

Paul Kahn

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Areas of skills and experience

Team/Project Building and Management

I have founded and built companies in the United States, United Kingdom and France. I have held positions as founding president, executive vice president, chief information officer and managing director. I have experience managing team divided into different divisions and physical locations. I have built and managed multi-disciplinary teams of visual designers, analysts and software developers in both commercial and educational research environments.

User Experience Design / Information Design / Information Architecture

I come to UX from a commitment to user-centered design practice when developing software solutions. I have developed and managed projects to innovate and improve the delivery of information services commercial services, internal groups within large enterprises, and the general public. These projects involve capturing and communicating the analysis of critical information with visualization techniques. Projects include surveys and visualization of enterprise services for management, visualization of competitive products for development teams, and alignment of production systems, products, and users.

I have projects to produce the information architecture and interaction guidelines for websites, groups of websites and web-based applications. These projects vary in scale from single sites to very large multi-site and multi-application projects for international corporations and government agencies. I have led projects to produce the user interface design for large web-based applications. Projects include applications for global internet back-office, Real-Time Well Monitoring, Supply Chain, Monitoring Seismic Crews, Bid Preparation, Deployment Calendar Management, Digital Asset Management, and Enterprise Search Engines.

My experience in defining and shaping deliverables for these projects include maps, process diagrams, page wireframes, user scenarios, technical and functional specifications, interactive prototypes, and complete visual design guidelines.

UX and IT

As a UX professional, I have more than a decade of experience working in partnership with major IT firms to add value for the customer and assure project acceptance and success. In each of the cases in the table below, I have led the UX team responsible for designing the user interface for the system developed by the IT partner. The goal is always to find the best solution that balances the user needs and the chosen technology. I led projects based on many technology solutions including combinations of Java, J2EE, Plone, Drupal, Wordpress, Sharepoint, ASP, PHP, Silverlight, XHTML/CSS, XML, Javascript, and Ajax.

Thought Leadership in Publications and Professional Associations

I have published essays and books in the fields of Computer Science, Information Design, and UX. I am co-author of *Mapping Website* and *From Memex to Hypertext: Vannevar Bush and the Mind's Machine*. I have contributed to Richard Saul Wurman's *Information Architects* and *Understanding USA*, and more recently to *Designing Universal Knowledge*, *Information Design Workbook* and *UX Storytellers*. I have co-authored conference papers and presentations for professional meetings of the ACM, ICHIM, Electronic Publishing and Euro IA. I am an active member of the UX Paris network

Teaching

I have been teaching information architecture and interactive design in the US and in Europe since 1996. I find the practice of teaching emerging designers, communication professionals and engineers a valuable way to test and improve my own practice and to stay in touch with emerging talent in the field. I currently teach each year in professional masters programs in Paris at ParisTech and Université Paris 1 Sorbonne-Panthéon, and at Media Lab, Aalto University in Helsinki. I have also given invited workshops in Paris at Gobelins – L'École des Images, HETIC and ENSCI.

Employment History

Kahn+ Associates, Paris

Founder and Managing Director: February 2002 – present

Established a design studio in Paris to offer information architect and user interface design to French and international clients. Major clients include Schlumberger, INRS (Institut national de recherche et de sécurité), Inrap (Institut national de recherches archéologiques préventives), P.O.L Editions, L'Oreal Recherche, Bibliothèque nationale de France, FRAME (French Regional American Museum Exchange), Alcatel-Lucent, Voyages-SNCF, AEFÉ (Agence pour l'enseignement français à l'étranger).

ingenta plc, Providence Rhode Island, Bath & Oxford, UK

Chief Technology Officer: January-May 2001

After acquisition of Cadmus Electronic Publishing by ingenta plc in 2000, responsible for coordination of work between Dynamic Diagrams offices in the US and UK and ingenta offices in Bath and Oxford UK. Led integration effort to merge information architecture, design, and technical development staff. Responsible 125+ employees in the US and UK. Member of Senior Management Board.

Cadmus Communications, Providence RI, Baltimore MD, Richmond VA, London UK

Director of Electronic Publishing: January-December 2000

After acquisition by Cadmus Communications of Dynamic Diagrams in 1999, became Director of Electronic Publishing responsible for design group in Providence RI and software development and production in Baltimore MD. Served on executive committee of Cadmus Communications in Richmond VA. Established and supervised Dynamic Diagrams Europe design group in London.

Dynamic Diagrams, Inc., Providence RI

Co-Founder and President: February 1991-December 1999

Founded and built information design studio devoted to design for the computer screen. Specialized in web site information architecture and design for clients including IBM Internet Program, Atlanta Olympic Games, Encyclopedia Britannica, Merrill Lynch, West Publishing, Netscape Communication Corp., Association for Computing Machinery, McGraw-Hill, American Medical Association, AAAS Science, Nature Publishing Group, Verlagsgruppe Georg von Holtzbrinck and Samsung Electronics. Team leader of group that developed MAPA, a software system for automatically mapping large web sites. Lead development of CD ROM computer kiosks for museums including Asian Art Museum of San Francisco, U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, and Musée des arts et métiers, Paris.

Institute for Research in Information and Scholarship (IRIS), Brown Univ., Providence RI

Director, August 1992-June 1994; Project Manager and Research Scientist: July 1991-July 1992; Project Coordinator: June 1987-June 1991; Applications Specialist: April 1985-May 1987

Member of computer research institute devoted to building scholarly tools. Research on information retrieval from multiple databases, publishing applications for scholarly writing, and hypertext systems to support college-level teaching. Team leader for Isocrates, an early CD ROM application containing all Classical Greek literature. Developed teaching materials and publications in Intermedia, a networked hypertext system that influence many aspects of the World Wide Web. History of science research leading to publication of a book on the work of Vannevar Bush. Developed hypertext publications including The Chinese Web, Exploring the Moon and The Dickens Web. Collaboration with Prof. George P. Landow, author of Hypertext: The Convergence of Contemporary Critical Theory and Technology.

Atex, Inc. (A Kodak Company), Bedford MA

Applications Specialist, National Publishing: October 1983-March 1985

Application specialist responsible for communication software. Built, tested, documented and installed custom software for magazine, newspaper, and legal customers including McGraw-Hill, Dewey Ballentine, Skaden Arps, Newsday, Bergen Record, and Lexington Herald Leader. Experience with Lexis-Nexis, Westlaw, and BASIS newspaper library system.

Harvard University, Office of the Governing Boards (OGB), Office of the University Publisher (OUP), Office for Information Technology (OIT), Cambridge MA

Directory of Publications (OGB), Publications Editor and Research Associate (OUP), Senior Systems Analyst (OIT): August 1977-September 1983

Editor of the Harvard University General Catalogue and Annual Reports of the Visiting Committees, moving these publications from metal type to computer text processing systems using Unix and IBM/VM tools and markup languages. Specialist in communication between word processing systems, computer typesetters, and timesharing systems. Produced analyst reports on publication programs at Peabody Museum, Graduate School of Design, and Law School. Produced and edited the first catalog of computers used throughout the university.

Education

Harvard University Extension 1979-1984

Massachusetts College of Art 1978

University of Kansas 1971-72

Kenyon College 1971

course work in Computer Science and Chinese Language

course work in Typography

graduate work in English Literature

B.A. in English Literature with highest honors

Teaching

Media Lab, Aalto University, Helsinki

Docent: 2003-present

Lecturer on information architecture.

Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne, Master 2 Multimédia interactif

Instructor: 2002-present

Lecturer on information architecture.

Telecom ParisTech / Institut National de l'Audiovisuel, Mastère Spécialisé « Création et Production Multimédia »,

Instructor: November 2006-present

Lecturer on information architecture.

Gobelins, Ecole de l'Image, Concepteur Réalisateur Multimédia en Alternance

Instructor : 2011

Lecturer on information architecture.

Ecole nationale supérieure des beaux-arts, mastère multimedia-hypermédia

Instructor: 2001-2003

Lecturer on information architecture.

Rhode Island School of Design, Providence RI

Adjunct Professor, Department of Graphic Design: 1994-2001

Taught Design for Computers, Interactive Design, and Web Site Design in the Graphic Design undergraduate program.

LIBLAB, Department of Computer and Information Science, Linköping University, Sweden

Visiting Researcher: April-June 1989

Supervisor for graduate students in information science program.

Selected Conference and Seminar Presentations

Euro IA (Copenhagen 2009, Paris 2010)

ACM Conference on Hypertext (San Antonio, Milan, Seattle, Edinburgh UK, Washington, Pittsburgh, Darmstadt Germany, Århus Denmark, 1991-2001)

ELPUB 2005 (Leuven, Belgium, 2005)

FB Gestaltung/Industriedesign Hochschule (Magdeburg-Stendal Germany, 2001)

International Conference on Hypermedia and Interactivity in Museums [ICHIM] (Cambridge UK, San Diego, Paris, Washington, Milan, Berlin: 1993-2005)

International Institute for Information Design [IIID], Vision Plus (Schwarzenberg & Vienna, Austria, 1997, 1999) + Data Design for Decisions [DD4D] (Paris, 2008)

TEDX 2000 (Monterey CA)

Selected Publications

books

- “Learning Information Architecture” in *UX Storytellers, Connecting the Dots*, edited by Jan Jursa, Stephen Köver & Jutta Grünewald, 2010:
<http://uxstorytellers.blogspot.com/2009/01/ux-storytellers-connecting-dots.html>
- “Designing Hypertext is an Intellectual Task” in *Designing Universal Knowledge: The World as Flatland – Report 1*, Gerlinde Schuller (editor), Lars Müller Publishers, 2009.
- “Excavating Information” in *Information Design Workbook: Graphic approaches, solutions, and inspiration*, Kim Baer and Jill Vacarra (editors), Rockport Publishers, 2008.
- “Mendel Museum of Genetics” with Attoma, in *Information Design Source Book*, Institute for Information Design Japan, Graphic-Sha Publishing, 2003.
- Mapping Websites*, with Krzysztof Lenk, Hove, UK: Rotovision, 2001. Also published in French, *Architecture des sites web* (Pyramyd); in Spanish, *Mapas de webs* (McGraw-Hill Mexico); in German, *Websites visualisieren* (rororo Computer), also translated in Korean.
- “Global Economics” with Krzysztof Lenk, in *UNDERSTANDING USA*, Richard Saul Wurman (editor), Newport RI: TED, 2000.
- “Visualizing Websites” in *Website Graphics Now*, edited by Noel Douglas et al. London: Thames & Hudson 1999.
- Information Architects*, Richard Saul Wurman (editor), Zurich: Graphis 1996.
- From Memex to Hypertext: Vannevar Bush and the Mind's Machine*, (co-edited and authored with James M. Nyce), Boston: Academic Press 1991.
- “Linking Together Books: Experiments in Adapting Published Material into Intermedia Documents.” in *Hypermedia and Literary Studies*, Landow and Delany, MIT Press 1991.
- “Isocrates: Greek Literature on CD ROM.” in *CD ROM: The New Papyrus*, Steve Lambert and Suzanne Ropiequet, (editors). Redmond WA: Microsoft Press, 1986.

journal articles and conference papers

- “Data Visualisation: The Path to Understandability” (with Olof Schybergson), Fjord whitepaper, May 2011.
- “Locating Value with Alignment Diagrams” (with James Kalbach), *Parsons Journal for Information Mapping*, Volume 3, Issue 2, 2011.
- “Patterns that Connect: the Value of Mapping Complex Data Networks” (with Julia Moisand), *Information Design Journal*, Vol. 17 No. 3, 2009.
- “Z miejsca na miejsce Internetowe strony komunikacji miejskiej Paryża i Londynu / Getting from here to there: Travel Planner User Interface for Paris and London”, *2+3D* No. 18 (I - 2006).
- “Applications of isometric projection for visualizing web sites” (with Krzysztof Lenk and Piotr Kaczmarek), *Information Design Journal*, Vol. 1 No. 3 2002.
- “Principles of Typography for User Interface Design” (with Krzysztof Lenk), *Interactions*, Vol 6 November + December 1998, pp. 15-29.
- “MAPA: a system for inducing and visualizing hierarchy in websites” (with David Durand), *Proceedings of the ACM Conference on Hypertext (Hypertext'98)* Pittsburgh PA, June 1998.
- “Pushing Reuse in Hypermedia Design: Golden Rules, Design Patterns and Generic Templates” (with Marc & Jocelyne Nanard), *Proceedings of the ACM Conference on Hypertext*, Pittsburgh PA, June 1998.
- “Three Fundamental Elements of Visual Rhetoric in Hypertext” (with Ronnie Peters and George P.

- Landow), *Designing User Interfaces for Hypermedia*, W. Schuler, J. Hannemann, & N. Streitz, eds., Springer Verlag, 1995, pp. 167-178.
- “Typography for the Computer Screen: Applying the Lessons of Print to Electronic Documents” (with Krzysztof Lenk) *The Seybold Report on Desktop Publishing* 7:11:3-16, July 5, 1993.
- “To Show and Explain: The Information Graphics of Stevin and Comenius” (with Krzysztof Lenk) *Visible Language* 26:3/4, January, 1993.
- Visual Logic: User Interface Guidelines for Language Software Products*, Houghton Mifflin Software Division, Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1992.
- “Designing for the Computer Screen” (with Krzysztof Lenk) *Information Technology Quarterly*, January, 1992.
- “IRIS Hypermedia Services” (with Bernard J. Haan, Victor A. Riley, Norman K. Meyrowitz, and James H. Coombs) *Communications of the ACM*, 35(1), January 1992:36-51.
- “Intermedia: A Retrospective” videotape, 53 minutes, ACM Publications, Dec. 1991.
- “Joining the Network of Ideas: the impact of digital information on the organization of knowledge.” *The Annual Review of Communications and Society*, 2 (1990): 1-57 (Aspen Institute).
- “Design of Hypermedia Publications: Issues and Solutions” (with Julie Launhardt, Krzysztof Lenk, and Ronnie Peters), *Proceedings of the International Conference on Electronic Publishing, Document Manipulation, and Typography* (EP '90), Gaithersburg, MD, September 18-20, 1990, Cambridge University Press, 1990: 107-124.