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Frames for Justice Consciousness

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Techno-Solutionist



Neoliberal Theatrics



Civics Competent



Justice Oriented

Designer Role

Designer is in power, with a paternalistic empathy for the co-designers they are working with

Designer is savior, while co-designers are data wells for information extraction

Designer is responsible for redistributing design authority to those most impacted by the problem space

Designer intentionally listens for expressions of pain rooted in inequity and seeks to ensure that design authority is shared

Framing of Design

Technology is the solution

Adjusting individual behaviors while perhaps acknowledging systemic issues

Systemic issues are recognized and contextualized through co-designer engagement

Systemic issues are contextualized through co-designer engagement and activist texts to inform solidarity consciousness

Design Outcome

Centered around symptoms of systemic issues without awareness of larger structures

Techno-fixes that prioritize appearance, perception and feeling rather than material changes to inequity

Rooted in the desires of the co-designers

A design space affording collective action with clear goals for structural change, with co-designers as project stewards