DESIGN IMPACT

2012 Fellowship Program

Bridge the gap between design and the social sector.

Live and work in India.

Implement design solutions with non-profit organizations.

Partner with communities affected by poverty.

Apply design skills in exciting new settings.

Experience the challenge of a lifetime.

Be a Design Impact Fellow.

⌁ Fellowship Program

As new models of socially-focused design emerge, it's important to note that not all are the same. Design Impact differentiates itself by using an embedded design process, which asks:

What if you actually embed the design process in a low-income community?

What if all design activities take place within the target community?

What if designers live and work within social sector organizations over long-term partnerships?

How does the design outcome change when community input and resources are part of every step of the process?

Asmita, Ashley, and Justin conducting an interview.

We believe that a design isn't finished until someone is using it: which is why we stay with our partners through implementation.

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In July 2012, Design Impact will place our second cohort of full-time designers, or "Fellows", at select Indian organizations. These fellows will continue existing projects or kick-off new ones that apply design to social and environmental issues.

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As a **Design Impact Fellow,** you will:

• Live and work for ten months amongst the challenges faced by resource-poor communities.
• Learn about international development and non-profit structures from a unique perspective.
• Play a leadership role on a design project that has measurable positive outcomes for society.
• Use your design skills in non-traditional functions such as organizational capacity building, product distribution patterns, partnership development, and solution implementation.
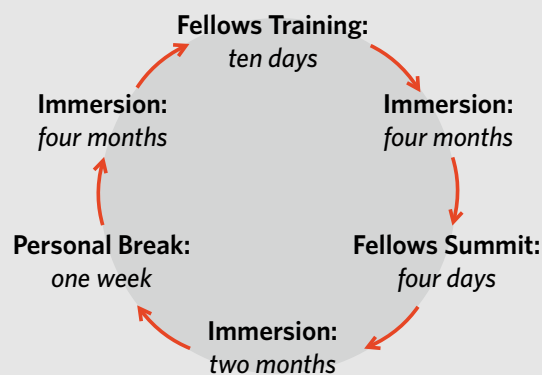
Consider this:

Instead of completing on site research and returning to the comforts of the design studio, Design Impact Fellows work on site, design on site, and add true design value at every stage of the project. Fellows identify and incorporate local talent and knowledge throughout their Fellowship. This ensures solutions that are appropriate for the surroundings, wanted and needed by end-users, and grounded in feasibility.

♨ Fellowship Program

Description

Before arrival at the host organization in India, Fellows receive a ten day training with inter-disciplinary experts. They go on to live and work in the communities where they are designing (*to read more about living arrangements, see FAQs*). Fellows work daily with their partner organization, collaborating on project scope and incorporating design methods into multiple areas of the project. Our Design Director meets with each Fellow bi-weekly to provide feedback and project guidance.

In addition, our Fellowship Manager visits with Fellows on site to ensure smooth transitions and team efficiency. After four months on the ground, a retreat is held for all Fellows to compare notes, receive further training, and share project progress. After completing ten months with their organization, Fellows participate in the training of the next class of Fellows, sharing their experiences and helping the next designer assigned to carry the project forward.

Fellows Training:
ten days

Immersion:
four months

Immersion:
four months

Personal Break:
one week

Fellows Summit:
four days

Immersion:
two months

Fellowship Cycle

Kate participating in a brainstorm with students at the India Habitat Center.

What it takes to be a Fellow

Design Impact Fellows are self-motivated, multi-skilled designers who genuinely want to work full-time in Indian communities affected by poverty. This means that Fellows aren't just great designers; they are great organizers, communicators, and relationship builders. **The successful Fellow can quickly adapt to new environments, demonstrate the value of design in the social sector, lead diverse teams, and constantly improve their own process. The ability to listen, putting project needs before their own is of utmost importance.**

Minimum requirements include:

- 3 years (experience) working in the field of design
- Bachelor's degree in design or related field (art, engineering, marketing, non-profit management, business, planning)
- Strong communication skills, positive attitude, highly curious and desiring to work with people from various backgrounds, cultures, and income-levels
- English language fluency
- Self-motivation, performing with minimal supervision, exercising good judgment and decision-making as needed
- The ability to travel and live in India for ten months
- A laptop computer and thorough knowledge of relevant software (Adobe Suite, CAD, Microsoft Office, etc.)
- 2 years project management preferred

FAQs

What are the living conditions?

Room and board are provided in an apartment near the non-profit partner organization, which is either an urban or rural setting. Fellows can expect electricity (may be intermittent), safety, cleanliness, clean drinking water, fans, access to quality health care, general hospitality and friendly community. Meals provided by the host organization are vegetarian (non-vegetarian food is available outside of the organization if desired). Fellows cannot expect running water, air conditioning, western-style cooking, or other such amenities.

What does Design Impact look for in a host organization?

Our partner organizations are mid-sized and in various locations around India. They must be working closely with a local commu-nity to affect an area of social or environmental change, and must have been in existence for at least five years. In addition, they need to demonstrate openness to innovative thinking, capacity to implement projects, and have an identified area of opportunity they would like to explore with Design Impact.

What types of projects does Design Impact undertake?

Every project taken on by Design Impact improves access to basic needs for resource-poor communities. Projects vary depending on the partner organization and location. We gauge the specific design skill sets required for each project and match applicants appropriately. See the following page for more information on the projects for 2012.

Will the project be completed during my ten month stay?

The project will most likely not be finished during your stay. Fellows live and work as part of a long-term partnership between Design Impact and partner organizations, so Fellows agree to jump in and apply their skills during any stage in the process. They are encouraged to continue their involvement in the project though communication with subsequent Fellows. Design Impact provides continued support to the organization over time by placing as many rounds of Fellows as the project requires.

What if I don't speak the local language?

Communication will most likely be a challenging part of your work—but every host organization has multiple fluent English speakers that will help you adjust to the local language and translate when necessary.

Will there be another Fellow at my site?

Unlikely. However, many of our partner organizations have other volunteers, interns, or researchers coming from abroad.

What expenses does Design Impact cover?

Design Impact covers the cost of all work-related travel (including flights to and from India), room and board, immunizations, visa fees, health insurance (includes emergency evacuation), and training material.

Will I receive a salary or stipend during my stay?

You will receive a $300/month stipend to cover costs for personal and professional expenditures.

We believe in using local resources and individualized approaches.

Muthukani in user testing.

2012 Fellowship Projects

Improved Nutrition

Design impact will partner with Deep Griha Society (DGS) to analyze and improve their community nutrition program that provides meals in three Pune slums. This project aims to develop a new program that enables DGS to provide more nutritious meals (characterized by an increase in protein and iron) while maintaining or reducing existing costs.

Childrens Education

Design impact will partner with Manav Sadhna to redesign their "Earn N' Learn" educational program to improve program efficiency and learning outcomes. The "Earn N' Learn" program provides education, meals and income generating opportunities for street children while engaging them in the production of paper crafts.

Job Training Curriculum

Design impact will partner with Quest in an effort to update and improve their current training curriculum and user interface. The updated curriculum will be based upon student input. Design impact will observe usage, extract user insights and apply these to developing an updated program.

Reducing Indoor Air Pollution

Design impact will partner with ARTI to improve their Sarai Cooking System. The sarai cooking system reduces traditional wood consumption and improves indoor air-quality for users
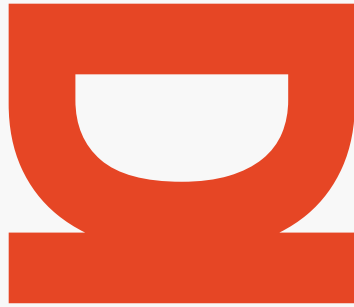
Connecting and Developing Rural Innovations

Design impact will partner with National Innovation Foundation (NIF) to develop a process of creating regional innovation cells. NIF has collected several concepts and prototypes from rural innovators, and Design impact will work with NIF to refine, produce, and market the best innovations.

New Projects for 2012

In additon to these five ongoing projects, we are planning to add three new projects this year. The new projects are currently undefined but will likely be in the areas of women's health, sanitation, and rural healthcare.

Reducing indoor air-pollution with ARTI.

Embedded Design: A design process that takes place entirely within the user community, focusing on community empowerment, economic development and life-changing solutions.

Live the design.

DESIGN IMPACT

Welding with Muthu and Ramsey.

Application process

Fellows will be chosen from an international pool of applicants.
Send resume with in-depth letter elaborating on your interest
and relevant experience to **ramsey@d–impact.org,** attention Ramsey Ford.

Applications must be received by February 29th, 2012. Selected applicants
will be required to submit a work sample by March 19th, and will complete an
in-depth interview with Design Impact by March 31st.

Final Fellows will be chosen by April 5th.
The Fellowship will commence on July 1st, 2012.