



INF5722  
Experimental and Participatory Design  
Introduction

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*Software design* sits at the crossroads of all the computer disciplines: hardware and software engineering, programming, human factors research, ergonomics. It is the study of the intersection of human, machine, and the various interfaces – physical, sensory, psychological – that connect them.

(Winograd 1996: xv my italics)

# Experimental design

- Open up for new ideas
- Open up for ideas you have not thought out yourself
- Not a deterministic outcome
- No master plan for the design product
  - maybe for the process
- No formalized models
- No clear-cut specifications

# Designers learn from designers

## Apple Design vs Braun



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Source: <http://www.apartmenttherapy.com/apple-design-doesnt-fall-far-from-brauns-tree-176668>

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# Instead:

- Focus on use
- Focus on process



<http://www.networkworld.com/community/blog/douglas-engelbart-inventor-computer-mouse-dies-88>

- This course stands on two legs:
  - Creativity by opening up for ideas based on use
  - Democratic aspects of user participation

# Participatory Design

- “ensuring that those who will use information technologies play a critical role in their design”.
- “shaping of future situations”
- mutual learning
- (Robertson and Simonsen, 2012, p 2)

# User participation

- Improving the quality and relevance of the product
- Improving the quality of the design process
- Enhances engagement
- Encourages more robust communication
- Shared understandings between stakeholders
- Close to actual practice

# How?

- Tools and techniques
- Design by doing:
  - Interactions with prototypes
  - Mock-ups
  - Workshops
  - Scenarios
  - Design games



Photo: Ida Braaten



# Practical matters

- Textbook:  
Simonsen, J., & Robertson, T., editors (2012) "Routledge International Handbook of Participatory Design", Routledge
- Also as ebook on [ask.bibsys.no](http://ask.bibsys.no)
- Theoretical curriculum – read it!
  - Binder at the library
- Learning outcomes
- Teaching schedule
- Project work in groups
- Oral exam

# Discuss for 10 minutes

- Do you have experience with design that has slid nicely into your life?
- Have you experienced design that has not fitted nicely into your life?