Book Review

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Designing for the Circular Economy
by: Martin Charter
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The relationship between design and sustainability is a clear focal area of design research. Circular economy may well be the current most strongly debated and developed articulation of that relationship. In that respect, *Designing for the Circular Economy* is a timely book.

The title may suggest that this is a 'how-to' handbook, but as a collection of 34 chapters, it is more of a compendium of current thinking around the relationship of circular economy and design. As such, it will likely be a valuable reference for the coming years, although the inclusion of a few more critical reflections on the limitations of a circular economy might have been good.

Design can mean many things of course, for instance ranging from arts and crafts to almost pure engineering. In this case, the majority of the chapters stem from what can be termed industrial design engineering, incorporating aesthetics, business models and industrial production aspects.

The vast majority of the chapters are either conceptual in nature or based on case study research. Work that is more quantitative in nature (and that might then also align more with the engineering academics and practitioners) is not included in this collection. The other side of the spectrum, a more research through design approach, is represented by chapters on 3D printing and repair by Nazli Terzioglu and on wearable technology by Anna Prahl.

The authors of the different chapter do not necessarily all work from the same understanding of what a circular economy implies. This actually contributes to the books usefulness as a compendium of current thinking. In the introduction, Martin Charter already highlights the multiple interpretations of terminology, and the need for agreement on definitions.

A few of the chapters, in particular 'Design for product integrity in a circular economy', by Bakker, Balkenende and Poppelaars, explore these different perspectives in depth. These are in my view the most valuable contributions in the book.