

Honors Thesis

Master's degree in SYSTEMIC DESIGN

Abstract

Teaching design for social impact.

Proposal of an educational model to be integrated into the curriculum of the degree course in *Design and Communication* at Politecnico di Torino.

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This thesis work has as its primary objective to **assist in constructing an educational model** capable of providing future designers with tools and knowledge suitable for competing with projects aimed at social impact.

This educational model will contribute to formulating the future course entitled "Design for social impact", to be started within the Bachelor's Degree in Design and Communication at the **Politecnico di Torino**. The primary objective, underlying the elaboration of this model, was to identify - in an incremental logic - a corpus of practical-theoretical knowledge to be integrated into the "classic" training of the designer currently provided by the Politecnico di Torino.

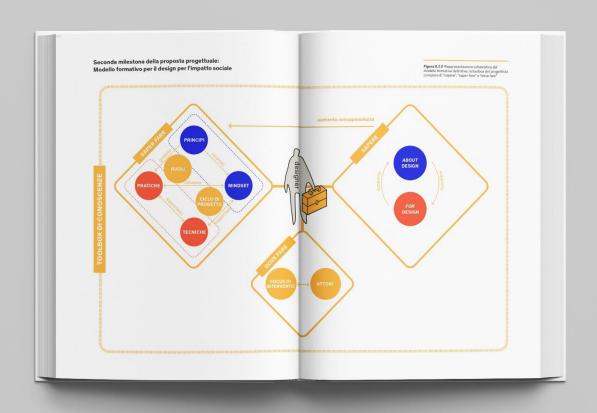
To achieve this goal, I conducted the first phase of **exploratory research** along two thematic research axes: 1) social impact; 2) social design and social impact. Starting from the intersection between the two research axes, I identified eight concrete "possibilities of action" for the designer in this area (first thesis output).

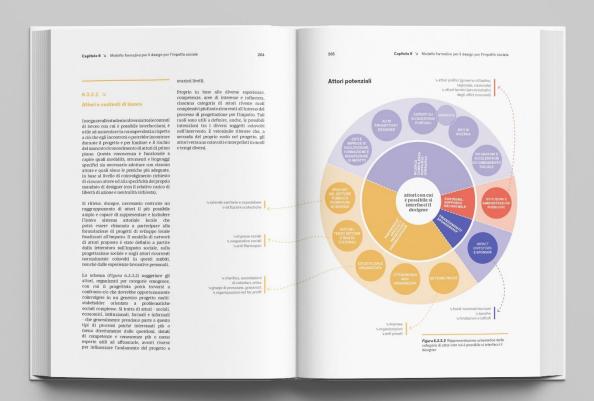
Subsequently, I conducted a second **meta-design phase**, resulting in elaborating a series of didactic contents. I systematized these contents in a "**toolbox**", containing theoretical ("know"), practical ("know how"), and context related ("where to do") multidisciplinary knowledge (second thesis output).

From a methodological point of view, I used both **a desk and a field research** methodology. The latter, in particular, was based on a series of semi-structured interviews with professionals currently employed in the field of social design and on personal work experience at S-Nodi, a social enterprise dedicated to socioeconomic facilitation for social impact.

In conclusion, this Thesis wants to represent a **theoretical and design contribution** - declinable in future educational plans - to the training of students, to prepare them to manage the complexity, the relational and processual dynamics of projects in the field of social impact (in a careful, conscious and flexible way).







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