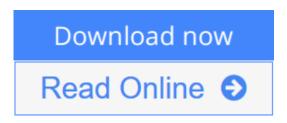# Thoughtful Interaction Design: A Design Perspective on Information Technology (MIT Press)

By Jonas Löwgren, Erik Stolterman

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The authors of *Thoughtful Interaction Design* go beyond the usual technical concerns of usability and usefulness to consider interaction design from a design perspective. The shaping of digital artifacts is a design process that influences the form and functions of workplaces, schools, communication, and culture; the successful interaction designer must use both ethical and aesthetic judgment to create designs that are appropriate to a given environment. This book is not a how-to manual, but a collection of tools for thought about interaction design.

Working with information technology -- called by the authors "the material without qualities" -- interaction designers create not a static object but a dynamic pattern of interactivity. The design vision is closely linked to context and not simply focused on the technology. The authors' action-oriented and context-dependent design theory, drawing on design theorist Donald Schön's concept of the reflective practitioner, helps designers deal with complex design challenges created by new technology and new knowledge. Their approach, based on a foundation of thoughtfulness that acknowledges the designer's responsibility not only for the functional qualities of the design product but for the ethical and aesthetic qualities as well, fills the need for a theory of interaction design that can increase and nurture design knowledge. From this perspective they address the fundamental question of what kind of knowledge an aspiring designer needs, discussing the process of design, the designer, design methods and techniques, the design product and its qualities, and conditions for interaction design.

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Editorial Review

Review

This is a fantastic book, one that reminds us that academic theories and design practice need not be artificially separated, as they are in many universities today. And it is refreshing to see someone *really* defining the digital design process and its related conceptual tools. Until now, digital design has mostly involved engineers borrowing feebly from the designer's toolbox, and then adding in a bit of human dimension research for good measure. Here, Löwgren and Stolterman have situated digital design in the long and productive history of design process and critical thinking. Congratulations and thanks!

(**Jeff Jones**, Queensland University of Technology, and Australasian CRC for Interaction Design (ACID))

From the Inside Flap
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About the Author

Jonas Löwgren is Professor of Interaction Design at Malmö University, Sweden.

Erik Stolterman is Professor and Director of the HCID Program at the School of Informatics, Indiana University.

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