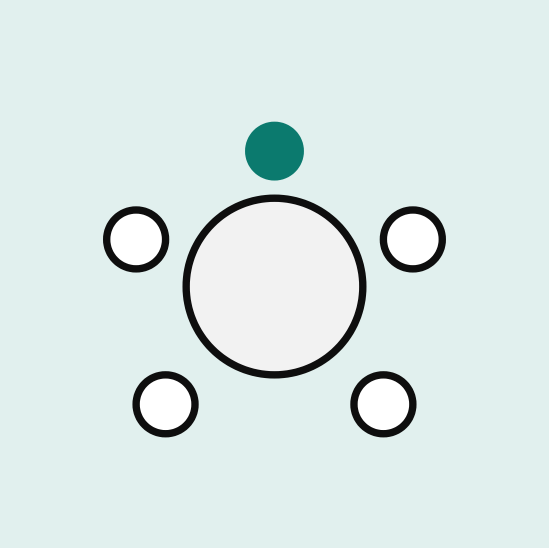
Approach

Participatory design

An approach in which the people who will live with the result take part as partners throughout the design process and decide together with the team.



In Spanish

Diseño participativo

Origin

Scandinavia, 1970s: trade unions and designers facing the computerization of work (Robertson and Simonsen, 2012)

What it's for

It gives a voice and a say to those who will live with a design's consequences, who usually have none.

Principles

Voice and decision

Those who will live with the result have the right to shape it.

Mutual learning

The team learns from people's reality; people learn about the technical possibilities.

The whole process

They take part from start to finish, not just in a consultation.

How it's done

1

Form a group with the people who will live with the result.

2

The team and the people learn from each other.

3

Decisions are made together at every stage, from start to finish.

Applications in design

When to use it

When the design changes the life or work of a specific group.

Avoid

Calling a survey, or a workshop where nothing is decided, participation.

Don't fall for it

Really share power: make clear from the start what participants can decide.

Connections

Builds on

- Diffuse design and expert design

Used by

- Design for policy
- Spatial design
- Strategic design
- Environmental graphic design
- Social design
- Sound design

Related to

- Charrette
- Co-design
- Generative tools
- Role playing
- Design justice

Authors and works

2012	**Toni Robertson and Jesper Simonsen**	Summed up its origins and commitments: participating is not just being consulted, and learning goes both ways.
2008	**Elizabeth B.-N. Sanders and Pieter Jan Stappers**	Placed it, along with co-design, in the shift from designing for people to designing with them.

Sources

Original sources

- Sanders, E. B.-N., & Stappers, P. J. (2008). Co-creation and the new landscapes of design. CoDesign, 4(1), 5–18. View source (https://doi.org/10.1080/15710880701875068)

Academic reviews

- Robertson, T., & Simonsen, J. (2012). Challenges and opportunities in contemporary participatory design. Design Issues, 28(3), 3–9. View source (https://doi.org/10.1162/DESI_a_00157)

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