

# Reflection-in-Action – Notes on Donald Schön's Theory

## Overview

Donald Schön's concept of 'reflection-in-action' describes how professionals think and adapt while they are doing the work—reflecting in the moment to respond to challenges in real-time.

## Key Characteristics

- Happens during the activity, not afterward
- Involving framing and reframing problems
- Enables adaptive learning and decision-making

## Applications in Design

In design, reflection-in-action allows practitioners to iterate on ideas, prototype spontaneously, and adjust based on real-time feedback. It supports a dynamic, responsive creative process.

## Related Concepts

- Reflection-on-action (post-event reflection)
- Tacit knowledge
- Practitioner learning

## Quote

"A practitioner allows himself to experience surprise, puzzlement, or confusion in a situation which he finds uncertain or unique." – Donald Schön