Nick Bell Design

Nick Bell Creative Director

Nick is an editorial designer who has spent the last 18 years collaborating with architects, curators and museum directors on exhibition design projects. During that time he has developed a visitor-centred editorial concern for the visual language and voice of interpretation and interactivity within social, information-rich, highly distracting, narrative environments such as museums.

Before that he spent 8 years as creative director of Eye magazine the collectable and critical graphic design journal. This enabled him to develop a more curatorial method of editorial design – one he adapted successfully to the crafting of participative experience in the architectural spaces of exhibitions and workplaces.

His longstanding creative partnership with exhibition designers Casson Mann has produced many successful projects such as BNFL's Sellafield Visitors' Centre, London's Churchill Museum, Newcastle's Great North Museum, the Science Museum's Atmosphere gallery in London, Philadelphia's Benjamin Franklin Museum, the National Maritime Museum's Nelson Navy Nation gallery in Greenwich, and Imperial War Museum London's First World War Galleries.

Mindful of every visitor's own personal connections to a place and their experience of it, his practice aims to make it easier and more appealing for people to strengthen those bonds.

Drawing on thirty years of experience as a designer, Nick provides creative guidance and leadership to his team, his client's teams, his project partners and their teams. He has ultimate responsibility for entrepreneurial/editorial/creative vision and for maintaining the quality of Nick Bell Design's output with a view to achieving the desired outcomes.

Nick is an experienced educator, occasional writer, speaker, Special Consultant to Eye magazine and member of AGI (Alliance Graphique Internationale). From 2013 to 2016 he was UAL Chair Professor of Communication Design where he co-founded Early Lab and partnered with Ezio Manzini on his Cultures of Resilience metaproject.

Early Lab is a design for social innovation practice currently working with NHS researchers in youth mental health. Inspired by his work with Early Lab and the notion of a museum as an environment and practice for wellbeing, Nick is currently researching the use of design as part of a situated, place-based strategy for mental health prevention at the Royal College of Art, London.