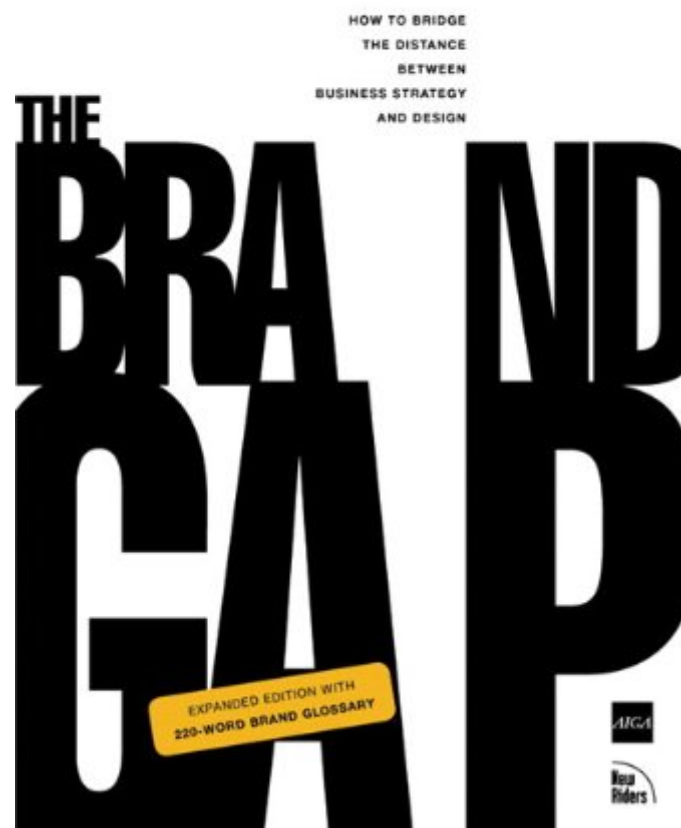




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The Brand Gap: Revised Edition (AIGA Design Press)

A WHITEBOARD OVERVIEW BY MARTY NEUMEIER



Synopsis

THE BRAND GAP is the first book to present a unified theory of brand-building. Whereas most books on branding are weighted toward either a strategic or creative approach, this book shows how both ways of thinking can unite to produce a “charismatic brand” — a brand that customers feel is essential to their lives. In an entertaining two-hour read you’ll learn: the new definition of brand the five essential disciplines of brand-building how branding is changing the dynamics of competition the three most powerful questions to ask about any brand why collaboration is the key to brand-building how design determines a customer’s experience how to test brand concepts quickly and cheaply the importance of managing brands from the inside 220-word brand glossary

From the back cover: Not since McLuhan’s THE MEDIUM IS THE MESSAGE has a book compressed so many ideas into so few pages. Using the visual language of the boardroom, Neumeier presents the first unified theory of branding — a set of five disciplines to help companies bridge the gap between brand strategy and customer experience. Those with a grasp of branding will be inspired by the new perspectives they find here, and those who would like to understand it better will suddenly “get it.” This deceptively simple book offers everyone in the company access to “the most powerful business tool since the spreadsheet.”

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This book has some interesting information about Brand Design, and was an easy read overall. Some content is dated, however, there are some sections that are still relevant in 2017. Surprisingly, this book is about graphic design, but it is not designed very well. The text is huge, and seems like that the designer laying the book out needs to learn the fundamentals of publication design again. However, do not make my comment about the design of the book deter you from purchasing it. I think the content of the book is still solid, and would recommend this book to any Graphic Designer looking to brush up on Brand Design and how to effectively integrate a business model into it.

When I normally look at a book and decide whether or not to read it, I normally do an overview of the contents of the book. If I was not assigned to read this book, I don't know if I would have made it past the overview of chapters just because there were so many words all jumbled into one page, makes the book seem a little too intimidating. To add to that, a book on branding seems like it would be heavy reading anyway and to see an outline of chapters like that would maybe scare me off. While reading the book I did appreciate the index to help with all of the scary business like all cap letters. The index was easy to and helpful throughout the reading. I LOVED all of the pictures in this book; this commit alone may make my review worthless to all of you literary geniuses, but to those of you who are nervous about the word branding, the pictures make this book worth the read and help get its point across. The introduction to this book really sets the pace for the outline of this book, how kind of quirky it is set up and how easy it is to read. In the short 2 page introduction, Neumeier make it clear where he wants to start from. He starts with a clean and fresh start of what a brand is not, it is not a logo, identity or product, then he explains what a brand is, it is a gut feeling. The conclusion to this book is wonderful, especially if you want to talk to someone else about this book, you can look at Neumeier's "take-home

lessons and easily teach someone the basic concepts in this book. I love the idea of the virtuous circle, like so many things that work well; they work as a team and keep growing. He continues to stress the point that he made in the introduction that branding is about a gut feeling, that we must tie together logic and magic to create the circle that leads to differentiation to collaboration to innovation to validation to cultivation. Differentiation asks certain questions for you to be able to have focus in your company, he stresses the importance of asking these three questions: 1) Who are you? 2) What do you do? 3) Why does it matter? Collaboration means working together and knowing that you all need one another. He claims that the best way to collaborate in today's market is to outsource to a one stop shop and to a brand agency, also to work with the brand internally with a marketing team. Using all three of these ways creates a healthy and multi-vantage point view of how to create the best product and company. Innovation stresses that as a company that wants to be creative it is imperative to not go with the crowd and be creative while being logical. If you're not scaring people with your ideas, you're not being creative enough to be innovative. Validation is important in our very social world, we need to make space to receive feedback and let our customers know they are being heard. Cultivation is about showing that the brand is you, is the image that you are trying to make for your company match the behavior of your company? I loved that this book was a short and easy read; I loved the pictures and the graphs to help make a point and add some humor sometimes. I would recommend this book for anyone who is ready to jump out and ride the virtuous circle.

This is a solid read that will open the eyes to anyone that is interested in the marketing and branding initiatives. It speaks to offer clarity towards the many misconceptions we all have relating to this side of the consumer world. The reader is able to engage in a learning journey that is not overwhelming and one that offers great insight to the subject. The material consists of covering several points besides just clarifying the identity. These focus on bridging the gap of the brand. The author walks the reader through the process of differentiation, collaboration, innovation, validation, and cultivation. All strong pieces to providing a strong brand that will stand out to the consumer. Neumier says that a brand is a person's gut feeling about a product, service, or company. And then goes into detail to explain how we make decisions. Today we base our choices more on symbolic attributes. What does the product look like? Where is it being sold? What kind of people buy it? Which "tribe" will I be joining if I buy it? What does the cost say about its

desirability? What are other people saying about it? And finally, who makes it? These types of questions speak volumes to the importance of taking one's brand seriously and focusing on creating separation from others in the process. We now live in a culture where the majority of the products we invest in are strongly identical to one another. That is because many manufacturers copy one another in the basic models of design. What separates the products in the mind of the buyer is the unique distinct differences decided upon by the producer. It is the little signs of customization and effective brand identity marketing that separate the companies. How well do you know your story and how can you effectively get the buyer to believe in it. Neumeier's premise is to communicate how to bridge the gap between the left-brain thinking strategists who are known to be more analytical, logical, linear, concrete, numerical, verbal and the right-brain thinking team members who tend to be known as more intuitive, emotional, spatial, visual, and physical. This makes logical sense that there would be a natural gap in a branding process. I agree that both sides of the brain are needed in order to create a product that will market to both buyers as well. The overall goal is to build trust between a brand and its customers. This process does not desire to be isolated to one audience but rather be broadcast to all types. One question I had was, is it possible that some companies and organizations intentionally create a gap in their brand? That possibly their strategy is to only connect with one side of the brain of the buying audience? At the end of the day Neumeier does a great job of stimulating creating thinking related to his intended topic. The book is easy to read and simplifies the understanding. It helps you understand how to create a charismatic brand that differentiates itself from the rest of the field. I would recommend this book to anyone hoping to learn more about the fundamentals of marketing and how it is important to see the whole process.

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