

*How many other names  
do you have for VTC?  
B.  
all work done at  
Design Const.*

**Harry West**  
Associate Professor  
Department of Mechanical Engineering  
Massachusetts Institute of Technology

#### Biographical Sketch

Harry West joined the MIT faculty in 1986. He conducts research on the design and control of robotic manipulators and intelligent machines. He developed the concept of braced manipulators, and has continued to develop algorithms and programming techniques to enable robotic devices to take advantage of constraints in the environment. Currently he is developing methods for programming robots by human demonstration, and methods for quantifying the complexity of mechanical tasks.

Professor West also conducts research on design education. He develops competitive hands-on design experiences for teaching the design process at the undergraduate level, and is exploring the application of these techniques to high school science education. In 1990 in collaboration with faculty from Tokyo Institute of Technology he started the International Design Congress for research and education in international collaborative design. The International Design Congress is now in its fourth year and has been joined by Cambridge University, England; Technische Hochschule Darmstadt, Germany; Seoul National University, Korea; and U-Poli Sao Paulo, Brazil.

His teaching areas have ranged from introductory mechanical design courses to graduate courses in kinematics and robotics. Dr. West has been featured on several national television programs, in the USA, Japan and the UK, teaching design and working with MIT undergraduates on design projects.

In 1980 Harry West earned his B.A. degree in Engineering at Emmanuel College, Cambridge University where he was a British National Engineering Scholar. From 1980 to 1982 Dr. West was a John F. Kennedy Scholar from Britain to MIT. He earned an S.M. degree in Technology and Policy in 1984 and a Ph.D. in Mechanical Engineering in 1986.

*I have a  
predecessor  
with me!*

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