Workstations Come of Age

Workstations have come of age. Every designer dreams of them: Advances in speed, database size, and ease of use have all helped these systems to provide engineers with the assistance they need. Yet workstations still have not reached the heights their designers originally envisioned. That promise still lies ahead, and it is the journey to that dream that we examine in this special issue.

It is particularly interesting to read of the trials and tribulations of Dave Palmer and John Wisniewski in setting up a workstation center for design at Sandia National Laboratories.

What is next? Next will be new CAD algorithms that will harness the computing power of these distributed systems. Such algorithms will allow designers to take full advantage of the computing power available through high-speed networks.

Intelligent solutions have always been more inviting than brute force ones. We see examples in articles by Rolf-Dieter Fiebrich and Akira Sugimoto. Interested in buying workstations? Then read Mark Linton's article on workstation benchmarks.

We are fortunate to have Jerry Werner as the Guest Editor for this issue; he has collected an excellent compendium of articles on workstations, and we thank him. In addition to our theme articles, we also have K.L. Kodandapani and E.J. McGrath's description of a wirelist compare program for VLSI layout verification, D.K. Bhavasar's article on design for testability, and Wayne Wolf's excellent tutorial on sticks compaction. These three articles make the issue a special treat for the design automation community.

Many members of the DA community will be attending the 23rd annual ACM/IEEE Design Automation Conference, scheduled June 29-July 2 in Las Vegas, Nevada. This year the DAC moves to larger quarters and features new sessions and the largest exhibit area to date, with more than 80 leading CAD/CAM manufacturers on hand to show their products.

In addition to the popular technical sessions and tutorials, this year's meeting will for the first time include new product presentations from exhibitors. Further details about both the technical program and exhibits appear in the DAC special section on pages 6-13. We invite you to examine the program and attend the conference—the "greatest show on design automation."

This issue completes my first year as editor-in-chief of D&T, and I deeply appreciate the efforts, encouragement, and comments of all involved. I look forward to continued improvements in the magazine that will make it even more useful and attractive to you, the readers. Watch for those changes in the months ahead—I look forward to them with great enthusiasm, and I'm sure you will, too.

Vishwani D. Agrawal
Editor-in-Chief

June 1986