



Brand Atlas: Branding Intelligence Made Visible

By Alina Wheeler, Joel Katz

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A company's brand is its most valuable asset. Wheeler takes the most seminal tools used by a wide variety of thought leaders and practitioners and makes the information understandable, visible, relevant, exportable and applicable. With her best-selling debut book, *Designing Brand Identity* (Wall Street Journal, Best-Seller, Spotlight 1/23/2011), now in its third edition, Alina Wheeler reinvented the marketing textbook using a straightforward style to help demystify the branding process. This new offering from Wheeler, *Brand Atlas*, builds on this user-friendly approach to aggregate and simplify the science behind branding with a unique visual teaching method suited for time-crunched professionals.

Brand Atlas follows the recent YouTube-iPhone-Pecha Kucha era trend toward fast-paced visual instruction by neglecting needless jargon and combining vivid, full-color images and easy-to-follow diagrams to break down branding principles into basic step-by-step concepts that can be immediately applied. This handy reference:

- Speaks to a broad range of stakeholders in the branding process—from CEOs to designers to brand managers
- Provides tools to integrate brand throughout the entire customer experience, build relationships based on brand, measure a brand's value, and define a brand strategy
- Contains essential information illustrated through the use of diagrams

With diagrams designed by Joel Katz, an internationally known information designer and a global authority on the visualization of complex information, *Brand Atlas* is a compact, no-nonsense guide that shows how tactical innovation in the design process is crucial to building brand assets.

More to Explore from the Book: Ten Imperatives for Branding Success



Branding is big business. For most businesses, brands represent their most valuable asset, influencing customers, prospects, investors, and employees. Companies often go through a complex internal process to identify the best branding firms to partner with -choosing from an array of global brand consultancies, design offices, or specialists in areas such as packaging, user experience, and social media.

Why do some brand initiatives just fizzle after an initial investment of capital and resources? Whether you are a consumer brand, a nonprofit, or a mid-size service business, the following imperatives ensure positive outcomes for your brand.

1. Ensure that the leadership team endorses the brand initiative and understands the process. There must be a strong mandate from the top. If the commitment to revitalize the brand is tepid, the initiative will expire, and the investment will have no return.
2. Establish clear goals and an endpoint. Why are we doing this? What are the deliverables? How will things be different at the end of the process? For example: we will have new branding guidelines to make it easier to communicate clearly and consistently about our brand to our customers and to our employees.
3. Establish clear responsibilities. Acknowledge that your investment will require company time, not just writing checks to the consultants. It's a collaborative process, and will require leadership's focus. Identify an internal person whose job it is to be the direct contact for the branding firm. They have to be a "make it happen" person with superior organizational skills, and access to the key decision makers.

4. Use a disciplined process with clear decision points and benchmarks. Agree on what the brand stands for before any creative work is done. Use a tool like the brand brief to ensure that key decision makers agree on your brand's essence, its competitive advantage, your target market, and your value proposition.

5. Stay customer centric. The best brand decisions can only be made with the customer's needs and experiences in mind. See the world through the eyes of your customers.

6. Commit to a small decision group that has the power to make the pivotal decisions that impact the brand. Do not bring in new decision-makers in the middle of the process. All decision makers must be involved and be present at all key decision points.

7. Determine if your company is truly ready to make a commitment to revitalizing your brand and implementing new brand standards. Is your company ready to invest the time, the capital and brainpower to revitalize your brand?

8. Determine how you will measure the success of this initiative. Consider benefits like employee engagement and a more effective and efficient marketing toolbox. Communicate that the brand is the most valuable resource and it's everyone's job to protect and grow that asset.

9. Use the process to build brand champions throughout your company. Launch internally first, then externally to customers. Make sure that all of your vendors have access to the new standards. Be diligent about communicating why you made these changes and what they mean. Smart organizations use the branding process to refocus stakeholders on their vision, values and mission.

10. Demonstrate—don't declare—why customers should choose you over others. Seize every opportunity to communicate your value and to differentiate your brand from others. Use the process to identify the places where you can build trust, attract new customers, and inspire customer loyalty.

The process demands a combination of investigation, strategic thinking, creativity, design excellence, and project management skills. When done right, the process can achieve remarkable results for your brand.

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Editorial Review

Review

user-friendly approach to aggregate and simplify the science behind branding essential principles of branding are broken down into basic step-by-step concepts. (Finance & Management, April 2011).

From the Inside Flap

Brands have become the global currency of success.

Countries, corporations, communities, and individuals are leveraging their brands to gain a transcendent advantage in the marketplace. Positioning a brand to be irreplaceable is the new business imperative for both public and private sectors, regardless of product, service, or size.

Brand Atlas synthesizes the most relevant brand topics for the big-picture, time-crunched professional who just wants to get up to speed on brand basics, brand oversight, and marketplace trends. Streamlined content, provocative diagrams, and quotes from brand visionaries and thought leaders make this valuable resource a new experience.

The twenty-first-century customer has a new voice, unprecedented power, and multiple platforms to drive a new brand conversation in a fiercely competitive world. To be successful, brand builders need to stick to the basics, stay calm on the rollercoaster of relentless change, and seize every opportunity to be the brand of choice.

From the Back Cover

Read it in a half hour. Refer to it forever.

Are you a big-picture person? Just want a quick overview of the most critical and relevant brand topics? If you answered yes, *Brand Atlas* is for you.

More than fifty brand topics are defined. Each one with a call to action and insightful quotes from thought leaders and brand visionaries. Compelling diagrams illuminate concepts, processes, and tools.

Alina Wheeler's first bestselling book, *Designing Brand Identity*, was a road map to implementation of the entire branding process, from research through launch. Alina Wheeler and Joel Katz created *Brand Atlas* for a new generation of time-crunched brand builders who need immediate, clear and actionable ideas.

Praise for *Designing Brand Identity*, an essential guide for the whole branding team, by Alina Wheeler:

"Writers have *The Elements of Style*. Managers have *The Effective Executive*. Chairpeople have Robert's Rules of Order. And now brand builders have *Designing Brand Identity*."

—**Marty Neumeier**, Director of Transformation, Liquid Agency, author of *The Designful Company*

"*Designing Brand Identity* is the most comprehensive, easy to understand resource for the whole branding team, advising on all aspects of implementation and best practices."

—**Dan Calista**, Founder and CEO, Vynamic

"The absolute best, most comprehensive, most successful, and most effective book to use as a reference when creating a brand and brand identity."

—*San Francisco Book Review* (January 25, 2010)

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Elizabeth Wiggins:

This book untitled Brand Atlas: Branding Intelligence Made Visible to be one of several books in which best seller in this year, this is because when you read this book you can get a lot of benefit in it. You will easily to buy this book in the book retailer or you can order it via online. The publisher on this book sells the e-book too. It makes you more readily to read this book, since you can read this book in your Smart phone. So there is no reason for you to past this reserve from your list.

Yvonne Wagner:

A lot of people always spent their particular free time to vacation or perhaps go to the outside with them family members or their friend. Do you know? Many a lot of people spent many people free time just watching TV, or even playing video games all day long. If you want to try to find a new activity that's look different you can read a book. It is really fun for you. If you enjoy the book that you read you can spent the whole day to reading a book. The book Brand Atlas: Branding Intelligence Made Visible it is extremely good to read. There are a lot of people that recommended this book. These folks were enjoying reading this book. In the event you did not have enough space to create this book you can buy typically the e-book. You can m0ore simply to read this book from a smart phone. The price is not to cover but this book features high quality.

John Guenther:

People live in this new moment of lifestyle always make an effort to and must have the free time or they will get wide range of stress from both day to day life and work. So , if we ask do people have extra time, we will say absolutely without a doubt. People is human not a robot. Then we ask again, what kind of activity are you experiencing when the spare time coming to you of course your answer will unlimited right. Then do you ever try this one, reading books. It can be your alternative inside spending your spare time, typically the book you have read is usually Brand Atlas: Branding Intelligence Made Visible.

Nicholas Buchanan:

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