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# William Gaver

Professor of Design, Goldsmiths, University of London

## KMDI Distinguished Lecture

**Tuesday, May 13, 2008, 6:00pm - 7:30pm**  
**Room 1180 (1st floor), Bahen Centre for IT**  
**University of Toronto, 40 St. George St.**

## DESIGNING TECHNOLOGY FOR A MORE CURIOUS WORLD

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### Abstract:

Digital technologies increasingly pervade our everyday lives. Sadly, they tend to reflect life as an endless round of work, shopping and commodified entertainment. But it doesn't need to be this way. In my studio, we design computational products that tell more interesting stories about who we are and what we care about. The Drift Table, for instance, is like a digital hot air balloon you control from the comfort of your own front room. The Local Barometer displays text and images from local sources as if blown through the home. The Home Health Monitor picks up indicative information about household activities and reflects this back in the form of automatically generated horoscopes. In this talk, I explain some of these designs and describe what happens when people live with them for extended periods of time. I explain the design-centred methods we use for understanding people, exploring new ideas, and assessing the results. Finally, I propose our methods as an alternative to more traditional science and engineering approaches, and our products as a meaningful alternative to the utilitarian and escapist technologies that currently surround us.

### Biography:

William Gaver is Professor of Design and leader of the Interaction Research Studio at Goldsmiths, University of London. He has pursued research on innovative technologies for over 20 years, working with and for companies such as Intel, France Telecom, Hewlett Packard, IBM and Xerox, and gaining an international reputation for a range of work that spans auditory interfaces, theories of perception and action, and interaction design. Currently Gaver's research focuses on design-led methodologies and ludic technologies for everyday life. More information on Gaver and his work can be found at: <http://www.goldsmiths.ac.uk/design/staff/gaver.php>