BOH

Grooming the
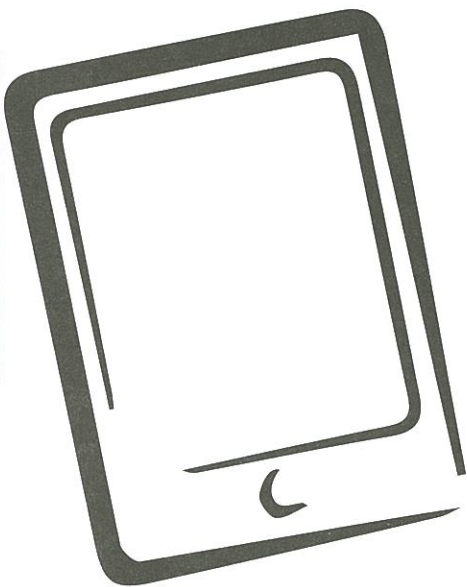## NEXT
GENERATION
of Design Talent

19
APPS
CHANGING THE
GAME
for Designers

The
WORKROOM:
WILL IT SURVIVE?

HIGHLY SKILLED TRADES MAY NOT BE PASSED ON

In the modern design office, smartphone apps are being used as both actual tools and virtual tools—from tape measures to drafting aids. "I've always brought technology into the classroom," said designer Phyllis Harbinger, who wrote *The Interior Design Productivity Toolbox* (Wiley, 2014) and also teaches studio design and professional practice courses at the Fashion Institute of Technology. If her students are any indication of the future of the industry, she said, "apps will be an indispensable element for remaining competitive in the design field." A handful of designers offers their favorites:

19 APPS CHANGING THE GAME FOR DESIGNERS

BY JORGE ARANGO

Tools

iHandy Level: "A valuable tool when I'm in the field and need to ensure that the work is straight," said **Caleb Anderson** of Drake/Anderson. The bubble level he's referring to is one of five tools in the iHandy Carpenter Tool Kit app, which also includes a plumb bob, protractor, ruler and surface level. *Ihandysoft.com*

Image Meter Pro: "It allows us to annotate our digital pictures with dimensions," explains **Gideon Mendelson**. "Whether we're documenting a client's existing conditions, cataloging a client's belongings or simply noting a construction detail, I haven't carried a notebook to site meetings in years." *Image-meter-pro.soft112.com*. Designer **John Douglas Eason** uses a similar app called My Measures. *Mymeasuresapp.com*

Feeling overwhelmed? Try **Oprah & Deepak's 21-Day Meditation Experience**: "It helps me keep calm and carry on," said Jamie Drake of Drake/Anderson. Om…

Shopping

Furniture Styles: "The interior designer's version of 20 Questions for antique furniture," said Anderson. *Furniture.connectedlines.com*

Kravet Match: "I'm always snapping photos on my phone, so it's so great to be able to instantly select fabrics, furnishings and carpets right when the idea strikes. Kravet Match allows me to interpret inspiration from any source by providing numerous matches that are similar based on design and color—whether it be a tapestry I see in a museum in England, or a woven sarong from a village I'm exploring in Bali," said **Kati Curtis** of Kati Curtis Design. *Match.kravet.com*

Michelle Nussbaumer has a predilection for art apps: **Saatchi Art** has outsider, unknown artists starting from affordable price-points and upwards, she explained. Clients can look at it, and there's even a way to see works hung on the wall. *Saatchiart.com/mobile*. **Artsy** also offers "a good way to find inexpensive art for clients." *Iphone.artsy.net*

Productivity

Harvest: "Keeping track of hourly billing can be really tedious," notes **Shawn Henderson**. "Harvest is really useful because I can track my hours on my phone or on my desktop. It has a timer to start and stop—super helpful!" *Getharvest.com*

MileIQ: "It tracks where you go every step of the way during projects," observed Harbinger. "It gives you weekly and monthly reports." *Mileiq.com*

Evernote: "An incredibly practical tool that syncs easily with my systems and allows me to keep client notes and images handy and shareable with my assistant," enthused Eason. *Evernote.com*

Toodledoo: "We're working on up to 10 projects at a time, so the amount of detail is overwhelming," said Mendelson. "Toodledo allows us to list tasks by client, assign a team member to be responsible for individual tasks and set priorities and deadlines for tasks. My entire team uses Toodledo daily to manage their workflow, and as a team we review Toodledo weekly." *Toodledo.com*. Other project management apps: **Basecamp** (recommended by **Ghislaine Viñas**. *Basecamp.com*); **Asana** (Harbinger described it as "like Basecamp, but more user-friendly.") *Asana.com*
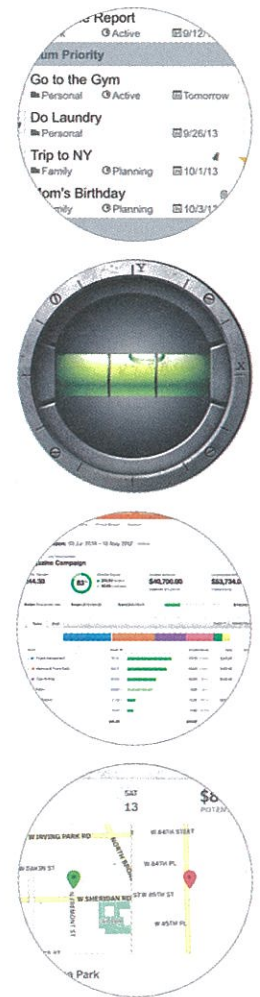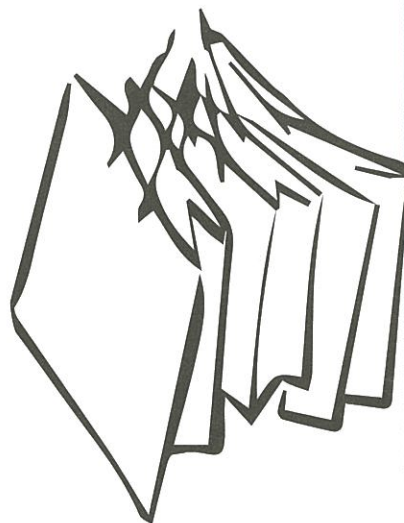
Design and Presentations

Roomle: Nussbaumer believes "This is the best of the floorplan apps, and the easiest to use. It's great for a quick client meeting." The user can drop furniture (from Roomle's catalog or brand products) into floorplans to clearly illustrate flow and layout. *Roomle.com*

SketchUp: "This semester four students used this for assignments," said Harbinger. "Those projects were so much more informed than those done in a traditional manner because you get to see things in 3-D view, which you can't from a plan or elevation. Much more fluid than CAD." *Sketchup.com*

Morpholio Board: With its layout, collage, illustration and annotation functions, this app, said **Kelly Behun**, "is great for creating mood boards that I can easily share with clients when I'm on the run." *Morpholioapps.com/board*

Wecora: This to-the-trade tool helps Harbinger "create and discuss concept and specification boards. It allows you to show clients as much or as little information as you want and includes shopping lists, links, notes. And you can screen-share the information during meetings which cuts down on travel costs for both the designer and client." *Wecora.com*

Prezi: Essentially another version of Morpholio and Wecora. But this one is Vinas's favorite. *Prezi.com/mobility*

Top to bottom Toodledo organizes tasks into high, medium and low-priority categories; iHandy Level turns your smartphone into an easy-to-use level; project hours and billing amounts are visually displayed in Harvest; and MileIQ tracks miles driven for projects and breaks down cost.

Meet the Experts

These designers weigh in on the apps they use to streamline their businesses.

Caleb Anderson
Drake/Anderson

Ghislaine Viñas
Ghislaine Viñas Interior Design

Gideon Mendelson
Mendelson Group, Inc.

Jamie Drake
Drake/Anderson

John Douglas Eason
John Douglas Eason Interiors

Kelly Behun
Kelly Behun Studio

Michelle Nussbaumer
Ceylon et Cie

Phyllis Harbinger
Design Concepts/Interiors

Shawn Henderson
Shawn Henderson Interior Design

Kati Curtis
Kati Curtis Design