# Preface

In April 1999, the undersigned co-chaired a meeting entitled "The 4th International Design Thinking Research Symposium," or DTRS '99, at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). The theme of the symposium was *Design Representation*. The present book has its roots in that event.

We have been interested in design representation for a long time, in ways both similar and complementary. We have for years written and taught courses that explored design representation, although we used other terms to describe what we were looking at. We learned that other people, in various design and design research domains, were showing increasing interest in questions pertaining to representation. Therefore, we chose this theme as the topic of the 4th Design Thinking Research Symposium when our good fortune destined us to organize and chair it. The journey we have undertaken, starting with the inception of the idea for the symposium, came to a conclusion only once these pages were assembled. It was a true intellectual adventure that we enjoyed tremendously, as it gave us an opportunity to learn more, to ask many questions, and to create a fruitful dialogue with contributors to this book. Although all the authors attended the DTRS meeting, and most of the chapters in this book build on presentations made there, the book is in no way a replication of the meeting's proceedings.[1] Nor does it resemble two special issues of professional journals, guest-edited by us, that feature DTRS'99 papers.[2]

Deciding on the precise focus, the structure and the layout of this book was no easy task, even after many months of dealing with the topic. We approached the job of editing this book like a design job and we allowed the material to talk back to us. Our deepest appreciation is herewith extended to the authors who shared their thinking with us, who responded to our questions, who made fine suggestions, and who were very patient with us. We are likewise extremely obliged to the entire *Design Thinking Research* community, whose many members so enthusiastically responded to the idea of holding the meeting in 1999. We believe that the clear voices of approval that have come out of this community made it possible for us to target Design Representation as the focal point of our work. We are indebted to the Department of Architecture at MIT for the support – both intellectual and material – that it has provided to the DTRS meeting and its preparation. Major support from Autodesk, Inc., auto•des•sys, Inc., and the Microsoft

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1. The pre-proceedings of DTRS'99 included 50 papers, all of which were presented at the meeting. The papers were accepted following reviews of 150 abstracts that had been submitted.
2.  Design Studies 21:5, 2000, and Automation In Construction 10:6, 2001.

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