

history

The Institute of Design, a non-profit institution, was founded in October 1937 as the New Bauhaus by Lazlo Moholy-Nagy who helped develop many courses—particularly the basic training—at the Bauhaus in Germany under Walter Gropius. Since Moholy-Nagy's death in 1946, the director has been Serge Chermayeff, architect and industrial designer. In December 1949 the Institute of Design became a degree-granting department in the Engineering Division of Illinois Institute of Technology.

educational principle

Education for a designer must provide a foundation which will enable him to think comprehensively and to act effectively in the complex industrial world.

'The student does not study the master, but the principles and facts which the master himself had to study. He must learn for himself. The Institute of Design stimulates the intellectual and emotional powers of the student so that he will be able to do creative work. The Institute's Foundation Course is aimed at removing prejudices and reveals to the student the power that rests within himself.'

Lazlo Moholy-Nagy

guiding principles

There is no barrier between the fine and applied arts. Science, modern technology and production are the instruments and companions of the artist and designer.

'The effective control of physical environment—which is the designer's task—depends on his understanding of contemporary man's need and his ability to use to their fullest the tools at his disposal to achieve greater health and happiness for mankind.'

Serge Chermayeff