Introduction to **RADAR** :
Design Annual Review

Initiated by mudac – Museum of Contemporary Design and Applied Arts, Lausanne, in asso-
ciation with young French publishing house T&P Unit, RADAR is an annual journal of
design research. It is intended for people interested in objects, spaces, graphic design, visual
forms and their depictions, as well as their circulation, history, technical evolution, meanings
and different materialities. The aim is to examine how design pervades all areas of human
activity, from means of transport to telecommunication channels, from high to popular culture,
from everyday gestures to philosophical reflections and social projects, and how, in shaping
the world, design is in turn shaped by it. From communication to representation, education to
science, politics to economy, art to industry, the domestic sphere to shared territories,
design and its various dimensions, readable, underlying or manifest, has inevitably transformed
society. By approaching these different activities as material manifestations of a specific
culture, the journal is intended for those interested in the history and current state of these
transformations.

Focusing on contemporary trends and movements, the journal operates like a RADAR, each
issue addressing a specific, fundamental design topic, with the aim of helping researchers
and designers organise and question their various expressions: industrialisation, machines, visual
arts, exhibitions, trade, cinema, poetry, science and the way in which these reinvent a world
in which human activities and the status of objects are continuously changing.

RADAR proposes to extend an international and multi-faceted research network. Every issue
will be headed by an expert in the field who is specifically invited and will be assisted by an
international scientific committee. Written in both French and English, it will compare points of
view from different language regions. Hence, articles will be written in the author's native
language and published in both French and English. The journal is also open to collaboration with
young researchers working on a specific fund to help them publish their research. Each issue
will include some ten articles, giving prominence to primary sources. Finally, a portfolio – entrusted
to a graphic designer, illustrator, designer or photographer – will put the spotlight on a visual
work closely related to the topic addressed, and there will be a section that gives an overview
of the reference books in different languages published during the year.

The editorial board

mudac MUSÉE DE DESIGN
ET D'ARTS APPLIQUÉS
CONTEMPORAINS

T&P Work UNit

Composition of the **scientific comitee**

Tulga Beyerle	Director of Kunstgewerbemuseum, Dresden
Marco Costantini	Curator, mudac – Museum of Contemporaray Design and Applied Arts, Lausanne
Roger Fayet	Director of SIK-ISEA (The Swiss Institute for Art Research), Zurich
Claire Favre Maxwell	Deputy Director of mudac – Museum of Contemporary Design and Applied Arts, Lausanne
Catherine Geel	Historian, Research Associate at Cdred – École normale supérieure Paris-Saclay, publisher, Paris
Karin Gimmi	Curator, Museum für Gestaltung, Zurich
Kornelia Imesch-Oechslin	Associate Professor at the Centre for Historical Sciences and Culture, University of Lausanne
Catherine Ince	Senior Curator, V&A East project, London
Emanuele Quinz	Art Historian, Paris VIII & researcher at Labex-ENSAD, exhibition curator, Paris

Call for papers for the 1st issue of **RADAR** to be published in the autumn of 2018

For this first issue, RADAR will focus on the concept of *function* in design, with the perspective of examining its contemporary significance in the field of product design, graphic design and space and environment design as well as providing some historiographical contextualisation. How does the word *function*, which has carried different yet fundamental definitions in modern times, still remain relevant (or not) today, despite permeating the entire practice while being subject to various controversies? In German, English and French for example, the semantic scope of the word and the areas concerned cover issues of activities, the status of individuals and human organisation, as well as questions of objects (mechanical, physical, biological, etc.) and theory (linguistic, psychological, mathematical, logic, etc.). Closely connected to the notion of organ (hence organisation, organism, etc.), the *function* – an individual and specific notion – only makes sense within an organised whole (nature, society, family and terms of a scientific or intellectual system).

RADAR thus launches a call for papers, which here refers both to essays as well as specific case study analyses, along the following lines:

- Historiography of the word *function* in relation to design, in historical sequence such as, for example: the specific examination of Sullivan's aphorism set within its context and extrapolations and the poetics of function in modern times, but also counter-models and criticisms of the notion.

- Functions of design, highlighting the layers that structure the object and its relationship with design (primary, i.e. instrumental, or secondary, i.e. symbolic, cultural, emotional, etc.)

- Current expectations with regard to the notion of function in design. The role attributed to function in the creation of contemporary design. Does function remain the designer's main objective? What place do designers keep for function when they delve into other areas such as fiction and narration? What is the place of function in a publisher's commission to a designer?

- Functionalism in the context of social control. *Functionalism* is reserved for three domains: architecture & design, sociology and linguistics, while *functionalists* see themselves as disciples of the functionalism of applied arts.

- The role of women in this part of the history of design, e.g. the emergence of the figure of Marie Neurath in the face of Otto Neurath and the Vienna Circle.

mudac MUSÉE DE DESIGN ET D'ARTS APPLIQUÉS CONTEMPORAINS

T&P Work UNit

Any proposal relating to the topic but outside of the above-mentioned guidelines, will be examined by the editorial board who will decide whether it is relevant or not. In this context, case studies are appreciated. The editorial board reserves the right to award specific support to young researchers (doctoral and post-doctoral students) needing to complete their research by sharing in the costs for a trip to check archives, for example.

Proposals for contributions not exceeding a maximum of 4,000 characters should be sent to revue@radar-design.eu by 5 January 2018. They should at this stage be written in French or English and include a bibliography and/or an inventory of sources (max. one A4 page) mentioning whether these have been or are currently being consulted.

The editorial board will reply by 25 January 2018 after consultation with the scientific committee.

Articles written in the preferred language of the applicant (English, French, German, Italian), containing between 15,000 and 20,000 characters will then be submitted by 30 March 2018. They will be published in French and in English. The editorial board will discuss any other preferred language.

Texts will be written according to the protocol sent with the commission for the text by the editorial board, who reserves the right not to publish if protocol has not been respected, copyright for images not settled or if the scientific level and rigour appears to be insufficient after revision of the text by two members of the scientific committee as well as by the guest publication manager.

Images that serve to illustrate the article will be submitted by 30 March in a printable format (CMJN or greyscale; TIFF format [avoiding compressed formats such as JPEG, PNG, etc.], minimum size: 200 × 125 mm, 300 DPI, 587 × 353; 60 PX) with the associated copyright or justification for each image. Specific cases will have to be reported to the editorial board right from the start.

For the bibliography in the proposal, please use the Standard Turabian or Chicago Style Guide.

The topic of the next issue of RADAR will be dedicated to the role of archives and historical texts. The call for contributions will be launched in June 2018 for proposals to be submitted by the end of the year.