

Short bio:

Erik Spiekermann – art historian, printer, type designer (Meta, Officina, Unit, Info, Fira et al) information architect, author. Founder MetaDesign '79, FontShop '89. Honorary Royal Designer for Industry Britain 2007. TDC Medal & National German Lifetime Achievement Award 2011, etc.

Now Edenspiekermann Berlin, San Francisco, Amsterdam, Los Angeles, Singapur. Lives in Berlin, London & San Francisco. A book about his life and work “Hello I am Erik” was published by Gestalten Verlag in 2014.

Longer bio:

Erik Spiekermann is information architect, type designer and author. Two of his typefaces, FF Meta and ITC Officina, are considered to be modern classics. He founded MetaDesign (1979) and FontShop (1988). He is behind the design of well-know brands such as Audi, Bosch, VW, German Railways and Heidelberg Printing, among others; information systems for Berlin Transit and Düsseldorf Airport and for publications like The Economist. He has designed exclusive typefaces for corporations like Deutsche Bahn, Bosch, ZDF (German TV), Cisco, Mozilla and many others.

Erik was Honorary Professor at the University of the Arts in Bremen and Professor for Designing Systems at the University of the Arts in Berlin until 2013. In 2003 he received the Gerrit Noordzij Award from the Royal Academy in The Hague. In 2006 he was awarded an honorary doctorship from Pasadena Art Center. He was made an Honorary Royal Designer for Industry by the RSA in Britain in 2007 and Ambassador for the European Year of Creativity and Innovation by the European Union for 2009.

In 2011 he received the German National Design Award for Lifetime Achievement, the TDC Medal in New York; a Lifetime Award from the German Art Directors Club followed in 2013.

He was managing partner and creative director of Edenspiekermann with offices in Berlin, Amsterdam, San Francisco, Singapur and Los Angeles until June 2014 when he moved from that position to the supervisory board. He now runs galerie p98a, an experimental letterpress workshop in Berlin. Erik splits his time between Berlin and San Francisco and London, where his son Dylan lives.

A book about his life and work “Hello I am Erik” was published by Gestalten Verlag in 2014.



Pretty long bio:

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In 2011 he received the German National Design Award for Lifetime Achievement as well as the TDC Medal and the SOTA Lifetime Award; a Lifetime Award from the German Art Directors Club followed in 2013.

He has written books about type and typography, starting with »Rhyme & Reason, A Typographic Novel« which came out in 1987, while the original German version appeared in 1982. His book »Stop Stealing Sheep & learn how to use type properly« was written for Adobe Press in 1993 and has been reprinted several times: 180,000 books were sold of the first two editions. A third edition came out at the end of 2013. It has also been translated into Polish, Russian, Portuguese and German.

Erik wrote 48 columns for Form, the German design magazine. Since 2008 he has had a column in Blueprint magazine. He has more than 323,000 followers on Twitter as @espiekermann and is frequently asked to contribute to books and magazines on topics from visual language to bicycles (he owns 13 of them).

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A monograph about Spiekermann's life and work "Hello, I am Erik" by Johannes Erler was published by Gestalten Verlag in 2014.