

Manolis Kelaidis MA(RCA) MSc

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* born in Athens, 1975

Profile

I am a designer and engineer with a strong experimental- and research-led focus approach to work. Currently working independently in the area of physical-digital interfaces as well as coordinating interdisciplinary research activitites at the Royal College of Art's Materials Hub.

Formerly, inventor and founder of Blink, an award-winning technology and start-up, designer for clients such as SONY, Roche and O2, tutor at the RCA, as well as researcher on composite and smart materials on aeronautical structures at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (ETH Zurich).

Education

MA Innovation Design Engineering, Royal College of Art & Diploma of Imperial College, UK (2004 – 2006)

MSc & BSc Mechanical & Aeronautical Engineering, University of Patras, Greece (1994 – 1999)

Abitur & Απολυτήριον (German & Greek A-levels), German School of Athens, Greece (1993)

Experience

Research Coordinator - Royal College of Art, Materials Research Hub (2011 - current)

Part-time • Strategy development and project management • Dissemination of the Hub's work • Organisation of research workshops and events • Organiser of InspiringMatter.org international conference.

Design Engineer (Freelance) (20011 – current)

Working for myself and consulting businesses on physical-digital interfaces • Printed Electronics.

Sabbatical - Crete, Greece (2010)

Occasional work along-side small farmers, shepherds and crafts-people.

Founder and Director - AmphiLab (2008 - 10)

A start-up working with conductive ink technologies • Received investment from Design London • Business development • Client and investor relations • IP management • Partner relations with media and technology.

Inventor – Blink (2006 – 08)

First real paper book with digital capabilites • Research on future technology trends • Prototype development of electronics, digital interaction and printed graphic design.

Visiting Lecturer – Royal College of Art (2007 – 08)

IDE course (Innovation Design Engineering) • Post-graduate tutor specialising in 'experimental design'.

Designer (freelance) - Roche (2008)

Human-centred Design • Worked with a team of designers alongside rheumatoid arthritis patients to design a series of products that would enhance their quality of life.

Designer (freelance) - 02/RCA (2007 – 08)

Book design • 'O2 MUTATIONS': an O2 & Royal College of Art limited edition book.

Design Fellow - Imperial College London Business School (2007)

Collaboration with Executive MBA students to produce a business plan for own invention (Blink). Participant at the MBA Entrepreneurship Course.

Researcher (freelance) - RCA and LSE (2007)

research project into ways of introducing businesses to the value of design process and games as a powerful source of strategic, creative and problem-solving decision making.

Designer (freelance) – Sony Computer Entertainment Europe (2005)

Exhibition and industrial design • PSP/RCA project - an exhibition designed for the European launch of Sony's PlayStation Portable (PSP) • Client: Sony Computer Entertainment Europe

Designer (MA student) – RCA/Beijing (2005)

Go Global project • Collaboration with Chinese designers and artists • Research into Beijing's migrant population and the middle classes • 24-hour on-line design collaboration with London studio.

Mechanical Engineer – ETH Zurich, Automatic Control Lab (2004)

Robotic arm for the purpose of medical rehabilitation of arm injuries without human assistance • Mechanical analysis and CAD/CAM of robotic arm's exoskeleton.

Research Associate – ETH Zurich, Center for Structure Technologies (2002 – 03)

Research into the feasibility of smart materials for shape control of airfoils • Piezoelectric fibers in composite materials as sensors and actuators • Analytical, numerical and experimental analysis • Research proposal for funding • Lecturer for Leightweight Structures and Innovation Design.

Aeronautical Engineer (enlisted) – HAF Research and Technology Center (2000 – 01)

Aircraft Structural Integrity Program • Stress analysis using finite elements.

Mechanical Engineer (enlisted) – HAF Special Vehicles and Equipement (1999 – 00)

CAD and stress analysis of HAF's special vehicles mechanical component's.

Awards / Achievments

- Selected by Design London for investment (2008)
- First standing ovation in an publishing conference at O'Reilly TOC 2007, San Jose, US
- Voted Among Top 3 Innovators of 2007 (US Information Today Magazine for Blink)
- Ideas Challenge Winner Imperial College Business School, Imperial College (2006)
- Professor's Commendation, Royal College of Art (2006)
- Dyson Award (2005)
- Scholarship Award, University of Patras (1997)

Exhibitions / Talks

- O'Reilly TOC Conference, keynote speaker, San Jose, California (2007)
- **Foocamp**, California (2007)
- **CoPADD** Conference, London (2007)
- PSP/RCA Royal College of Art, Bank of America, Habitat and the Barbican (2005 2010)
- New Designers Exhibition @ Islington Business Design Centre (2006)
- Go Global: China Exhibition @ Bank of America, Canary Wharf (2006)
- 'Generation': The Show Two @ Royal College of Art (2006)
- 3x3 Exhibition @ Royal College of Art (2005)