



**Michael Thomson**

Strategist, Facilitator and Coach

**Expertise:**

- Global design strategy and facilitation
- Coach
- Delivering change through 'design-led strategy thinking for growth' whether at the level of an individual, a team, a project or a business.
- Team development

**Selected projects:**

- Design management strategy for Chairman and executive team of a large construction industry client
- Process and organisational development within a major project for a global hub airport
- On-going strategy and leadership development for the in-house design teams working across five divisions at a global manufacturer and retailer
- Facilitating the strategic vision of the in-house design teams of a global manufacturer connecting the design vision to the corporate objectives.
- Facilitating strategic development planning for a charitable foundation developing approaches to a growth strategy from within an extended period of decline
- Brand strategy for a global hospitality sector client with Director team engagement
- Created concept and directed, with local team, the first ever international design conference on design policy, 'Shaping the Global Design Agenda' in Torino

**Accredited as Coach with:**

Human Resources and Recruitment Business, UK

**Education:**

2016 Barefoot Training Programme in Business and Executive Coaching,  
1976-1981 University undergraduate and post-graduate training in 3D Design

**Languages:** English (native speaker), German and learning Italian

**Professional career and experience:**

1995-present Founder and Director Design Connect, London - Twenty years of experience engaging across sectors as a facilitator and design strategist working with senior and leadership teams on design management strategy, business vision and team growth.

1994-1995 Assistant Director, Industry Matters, Education-Industry Links Organisation

1987-1994 Senior Officer, Education, UK Design Council, Belfast and London

1981-1987 Head of Department, Art and Design, Secondary School, Northern Ireland

1979-1981 Honors Degree in design and post graduate scholarship study in Germany

**Other:**

2014 Honorary Doctorate, University of Brighton

2012 Inaugural Design Ambassador to Japan

2007-2009 President of the Bureau of European Design Associations (BEDA) 2007-2009

2001-2005 Executive Director International Council of Societies of Industrial Design (Icsid)