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## A Tool or a Peer: An Analysis of Industrial Design Seniors' Utilization of Artificial Intelligence Tools

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The use and impact of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Industrial Design have increased. Researchers have shown that it will become increasingly important to assist designers in learning how to collaborate effectively using AI tools. Additionally, others have explored how AI promotes divergent thinking and facilitates the examination of broader problem and solution spaces. In this study, semi-structured interviews were conducted with ten senior students from an industrial design department in Izmir, Türkiye. The interview guide included questions about the AI tools used in their design process, the phases of the design process in which these tools were employed, and the advantages and disadvantages of their use. The students were also asked about their views on the ownership of the final design outcome and how AI tools might shape the future of industrial design as a profession. Data were analyzed using thematic analysis. The most significant finding was that the students were aware of AI technology's limitations and chose to use it primarily for ideation and visualization. They preferred not to relinquish control over their design process. Some of the major disadvantages mentioned included a loss of originality, ethical dilemmas, and the risk of creativity becoming blunt. Lastly, students frequently debated over the ownership of the final design outcome, based on whether AI was used only in specific phases or directly produced the design output. These concerns show that the identities, values, and ethos of design students significantly influence how often and in what ways they incorporate AI into the design process.

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