

Victor J. Papanek

Victor J. Papanek (1923–1998), designer, teacher and author, was born in Vienna, escaping to the United States in 1939 following the Anschluss of Austria to Nazi Germany. Educated at Cooper Union and MIT, Papanek was briefly a student of Frank Lloyd Wright early in his career. He became a follower and ally of Buckminster Fuller who wrote the preface to the first English language edition of Papanek's seminal publication *Design for the Real World: Human Ecology and Social Change* (1971). The book's groundbreaking ideas and uncompromising critique of contemporary design culture initially divided the design community. Ultimately, however, the polemic was a huge success; translated into twenty-three languages it remains one of the most widely read design books to date.

Papanek's other publications include *Design For Human Scale* (1983) and *The Green Imperative* (1995) as well as *Nomadic Furniture I* (1973), *Nomadic Furniture II* (1974) and *How Things Don't Work* (1977), co-authored with James Hennessey.

In the course of his varied design career, which spanned five decades, Papanek applied the principles of socially responsible design to collaborative projects with international concerns such as UNESCO and the World Health Organization. He harnessed design as a force for the improvement of life-quality in developing countries, as well as peripheral and mainstream communities across Europe and North America. Papanek travelled and published widely, and through intensive research incorporated the aesthetics and practices of vernacular design and anthropological thinking into his teaching and writings.

Alison J. Clarke
Director, Victor J. Papanek Foundation

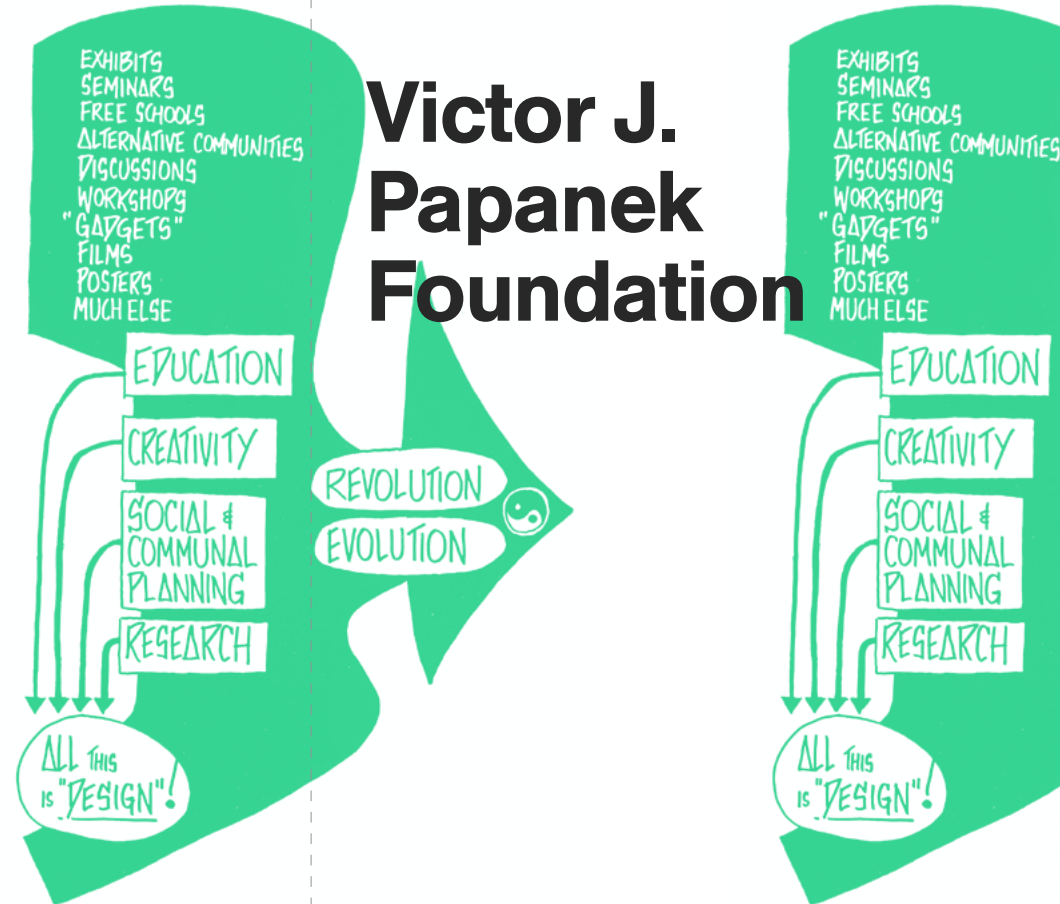
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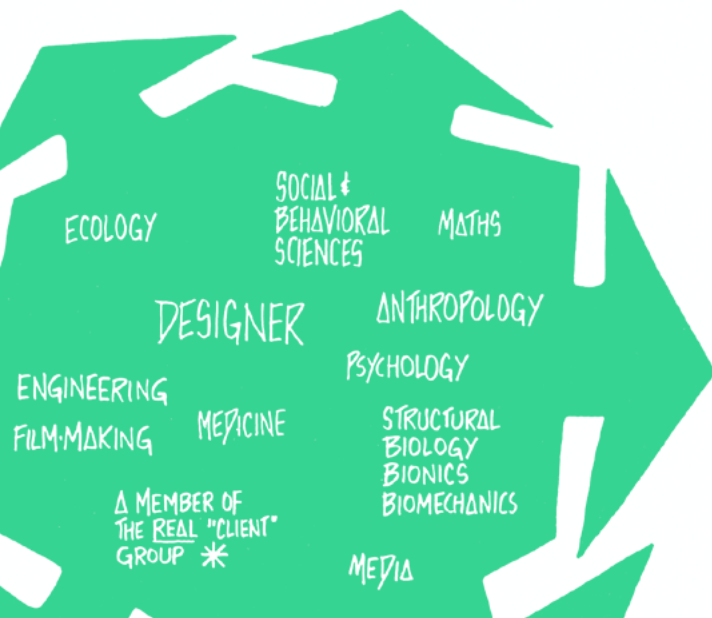
Papanek Foundation



Victor J. Papanek Foundation

The Victor J. Papanek Foundation, University of Applied Arts Vienna advances the understanding of design from a socially responsible perspective. Through international symposia, the annual Papanek Lecture and the inaugural Victor J. Papanek Social Design Award, the Foundation promotes design as an innovative and creative practice with the potential to transform societies and enhance human well-being. The Foundation upholds Victor Papanek's notion of designers as crucial mediators of humanistic ideals.

The minimal Design Team:



*THE PEOPLE FOR WHOM THE DESIGN TEAM WORKS MUST BE PART OF THE DESIGN TEAM: "IF YOU'RE NOT PART OF THE ANSWER, YOU'RE PART OF THE PROBLEM". ELDRIDGE CLEAVER

International Symposium

The Victor J. Papanek international bi-annual symposium celebrates the legacy of Papanek as a leading critical-thinker of design. Embracing a pertinent contemporary theme, the event brings together leading international, cross-disciplinary speakers to debate issues crucial to contemporary design practice. Recent themes include *'Anti-Design': Social Futures/Social Innovation* and *Critical Design in Emerging Economies: The Social Imperative*.

Papanek Lecture

The annual Victor J. Papanek Lecture is organised at the University of Applied Arts Vienna in honour of Papanek and his network of contemporaries, who worked to promote the notion of humanistic design. Guest speakers from a broad range of backgrounds and creative practices, address aspects of design in a transdisciplinary context.

The Archive

The Victor J. Papanek archive consists of a diverse range of materials reflecting the designer's work and life. The collection includes photographs, drawings, documents and objects from the 1950s to the 1990s relating to the course of Papanek's career as a designer, teacher and author. An accompanying personal library covers a wide range of themes and topics related to his research and projects. The overall collection provides insight into Papanek's concepts and theories, his working processes and his distinct approach to socially responsible design.

The Papanek Archive forms part of the Art and Design Collection, University of Applied Arts Vienna.

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