

# Anne Stevens

Design & innovation  
Screen & non-screen media

## Profile

I have a solid track record of multidisciplinary design applied to real world problems (health care, electronic waste, sustainability, affordable housing). I offer the latest in digital media and design thinking, combined with over ten years' private practice business experience.

My designs have won national design competitions, been showcased on CBC's *The Nature of Things* and published in peer-reviewed journals.

### Teaching philosophy and methods

Learning is a full-body experience involving the hands, the body and the mind. My role as a teacher is to help support constructivist learning driven by enquiry and hands-on problem solving rather than predetermined goals, foster immersive participation, and develop the critical perspective needed to situate one's work within social, historical, global and technological contexts.

### Teaching interests

- Data visualization and information design
- UI / UX / IxD
- Ubiquitous computing and non screen based digital technology
- Critical design

## Education

- |           |   |
|-----------|---|
| June 2013 | <b>Master of Design</b> , Digital Futures, OCAD University, Toronto, Canada <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• DFI (Digital Futures Initiative) Graduate Chair's Award</li><li>• Master's thesis: <i>New Uses for Old Phones: Upcycling the Rotary Dial Phone in the Age of the Smartphone</i>. It addressed the problem of increasingly rapid mobile phone obsolescence with two interactive projects that repurposed so-called obsolete rotary dial phones, combining them with other available technologies, and even human beings at times, to create smartphone functionality</li></ul> |
| June 1994 | <b>Bachelor of Arts (Honours)</b> , Humanities, York University, Toronto, Canada <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>magna cum laude</i></li></ul>   |
| June 1988 | <b>Diploma in Architecture</b> , Architectural Association School of Architecture, London, England <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Professional Architecture degree equivalent to Canadian B.Arch</li></ul>   |

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## Teaching Experience

- Winter 2015      **Instructor**, York University, Toronto, Canada
- Interactivity Design I
  - Duties included lecture presentations, studio work and student evaluation
  - Class size: 20
- Summer and Fall 2014, Winter 2015      **Instructor**, OCAD University, Toronto, Canada
- Introduction to Visual Analytics
  - Developed detailed curriculum for new Continuing Studies course
  - I structured this new course to introduce students to key concepts in data visualization and to give them hands on experience with a range of open source data visualization tools.
- July 2013      **Instructor**, OCAD University, Toronto, Canada
- Networked Environments and Communities, part of a new media program for TVO
  - This class positioned social media within the larger history of the internet, covered recent trends and best practices for audience engagement, introduced students to tools and frameworks for the curation and analysis of social media, and explored possible social media futures using foresighting tools.
  - Class size: 30
- Fall 2012 & 2013      **Teaching Assitant**, OCAD University, Toronto, Canada
- Research Methods for Graphic Designers: a 3rd year course in design thinking, research methods and critical design
  - Duties included student evaluation (charrettes, quizzes, observational research projects, design briefs, applied research methods, visual essays), liaison with students and instructors
  - Class size: 150
- Fall 2011 & Winter 2012      **Teaching Assitant**, OCAD University, Toronto, Canada
- Visual Studies III: Critical Frameworks: a 1st year course in critical and conceptual frameworks for analysing, positioning and thinking critically about visual culture in the contemporary global context.
  - Duties included seminar preparation & delivery, student evaluation
  - Class size: 30
- Fall 1990      **Adjunct Tutor**, University of Waterloo, Waterloo, Canada
- Architectural Design Studio 3B: 3rd year urban design
  - Duties included curriculum development, design critiques, lectures, student evaluation
  - Class size: 60

## Curriculum Development

- Jan to Mar 2014      **Ontario Council on Articulation and Transfer - Digital Futures (ONCAT-DFI) Low Affinity Program Articulation**, OCAD University, Toronto, Canada
- Mapping OCAD University's undergraduate Digital Futures program to related programs in other Ontario Colleges to facilitate student transfer and identify new course requirements and opportunities.
- Sept to Nov 2012      **eGlobal**, OCAD University, Toronto, Canada
- What skills, tools and competencies does a designer need in our rapidly changing world? This Master's level course studied the question in depth by unpacking the meaning of the X-shaped designer; applying foresighting and trend analysis tools, researching how artists, designers, technologists and innovators learn and work and, finally, proposing a competency and education model.
- Put the ideas into practice by workshopping the model at three universities in Italy: the University of Siena, OCAD University's Florence studio and the Domus Academy in Milan.

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## Research

2015 to the present

**Design Researcher**, IBM, Canada

- Shifted focus of research from evaluation to idea generation by introducing a range of I introduction of range of generative and participatory design methods
- Synchronized research activities with agile design and delivery cycles

Dec 2012 to June 2014

**Researcher, UI/UX, Development Designer**, OCAD University, Toronto, Canada  
Visual Analytics Lab

- Developed a tablet based, networked, visual analytics tool, *The Care and Condition Monitor*, for collecting, structuring and aggregating informal and qualitative healthcare data within teams of caregivers, in partnership with Boeing Canada and the CAIS longterm care hospital in Lins, Brazil
- Designed screen and non-screen (3D printed, building blocks, audio, used singly or in combination) data visualization and collaboration tools for radio audience data, in partnership with BBM Analytics
- Research included literature reviews, horizon scans, low- and medium-fidelity prototypes, user testing, participatory design workshops, field research, personas and scenarios and wireframing.

May to July 2012

**Intern**, Digital Empowerment Foundation, Delhi, India

DEF's mission is to use information and communication technologies to empower people 'on the edge of information' in India and south Asia.

- Researched the mobile phone and electronic waste economies in India, with a focus on the informal economy
- Duties included field research in informal markets in Delhi, Pune and Mumbai; interviews with Indian Government, Industry, NGOs, researchers and academics; and case study and report writing.

## Professional Experience

2015 to the present

**Lead Designer**, Watson Analytics, IBM Canada, Toronto, Canada

- Lead user experience designer for Watson Analytics, a self service visual analytics platform that combines advanced analytics and data visualization for the enterprise user and the citizen analyst
- This is a collaborative design thinking and agile project delivery environment
- I bring my analytics and data visualization domain knowledge to the extended project team

2013 to 2014

**Visualization Design, Design Development**, Anne Stevens - Creative Technology, Toronto, Canada

- Design consulting and website content development for Dundas Data Visualization
- *White Noise*: representing demographic data re. Toronto radio stations using the affordances of a ghetto blaster (sound volume, antenna angle, tuning dial and other buttons and knobs), in partnership with Ryerson University faculty member

1998 to 2011

**Owner and Principal Architect**, FORTarchitect inc., Toronto, Canada

- Grand Prize winner, Archetype for the Living City Competition, a national sustainable housing design competition organized by the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority and the Design Exchange in Toronto, to design the greenest house in Canada (in partnership with Stones Throw Design).
- Specializations included leading edge sustainable design, heritage buildings, high-end retail and treehouse design and construction.
- Member of the Ontario Association of Architects, LEED Accredited Professional

1995 to 2001

**Build Committee Member, Construction Site Supervisor, Architect and construction volunteer**, Habitat for Humanity, Toronto, Canada

- See below for details

1988 to 1998

**Architectural staff**

- Shary Adams Architect, Toronto, Canada
- Susan Speigel Architect, Toronto, Canada
- Baird/Sampson/Neuert Architects, Toronto, Canada

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## Peer reviewed Publications

Anne Stevens, Hudson Pridham, Steve Szigeti, Sara Diamond and Bhuvanewari Arunchalan. "The Care and Condition Monitor: Designing a Tablet Based Tool for Visualizing Informal Qualitative Healthcare Data". IEEE Information Visualization, IEEEvis-2014, November 2014.

Hudson Pridham, Anne Stevens, Steve Szigeti, Sara Diamond, Bhuvanewari Arunchalan. "Fostering Insight and Collaboration in Long-Term Healthcare Through the Collection and Visualization of Qualitative Healthcare Data." Toronto. Mobile HCI, September 2014.

Bhuvanewari Arunachalan, Sara Diamond, Steve Szigeti, Fanny Chevalier, Anne Stevens, Maziar Ghaderi and Borzu Talaie. "Designing Portable Solutions to Support Collaborative Workflow in Long-term Care: a Five Point Strategy". 2014 18th IEEE International Conference on Computer Supported Cooperative Work in Design, CSCWD, May 2014.

Steve Szigeti, Anne Stevens, Robert Tu, Ana Jofre, Alex Gebhardt, Fanny Chevalier, Jonathan Lee and Sara Diamond. "Output To Input: A Concept for Physical Data Representation And Tactile Input". ACM CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems, April 2014.

Bhuvanewari Arunachalan, Sara Diamond, Anne Stevens, Borzu Talaie and Maziar Ghaderi. "Visualization of Residents in Long-term Care Centres through Mobile Natural User Interfaces (NUI)". IEEE Symposium on Large Scale Data Analysis and Visualization, LDAV, November 2013.

## Press and media

"Eyes on second-prize: a trio of architects who enter a sustainable housing competition not intending to win get a pleasant surprise". Dave LeBlanc. Globe and Mail. 31 March, 2009.

"Showcasing the real green: Semi-detached units a showcase for leading eco-friendly building practices and products". Tracy Hanes. Toronto Star. 15 November, 2008.

"What do we do about suburbia?". *The Nature of Things with David Suzuki*, a CBC Television series of documentaries related to science, nature and environmentalism. July 2007.

"Sustainable House: A competition seeks sustainable housing design prototypes, providing progressive leadership and direction for our rapidly expanding urbanized environments." Leslie Jen, Canadian Architect. July 2006.

"Blockbuster!: A green home that doesn't cost a load of green? It's coming". Helen Buttery, Healthy Homes. July 2006.

## Awards

**DFI (Digital Futures Initiative) Graduate Chair's Award**, OCAD University, for Master's thesis

**Grand Prize, "Archetype for the Living City" Competition**, a national design competition to design the greenest home in Canada

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## Exhibitions

- Dec 2013      **eLeo, X-Shaped Digital Creatives**
- OCAD University's Digital Futures Initiative with CFC Media Lab, Toronto, Canada
  - Exhibited *stereoPHONEic*, *textDIAL* thesis projects, along with documentary video
- April 2013      **X-tension**
- OCAD University Digital Futures Graduate Exhibition, Toronto, Canada
  - Exhibited *stereoPHONEic*, *textDIAL* thesis projects
- 2009 to the present      **The Archetype Sustainable Home**
- Kortright Centre, Vaughan, Canada
  - Two prototype homes demonstrating the winning design of the Archetype Sustainable Homes National Competition - the Today Home and the Tomorrow Home - are on permanent display.
- June 2006      **Archetype Sustainable Homes Competition**
- The Design Exchange, Toronto, Canada
  - *Building Blocks Homes*, the Grand Prize winning design of the Archetype Sustainable Homes National Competition, a competition to design the greenest homes in Canada.

## Service in the Community

- 2012 / 2013      **Organizer**, TALKxTALK: the Guest Lecture Series of the Digital Futures Initiative
- 2011 to present      **Trail Captain**, Bruce Trail Association
- 2005 to 2007      **Collective Member**, Pink Turf Soccer League, Toronto, Canada
- 2004      **Secretary Treasurer**, BNI Networkers.com, Toronto, Canada
- 1995 to 2001      **Build Committee Member, Construction Site Supervisor, Architect and construction volunteer**  
Habitat for Humanity, Toronto, Canada  
A successful one week "blitz" build requires outside-the-box project management, multiple stakeholder coordination, coordination of mixed skill level volunteers, proactive organization and fastidious attention to detail, on-site leadership and, sometimes, sensitive negotiations in the face of neighbourhood NIMBYism.

## References

**Dr. Sara Diamond**, President, OCAD University, (Lead Researcher, OCADu's Visual Analytics Lab), 416-977-6000 x. 300, [sdiamond@ocadu.ca](mailto:sdiamond@ocadu.ca)

**Patricio Davila**, Associate Professor, OCAD University, (Master's Thesis Supervisor, Instructor, Research Methods for Graphic Designers supervisor), 416-977-6000 x. 4360, [pdavila@faculty.ocadu.ca](mailto:pdavila@faculty.ocadu.ca)

**Dr. Paula Gardner**, Associate Professor, OCAD University, (Instructor, Visual Studies III: Critical Frameworks supervisor), 416-977-6000 x. 405, [pgardner@faculty.ocadu.ca](mailto:pgardner@faculty.ocadu.ca)

**Osama Manzar**, Founder, Digital Empowerment Foundation, Delhi, (Research internship supervisor), 91-11-26532786, [osama@defindia.net](mailto:osama@defindia.net)

## Contact

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