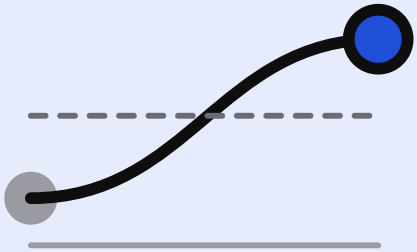
Discipline

Transition design

Proposes using design to drive long-term societal transitions toward more sustainable futures, starting from a shared vision and an understanding of systems.



In Spanish
Diseño de transiciones

Origin
Irwin (2015)

What it deals with

Big problems, like climate or inequality, aren't solved with one project: they need changes over decades.

Principles

Long-term vision
Imagine the desired future and work backward.

Understand the system
See how problems are connected.

Change the mindset
Also change the way designers think.

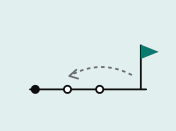
Applications in design

✓ Use it like this
Connect each project to the long-term transition it contributes to.

✗ Avoid
Promising to transform a system with a single project.

👁 Don't fall for it
Transitions involve many actors with different interests: give them a voice.

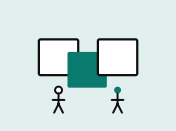
Methods and tools



Method

Backcasting

Imagining the future you want and walking back to today to see which steps lead there.



Approach

Co-design

Designing together with the people who will live with the result, with tools so they can create too.



Method

Stakeholder map

Drawing who can influence a project or be affected by it, and how they relate to each other.



Method

Three horizons

A framework for talking about change with three curves: what works today, what's coming and the transition.

Connections

Builds on

- Leverage points

Related to

- Design futures
- Systemic design
- Sustainable design

Authors and works

2015	**Terry Irwin**	With colleagues at Carnegie Mellon, proposed transition design as a new area of practice, study and research.

Sources

Original sources

- Irwin, T. (2015). Transition design: A proposal for a new area of design practice, study, and research. Design and Culture, 7(2), 229–246. View source (https://doi.org/10.1080/17547075.2015.1051829)
- Irwin, T. (2018). The emerging Transition Design approach. In C. Storni, K. Leahy, M. McMahon, P. Lloyd, & E. Bohemia (Eds.), Design as a catalyst for change: DRS International Conference 2018. Design Research Society. View source (https://doi.org/10.21606/drs.2018.210)

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