

## CPC508 – Speculative Designer

Location	London or Milton Keynes
Reporting to	Design Futures Team Lead
Working hours	Full time
Contract type/duration	Permanent
Date written	November 2021
Closing date	12th December 2021

Connected Places Catapult (CPC) is the UK Centre of Excellence for urban innovation and mobility with a role to catalyse the innovation market in the UK and globally. Our teams provide world-class innovation as a service to support the development of new products and services that enable cities, organisations and businesses to generate new ideas, test concepts and develop new solutions for the UK and beyond.

### Human Connected Design

The Human Connected Design (HCD) directorate at Connected Places Catapult is responsible for the strategic use of design, supporting the Catapult in its mission to help grow businesses, to build the UK economy and to service the creation of truly connected places. The directorate puts human needs at the heart of new innovations and technologies and is made up of three dynamic, creative teams: Human Insights, Connected Design and Design Futures. These teams include experts in service design, psychology, sociology and human factors.

The Design Futures Team is responsible for...

- Trends research for use across Catapult projects and strategy
- Visioning possible futures in the context of innovation imperatives – human experience, connected intelligence, and climate action
- Lead thinking around trade-offs and co-benefits between plausible futures
- Developing roadmaps and contingency plans for probable futures
- Creating deterministic and stochastic forecasting models to project the future under specific assumptions
- Use participatory design to build worlds that elicit feelings and discussion about preferred futures

The Catapult is an innovation accelerator – we ask, innovating towards what? ...and suggest how we might get there.

### Purpose of the role

We are seeking a Speculative Designer capable of presenting, iterating and delivering abstract and novel ideas in a rigorous and collaborative way.

In this role, you will help, promote, and deliver projects that unlock UK innovation and safeguard against market failures.

In addition to the skills and responsibilities below, this role offers a unique opportunity to shape the newly formed Design Futures team and develop seminal artifacts through creative writing and illustration.

### **Key Responsibilities**

- Contribute to a multitude of complex projects through collaborative work in multidisciplinary teams with moderate guidance
- Facilitate interviews, focus group, and workshops with high profile stakeholders for the purpose of extracting insights that add to desk research
- Contribute to key trends research by gathering signals, deducing key drivers of change, and visualising findings
- Manage layout and contribute content to reports and fictional narratives for expert and non-expert audiences
- Use systems thinking to understand context, stakeholders, challenges, opportunities, tensions, and trade-offs
- Work across the organisation to ensure key insights and perspectives are represented in projects
- Knowledge management; literature reviews, organisational propositions, contractor capabilities, exemplary futures studies etc.
- Help to showcase Design Futures projects by capturing and communicating project methods and outputs as visual artifacts
- You may be required to undertake any other reasonable duties to support the Catapult in achieving its strategic outcomes and ensure effective business operations

### **Required skills and experience**

#### *Essentials;*

- Demonstrable experience, preferably working in one or more domains – built environment, mobility - in a creative, analytical, or commercial capacity
- Intrinsic motivation to think deeply about the future and a strong interest in learning and applying foresight tools
- Familiarity with multiple forms of primary and secondary research methods, synthesis, and the ability to communicate insights visually
- Experience in designing, facilitating, and synthesising workshops, both virtual and in person
- Values generative conversations to play with ideas and is equally enthusiastic to focus on deep independent work, that is - the ability to diverge energetically and converge diligently
- Proclivity to embrace ambiguity, initiate discovery, and synthesise effectively and concisely

- Ability to think critically about trade-offs as well as co-benefits with a propensity to use frameworks and metaphors to communicate new ideas, especially in communicating paradoxes and dichotomies
- Ability to find and understand or create and communicate useful frameworks to structure and communicate thinking
- Growth mindset, courage and initiative to take on new and foreign challenges
- Flexible, with ability to contribute to multiple projects at the same time and pick up new skills and capabilities as required for different projects
- Collaborative approach to working with the ability to take ownership of small and large tasks
- Self-motivated, attention to detail, and eye for aesthetic
- Visual communicator with requisite design skills, such as InDesign, Illustrator, photoshop, Premier et al.

*Desirable:*

- Degree or equivalent opportunity to explore theoretical concepts, including evidence of rigorous self-study. We are looking for strong theoretical knowledge and the ability to apply it to practical scenarios
- Desire to foster T-shaped profile by continuing to deepen core knowledge while exploring and connecting disparate bodies of knowledge, such as economics, sociology, anthropology et al.
- Broad interest in design disciplines, including newer practices, such as policy design
- Comfort with using and maintaining moderately advanced excel models
- Global perspective with keen interest in history and international events; professional, academic, or other first-hand experience abroad is a plus
- An understanding of the UK and European collaborative R&D ecosystem would be advantageous
- Applied experience using foresight techniques

To apply for this role please email us on [jobs@cp.catapult.org.uk](mailto:jobs@cp.catapult.org.uk) with your CV and covering letter attached quoting the ref: **CPC508**

*Employment here is based solely upon individual merit and qualifications directly related to professional competence. We strictly prohibit unlawful discrimination or harassment on the basis of race, colour, religion, national origin, ancestry, pregnancy status, sex, gender identity or expression, age, marital status, mental or physical disability, medical condition, sexual orientation, or any other characteristics protected by law. We also make all reasonable accommodations to meet our obligations under laws protecting the rights of the disabled.*