



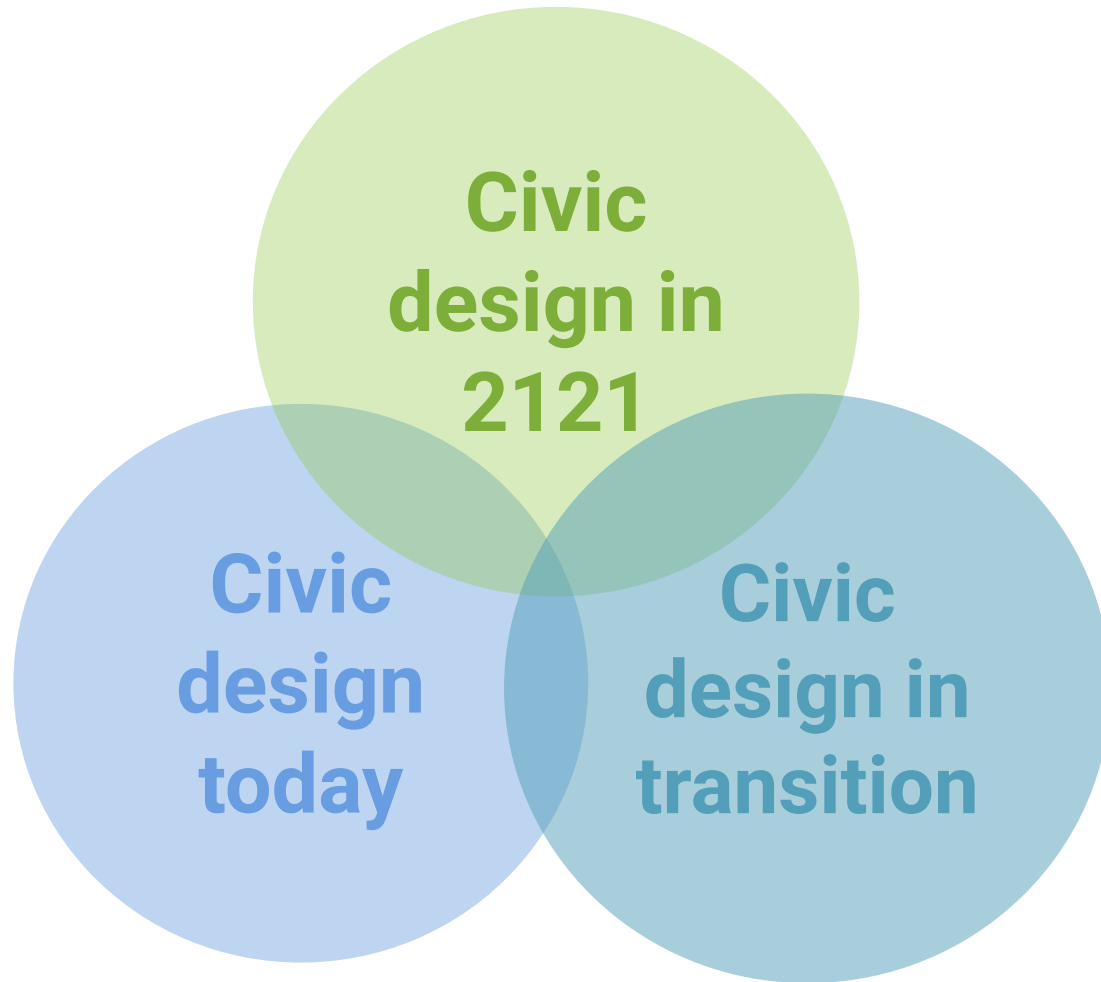
The next 100 years of  
**civic design**

Source: [NASA/JPL-Caltech](#)



“Design creates culture.  
Culture shapes values. **Values  
determine the future.**”

Robert L. Peters, Canadian graphic  
designer and educator

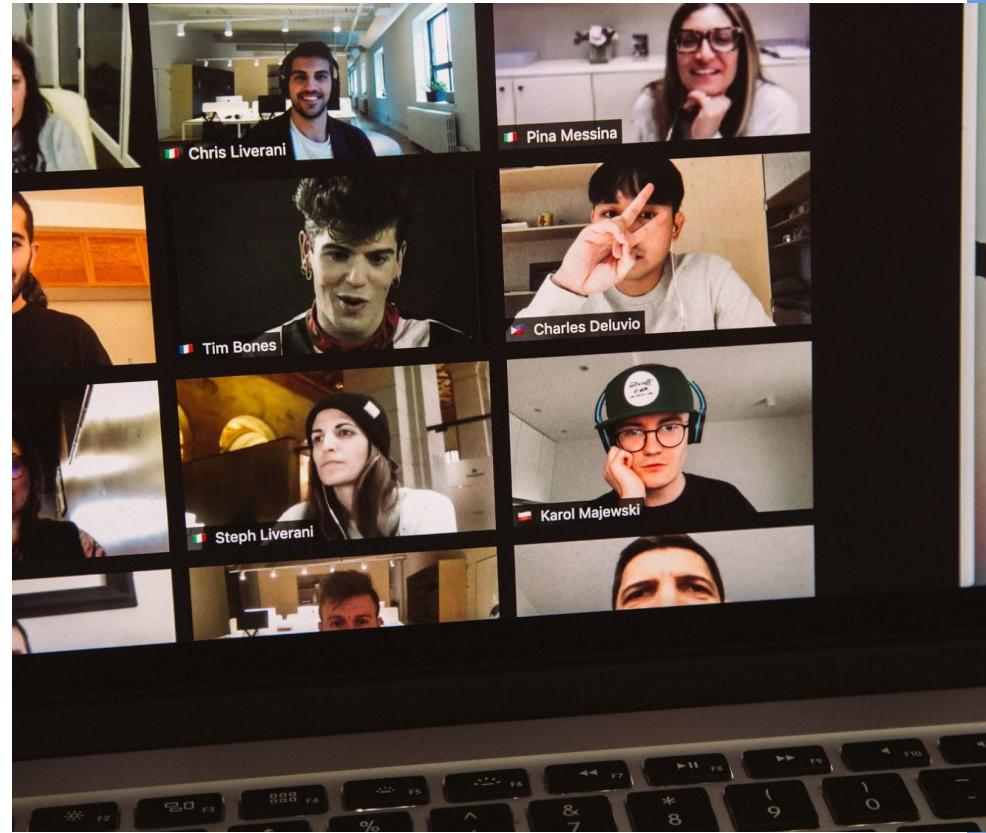


The background is a dark grey surface with large, black, 3D-style cutout numbers. The numbers '2021' are arranged horizontally across the middle. A hand is visible in the bottom right corner, holding the number '1'.

# Civic design **today**

# Meet Alex and their team

They probably look a bit like you, and do work similar to what you do today in 2021





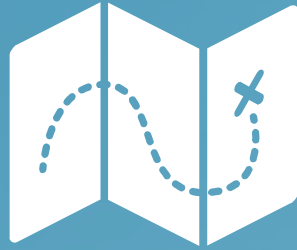


**Values:**  
organization-centered →  
human-centered

**Scope:**  
products and services → systems

**Mindset:**  
linear thinking → design thinking

**Process:**  
opinion-led → expert-led



# Design must evolve

human-centered → ?

systems → ?

design thinking → ?

expert-led → ?



Civic design  
**in 2121**





## Meet Zain and their team

How is their work as  
civic designers in 2121  
different from today?

Values:  
**human-centered**  
→ **life-centered**

Zain and team have expanded the notion of what is centered in their work to include all life, not only human





**Scope: systems →  
ecosystems**

Zain and team's work is holistic and integrative, focusing on wicked problems and transition design

**Mindset: design  
thinking →  
complexity thinking**

Zain's team draws on a wide toolkit that embraces complexity, foresight, and more to meet the challenges of 2121







**Process:**  
**expert-led** →  
**community-led**

The communities with which Zain's team works are at the forefront of decision-making





# Paradigm shift

human-centered → **life-centered**

systems → **ecosystems**

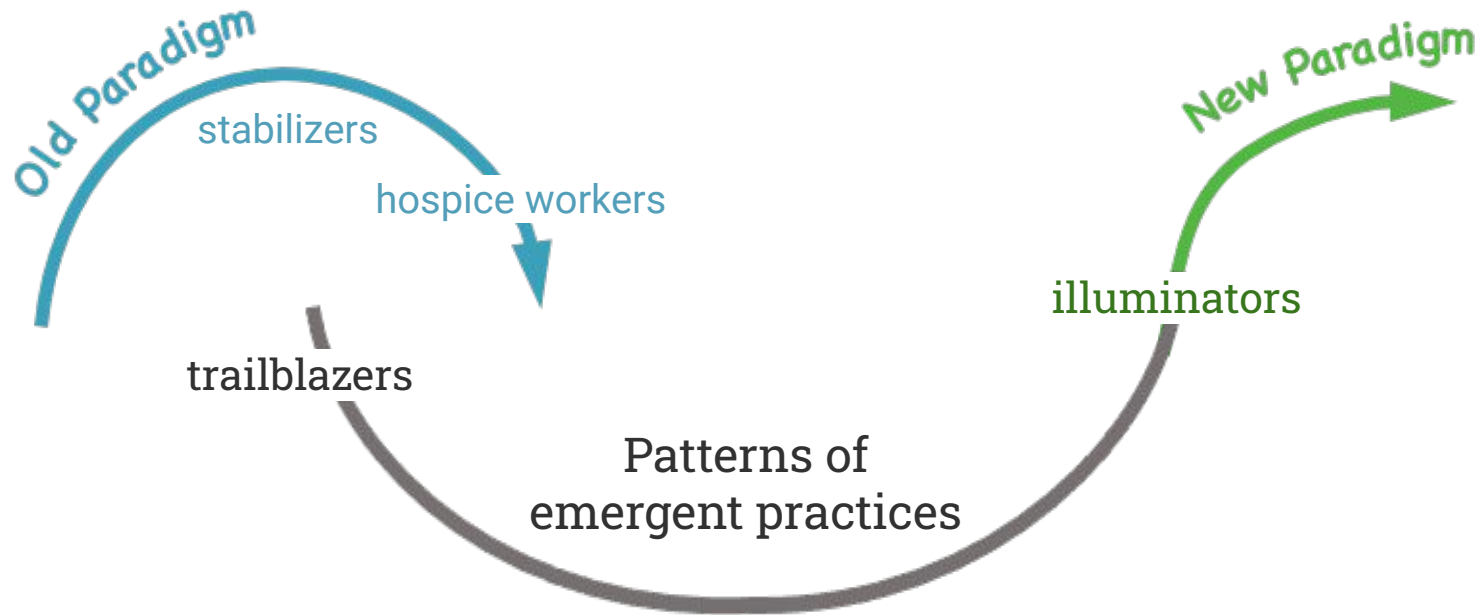
design thinking → **complexity thinking**

expert-led → **community-led**



Civic design  
**in transition**

# How paradigm shifts happen?



Adopted from The Two Loops Model of Change, The Berkana Institute

# Patterns of emerging practices



**Community-led  
design**



**Regenerative  
design**



**Relational  
design**



**Emergent  
design**



**Design for the  
pluriverse**



**Design for all life  
(not just humans)**



**Design for the  
commons**

# Questions to guide us to the future

What are the limitations of my design practices?



What emerging practices are calling me?



How might I be a good ancestor to future designers (and humans)?



How does my practice need to evolve?



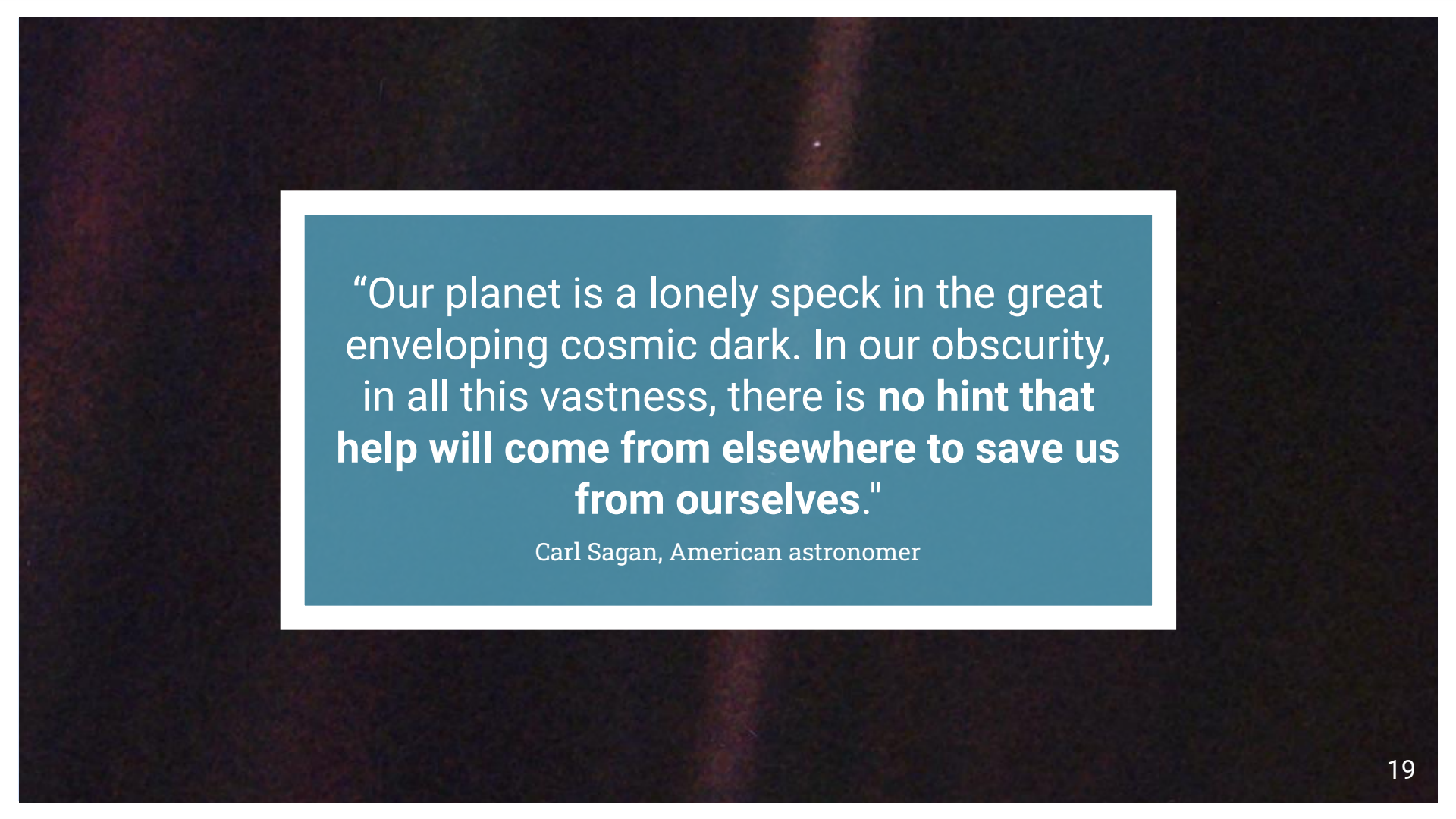
What role(s) can I play in shifting practices and paradigms?



What else? We'd love to hear from you!







“Our planet is a lonely speck in the great enveloping cosmic dark. In our obscurity, in all this vastness, there is **no hint that help will come from elsewhere to save us from ourselves.**”

Carl Sagan, American astronomer

# thanks! questions?

we would love to hear from you!



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# References

- The Two Loops Model of Change, video by Margaret Wheatley and Deborah Frieze of the Berkana Institute
- Systemic Design Report (Oct. 2021), by the U.K. Government Design Council and The Point People:
- Designs for the Pluriverse: Radical Interdependence, Autonomy, and the Making of Worlds (2018), book by Arturo Escobar.
- Designing Regenerative Cultures (2016), book by Daniel Christian Wahl
- Relational Systems Thinking, paper by Melanie Goodchild (2019):
- Contexts of Co-creation, paper by Peter H. Jones