

Systems Thinking in Design Education

This brief explores how systems thinking can enhance design education by helping learners understand the broader context in which design problems and solutions exist.

Key Concepts:

- Design challenges are part of complex, interconnected systems.
- System thinking encourages holistic analysis, feedback loops, and long-term impact awareness.
- It shifts focus from isolated artifacts to relationships between people, processes, and technologies.

Applications:

- Encouraging students to map stakeholder ecosystems.
- Introducing causal loop diagrams in design strategy courses.
- Using systems maps to evaluate ripple effects of design choices.

Conclusion:

Integrating systems thinking into design education empowers students to approach problems with greater empathy, foresight, and strategic insight.