

Discipline

Transition design

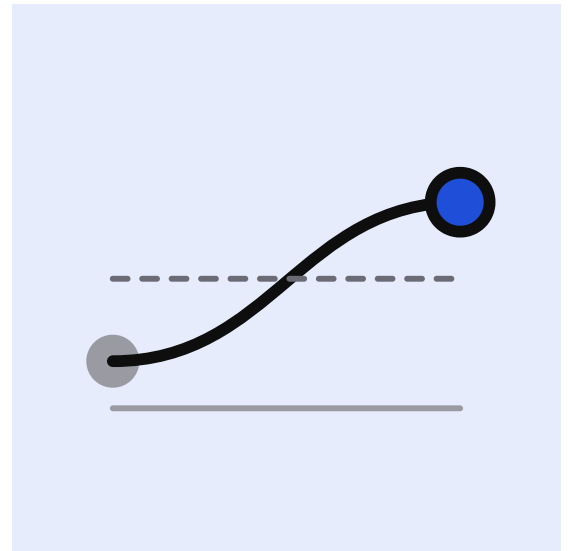
Proposes using design to drive long-term societal transitions toward more sustainable futures, starting from a shared vision and an understanding of systems.

In Spanish

Diseño de transiciones

Origin

Irwin (2015)



What it deals with

Big problems, like climate or inequality, aren't solved with one project: they need changes over decades.

Principles

Long-term vision

Imagine the desired future and work backward.

Understand the system

See how problems are connected.

Change the mindset

Also change the way designers think.

Applications in design

✓ Use it like this

Connect each project to the long-term transition it contributes to.

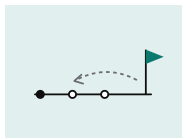
✗ Avoid

Promising to transform a system with a single project.

👁 Don't fall for it

Transitions involve many actors with different interests: give them a voice.

Methods and tools



Method

Backcasting

Imagining the future you want and walking back to today to see which steps lead there.



Method

Three horizons

A framework for talking about change with three curves: what works today, what's coming and the transition.

Connections

Builds on

■ Leverage points

Related to

■ Design futures

■ Systemic design

■ Sustainable design

Authors and works

2015

Terry Irwin

With colleagues at Carnegie Mellon, proposed transition design as a new area of practice, study and research.

Sources

Original sources

- Irwin, T. (2015). Transition design: A proposal for a new area of design practice, study, and research. Design and Culture, 7(2), 229–246.
[View source \(https://doi.org/10.1080/17547075.2015.1051829\)](https://doi.org/10.1080/17547075.2015.1051829)

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