Five Dangerous Ideas

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What do you actually make?

How much of it do you design?

Do you see it through until it is in their hands?



"The naked truth about innovation

is ugly, funny, and eye-opening, but it sure isn't what most of us have come to believe. With this book, Berkun sets us free to try and change the world..."

> —Guy Kawasaki, author of The Art of the Start

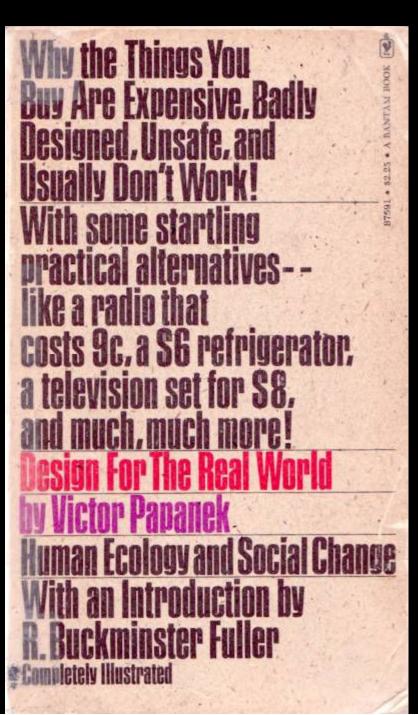
The Myths of Innovation

Scott Berkun

O'REILLY®

Expanded and revised with four new chapters

1. Everyone is a designer



All men are designers. All that we do, almost all the time, is design, for design is basic to all human activity.

Any attempt to separate design, to make it a thing-byitself, works counter to the fact that design is the primary underlying matrix of life. Design is composing an epic poem, executing a mural, painting a masterpiece, writing a concerto.

But design is also cleaning and reorganizing a desk drawer, pulling an impacted tooth, baking an apple pie, choosing sides for a backlot baseball game, and educating a child.

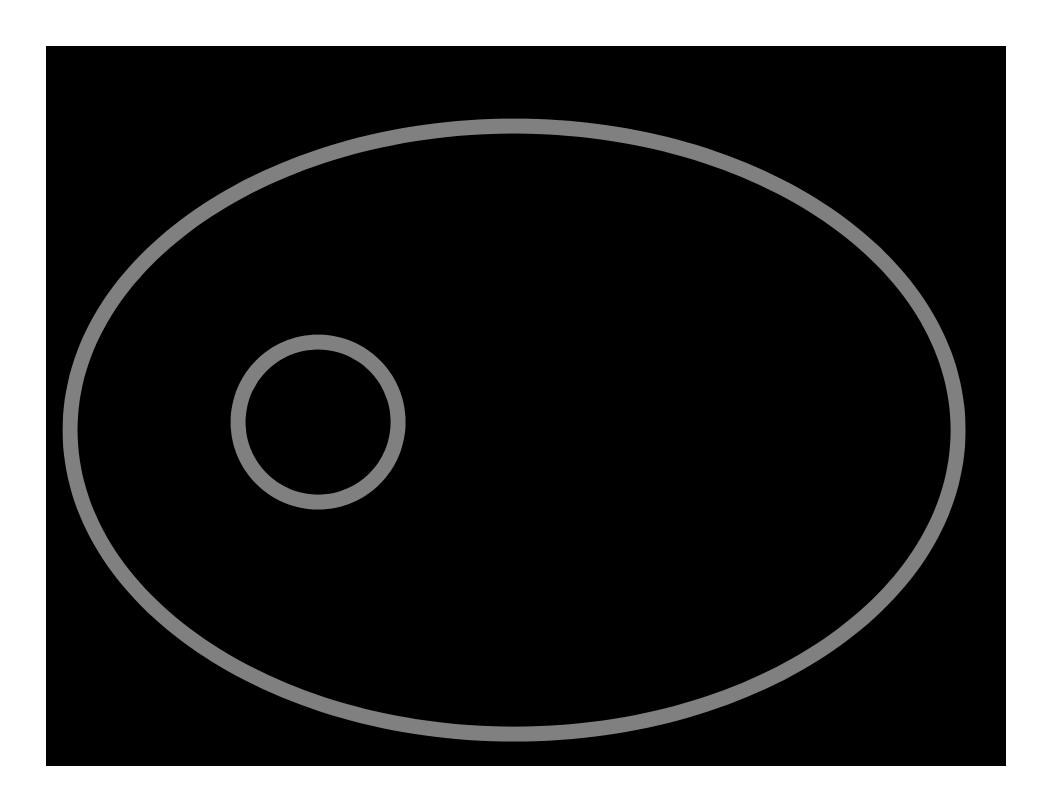
Victor Papernak, Design for the Real World

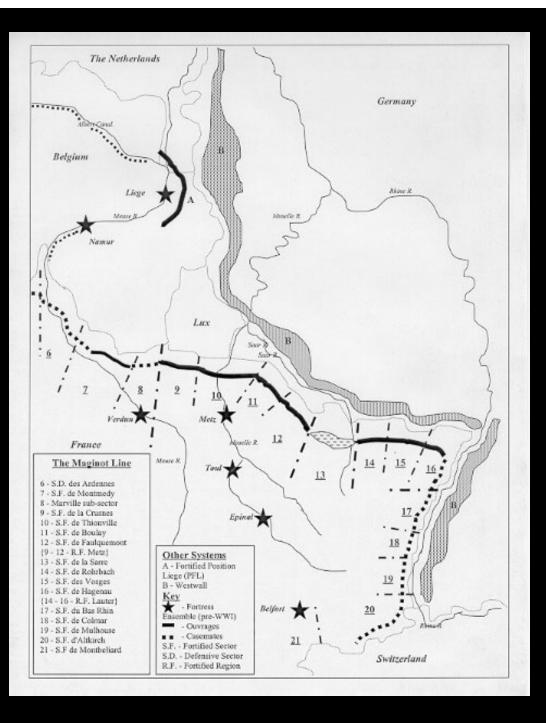
All Designers are ambassadors for good ideas

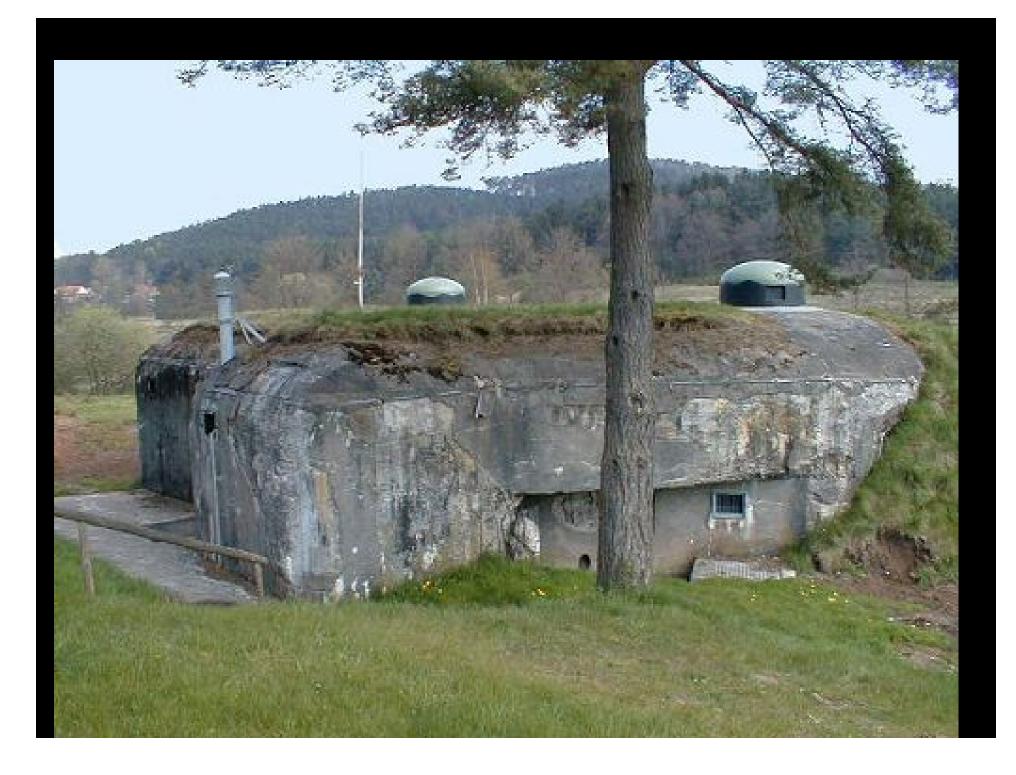
2. You have no power

What decisions are completely yours?

Artist / Designer / Advisor / Lackey







If you only have the low ground, fortifying it buys you nothing



BANNED JARGON!

WEB 2.0 "Pop!"

MASH-UPS VISA VIS

LONG TAIL

"HITBY A BUS"

SOLUTIMEERING "NICKPICKING"

TUFOUAN

HEULISTICS Dichrylic

speciet

It is what it is

ECOSYSTEM

I'm going to speak to that.

- CENTRK

EMOSHICON FRUITATION

extempolate

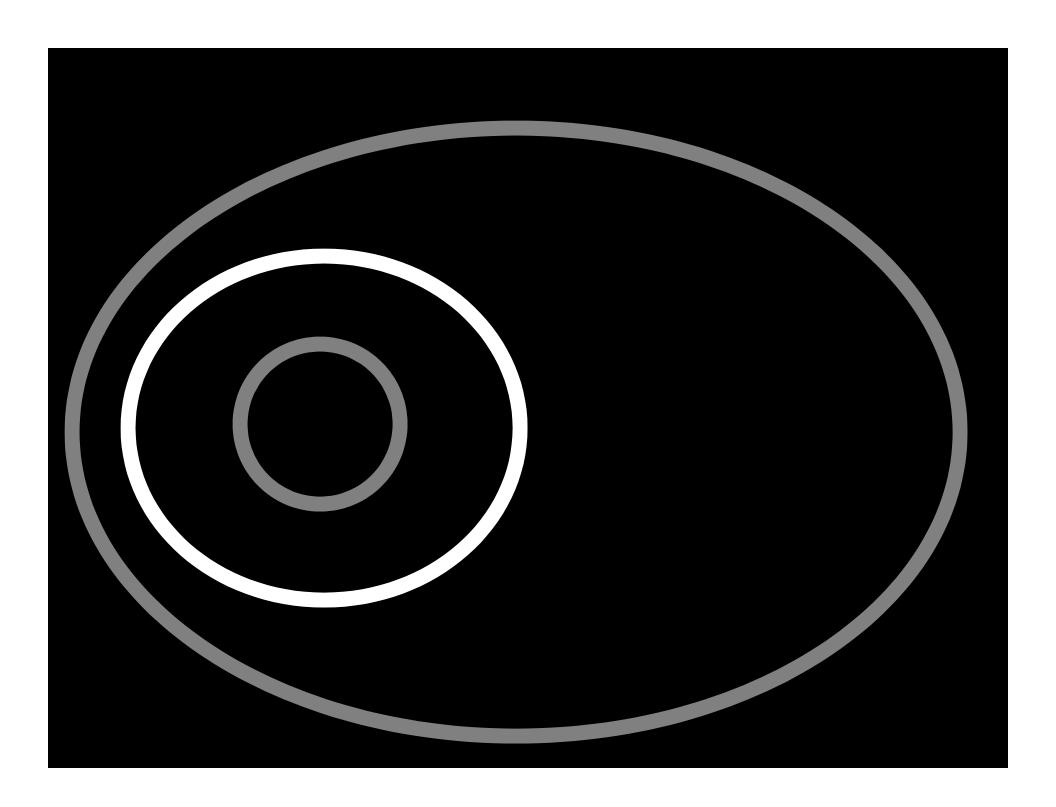
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Whoever uses the most jargon has the least confidence in their ideas

3. The generalists are in charge



If there are more than 5 people in the room, you have less power than you think

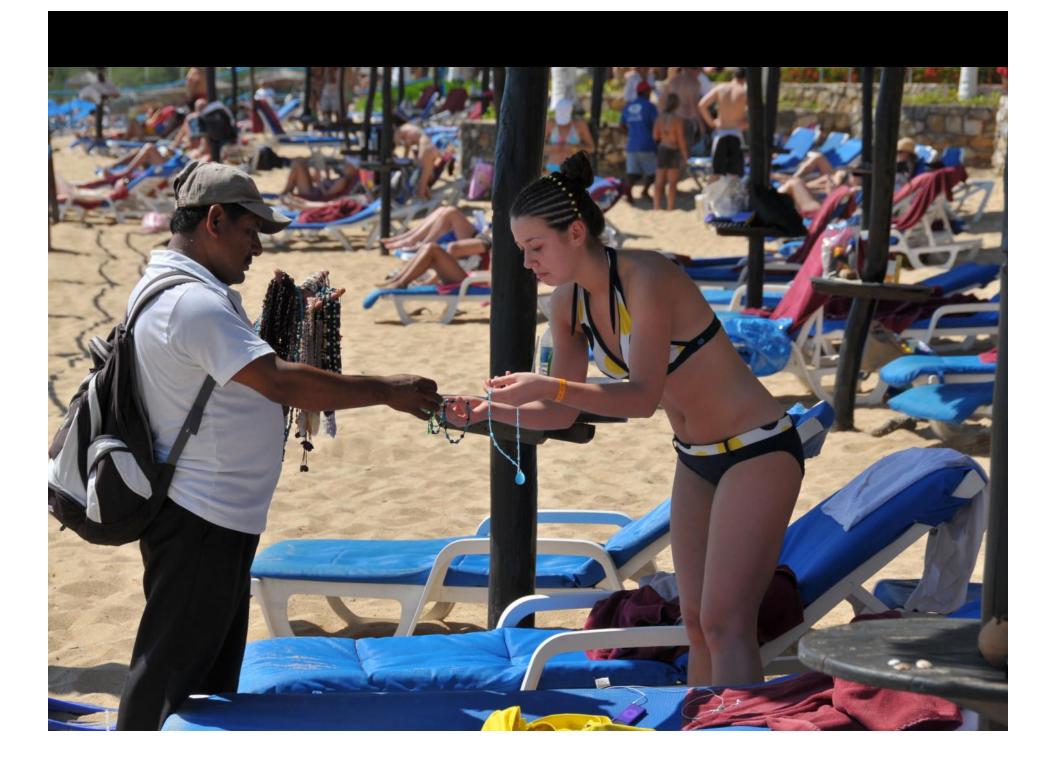
What is the culture's appetite for change?

- Margaret Stewart, YouTube

Ownership Accountability Involvement Loser who *think's* he's involved

Many creatives want the upsides of ownership, but only with the investment of involvement

4. You work in sales (regardless of your job title)



Surprise: these are sales tasks

- Prototyping
- Pitching
- Evangelizing
- Going to meetings run by someone else
- Asking for resources
- Giving presentations
- Growing influence

"Talk to people you don't like"

- Samantha Starmer, REI

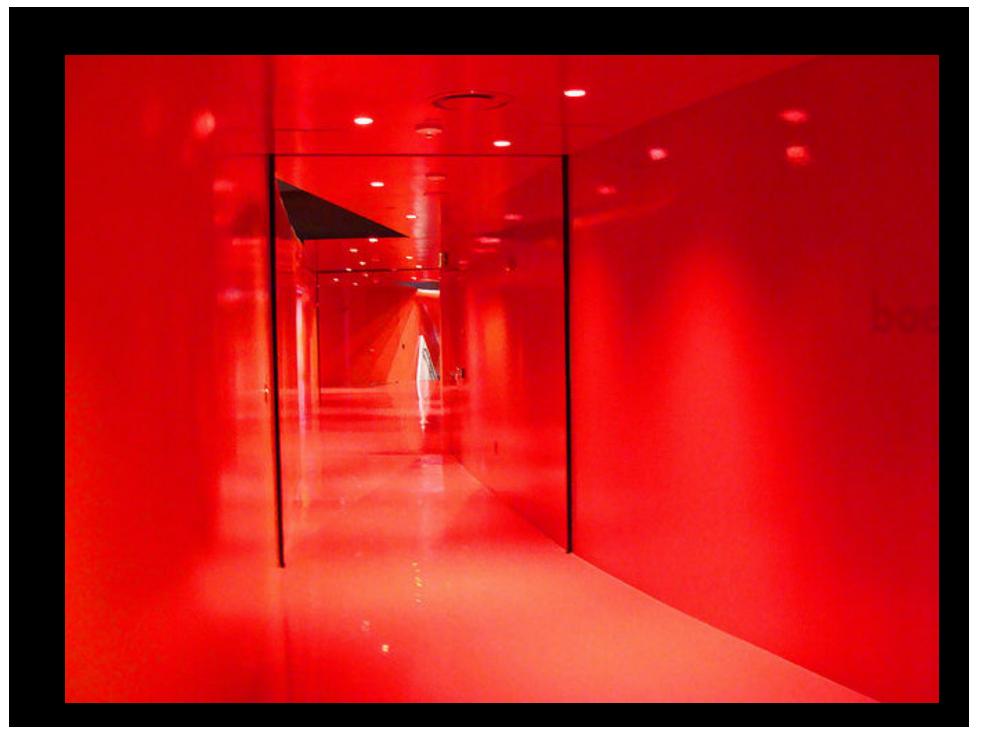
Secret: we got into design, so we can work with Photoshop, instead of all the people we don't like

Double secret: Engineers have a similar secret

If people think you are smart and useful your job title is irrelevant

If people think you are dumb and useless your job title is irrelevant

5. Creativity is Risk



Who will:

- Ask the tough question
- Do the extra work
- Be willing to fail, and learn
- Put their reputation on the line
- Not take credit, to advance an idea

Photo Credits

- Sales: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Salesman_-beach_-_bikini-_sun-27Dec2008.jpg
- Maginot Line: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maginot_Line
- Library: http://www.flickr.com/photos/30931550@N06/3036168465/
- Jargon List: Blue Flavor

Thank you.

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- Everyone is a designer
- You have no power
- Generalists are in charge
- You are a salesperson
- Creativity is risk