

SMART.mat Design workshop – July final round up

Issues arising from the workshop

Lack of readily available materials <i>It is not the intention of SMART.mat to hold a library of materials. Some smart systems are very expensive and could not be held by a single group, just in case they were needed. There are so many available that this is not feasible. When approached SMART.mat will attempt to put you in touch with suitable suppliers.</i>
Lack of association with the relevant companies/relationships <i>Opportunities might include student competitions such as RSA</i>
Lack of common language between design and technologists/science/engineering <i>Through forums such as this we are trying to remedy this language barrier. This is one of the primary roles of the technology translators.</i>
We all need to question ourselves and disciplines <i>Agreed – being too blinkered can hamper creativity</i>
Specific funding for multi-disciplined projects – force collaborations <i>In addition to SMART.mat seedcorn awards, the technology translators from SMART.mat can advise on funding streams from the materials sector.</i>
Lack of opportunities to mix disciplines <i>This is being addressed through events such as this. The second event will be in London, September 19-20.</i>
Wellcom Trust?
Doing this activity with students too <i>In terms of SMART.mat, funding is limited. However, if course tutors wish to bring smart materials into the curriculum, SMART.mat can assist.</i>
Academic staff management – ‘vision’ <i>Eyes need to be opened by their junior colleagues, perhaps with the aid of flagship design modules which use smart materials.</i>
Keeping up to date with developments in materials/technology <i>This can be done via SMART.mat. Newsletters, reviews and the web-site can keep you up to date with developments.</i>
Is there a role for the design council to house a smart materials library <i>The same difficulties listed above would probably also apply to other libraries of materials. It would also need to be kept up to date as materials can become jaded / damaged with handling and also new materials are constantly emerging.</i>
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Perception of designers and design and what it offers2. Designers and scientists have different ideas/rationalise what do we call ideas3. Identifying and presenting to tech/sci – what design can do for them4. <i>Many of the more forward thinking technical companies are aware of the need to have a dialogue with designers as early in the process as possible. It may be harder to find a strong focus for a designers teach materials event than the other way round.</i>
Anthropologists to look at design/science
How do we develop a common approach – driven by themes/priorities <i>The themes and priorities will vary according to the group, but the DTI does have a themed approach. This and the EU Framework might help with getting a common direction. Any repeating themes can be picked up through events by SMART.mat</i>