Editorial

We present the final issue of this editorial year, featuring a diverse range of contributions. In this volume, we carefully selected nine papers, aiming to create a thematic continuum. Interestingly, this selection resulted in an opening and concluding submission both centered around the subject of "meaning." The papers in this issue can be grouped into three categories.

The first set of papers explores a progression from ergonomics to education. The opening article, "Semantic Innovation as a Design Strategy for Sustainability and Ergonomics" by Julianna Faludi, discusses how design-driven strategies can drive innovation. Faludi illustrates this concept using an Italian case study, demonstrating how companies can leverage core concepts at various stages of product development to create innovative products. The second paper in this group, "Ergonomic Product Design: An Empirical Study on The Influencing Factors to Use and to Buy" by Pratama, Widyanti, Nurfitrisari, and Salma delves into how consumers react to products labeled as ergonomic. Combining expert insights and questionnaires, the authors highlight that factors like perceived design, comfort, social image, ease of use, and usefulness influence potential users. The third paper, "Inclusive Spatial Learning Experience: An Exploratory Framework to Deliver Human-Environment Interactions" by Zallio, Chivaran, Capece. Clarkson, and Buono, explores the relationship between learning and the built environment, especially in the context of increased technology use. They connect new learning paradigms with innovative design approaches, aiming to enhance spatial experiences for individuals with diverse capabilities and backgrounds. To achieve this, their contribution shifts from the conventional user to human-centered design architectures. Lastly, "Flexible Thinking Value-Add: Embedding Strategic Design into Graduate Education" by Kingsley Eze and Moura Quayle addresses learning opportunities for graduate students. Their grounded theory-based research explores how students and multidisciplinary teams can tackle complex problems through systemic thinking and strategic design, even if their previous education primarily focused on well-defined problems and single solutions.

The second set of papers begins with a focus on social design, with a connection to education in the United States. In "Future Self: Service Design for Nurturing the Dignity and Autonomy of Formerly Incarcerated Students," Kim, Zhou, and Thomson present a strategy to help formerly incarcerated students create connections with supporters who may fund their college education. This proposal is supported by two principles: dignity and autonomy. Additionally, "Survivability Design in Hostile Environments: Lessons from Squids, Ships, Startups, and Supply Chains" by Tojin Eapen and Daniel Finkenstadt offers a provocative exploration, drawing analogies from various entities to discuss efficiency, resilience, and prominence. The authors examine how these examples face the challenge of survival. Moving on to South Korea, "Deo Leadership: How Design Executive Officers Lead Creative Organizations in Korea" by Lee, Joo, and Cooper investigates the unique attributes of design executive officers and proposes a model for examining their role in corporate leadership, building upon in-depth interviews and surveys. They have found that design executive officers present specific attitudes towards leadership and business growth.

The final two papers in this issue explore distinct themes. In "Translating Data into Narratives: Designing Semantic Interpretations for Reflexive Policy Practices," Ilaria Mariani and Irene Bianchi introduce a novel approach to assimilate data in policy design, offering a framework valuable to public administrations grappling with data analysis for decision-making. They

draw on the concept of data to create a methodology for building dynamic narrative feedback about public performance in digital transition processes. Lastly, "Designing Culture-intensive Artefacts: How the Design Process Interprets Craft Reiteration to Build Future Diversities" by Vacca, Bertola, and Colombi delves into goods and services with high cultural content, focusing on the intersection between design and craft. Their interpretative model draws from various Italian craft practices, identifying three categories: reiteration of craft know-how, re-performance of ancient practices and skills into a contemporary/radical vision, and re-interpretation of meanings, process of transmission, and transfer of culture through a design perspective.

We extend our gratitude to all contributors. In 2023, the Strategic Design Research Journal will celebrate its 15th anniversary. We invite our readers to explore our archives and witness the evolution of the design field, featuring both enduring challenges and new perspectives.

Carlo Franzato and Edu Jacques
    Editor and Assistant Editor