



## The Teaching-Research Nexus

A guide for academics and policy-makers  
in higher education

[www.trnexus.edu.au](http://www.trnexus.edu.au)

### Examples from Australian universities

---

#### **Involving Design Students in the Research and Industry Culture**

Dr Simon Jackson, Professor Lyndon Anderson and Mark Strachan  
Swinburne University

**Broad discipline area:**

Architecture and Building

- Industrial Design & Interior Design

**Year level:**

- Honours

**TRN strategy:**

- Infuse teaching with the values of researchers

**Teaching and learning context:**

- Mentoring of individual students

**Brief description of the initiative:**

The academic uses his connections with previous postdoctoral students to enhance the learning of his current honours students. HDG411/511 *Honours Research* subject is undertaken by 40 - 50 students in the combined Bachelor of Design (Industrial Design) Honours and Bachelor of Design (Interior Design) Honours programs and Graduate Certificate of Design and Graduate Diploma programs. Honours students have the opportunity to speak to former doctoral students about issues related to the material they are learning, or what opportunities are available after the completion of honours, particularly in relation to the experience of further study. These former postgraduate students, who are now members of industry, also examine and critique the work of current students, providing students invaluable feedback about their design pieces.

**Links with other Institutes**

These staff members have developed links with key Swinburne Research Centres (the Centre for Business Work and Ageing and the Institute of Social Research, and the National Centre for Sustainability.)

**Students are undertaking Research degrees.**

The proudest achievement for this academic and his colleagues is the growing number of students inspired by the teaching and learning strategies associated with the Design studios, who are now undertaking further study at Masters and Doctoral level.

Many of the students project outcomes have gained external recognition for their excellence, many have been peer reviewed for inclusion within prestigious exhibitions or refereed publications:

**2006 Publication: The New Design Nexus: ICT, changing demographics and sustainability, lab3000 report 04.** Authored primarily by Swinburne lecturers and featuring illustrated work from the FoD's sustainability projects of the past 2 years.

**2006 Eco-Design Resource Website:** A web-based resource containing 30 student projects in Sustainable/ Environmental design. **Funded by a grant of \$10,000 from the Victorian Environment Protection Agency (EPA)**, due to be launched by the Faculty and EPA in October/November 2006.

**2006 Exhibition at St. Kilda Town Hall:** Visions for St Kilda light rail stations

2006 Romy Hockley "Simmer Stove", awarded one of the 3 grand prizes in the international **iF competition "Lebens(t)raeume 2006"**, Hannover.

2006 Campbell Boyer Furniture Design exhibited at **new\_design.2006**, Melbourne Museum, and at Object: Australian Centre for Craft and Design Surry Hills, Sydney.

2005 Erik Andershed one of 3 finalists in the prestigious Electrolux award in Sweden. His work is featured in current issues of local design magazine *Curve* and the refereed Italian periodical *Ottagono*.

2005 *A landscape of future possibilities* - Presentation of Ecosense projects at the **6th UNEP Asia Pacific Round Table for Sustainable Production and Consumption**.

**2004 Publication: Digital Eco-Sense: Sustainability and ICT, lab3000 report 02 – A New Terrain for Innovation**, featuring work of students.

2004 **Future Offices and Workspaces** workshop conducted with PhD Students and Staff from the **Politecnico di Milano** and featured in the magazine *Italy Down Under*.

**2004 Exhibiton at the Ministry for Education & Training, hosted by Hon Lynne Kosky, MP** - Eco-Sense, Making Sense: A New Terrain for the Future. With projects from FoD comprising the majority of the exhibits.

**For further details:**

Simon Jackson

Faculty of Design

Swinburne University

[simonjackson@swin.edu.au](mailto:simonjackson@swin.edu.au)