

## The Role of Industrial Designers in Malaysian Industries

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### Abstract

The principal objective of this study is to assist Malaysian industries in improving their new product development process. The approach adopted in this study was to investigate the role of the industrial designer in a selected number of Malaysian industries and to compare them with state of the art knowledge and notable aspects of best practices garnered from literary reviews of the industrial design industry.

The study was conducted in two distinct phases: literature review and questionnaire survey. The overall findings have shown that Malaysian industries are not sufficiently conscious of the importance that industrial designers play in their companies. This is in sharp contrast with the elements of best practice found in many successful companies where the industrial designer plays a very important role. Therefore, Malaysian companies are recommended to consider these elements so that they can look deeper into the actual roles that industrial designers currently can play in their companies. It is anticipated that such recommendations will be useful as a written guide for student designers and as a general guidance for practicing designers and industries involved in the process of new product development.

### Keywords

Industrial Designer, Best Practice, Product Development, Malaysia

## Charles Holme, his personal history and main activities

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### Abstract

In April 1893, well-known *The Studio* was published. The art or design historians have been estimated the magazine that played an important part for the worldwide development of Arts and Crafts and Art Nouveau. Charles Holme used to be the founder and the editor of *The Studio* for 25 years. This study investigates the personal history and the main activities of Charles Holme, and shows the primary factor formed his philosophy and the editorial policy. Holme was born on 7 October 1848 in Derby, Derbyshire, younger son of George and Anne.

The Holmes was silk merchant belonged to the esquire in the gentry. He set up in business on his own in Bradford from 1871. After this, he played some active parts in various field.

He succeeded as a merchant dealing in wool and the Eastern Ware. In 1879, he established a trading company with a famous designer named Christopher Dresser, and dealt in the Eastern Ware, especially made in Japan.

The Japan Society, the research organization for Japan study, was founded in 1892. Holme was a member of the organization and the first council. He had two oral presentations in the meeting of the society in May 1892 and November 1908. The former was the lecture about bamboo ware that he collected in Japan, 1889. In 1892, Holme had set up the office in Covent Garden, London for the publication of *The Studio*. In addition to the monthlies, he published the quarterlies focused various subjects from 1901 and the annuals focused the decorative arts from 1906.

Holme moved to Upton Gray, Hampshire from the Red House in 1902. He played an active part as the lord of the area, and had some large houses redesigned by keypersons of Arts and Crafts and vast farmland.

The primary factor formed his philosophy and the editorial policy were the encounter with the Eastern ware, especially Japanese ware, the acquaintance with the important persons related Arts and Crafts, and the practice in his private life in *The Red House* and *Upton Grey*. It was the remarkable point that his editorial work ran parallel with the study on Japan and the practice in his private life, and they linked together.

### Keywords

Charles Holme, *The Studio*, Arts and Crafts, Design History