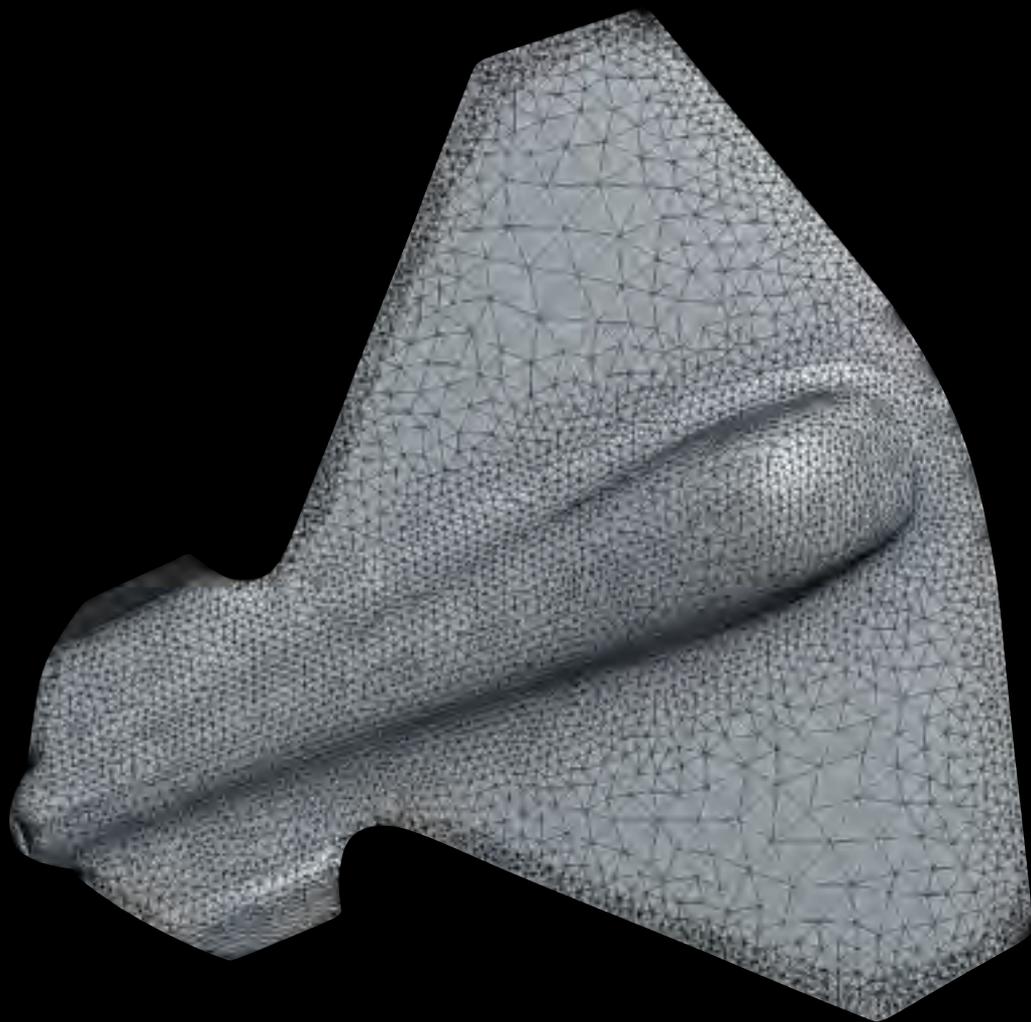


ECOLOGIES
OF
INVENTION



DONG
CONOMOS
BUCKLEY

ECOLOGIES
OF
INVENTION

ANDY DONG
JOHN CONOMOS
BRAD BUCKLEY

First published in 2013 by Sydney University Press

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**National Library of Australia
Cataloguing-in-Publication entry**

Title: Ecologies of Invention — edited by
Andy Dong, John Conomos, Brad Buckley.

ISBN: 9781743323571 (paperback)
9781743322505 (ebook : epub)
9781743322512 (ebook : mobi)

Notes: Includes bibliographical references and index.

Subjects: Inventions — Discoveries in science — Essays.

Other Authors/Contributors: Dong, Andy, editor —
Conomos, John, editor — Buckley, Brad, editor.

Dewey Number: A824.008035

Cover and Slipcase Image:
Courtesy of Marc Newson Limited
Design: Lea Barnett, CampbellBarnett

Heading type set: Knarf Art Font 3
Text type set: TSTAR
Text and Cover stock: Pacesetter LaserPro
Slipcase stock: White Knight with black foil

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FOR
DOUGLAS ENGELBART
IN MEMORIAM
1925-2013

FOR
SEAMUS HEANEY
IN MEMORIAM
1939-2013

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The editors sincerely wish to thank the following people without whom this book project would not have been realised.

First and foremost, we thank Professor Jill Trehwella, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research), and Professor John Redmond, Dean of the Faculty of Architecture, Design and Planning, at the University of Sydney for their support for ongoing collaboration between the researchers involved in the Sydney Research Networks Scheme (SyReNS) proposal—the Sydney Invention Studio. Their foresight in sponsoring a research compact to support this book project generously affirms the inventive achievements of researchers across the University and, more importantly, realises the University's commitment to horizontality across fields.

Susan Murray-Smith and Agata Mrva-Montoya of Sydney University Press contributed unwavering professionalism and dedication in seeing our manuscript through from its conception to its realisation. Thanks to John Mahony for his consummate copyediting.

Two Sydney College of the Arts graduates contributed substantially to the book design. Lea Barnett (who graduated with a BVA in 1991) of CampbellBarnett produced a thoughtful, strategic, and inventive book design. Her book design concept pulled together one of the principal themes of the book, dialogic conversations between fields, and created a visual language to respond to the questions about inventiveness raised in the book. We gratefully thank Marc Newson (who graduated with a BA [Visual Arts] in 1984) for allowing us to use his exquisite image on the cover.

We are also especially grateful to all of our contributors who gave their time and expertise in helping us to materialise our editorial intentions and objectives. We span many fields and disciplines in the Faculty of Architecture, Design and Planning; Sydney College of the Arts; Sydney Conservatorium of Music; the University of Sydney Business School; School of Letters, Arts, and Media; and the Centre for Social Robotics—Australian Centre for Field Robotics, Faculty of Engineering and Information Technologies, and finding our common ground has been at once intellectually challenging and exhilarating. Many heartfelt thanks to all of you in sharing our concern for inventiveness and its impact on research in this unfolding century.

The editors would like to express our deep appreciation to our Project Officer, Dr Alexandra Crosby, for her professionalism, assistance, and multifaceted skills in thinking through all the details and strands of this project and bringing them to a unified, coherent whole.

Finally, Andy Dong wishes to convey his sincere thanks to his co-editors, Professor Brad Buckley and Associate Professor John Conomos, for their coaching and unerring critical voice. The opportunity to jointly interrogate, conjecture, and reflect on issues raised in this book is gratefully acknowledged. The ideas that flowed will continue to evolve as we continue to understand the phenomenon of inventiveness.

ANDY DONG
JOHN CONOMOS
BRAD BUCKLEY

FOREWORD

MARC NEWSON

My relationship with Sydney College of the Arts predates the College's amalgamation with the University of Sydney in 1990. During the 1980s I was a student in the Sculpture and Jewellery Departments and started making sculptures, objects and eventually chairs. I was particularly interested in the Jewellery Department, not because I wished to become a jeweller but because they taught you how to make things, the importance of scale and the value and weight of different materials. Perhaps it was the freedom that art school offered rather than a design school training that has allowed me to develop a global approach to design and invention.

This book, *Ecologies of Invention*, considers inventiveness rather than that much overused term creativity. In this book inventiveness is explored across a range of disciplines particularly but not exclusively those outside engineering and the hard sciences, which have traditionally been seen as the natural home of invention in the university. Of course in a rapidly changing world, where knowledge ebbs and flows across what were once considered discreet boundaries, this book makes an important contribution to our understanding of that 'light bulb' moment of realisation or invention that takes place across all disciplines, allowing architects, artists, designers, musicians and scientists to apply this inventiveness to innovation.

Importantly, *Ecologies of Invention* is structured around the concept of scale, with chapters exploring inventiveness from the micro- (personal capacities), the meso- (social) and the macro- (spatial and network) scales. This view of inventiveness across scales is what differentiates this book from other ideas of innovation or creativity and, as I have said on several occasions, scale is central to my work as a designer. Although the contexts of invention described in this book vary significantly, the invention of a new watch, prototype rocket or a new transit system, to name rather different inventions, share similarities in terms of process, cultural and social production.

Ecologies of Invention will make an important contribution to our understanding of the role of invention in our shared contemporary world.