



DESIGNER'S OATH

## Instructions

We are calling on each speaker for Sustainable UX to define their own codes of ethics (that's you!). There are two parts to every Oath: the written words describing the ethics you follow (or want to follow) in your own practice AND a visual reflecting those values.

If you're feeling good about writing your own Designer's Oath, then go ahead and go for it! There are no rules about what an Oath needs to look like except that it must include a visual as well as a written part. So do your thing!

If you're looking for some inspiration, you can find it in the following pages. We've provided five different (and completely optional) Designer's Oath templates to spark your creativity!

If you choose to work with a template, the left half of the page is a fill-in-the-blank form you can complete using words or phrases that relate to your own design practice. Or, if you're feeling courageous, feel free to rewrite or alter the whole statement.

On the right is a blank space for you to create a visual representation of your Oath. This can be a sketch, a photo, a pattern, whatever! It just needs to fit in the vertical box (dimensions of 5 x 7.5 inches) and be at least 300 dpi.

The final page in this document contains a copy of the original clinical Hippocratic Oath to inspire you as you write your own Designer's Hippocratic Oath.

Please send your completed written and visual part of the Oath to [sdempsey@madpow.net](mailto:sdempsey@madpow.net) and [ctaylor@madpow.net](mailto:ctaylor@madpow.net) by **February 1**.

Thanks!



## DESIGNER'S OATH

I swear to fulfill, to the best of my ability, this Oath: I will respect the hard-won \_\_\_\_\_ of the designers in whose steps I follow, and I will gladly share my \_\_\_\_\_ with those who are to follow me.

I will apply, for the benefit of the people, all measures that are \_\_\_\_\_, avoiding those twin traps of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.



## DESIGNER'S OATH

I will remember that there is \_\_\_\_\_ in design as well as \_\_\_\_\_, and that warmth, sympathy, and understanding outweigh \_\_\_\_\_.

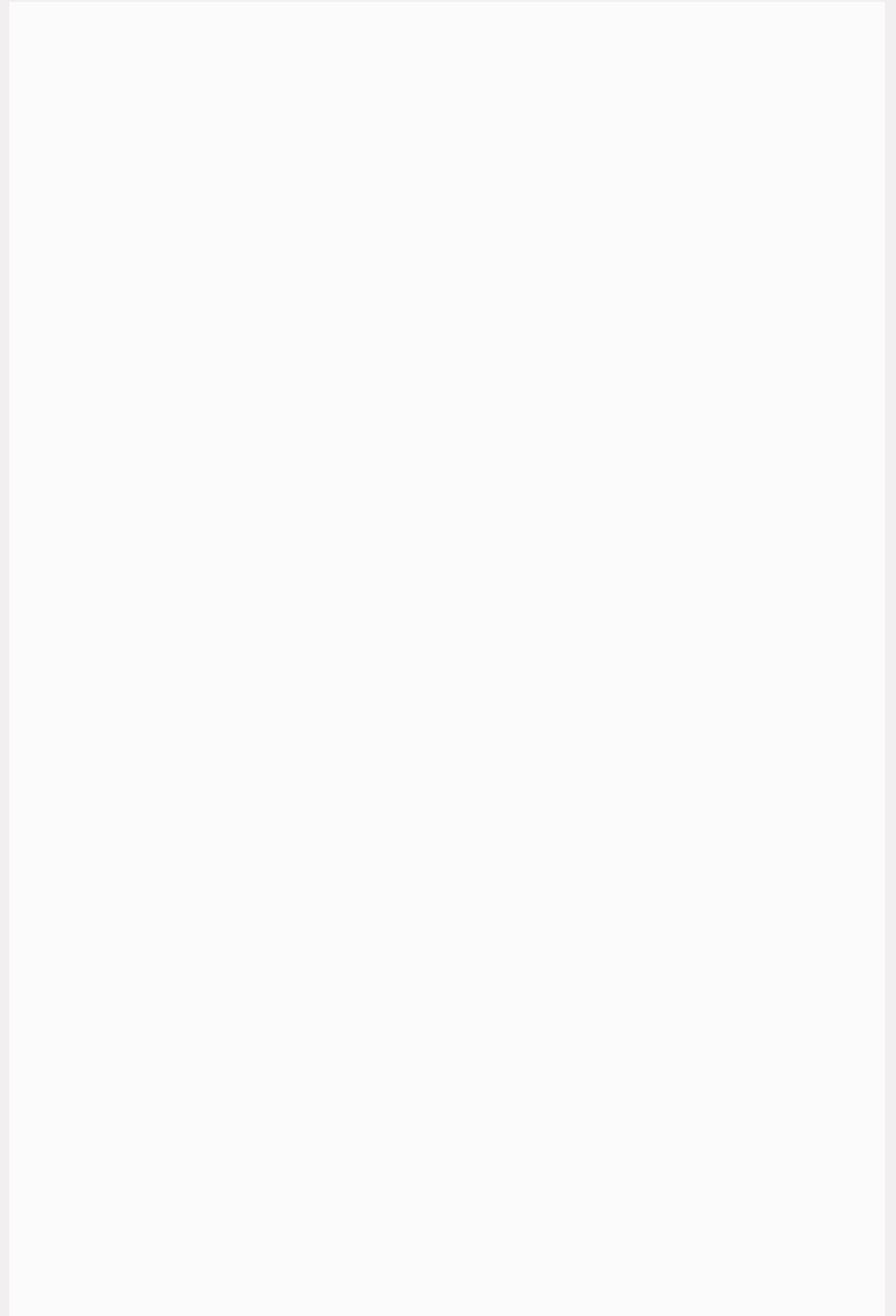
I will not be ashamed to admit what I don't know, or to call in my colleagues when their skills are needed for

\_\_\_\_\_.



## DESIGNER'S OATH

I will be especially careful in matters of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_. It is my professional calling to \_\_\_\_\_, but it may also be within my power to \_\_\_\_\_; this awesome responsibility must be faced with great humbleness and awareness of my own shortcomings.





## DESIGNER'S OATH

I will remember that I do not design for a \_\_\_\_\_ or a \_\_\_\_\_, but a human being, whose choices may affect the person's family and economic stability. My responsibility includes these related problems, if I am to design adequately for \_\_\_\_\_.

I will prevent \_\_\_\_\_ whenever I can, for prevention is preferable to reaction.



## DESIGNER'S OATH

I will remember that I remain a member of \_\_\_\_\_, with special obligations to all my fellow human beings, those of sound of mind and body as well as the infirm.

If I do not violate this oath, may I enjoy \_\_\_\_\_, respected while I live and remembered with affection thereafter. May I always act so as to preserve the finest traditions of my calling, and may I long experience the joy of \_\_\_\_\_ for those who \_\_\_\_\_.



DESIGNER'S OATH

## The Modern Hippocratic Oath

**The Modern Hippocratic Oath was written in 1964 and is used to swear in many clinicians today. The optional Designer's Oath templates are based on this. If you need inspiration to write your own Designer's Oath, take a look at this!**

I swear to fulfill, to the best of my ability and judgment, this covenant: I will respect the hard-won scientific gains of those physicians in whose steps I walk, and gladly share such knowledge as is mine with those who are to follow.

I will apply, for the benefit of the sick, all measures [that] are required, avoiding those twin traps of overtreatment and therapeutic nihilism.

I will remember that there is art to medicine as well as science, and that warmth, sympathy, and understanding may outweigh the surgeon's knife or the chemist's drug.

I will not be ashamed to say "I know not," nor will I fail to call in my colleagues when the skills of another are needed for a patient's recovery.

I will respect the privacy of my patients, for their problems are not disclosed to me that the world may know.

Most especially must I tread with care in matters of life and death. If it is given me to save a life, all thanks. But it may also be within my power to take a life; this awesome responsibility must be faced with great humbleness and awareness of my own frailty. Above all, I must not play at God.

I will remember that I do not treat a fever chart, a cancerous growth, but a sick human being, whose illness may affect the person's family and economic stability. My responsibility includes these related problems, if I am to care adequately for the sick.

I will prevent disease whenever I can, for prevention is preferable to cure.

I will remember that I remain a member of society, with special obligations to all my fellow human beings, those sound of mind and body as well as the infirm.

If I do not violate this oath, may I enjoy life and art, respected while I live and remembered with affection thereafter. May I always act so as to preserve the finest traditions of my calling and may I long experience the joy of healing those who seek my help.