David Swann

David’s research responds to the changing nature of healthcare services. These transitions are perpetuated by demographic shifts, changing lifestyle, diseases, rising public expectations and escalating costs of healthcare. The devolution of healthcare treatments to settings other than hospitals in the backdrop of Lord Darzi’s future vision for the National Health Service. To bridge the current divide between acute and primary healthcare settings, new intermediate structures are emerging. The formation of new neighbourhood health and social care teams are enabling patients living with a long-term condition to receive their monthly, weekly or daily treatments in the comfort and convenience of their own home. While organisational structures have been specifically developed to meet the operational challenges of this new setting, the equipment used to deliver patient care has not. Healthcare professionals are required to improvise and source products from non-healthcare industries as no dedicated ‘products’ currently exist to support these clinicians in their role. ‘NHS at Home’ is a balance of applied research and experimental development. David recognises that PhD research pioneers design research in this neglected field and he aims to research, design and evaluate a new design intervention to enable the consistent delivery of planned healthcare treatments in the home for the benefit of patients and clinicians. His research activity is supported by NHS East Riding of Yorkshire.

David is Subject Area Leader for Interior, Product and Transport Design. He is completing a PhD project located within the Vehicle Design Department at the Royal College of Art. A member of SmartPads project, a two-year Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) funded research project to facilitate delivery of urgent healthcare in the community, SmartPads includes designers from the Royal College of Art and academics from Loughborough University and the Universities of West of England, Bath and Plymouth. Recent publications include ‘Healthcare on the Move: Treating Patients in the Community’, The SmartPads Project (2009) and ‘Design Engaging With Healthcare Transformation: A project, A Pod and a PhD’. Published by the Royal College of Art and RCA conference proceedings.