The designers have access to sites, subjects, and lots of data. Educators have the research skills, knowledge, and **are required by their institutions** to conduct research and publish their findings. You all need one another!

Some of the participants in one of our CEU presentations found out that a researcher/educator could complete a study to identify the attributes of a hospitality design that increased the management's bottom line. This was in response to a statement made by a design practitioner who told the researcher about the database that the Fortune 500 hotel development company she works for has about the features hotel guests request and those they do not find have value. This is useful stuff!

Similarly, a researcher spoke of her interests in healthcare design and its influence on rates of recovery. A practitioner in this group spoke of a pediatric oncology unit she was working on and together they wondered what questions the practitioner could add to the programming phase to help the two of them implement a pre- and post-test study, or perhaps develop a case study together.

As you can see, this is also a great way for researcher/educators and practitioners to work together, learn more about each other's job require-



ments, learn to respect one another's knowledge and skills, and integrate research into practice and practice into education. Together we can't lose!

Please go to the site and fill out a *Collaboration Request* form to get the process and learning started. Also, see later in this newsletter examples of some of the practitioners and researchers who have already posted their requests to the site.

Calendar

Click on the *Calendar of Events* button on the *Main Menu* and see the research-related activities that are available to you both locally, as well as nationally and internationally.

On the primary calendar page, you will see a chronological listing of research-related events, with the theme and the date of the event. Click on the event that interests you, and you will go to a secondary page that gives you additional information about the event and a direct link to the entity sponsoring or hosting the event.

Another option for you, if you are looking for research-related events during a particular time frame, say to fulfill CEU requirements you may have is to use the pictorial calendar on the calendar's main page. Simply click on the forward or backwards arrows to get to the month you're interested in and then click on any date that has been highlighted. That will take you to information about that event. From the numerous listings contained on the *Calendar of Events*, we're sure that you will find something you'll enjoy learning about in a timeframe that is convenient.



InformeDesign tries to make sure we are including current events and those that extend out as far as one year in the future. Many organizations send us information on events they sponsor, and our staff looks for events to add to the calendar. These events must have some tie to research. They might be conferences for designers, educators, or students, CEUs for practitioners, or seminars that offer opportunities to learn about research or research findings.

Also, we encourage you to email us at **calendar.informedesign@umn.edu** about research-related events that you may know of that are not posted on the site. Feel free to include a link to the sponsoring entity and we can solicit the details from them, keeping your work to a minimum. Thanks for the help!

--Denise Guerin, Ph.D., Coordinator, and
Caren Martin, Ph.D., Director

Collaborators Wanted

The following are examples of some of the *Collaboration Opportunities* available for your participation. They were sent into the InformedDesign staff through the *Collaboration Request* form available on the Web site. They submitted contact information, areas of interest/expertise (whether in practice or research), what they wanted in a research collaboration, as well as what they were willing to contribute, and available timeframe.



Fill out the form (and you don't need to write a book!), submit it electronically through the Web site and InformedDesign composes a two-sentence synopsis of what you're

looking for, and we post it to the Web site. Once posted, you can begin receiving email responses from interested researchers or practitioners, depending on your request.

To read *Collaboration Requests* posted to the site, simply go to the *Collaboration Opportunities* page, and click on "Practitioners Wanted" if you are a practitioner, or "Researchers Wanted."

Sampling of "Practitioners Wanted"

"Researcher/educator currently writing a textbook on **privacy** is interested in design for changing privacy needs as we age..."

"Researcher/educator conducting research on the inherent human need to experience and affiliate with nature to maintain optimal **health** and its relationship to the design of the built environment..."

Sampling of "Researchers Wanted"

"Art/color consultant...interested in investigating the impact of artwork on the patient's overall hospital experience and **duration of stay**."

"Interior designer working...in a Fortune 100 company interested in...**performance/productivity** and **employee retention**. Would like to meet quarterly to discuss findings and technique."

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Sal Skog



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The Mission

The Mission of InformedDesign is to facilitate interior designers' use of current, research-based information as a decision-making tool in the design process, thereby integrating research and practice.

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