

The Honorary Graduate: Sebastian Conran

The Orator: Chris Melhuish

Sebastian Conran is to be awarded the Honorary Degree of Doctor of Design

Sebastian Orby Conran is a designer, inventor and entrepreneur, who focuses on transforming technology into engaging, thoughtful experiences and satisfying products. Born 51h April 1956, London, Married to Gertrude, two adult sons Sam 27 is a sound artist and Max 21 is a cinematographer.

"Outstanding design is the legacy of intense, imaginative thought, vision and experience combined with skill and craftsmanship; it is also the ability to anticipate tomorrow's challenges, today."

An engineer at heart, Sebastian Conran has design in the blood. He focuses on designing technologies to make them more emotionally engaging. Passionate about designing thoughtful, stylish products that are satisfying to use, he believes 'form follows fabrication' and by clearly understanding how things are to be made and how they are to be used and experienced. He has created a plethora of enduring, designs that have received many design & innovation awards and patents.

CEO of Consequential Robotics and Sebastian Conran Associates, Sebastian takes a hands-on, down-to-earth approach to all his design projects, and is intimately involved in all aspects throughout the innovation journey, sharing his wealth experience and manufacturing expertise with the design team. His studio's designs have received many awards for design & innovation as well as being granted over fifty patents and design patents in various fields. From stacking shelves at Habitat in his teens to founding the Consequential Robotics startup, Sebastian's life has been focused on understanding how things are made and sold, as well as ingeniously designing innovative, stylish and satisfying products. He has seen many thousands of successful and enduring products through from concept to consumer.

As an advocate of design & technology, Sebastian is: Visiting Professor of Design & Innovation Bristol Robotics Lab; Designer in Residence at University of Sheffield Engineering Faculty; and has taught Furniture at the Royal College of Art, and Central St. Martins. He lectures frequently to students, researchers and professionals, and judges many international design awards [including: Audi, D&AD, Design Week, Dyson, Red Dot, RSA, etc.]. He has written and illustrated several books, articles and papers on design. An active member of many bodies.

The Honorary Degree is awarded in recognition of Sebastian Conran's contribution and commitment to the UK design and enterprise.