

Divergence

The Schools and Systems of Human Design, Compared

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Copyright

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*Also by A. R. Sayer: The Voice on Ibiza: The Life of Ra Uru Hu
ZENO: Zeno Dickson and the Erasure of Human Design's
Teachers*

Introduction: One Transmission, Many Schools

A man on a Mediterranean island said a voice spoke to him for eight days and gave him a system. Whatever one believes about that night, the system it produced did something almost nothing else in modern spirituality has done: within a single generation it split into a whole field of competing and complementary versions, each carried by a different hand, each keeping some of the original and changing the rest. This book is the map of that field.

The companion volumes tell the first two parts of the story. *The Voice on Ibiza* follows the life of the man who founded Human Design, Ra Uru Hu, from a working life in advertising to the encounter he reported in 1987 and the twenty-four years he spent building a system from it. *ZENO* documents the other side of that founding, the early teachers written out of the official record as the system consolidated. This third book takes up what happened next: what Human Design became once it left its founder's hands.

Why a map was needed

There is no neutral account of this field, and the reason is structural. The institution that holds the original work presents a single authorized canon and draws a hard line between that canon and everything else. Each independent author, in turn, presents their own version as the one that matters. Between the institution's "authorized versus unauthorized" and each teacher's "mine is the real one," no one has simply set the versions side by side and described them accurately. A reader trying to understand the difference between Human Design and the Gene Keys, or between the canon and Quantum Human Design, has had nowhere impartial to look. This book is that place.

The need is not only intellectual. Human Design is, as of the 2020s, a large and fast-growing phenomenon with a

disillusioned wing as well as a devoted one. Millions of people have met it through an app or a social-media post and have no idea that the warm, empowering language they encountered is a deliberate revision of a much harsher original, or that the system's own founder-authorized study found large parts of it unconfirmed. A field this size deserves a sourced map, and it has not had one.

The method

The discipline here is the same as in the companion volumes, and it is worth stating plainly because it is what separates this book from the promotional literature that surrounds the subject. Each chapter keeps separate three things that are usually blurred: what the public record establishes, what an author says about their own work, and what that work claims in its own terms. Where the only evidence for a teacher's break from Ra is that teacher's own telling, it is reported as their account, not as settled fact. Sources are public and checkable. The book takes no position on whether any version of Human Design is true; its single aim is to show accurately what each one is, where it came from, and how it differs from the others.

A word on what the book reproduces. Ideas, methods, and systems are not the kind of thing copyright protects, a principle an Italian court stated explicitly in the one piece of litigation that tried to make Human Design ownable. This book therefore compares the systems freely and quotes only brief, attributed fragments of any author's text. No living author was approached for comment; the record relied on is what each has published or said in public.

What the map shows

Read across the whole field, two findings stand out, and the chapters that follow build toward them.

The first is a turn in language. The system Ra taught was deliberately confronting. It told a person they had no choice,

that the self they knew was a conditioned false self, that the work began by admitting helplessness. Almost every successful version that followed softened that. The diagnostic words that named a person's limitation were rewritten, one by one, into words that named a person's power. This is the same self-empowerment turn that reshaped the wider wellness culture, and within Human Design it can be documented term by term, which the glossary at the back of this book does.

The second is a finding about success. The versions that traveled furthest are not the ones that guarded the original most faithfully. They are the ones that changed it most freely. The institution kept the certifications and asserted the rights; a court found the system could not be owned; and the students who reframed it for a general audience won the readers, the apps, and the recognition. The proof is in the winners, and naming them is part of the work this book does.

How to read this book

The chapters that follow can be read in order or consulted singly. Each major school is given its own chapter: its author's path, what the system actually is, how and why it broke from Ra, how it works in practice, and where it stands today. Between and around them sit the connective chapters, on the lineage as a family tree, on the fault lines that divide the schools, on the legal story that opened the field, and on the cultural turn that shaped it. The comparison table near the front holds the whole field on one screen, and the glossary at the back fixes the language. A reader who wants only to know where to begin their own study should turn first to the reader's guide that follows this introduction.

What unites everything here is a single chart, calculated from a person's birth date, time, and place. That chart is the one thing every version in this book shares. Everything else,

the language, the purpose, the promises, the price, is what changed in other hands. This is the record of that change.

Where to start: a reader's guide

This reference takes no position on which version is best. What follows is simply where each path begins, so a newcomer can find the door that fits what they actually want. Every name here has a full entry in the chapters that follow, and each entry answers the same questions in the same order: where the system came from, who its author learned from, what it keeps and changes, what it claims, how it works in practice, and where it stands today.

- **You want the simplest possible start.** Begin with a free chart and a beginner-friendly app or trade book: Jenna Zoe's *My Human Design / Align*, or a general introduction like Chetan Parkyn's. Lowest barrier, plain language, no cosmology required.
- **You want the original system, unfiltered.** Go to the canon: *The Definitive Book of Human Design* (Ra Uru Hu and Lynda Bunnell) and the official Living Your Design course through the IHDS. This is the source everything else departs from.
- **You want a contemplative, inner-growth path rather than mechanics.** Start with the Gene Keys (Richard Rudd). It keeps the 64-fold structure but trades the decision-making machinery for a meditative practice.
- **You want warm, empowering, positive language.** Start with Quantum Human Design (Karen Curry Parker) or the app-era popularizers. Same chart, rewritten toward potential and growth.
- **You want it applied to work, career, and teams.** Start with BG5 (the official business line) or Erin Claire Jones's practical, decision-focused coaching.
- **You want to learn by listening.** The two biggest Human Design podcasts, Emma Dunwoody's and DayLuna's, teach the popular register in audio, and both have companion books.

- **You want the scientific and skeptical view.** Read the validation history in *The Voice on Ibiza*, then the critics: Jonah Dempcy and Robert T. Carroll.
- **You want the true history, how it began and who was written out.** That is the work this reference belongs to: *The Voice on Ibiza* tells the origin (Ra's life), *ZENO* tells the erasure (the teachers removed from the record), and *Divergence* maps where the system went next. Read in that order for the whole story.

A practical note for the genuinely new: whichever door you choose, the one thing every version shares is the chart calculated from your birth date, time, and place. Get that chart first; then pick the language that speaks to you.

The systems at a glance

The whole field on one screen. Each row is a version of Human Design; the columns show where it stands in relation to Ra Uru Hu’s original. Full entries follow.

System	Author / holder	Origin	Relationship to Ra	Keeps	Changes or drops	Posture
Human Design (the canon)	Ra Uru Hu; Jovian Archive, IHDS	1987 encounter; 1992 book; 1997 Types	The source	The whole system	Defines the standard	Holds “authorized” vs “unauthorized”
Gene Keys	Richard Rudd	begun c. 2002; book 2011	Direct student	The 64 I Ching / genetic structure, birth calculation	Drops BodyGraph mechanics, Types, Strategy and Authority; adds Shadow, Gift, Siddhi and	Respectful divergence

System	Author / holder	Origin	Relationship to Ra	Keeps	Changes or drops the Golden Path	Posture
Quantum Human Design	Karen Curry Parker	studied from 1999; built in the 2010s	Independent student	The full mechanics, intact	Renames terms in positive language; reframes purpose toward growth	Independent, branded
Human Design (popular line)	Chetan Parkyn	early diffuser; 2009 book	Early teacher	The full canonical system	Plain-language exposition; drops the “Rave” cosmology	Estranged; litigated (Florence, 2020)
Noble Sciences /	Eleanor Haspel-	1996 entry; 1999 study;	Collaborator turned	Type and the chart	Rejects the “not-self”;	Estranged but

System	Author / holder	Origin	Relationship to Ra	Keeps	Changes or drops	Posture
Beyond Human Design	Portner	system since 2002	dissenter	skeleton	adds the Tree-of-Life four worlds and clinical material	complementary
The national schools	Saupe line and Schöber (Germany); Sandler (Austria); Beaumont (UK); Díaz (Spanish-speaking)	from 1992	Lineage teachers and translators	The canon, faithfully	Builds the organizing, software, and translation base	Faithful in doctrine; institutional postures vary
The health line (German tradition)	Martin Grassinger	from the early 1990s	Lineage teacher; by his account among the first licensed	The canon, faithfully	Develops the application to health	Within the lineage

System	Author / holder	Origin	Relationship to Ra analysts (1993)	Keeps	Changes or drops	Posture
The pre-1993 root	Zeno Dickson, Chaitanyo	before the 1993 founding	The soil the canon grew from	The original teaching	Not a divergence; the root	Erased from the official record (see <i>ZENO</i>)
The popularizers	many (Human Design for business, parenting, etc.)	post-2017 boom	Downstream	The chart and vocabulary	Strip the cosmology, soften the determinism	Mixed; drives the modern boom
BG5 (career and business)	BG5 Business Institute (official)	taught from 2005	The official business application	The chart, applied to work and teams	Adds OC16 group analysis	The institution's own offshoot
My Human Design /	Jenna Zoe	app and platform,	Second-generation	The canonical	Strips jargon; app-based	Independent, mass-market

System	Author / holder	Origin	Relationship to Ra	Keeps	Changes or drops	Posture
Align		2010s–2020s; book 2023	popularizer	chart	everyday framing	
Human Design Blueprint	Erin Claire Jones	from 2015	Popularizer (IHDS and BG5 trained, by her account)	Type, Strategy, Authority	Translates into work and decision tools	Independent, coaching
The podcast wave	Emma Dunwoody; DayLuna (Cornelius and Stiles)	podcasts from c. 2019; books 2023 and 2025	Second-generation popularizers	The canonical chart	Audio-first teaching; branded derivatives	Independent, mass-market
64keys	Nicole and Andreas Ebhart	software from 2012	Late students of Ra	The chart, applied to business	Professional consulting software outside the official line	Independent, professional market

System	Author / holder	Origin	Relationship to Ra	Keeps	Changes or drops	Posture
The critics	Jonah Dempcy; Robert T. Carroll; Praggya Beniwal	various	Outside	n/a	Reject or dispute the system	Critical; the field's boundary

How to engage each system

The table above maps the field by idea. This one maps it by access: where a newcomer actually begins, what credential (if any) the system offers, the rough cost tier, and where to find it. Cost tiers are approximate and current at the time of writing; treat them as orders of magnitude, not prices.

System	Best entry point	Credential path	Cost tier	Where to find
Human Design (canon)	<i>The Definitive Book of Human Design</i> ; the Living Your Design (LYD) course	IHDS certification on track (LYD guide, analyst, teacher)	Book: low. Courses: mid to high	ihdschool.com; jovianarchive.com
Gene Keys	<i>The Gene Keys</i> (2011); the Golden Path profile online	Gene Keys guide and ambassador programs	Book: low. Programs: mid	genekeys.com
Quantum Human Design	Curry Parker's introductory books	Quantum Human Design / Quantum Alignment System certification	Books: low. Certification: mid to high	quantumhumandesign.com
Popular	<i>Human</i>	None;	Trade	General

System line (Parkyn)	Best entry point <i>Design: Discover the Person You Were Born to Be</i> (2009)	Credential path independent, no certification	Cost tier book: low	Where to find booksellers
Noble Sciences	Haspel-Portner's published materials and recorded talks	Her own programs	Varies	nobleenergywellness.com
BG5 (business)	BG5 foundational courses	BG5 Business Institute (career and business consultant)	Mid to high	bg5businessinstitute.com
My Human Design / Align	The app; <i>Human Design</i> (Hay House, 2023)	Her own reader-certification program; app and platform	App: free to low	App stores; myhumandesign.com
Human Design Blueprint	Digital products; <i>How Do You Choose?</i> (2025)	Her own certification courses; independent	Low to mid	erinclairejones.com

System	Best entry point	Credential path	Cost tier	Where to find
The podcast wave	The Human Design Podcast (Dunwoody); the DayLuna podcast; their books (2025, 2023)	Their own trainings	Free to low	Podcast platforms; emmadunwoody.com; daylunalife.com

The Canon: Ra Uru Hu, Jovian Archive, and the IHDS

In a sentence: Human Design as Ra Uru Hu taught it and the institution preserves it, the original that every other version in this book departs from.

Every chapter in this book is measured against one thing, and this is it. The canon is Human Design as Ra Uru Hu taught it and as the institution he left behind preserves it: the original system, held after his death by Jovian Archive Corporation and taught through the International Human Design School, the school licensed to his student and co-author Lynda Bunnell in 2010.¹ To understand any of the divergences that follow, a reader has to know what they diverged from.

What the system is

At the center of Human Design is a single diagram, the BodyGraph, generated from a person's birth data. It is built by overlaying two calculations, one for the moment of birth and one for a point roughly three months before it, onto a figure of nine centers joined by channels, with sixty-four gates keyed to the sixty-four hexagrams of the I Ching. The result divides into defined parts, which are said to be consistent and reliable, and open parts, which are said to be conditioned by others. From that diagram the system derives its claims about how a person is, in its terms, designed to operate.

The synthesis behind the chart is the one the founder said he received: the I Ching supplying the gates, astrology the planetary calculation, the Hindu chakra system the centers

¹ The transfer of the IHDS to Lynda Bunnell in 2010 and the post-2011 governance are documented in *The Voice on Ibiza* (the chapters on the institutions and on Ibiza, 2011) and in the institution's own materials.

in modified form, and the Kabbalistic Tree of Life the structure of the channels, with the language of genetics and neutrino physics laid over the whole.

How it works in practice

The practical system most students learn did not arrive in 1987. By the first-hand accounts of participants, the founder introduced the four Types, with their Strategy and their Authority, in 1997, a decade after the original transmission. These are the working tools. A person is told their Type, given a Strategy for engaging with the world, and pointed to an Authority, an inner mechanism for making decisions. The instruction is to live by Strategy and Authority as an experiment and to judge by results, and the system promises that doing so consistently produces, over about seven years, a “deconditioning” from the influence of others. Most people enter through the institution’s standardized first course, Living Your Design.

Distinctive claims

Three claims set the canon apart from everything downstream. The first is that the system was received whole rather than authored, which is the claim the documentary record cannot test and the institution treats as settled. The second is that Human Design is a “science of differentiation,” a phrase that is the founder’s own name for his work and not a statement that science has validated it. The third is the most distinctive in spirit: that the system should be tested, not believed. The founder told his students, city after city, not to trust him.

The institution after the founder

When the founder died in 2011, the system passed to an estate and an institution rather than to a successor teacher. The school went to Bunnell, the governance to the founder’s widow and sons, and the rights, through a corporate structure consolidated from 2016 in a Singapore rights-

holding company, toward a single ownership that would assert exclusive worldwide control. From that point the institution defined the field by a boundary: authorized versus unauthorized, official versus imitation. Every figure in the chapters that follow stands on one side or the other of a line the canon drew. The estate's line has since extended into a digital one: by the middle of the 2020s the institution's chart platform reported more than a million registered accounts, and in 2025 it introduced an AI interface trained on the founder's recorded teaching.²

Record versus claim

The institution presents the system as a fixed and complete transmission. The documentary record, set out at length in *The Voice on Ibiza*, shows instead a body of teaching assembled in datable layers across the founder's life: the transmission and first book between 1987 and 1992, the Types and Strategy and Authority in 1997, the validation work and the Dream Rave in 1999 and 2000, the health system in the early 2000s, the business application in 2005. The canon is the source, but it is a source that kept changing, which is the first and quietest divergence of all: the system diverged even from itself.³

Living Your Design, the official on-ramp

Living Your Design, universally called the LYD, is the institution's standardized first course, the on-ramp through which most students formally enter Human Design. It is not a divergence and makes no new claims; it is included here

² The AI product ("AI Ra") and the chart platform's stated account figures per the institution's own pages, jovianarchive.com and mybodygraph.com (2025-2026).

³ The datable layering of the system across the founder's life is the subject of *The Voice on Ibiza*, the architecture chapter and its account of the later elaborations.

only because it defines what “learning Human Design” officially means. For most people who go beyond an app or a single book, the LYD is the door the institution intends them to walk through, and its existence is part of why the canon retained its authority over training even as it lost the wider audience to the popularizers.⁴

The advanced curriculum after the founder

At the far end of the official training line sits the Differentiation Degree Program, the advanced curriculum that certifies its graduates in the system’s health and psychology applications, as Primary Health System practitioner and Rave Psychologist. The institution describes the program as developed with Ra Uru Hu, Alokand Díaz del Rio, and Andrea Reikl-Wolf, and Reikl-Wolf, a Vienna molecular geneticist turned analyst, is its principal teacher today; the documentary record in the companion volume shows the program was carried to completion by the two named co-developers after the founder’s death. It matters to this map for what it shows about the canon itself: the deepest official curriculum is, in material part, the work of the founder’s senior students rather than of the founder alone.⁵

⁴ Living Your Design (LYD), the IHDS entry-level course and standard on-ramp; ihdschool.com (Foundation Courses).

⁵ The Differentiation Degree Program: ihdschool.com/education-curriculum/differentiation-degree (“developed with Ra Uru Hu, Alokand Díaz and Andrea Reikl-Wolf”; dual certification; Reikl-Wolf principal teacher). Its completion after the founder’s death is documented in *ZENO*, Section E.

The Lineage Teachers and the National Schools

In a sentence: the teachers who changed nothing and built everything, the organizing, software, and national schools that turned one man's teaching into an international system.

Not every important figure changed the system. Some carried it faithfully, and in doing so built the scaffolding without which there would have been nothing for anyone else to change. The German line in particular did the unglamorous work, the organizing, the software, the national schools, that turned a man's private teaching into an international system. The founder-centered history tends to leave these people out. A complete map cannot.

Jürgen Saupe and the German foundation

The single most consequential of the lineage figures is Jürgen Saupe, who did more than any other person to make Human Design exist as an organized teaching in the world. The early chart-drawing rights and the first software trace through the German line, and the institutional machinery, including the New Sun Services organization and the first Human Design software, Erik Memmert's Neutrinos Through Windows of 1993, was built there. None of this is doctrinal divergence; the German line transmitted the canon. Its significance is structural. A system that assigns every person an individually calculated chart is unusable at scale until someone builds the apparatus to produce those charts and train those teachers, and that apparatus was largely German. Saupe died in 2002, and the chart rights he had held from 1992 passed to his family. Much of it is absent from the history most students receive, which is why Saupe is a central figure in *The Voice on Ibiza* and in *ZENO*.⁶

⁶ On Saupe's founding role, the chart-rights, and the German organizing network and software, see *The Voice on Ibiza*, the

Peter Schöber and the psychological line

Within the official tradition, the Vienna-born teacher Peter Schöber turned Human Design toward psychological application. Born in 1951, he began university studies of psychology and medicine, by his own account without completing them, met the system in 1992, and became an analyst in 1993 and a teacher in 1995. He wrote two of the earliest comprehensive German-language books on the system, and in 2013 the IHDS appointed him to head analyst and teacher training for Germany and Switzerland; the same year he founded the School of Excellence, in cooperation with the IHDS, to develop work in Human Design psychotherapy, child education, and alternative medicine.⁷ His is an extension of the canon toward the consulting room, not a break from it.

Martin Grassinger and the health line

Among the earliest of the German-speaking organizers is Martin Grassinger, present, by the community's own history, very early in the system's diffusion and active in the structures that became the national schools. By his own account he was trained personally by Ra before the system

chapters on Saupe and the Black Book and on the European network, and *ZENO*, Section D.

⁷ Peter Schöber (b. Vienna, 1951): by his own published account began studies of psychology and medicine without completing a degree; connected to Human Design since 1992, analyst from 1993, teacher from 1995; *Das Human Design System: Die Zentren* (Human Design Services, 2005) and *Das Human Design System: Typus, Strategie, Autorität* (2008); appointed by the IHDS in 2013 to head analyst and teacher training for Germany and Switzerland; founded the School of Excellence (2013) in cooperation with the IHDS; humandesignservices.de.

went public and received, in April 1993, the first license as a Human Design analyst issued anywhere, a claim that serves his own standing and is reported here as his. His documented specialization is the system's application to health, an early line of work the German community's history credits him with developing alongside Wolfgang Schubert, and he remains an active training analyst. His is faithful transmission with a specialty, not a divergence.⁸

Ilse Sendler and the Austrian archive

The Austrian national organization is also the lineage's memory. Ilse Sendler, born in Vienna in 1956, trained with Ra from 1993, an analyst from 1995 and a teacher from 2000, has directed Human Design Austria since 2001 and now operates internationally as Human Design Worldwide, running analyst training with Martin Grassinger among others. Her second role is documentary: she operates the biographical archive at ra.uru.hu, and the contracts, letters, and institutional papers her organization preserved are the spine of the documentary case set out in *ZENO*. In doctrine she is a faithful transmitter of the canon; her organization's contractual dispute with the consolidated institution, which removed Austria from its official roster, is documented in the companion volume and is part of the pattern this book maps.⁹

⁸ Martin Grassinger: the German community's history (humandesignsystem.de) on his early organizing role and the health application developed with Wolfgang Schubert; his own site (martin-grassinger.com) for the personal-training account, the April 1993 first-license claim, and the health courses; see *The Voice on Ibiza*, the Witnesses chapter, and *ZENO*, Section E.

⁹ Ilse Sendler (b. Vienna, 1956): trained by Ra from 1993, analyst from 1995, teacher from 2000, director of Human Design Austria since 2001

Alokanand Díaz and the Spanish-speaking world

The system's entire Spanish-language world runs through one voice. Alokanand Díaz del Rio, a Spaniard born in Galicia, studied with Ra Uru Hu from 1993 until the founder's death in 2011 and has been on the IHDS faculty since the school's original foundation. He translated Ra's courses and public lectures as they were given, founded *Diseño Humano Hispania*, the first official Spanish-language publisher of the system, and later co-developed the institution's advanced curriculum, the Differentiation Degree Program, with Ra and Andrea Reikl-Wolf. By his own account his courses have reached eighteen countries. Like the German line, his is transmission rather than divergence; the significance is structural, a whole language's access to the system passing through a single translator-teacher.¹⁰

Richard Beaumont and the British school

The English national line runs through Richard Beaumont, whom Ra appointed director of the United Kingdom's national organization in 2004. A magazine editor before Human Design (he co-founded the mind-body-spirit magazine *Kindred Spirit* in 1987), Beaumont is also the

(humandesigntsystem.info/en/ilse-sendler); operator of humandesignww.com (Human Design Worldwide) and of the ra.uru.hu archive, per the sites' own legal notices. Her archive's documentary role, and the roster dispute, are the subject of *ZENO*, Sections A and E.

¹⁰ Alokanand Díaz del Rio: studied with Ra from 1993; IHDS faculty since the school's foundation; founder of *Diseño Humano Hispania*; co-developer of the Differentiation Degree Program (ihdschool.com/education-curriculum/differentiation-degree). His own bio at humandesignalokanand.com; the eighteen-country figure is his.

director of Human Design Films, the company established to film the founder's teachings, which makes him a custodian of the primary record on which every school in this book ultimately draws. He continues to run the UK school, its courses, and its associated platforms.¹¹

The early teaching circle

Among the early teachers who stayed within the lineage as faithful transmitters rather than founders of their own versions, several deserve naming. Mary Ann Winiger took her whole training live from the founder, taught within the official structure, and, by a fellow early student's account, arranged his Sedona residence around 1999; Genoa Bliven, whom the founder appointed to lead the school's teaching in America, has directed Human Design America since 2003. They belong on the map as part of the canon's human transmission, the people through whom the system actually reached new students, rather than as divergent schools.¹²

¹¹ Richard Beaumont: appointed director of the UK national organization in July 2004; director of Human Design Films Ltd; history and credentials per his own pages, humandesigncourses.com/about and human.design/about-us/richard-beaumont.

¹² Mary Ann Winiger (trained live with Ra; the Sedona arrangement is Eleanor Haspel-Portner's recollection in a recorded 2024 talk) and Genoa Bliven (head teacher for America by Ra's appointment; director of Human Design America since 2003; humandesignamerica.org); see *The Voice on Ibiza*, the Witnesses chapter.

The Root Before the Canon: Zeno and Chaitanyo

In a sentence: not a divergence but the soil, the pre-1993 teachers who carried the system to America and were later written out of its official story.

Every other chapter in this book describes something downstream of the canon, a system or a teacher that grew out of Ra Uru Hu's Human Design and changed it. This chapter describes what lies upstream. The teaching had carriers before it had an authorized American institution, and the couple who taught and published under the names Zeno and Chaitanyo are the clearest case of the people who came first and were, in the official record, written out.

The soil the canon grew from

By their own first-person account, Zeno and Chaitanyo founded the American operation of Human Design in 1993 and were among the first people licensed to teach it. They collected the founder from the airport, hosted the first American lecture in Taos in November 1993 and the first trainings that December, and were certified among the very first American analysts before that year was out. The company they formed at the founder's request, New Sun Services America, was his exclusive American representative. The system that the institution now presents as its authorized canon reached the United States through them.¹³ Zeno died in March 2020; Chaitanyo continues the practice and maintains the couple's public archive.

¹³ Zeno and Chaitanyo founded the American operation in 1993 and were among the first licensed analysts; their first-person account is published at humandesigntsystem.com/archive and is drawn on in *The Voice on Ibiza*, the transmission-to-America chapter.

This is not a divergence in the sense the rest of the book uses the word. Zeno and Chaitanyo did not build a rival system or rename the chart. They are placed in this map because a reference to the schools of Human Design that began with the canon and ignored what preceded it would repeat the very erasure the companion volume documents. The canon did not appear from nowhere. It was carried, early and at personal cost, by people the official history later recast as outsiders.

Why it belongs on the map

The full account of this erasure is the subject of *ZENO*, and it is not retold here. What belongs in this comparative map is the simple structural fact: the lineage has a root older than the institution that claims it, and the names at that root were removed from the story the institution tells. To map the divergences honestly is also to mark the source they all share, and to note that the source itself was edited. The field of competing versions documented in this book grew from a teaching whose own beginning the canon did not preserve faithfully.¹⁴

¹⁴ The erasure of the pre-1993 and early teachers from the official record is the subject of *ZENO* throughout.

Noble Sciences: Eleanor Haspel-Portner

In a sentence: the one divergence grounded in a claim about evidence, built by the psychologist who ran the system's single validation study, concluded it was incomplete, and rebuilt it.

The most consequential divergence did not come from a student who loved the system. It came from the researcher who ran the one validation study the founder ever authorized. Eleanor Haspel-Portner was, by her account, asked by Ra Uru Hu himself to put Human Design to the test, and she did, more rigorously than anyone before or since. What she found turned her from the system's would-be validator into its sharpest credentialed dissenter, and the framework she built afterward, Noble Sciences, is the one divergence grounded in a claim about evidence rather than a claim about language or spirit.

The author's path

Haspel-Portner is a clinical psychologist who came to Human Design in 1996 and went deep enough into the early system to serve as editor of the founder's seminar monographs, published under Rave Life Sciences between 2000 and 2002. In 1999 the founder, by her account bankrupt and recently estranged from his American partners, came to stay at her California home, and within days proposed that she and her husband, the physician Marvin Portner, form a legal partnership to validate Human Design scientifically. The work was carried out under a separate entity, Rave Life Sciences.¹⁵

¹⁵ Eleanor Haspel-Portner: clinical psychologist (Ph.D., University of Chicago, 1971; licensed in California); came to Human Design in 1996; editor of the Rave Life Sciences seminar monographs (2000-2002); ran the 1999 validation study under Rave Life Sciences. See *The Voice on Ibiza*, the validation-study section, and *ZENO*, Section C.

What Noble Sciences is

Noble Sciences, published over the years under the names Unified Life Sciences and later Noble Sciences, and presented as a “Beyond Human Design” body of work, keeps the parts of the system her study found held up and rebuilds the rest. It retains Type as a real distinction and the underlying chart of centers and gates. Onto that skeleton it folds the nine centers into the four “worlds” of the Kabbalistic Tree of Life, a structure she drew from her own factor analysis of the data, and adds the clinical and astrological material the founder did not have.¹⁶

How and why it diverges

The break is at the root, not the surface. Haspel-Portner rejects the founder’s central concept, the “not-self.” A person, she holds, is “always living yourself,” never a false self to be escaped; the patterns laid down in early life are real but are nurture, not a verdict. She treats Human Design as an incomplete first reading, a snapshot of roughly the first three months of a person’s development, to be completed rather than worshipped. Where the canon is a fixed transmission, hers is an unfinished science to be corrected by data.¹⁷

¹⁶ Published since under Unified Life Sciences (from c. 2002) and Noble Sciences, LLC (online by 2008), rebranded Noble Energy Wellness in the mid-2020s (nobleenergywellness.com); the centers mapped onto the four worlds of the Tree of Life per her own factor analysis. Her materials, and *The Science of Human Design* (2025), ISBN 978-1-931053-24-2.

¹⁷ Haspel-Portner, recorded talks (2024): “always living yourself”; Human Design as an incomplete first-three-months “snapshot.”

In her own words

Her verdict on the system she was hired to confirm is on the record and unsparing. Human Design, she has said, is “an incomplete, faulty, and disempowering system,” valuable but partial. The disempowerment is the heart of her objection: a framework that tells people they are helpless, she argues, gets the science backwards. It is the same word, “disempowering,” that names by its opposite the entire turn the rest of this book traces.¹⁸

How it works in practice

Where the popular schools reframe the system in warmer language, Haspel-Portner’s approach is the most explicitly analytical in the field. Her contribution grew out of statistics run on tens of thousands of cases, and her own system carries that clinical, structural character forward, organized around the Tree-of-Life mapping rather than around chart-reading scripts. She also had a direct hand in the canon itself: by her account the system’s “Dream Rave,” its account of the chart in sleep, took its workable form through her clinical knowledge of sleep architecture, which the founder lacked.¹⁹

¹⁸ Eleanor Haspel-Portner, written interview (Voyage South Carolina, September 2025): Human Design is “an incomplete, faulty, and disempowering system”; the same verdict runs through her recorded talks. Reported as her attributed verdict. See *The Voice on Ibiza*, the Witnesses chapter.

¹⁹ The Dream Rave’s development through her clinical knowledge of sleep architecture is set out in *The Voice on Ibiza*, the validation-study section.

Reception and reach

The operation was rebranded Noble Energy Wellness in the mid-2020s, and in 2025 she published a short summary volume, *The Science of Human Design*, restating the statistical case. Noble Sciences is not a mass-market system, and its audience is smaller than the popularizers' by orders of magnitude. Its importance is different in kind. It is the only version of Human Design that rests on the system's one large-scale empirical test, and its author is the single person who can say, from inside that test, exactly where the founder's teaching parted from the evidence. For a reference that takes accuracy as its discipline, that makes her account uniquely load-bearing, whatever the size of her following.

In relation to the canon

Haspel-Portner is estranged from the institution but explicitly complementary in her stated aim: she presents her work as honoring the messenger while completing the message. Her account of the founder's private conduct is her attributed recollection and is reported as such, weighed with her interest as the proponent of her own framework. What is documented beyond dispute is her closeness to the early system, the validation study and its authorship, and her later, public repudiation of the very thing she says she was brought in to prove.²⁰

²⁰ Her closeness to the early system is corroborated by her editorship of the 2002 book; her account of the founder's private conduct is her attributed recollection, weighed with her interest. See *The Voice on Ibiza*.

The Popular Line: Chetan Parkyn

In a sentence: the canonical system kept intact but stripped of its jargon, the plain-language book that put Human Design on ordinary bookshelves.

For a great many people in the English-speaking world, the first Human Design book they ever held was not the founder's. It was Chetan Parkyn's. Where Ra Uru Hu wrote in a dense private idiom for students who had already committed, Parkyn wrote the friendly general introduction that put the system on the shelf of an ordinary bookshop. He changed almost none of the mechanics. What he changed was the door.

The author's path

Parkyn was an early student and one of the first to carry Human Design into wide circulation in the English-speaking world. He came to it in the system's early period and went on to teach and write independently of the official institution, building a practice and a readership of his own rather than rising through the certification line.²¹

What his Human Design is

Parkyn's work is an exposition of Human Design, not a renaming or a restructuring of it. The BodyGraph, the nine centers, the gates and channels, the Types, the profiles, the calculation from birth data: all of it is present and faithful to the canon. His contribution is one of access. He stripped away much of the founder's idiosyncratic "Rave" vocabulary and cosmology and rendered the system in plain, warm, general-reader language, the kind a newcomer can follow without a course behind them.

²¹ Chetan Parkyn, an early teacher and diffuser of Human Design who built an independent practice; see *The Voice on Ibiza*, the chapter on dispute.

How it works in practice

In Parkyn's hands the system reads as a practical guide to self-understanding. A reader looks up their Type and learns, in ordinary words, how they are built to make decisions and engage with others; the more forbidding layers are set aside in favor of what a person can actually use. His later books extend the same approach into specific territory, with a volume devoted to the lines of the profile and another to the incarnation crosses, each written to be opened by a general reader rather than decoded by an initiate.²²

How and why it diverges

The divergence is not in the system but in its register and its independence. Parkyn kept the mechanics and discarded the gatekeeping: the cosmology, the jargon, and the authorized-teacher structure. He taught the system on his own authority, to anyone who would read, which is exactly what made his work both widely loved and, from the institution's point of view, a problem.

Posture toward the institution

Parkyn's independent success placed him outside the authorized structure, and the friction became, in time, a matter of public record. His book was the occasion for the litigation in Italy in which the institution's licensee tried to use copyright to stop the publication of his work in Italian, the case the Tribunale di Firenze decided in June 2020 by rejecting the claim and finding that the system itself could not be owned. Parkyn has written publicly of being

²² *The Book of Lines* (2012; with Alexander Roberts) and *The Book of Destinies* (New World Library, 2016; with Carola Eastwood), extending the general-reader approach to the profile lines and the incarnation crosses respectively.

“blacklisted.”²³ He is, in that sense, the clearest single illustration of the pattern this book documents: an early contributor from the open period who, as the institution consolidated, was recast as a competitor.

Reception and reach

By sales and longevity, Parkyn’s introduction was for over a decade the best-selling general entry point to Human Design, carried by a major trade publisher and translated into many languages.²⁴ Long before the apps and the social-media wave, it was his plain-language book that did the quiet work of turning a closed esoteric system into something a curious general reader could pick up, which is its own kind of winning. He remains active, reading and teaching with his wife and co-author Carola Eastwood under the banner Evolutionary Human Design.²⁵

²³ The Tribunale di Firenze decided the copyright action over Parkyn’s Italian edition in June 2020, rejecting the claim and finding the system not ownable; Chetan Parkyn, “Blacklisted,” *Osho News* (2015). See *The Voice on Ibiza*, the Florence ruling, and *ZENO*.

²⁴ *Human Design: Discover the Person You Were Born to Be* (HarperCollins UK, 2009; New World Library US, 2010; with Steve Dennis; foreword by Becky Robbins), ISBN 978-1-57731-941-2 (New World Library edition), now in numerous translations.

²⁵ His current practice, Evolutionary Human Design (evolutionaryhumandesign.com), as of 2026.

The Gene Keys: Richard Rudd

In a sentence: the same sixty-four archetypes, turned from a decision-making system into a slow contemplative practice, and the divergence that outsold the source.

Of all the students who took the system Ra Uru Hu taught and made something of their own from it, the Englishman Richard Rudd traveled the longest distance and quarreled the least. He kept the skeleton of Human Design, its sixty-four-fold structure drawn from the I Ching, and discarded almost everything else: the BodyGraph, the Types, the brisk mechanical instructions for living. In their place he built a slow, contemplative path he called the Gene Keys. It is the clearest case in this book of a divergence that became, by ordinary measures, more successful than the source.

The author's path

Rudd came to the work as a poet and a student of the I Ching before he came to it as a teacher. He studied Human Design directly with Ra, and he has never hidden the debt. By his own statement the Gene Keys “owes much to The Human Design System, which was transmitted by Ra Uru Hu.”²⁶ He began writing his own material around 2002, in the years when the founder was still teaching the deepest, most technical layers of the original system, and he worked at it for the better part of a decade before publishing.

The proximity of those early years is a matter of the school's own record. By the Gene Keys' published account, Rudd studied and taught Human Design with Ra across a seven-

²⁶ Richard Rudd / Gene Keys, “Human Design and Gene Keys,” genekeys.com: the Gene Keys “owes much to The Human Design System, which was transmitted by Ra Uru Hu.” Reported as Rudd's own characterization of the debt.

year period, from 1997 to 2004, the very years in which the founder was delivering the system's deepest layers.²⁷

What the Gene Keys is

The foundational book, *The Gene Keys: Embracing Your Higher Purpose*, appeared in 2011.²⁸ Its premise is that the sixty-four hexagrams of the I Ching, the same sixty-four that supply Human Design its gates, can each be read as a spectrum of human consciousness rather than as a fixed mechanical position. Every “key,” in Rudd’s framing, runs from a low frequency he calls the Shadow, through a middle frequency he calls the Gift, to a high frequency he calls the Siddhi. A person is not told what they are and how to act. They are invited to contemplate where, on each of these spectrums, their life is currently being lived, and to let attention alone do the work of moving it upward.

This is the heart of the divergence. Human Design is a system of decision: it gives a person a Type, a Strategy, and an Authority, and tells them how to choose. The Gene Keys is a system of contemplation: it gives a person a set of archetypes to sit with over years and trusts that understanding, not instruction, produces change.

²⁷ “During a 7-year period between 1997 and 2004 Richard Rudd studied and taught the Human Design System with founder Ra Uru Hu”: Gene Keys, “Integral Human Design,” genekeys.com.

²⁸ *Gene Keys* (first edition, Gene Keys Publishing, 2011); trade edition *The Gene Keys: Embracing Your Higher Purpose* (London: Watkins, 2013), ISBN 978-1-78028-542-9; special anniversary edition (Watkins, 2024). Rudd has stated he began the work around 2002.

The Golden Path

Rudd organized the practice into three sequences, gathered under the name the Golden Path. The Activation Sequence works with the four prime Gene Keys drawn from a person's chart and is presented as the foundation, the discovery of one's "genius." The Venus Sequence turns to the emotional and relational life, tracing the patterns a person learned in childhood and carries into love. The Pearl Sequence addresses vocation and prosperity, the life of work and contribution. Read together, the three are offered as a single unfolding journey rather than a reference to be consulted.²⁹

How it works in practice

A reader does not "get a Gene Keys reading" in the way one gets a Human Design chart read back to them in an afternoon. The practice is designed to be slow. A person takes a single key, learns its Shadow, its Gift, and its Siddhi, and then lives with it, watching for it in daily life over weeks before moving on. Rudd calls this "contemplation," and distinguishes it sharply from study: the point is not to accumulate information about oneself but to let a sustained, gentle attention change the frequency at which one lives. Where the founder timed his system's effect in a precise seven years of deconditioning, Rudd offers no schedule at all, only the promise that the keys reveal themselves to a patient reader in their own time.

How and why it diverges

The break from Ra is total in method and partial in material. Rudd keeps the raw architecture, the sixty-four gates and

²⁹ The Golden Path (the Activation, Venus, and Pearl sequences) is set out in the Gene Keys book and on the Gene Keys platform (genekeys.com/golden-path), where the school's own taglines are "Discover your Genius," "Open your Heart," and "Liberate your Prosperity" respectively.

the astrological calculation that assigns them, and abandons the apparatus the founder spent his later life building: the Types, the centers as a practical diagnostic, the language of mechanics and “no choice.” He also abandons the founder’s register. Where Ra was confronting, deterministic, and deliberately abrasive, telling students they were helpless and that life was something that happened to them, Rudd is gentle, developmental, and hopeful, offering a ladder from Shadow to Siddhi that a person climbs by their own contemplative effort. The same raw symbols, read in an entirely different key.

In relation to the canon

Rudd is the rare early figure the institution has not come into open conflict with, and the reason is partly that he never claimed to be teaching Human Design. He renamed everything, built a separate vocabulary, and presented the Gene Keys as a distinct evolution rather than a corrected version of the original. When Ra died in 2011, Rudd marked it not with a dispute but with an elegy, “The Passing of Hu,” one of the few pieces of writing in the whole field that treats the founder as a man rather than a brand.³⁰

The bridge between the two systems has since been formalized. Integral Human Design, developed by the Vienna analysts Werner and Laura Pitzal in cooperation with Rudd, reads the same chart through both vocabularies, Human Design’s and the Gene Keys’, and pointedly offers no certification at all.³¹

³⁰ Richard Rudd, “The Passing of Hu,” an elegy written on Ra Uru Hu’s death in 2011; see *The Voice on Ibiza*, the Witnesses chapter.

³¹ Integral Human Design (Werner and Laura Pitzal, Vienna; integralhumandesign.net), hosted and presented on the Gene Keys platform (genekeys.com/integral-human-

Reception and reach

By the ordinary metrics of success, Rudd is the clearest winner among all of Ra's students. The Gene Keys became a best-selling book, translated into many languages, with its own publishing house, online platform, and global community of readers; a special anniversary edition followed in 2024. Rudd himself was named three times, in 2019, 2025, and 2026, to the Watkins list of the hundred most spiritually influential living people, an external recognition that no other figure in the lineage, the founder included, has received.³² He did it not by guarding the original transmission but by transforming it, which is the pattern this book returns to again and again: in the field that grew from Ra Uru Hu, the students who changed the system the most are the ones who carried it the furthest.

design). The founders state they offer no certification hierarchy.

³² Richard Rudd named to Watkins' "100 Most Spiritually Influential Living People" in 2019, 2025, and 2026 (the published lists, watkinsmagazine.com); the Gene Keys is described by its publisher as a best-selling work translated into many languages. Cited as indicators of reach.

BG5: The Official Business Application

In a sentence: the institution's own extension of the chart into work, career, and teams, canon rather than divergence.

Not every extension of Human Design came from a student who left. The institution built its own, and the one that reframed the system most consequentially is BG5, the official career-and-business application. It is canon, not divergence, but it shows how the institution itself widened the chart into the workplace, and it carries a small dating puzzle worth naming.

What BG5 is

BG5, the “Base Group 5,” is the official career-and-business application of Human Design. It takes the same chart and turns it toward work: individual aptitude, team composition, and organizational analysis. The institution presents the BG5 data as having arrived in the same 1987 transmission as the rest, and the founder began teaching the business material in 2005, after which it was organized as the BG5 Business Institute, which holds the official career line today.³³

How it works in practice

BG5 operates at two scales, and this is what distinguishes it from a chart reading pointed at work. At the level of the individual, it reads a person's design for career fit: the kind of work they are built to do, the conditions under which they perform, and the decision-making they should trust on the job. At the level of the group, it treats a team as an entity

³³ The BG5 Business Institute as the official career-and-business application, the OC16 group setting, and the founder's account that the BG5 data came in the 1987 transmission: bg5business.com; see *The Voice on Ibiza*, the later-elaborations and consolidation chapters.

in its own right. Small working groups are analyzed through what the system calls the Penta, a reading of a group of roughly three to five people as a single organism with a life of its own, distinct from the individuals in it; larger organizations are read through the OC16, the corresponding analysis for entities of sixteen or more. The premise is the same one that underlies all of Human Design, that a chart predicts how an entity is built to function, applied here to companies and teams rather than only to people.³⁴

Credential and reach

BG5 is delivered through the BG5 Business Institute, which trains and certifies career and business consultants in the application and licenses the official material. It is the institution's own venture into the workplace, and its audience is the professional and consulting market rather than the general reader. It sits alongside, and predates, the independent work-and-career popularizers described later in this book, notably Erin Claire Jones, who reach a broader consumer audience with practical, decision-focused coaching that owes an unstated debt to the same idea BG5 formalized: that the chart can be pointed at work.

Outside the official line: 64keys

The business application also has an unofficial branch. The Viennese consultants Nicole and Andreas Ebhart, who came to the system in 2004 and learned from Ra on Ibiza, built a professional consulting software platform called 64keys, earlier PentaDesign, aimed at coaches, human-resources

³⁴ The BG5 individual career analysis, the Penta (small-group) and OC16 (large-organization) analyses, and the consultant certification are described in the BG5 Business Institute's own materials, bg5businessinstitute.com; the institute's own words define the Penta as what "a group of three to five people creates."

consultants, and entrepreneurs in the German-speaking market, and opened it to all users in 2016. It is the documented case of the chart pointed at business outside the institution's own BG5 line, and its existence marks the same boundary every chapter of this book keeps meeting: the official application holds the certification, not the territory.³⁵

The dating puzzle

The puzzle is in the dating. The BG5 materials carry a copyright stamped to 1992, the year of the founder's first book, although the business application itself was not taught until 2005, more than a decade later. The pattern is the same one the biography documents across the whole system: a later development presented under the date of the earliest, so that the part appears as old as the whole.³⁶

³⁵ 64keys (Nicole and Andreas Ebhart, Vienna): the founders' own history at 64keys.com (Human Design from 2004, learned from Ra on Ibiza, software from 2012, opened generally in 2016, formerly PentaDesign).

³⁶ The founder began teaching the business application in 2005; the institute's materials nonetheless carry a 1992 copyright. See *The Voice on Ibiza* (notes on the BG5 copyright dating) and *ZENO* on the back-dating pattern.

Quantum Human Design: Karen Curry Parker

In a sentence: the full Human Design chart kept exactly as it is, with every term rewritten from diagnosis into empowerment.

If the Gene Keys is the divergence that kept the least of Human Design, Quantum Human Design is the one that kept the most. The American author and teacher Karen Curry Parker did not strip the system down or rebuild its machinery. She kept all of it, the nine centers, the gates and channels, the Types, the profiles, the calculation from birth data, and changed the one thing that does not show up on the chart at all: the language. Her wager was that the same diagram, spoken in a different voice, becomes a different experience. It is the purest example in this book of the move that defines the whole self-empowerment turn.

The author's path

Curry Parker came to Human Design as an independent student rather than a member of Ra Uru Hu's inner circle. By her own account she encountered the system in 1999 and studied and taught it for more than two decades.³⁷ She wrote and taught conventional introductory Human Design material for years before she began renaming it, and the rebranding into Quantum Human Design and the Quantum Alignment System took shape across the 2010s, eventually

³⁷ Karen Curry Parker, biographical statements at quantumhumandesign.com and quantumalignmentsystem.com: encountered Human Design in 1999; creator of Quantum Human Design and the Quantum Alignment System.

organized into a certification program and a publishing line.³⁸

What Quantum Human Design is

Structurally, a Quantum Human Design chart is a Human Design chart. Nothing in the underlying mechanics is removed. What changes is every word laid over those mechanics. Curry Parker rewrites the system's vocabulary into what she calls "more empowered, more high vibrational language," a vocabulary she describes as "deliberately crafted and engineered," and recasts its purpose. Where Ra's teaching was built to confront a person, to "shock" them out of their conditioning, hers is framed as a set of tools for consciously rewriting a personal narrative toward potential and growth.³⁹

The renaming reaches the core terms. All five Types are renamed: the Manifestor becomes an Initiator, the Generator an Alchemist, the Manifesting Generator a Time Bender, the Projector an Orchestrator, and the Reflector a Calibrator.⁴⁰ The blunt diagnostic words of the canon become affirmations of capacity. The same open center that the canon describes as a site of conditioning and vulnerability becomes, in her framing, a place of wisdom

³⁸ The Quantum Human Design and Quantum Alignment System brands, certification program, and publishing line per her own materials (quantumhumandesign.com).

³⁹ Curry Parker's own account, "What is Quantum Human Design," quantumhumandesign.com: the quoted phrases ("more empowered, more high vibrational language"; "deliberately crafted and engineered") are hers, from that page; the reframing of purpose from shock toward narrative and growth is summarized from the same source.

⁴⁰ The five renamed Types per her own published materials and course pages (quantumhumandesign.com).

and receptivity. The reframing is consistent and one-directional, and it is documented term by term in this book's glossary.

How it works in practice

In practice, Quantum Human Design is delivered the way the canon is, through chart readings, courses, and a formal certification, but the reading a client receives is pitched entirely toward what is strong and possible in them rather than what is broken. A person learns their Type and Authority not as a verdict but as a “design for success,” and the practice centers on what Curry Parker calls rewriting the story a person tells about themselves. The certification program trains practitioners to deliver the system in that register, which is how the language, not just the chart, propagates.

How and why it diverges

The divergence is one of register and intention rather than mechanics, and that is precisely what makes it significant. Curry Parker demonstrated that the most contested and off-putting parts of Human Design, its determinism and its deliberately harsh diagnostic language, are detachable from its structure. Remove the confrontation, keep the chart, and the system reaches an audience the original never could. She presents the result not as a rejection of Ra's work but as its completion, a way of carrying a valuable but austere system into a form people can actually live with.

Reception and reach

By the measure of the practitioner and certification market, Curry Parker built one of the most substantial independent operations in the field: a branded system she claims as a trademark, a large catalogue of books including an encyclopedia of the renamed system, and a training pipeline that has certified a generation of teachers in the

empowerment register.⁴¹ She completed a doctorate in integrative health in the mid-2020s and now publishes as Dr. Karen Curry Parker; a wellness-focused extension of the system, Quantum Wellness, followed in 2025.⁴² Her reach is less the single mass-market product than the diffusion of a vocabulary: much of the warm, affirmative language now standard across popular Human Design traces to the turn she made explicit.

In relation to the canon

Curry Parker operates wholly outside the official institution, and the institution has not treated her departure kindly. Her claim of closeness to the early system is hers and is not corroborated by the founder's organization; what the record establishes is the documented shape of her work, a former student who differentiated her own branded system from the source and built it into an independent business. She frames it as honoring the original while completing it, and her interest as the proponent of that system is part of how her account must be read.⁴³

⁴¹ *The Encyclopedia of Quantum Human Design* (GracePoint Publishing, 2022; ISBN 978-1-951694-92-0); *Introduction to Quantum Human Design* (2020; ISBN 978-1-951694-24-1); *The Quantum Human* (2020; ISBN 978-1-951694-25-8). Her materials claim the marks as trademarks; as of mid-2026 no federal registration for them appears in the public United States trademark record.

⁴² *Quantum Wellness: Healing Your Mind, Body, and Spirit with Human Design* (Human Design Press, 2025); the doctorate per her current published bios (quantumhumandesign.com).

⁴³ Curry Parker presents Quantum Human Design as completing rather than replacing Human Design; her break from the official lineage, and her acknowledgments

characterizing Ra (“a reluctant mystic at best”), are discussed in *The Voice on Ibiza*, the Witnesses chapter.

The Popularizers and the Machines

In a sentence: the app-and-social generation that kept the chart, dropped the cosmology, and gave the system its largest audience.

The largest audience Human Design has ever had did not come to it through the canon, the Gene Keys, or any single named system. It came through phones. After roughly 2017 the system broke into the mainstream on social media and in apps, carried by a generation of teachers who learned it from books and courses rather than from Ra directly, and who repackaged it for niches: Human Design for business, for parenting, for relationships, for manifesting. As a group they keep the canonical chart and vocabulary while stripping the cosmology and softening the determinism, and they account for most of the system's modern boom. Two figures stand out by documented reach, and behind them stands a quieter lineage of software that made the whole wave possible.

Jenna Zoe and the app audience

The figure who carried Human Design furthest into a mass app audience is Jenna Zoe, creator of the My Human Design app, renamed Align in 2025, and a large online platform, with a general-audience book published by Hay House in 2023.⁴⁴ Her approach keeps the canonical chart and discards the jargon, presenting the system as accessible, everyday self-knowledge rather than an esoteric discipline; in her own framing, “Human Design is here to help you recognize your innate gifts and traits, so that you can be

⁴⁴ Jenna Zoe: creator of the My Human Design app (renamed Align: The Human Design App, 2025) and online platform (myhumandesign.com); *Human Design: The Revolutionary System That Shows You Who You Came Here to Be* (Hay House, 2023), ISBN 978-1-4019-7119-9.

who you truly came here to be.” The app is the vehicle: where the canon reached students through courses, Zoe reached a daily-use consumer audience through a phone, which is a different order of scale.

Erin Claire Jones and the coaching audience

The other front-runner by reach is Erin Claire Jones, who has taught Human Design since 2015 and, by her account, trained through both the IHDS and BG5 certifications alongside independent study. She built a coaching practice and a line of digital products, the Human Design Blueprint, around practical application at work and in relationships, and published a trade book with HarperCollins’s HarperOne imprint in 2025. She keeps the canonical Type, Strategy, and Authority and translates them into decision-making tools for a professional audience, with the press features and follower counts to match.⁴⁵

The podcast wave: Emma Dunwoody and DayLuna

The third door of the popular wave is audio. The Australian coach Emma Dunwoody built what she bills as the largest Human Design podcast, with downloads in the low millions by her own and her publisher’s count, brands her approach Transformational Human Design, and carried the audience into print with *Human Design Made Simple* (Penguin Life, 2025). The California pair Shayna Cornelius and Dana Stiles, teaching as DayLuna, built the other leading show, likewise self-reporting more than two million downloads, published

⁴⁵ Erin Claire Jones: teaching Human Design since 2015; trained, by her account in her course materials, through IHDS and BG5 certifications plus independent study; founder of the Human Design Blueprint; *How Do You Choose?* (HarperOne, 2025), ISBN 978-0-06-341277-4; press features (e.g., *Forbes*, February 8, 2019) and a large social following per her own materials and profile coverage.

Your Human Design in 2023, and train practitioners of their own. Both operations follow the pattern this chapter documents: the canonical chart kept, the register warmed, the audience met on the platform where it already listens.⁴⁶

The category

Below the named figures is a wide field of teachers who present simplified or niche-specific Human Design to large social audiences. They are treated here as a category rather than person by person, because the category, not any single account, is what changed the system's footprint. Collectively they completed the self-empowerment turn the named systems began: by the time Human Design reached a mass phone audience, the harsh, deterministic original had become, for most newcomers, a warm and affirming language of personal potential.

The machines

None of the popular wave would have been possible without software, and the software is a lineage of its own. The system was unusable at scale so long as every chart had to be computed and drawn by hand. The German collaborator Erik Memmert broke that constraint in 1993 with the first Human Design program, Neutrinos Through Windows, distributed through his company New SunWare, and the institution later sold chart software of its own. What the apps of the 2010s and 2020s added was not new calculation

⁴⁶ Emma Dunwoody: *Human Design Made Simple* (Penguin Life, 2025), ISBN 978-0-593-99450-4; "The Human Design Podcast," download figures per her site and her publisher's bio, self-reported. DayLuna (Shayna Cornelius and Dana Stiles): *Your Human Design* (Fair Winds Press, 2023), ISBN 978-0-7603-7914-1; podcast reach self-reported (daylunalife.com). Figures cited as indicators of reach, not audited totals.

but distribution: a free chart in seconds, on any phone, wrapped in friendly interpretation. The chart engine, invisible and largely uncredited, is the true infrastructure of the boom. Every version in this book, from the canon to the gentlest app, runs on the same underlying calculation, and that calculation is the one piece of the system that never diverged at all.⁴⁷

⁴⁷ Erik Memmert created the first Human Design software, Neutrinos Through Windows, in 1993, distributed through New SunWare (Augsburg; newsunware.com), which still publishes Human Design software. See *The Voice on Ibiza*, the software section. The proliferation of consumer chart apps in the 2010s and 2020s built distribution on top of that calculation.

The Critics: The Boundary of the Field

In a sentence: the voices at the field's edge who dispute not which version is right but whether the system should be believed at all.

Not everyone who took up Human Design carried it forward. Some examined it and set it down, and a map of the field is incomplete without the voices at its edge. The critics do not propose a version of the system; they dispute whether it should be believed at all. They mark the boundary this book maps, and they fall into three kinds.

The insider who left

The fullest critical treatment comes from inside. Jonah Dempcy, a longtime Human Design teacher and conference organizer, left the field and self-published *The Human Design Cult* in 2025, an account that turns the language of high-control groups on the system he had taught.⁴⁸ His is the most serious of the critiques precisely because it is informed: he knows the material from within, and his objection is not that the chart is unfamiliar but that the structure around it behaves, in his analysis, like a cult. The book is a primary document of disillusionment, the sharpest expression of the disaffected wing the system's own growth produced.

The outside skeptic

From outside the community, Human Design has drawn the standard skeptical treatment given to any unfalsifiable framework. Robert T. Carroll, author of the *Skeptic's Dictionary*, took it up in his newsletter in March 2012,

⁴⁸ Jonah Dempcy, *The Human Design Cult* (self-published, 2025), ISBN 978-1-96942-900-2; a former teacher's critical account. See *The Voice on Ibiza*, the scholarly and skeptical reception section.

reporting, in his paraphrase, the system's claim that neutrinos carry information determining a person's "unique imprinting," and treating the system as a New Age synthesis dressed in the vocabulary of physics.⁴⁹ The general reference record is blunter still: the *Wikipedia* article opens by classifying Human Design as "a pseudoscientific theory and practice," noting that its creator was an advertising executive who published under a pseudonym after a 1987 mystical experience.⁵⁰ Academic notice is sparse; the theologian J. R. Hustwit treats the system as a "transreligious movement" that fuses seven or more unrelated traditions into a single counseling instrument, cautioning that "we should be suspicious of transreligious projects as breathtaking in scope as Human Design."⁵¹

The skeptical case has two parts. The first is the absence of validation: the system borrows scientific language, neutrinos, genetics, "centers," without the empirical support that language implies, and no independent, peer-reviewed study confirms its types or its mechanics. The strongest evidence for this is not external but internal. The one large-scale study ever run under the founder's own authority, begun in 1999, validated Type as a statistical distinction, and its own lead researcher has said publicly that much of

⁴⁹ Robert T. Carroll, "Human Design...Just when you thought you'd heard it all," *The Skeptic's Dictionary Newsletter*, Vol. 11, No. 3 (March 2012), at skepdic.com/news/newsletter1103.html. A newsletter item, not a standalone *Skeptic's Dictionary* entry.

⁵⁰ "Human Design," *Wikipedia*: opening characterization as "a pseudoscientific theory and practice" (as of mid-2026), and on Krakower's advertising background, the Ra Uru Hu pseudonym, and the 1987 experience.

⁵¹ J. R. Hustwit, "Myself, Only Moreso," *Open Theology* 2, no. 1 (2016), doi:10.1515/opth-2016-0018.

the interpretive system did not hold up, a history documented in the companion volumes.⁵² The second part concerns effect rather than truth. A 2025 *Wired* feature on the system's rapid growth took as its subject the disruption that can follow when adherents reorganize their lives around the chart, warning in its title that following Human Design "might make you leave your spouse."⁵³ This criticism bears on the system's claims and consequences rather than on its lineages, and it is noted here for completeness: the outside view is that the whole field, every version in this book, rests on a framework that has not been validated.

The practitioner critic

Between the departed insider and the outside skeptic sits a third, quieter voice: the practitioner who works with the system but disputes parts of it. Praggya Beniwal is one such measured critic from within the practitioner community, the kind of reader who finds value in the chart while rejecting specific claims or the determinism around them.⁵⁴ This middle position is increasingly common, and it overlaps with the independent teachers described elsewhere in this

⁵² The 1999 validation study (Eleanor Haspel-Portner, under Rave Life Sciences) and its finding that much of the system was unconfirmed: see *The Voice on Ibiza*, the validation-study section, and *ZENO*, Section C.

⁵³ Mattha Busby, "Human Design Is Blowing Up. Following It Might Make You Leave Your Spouse," *Wired*, September 16, 2025.

⁵⁴ Praggya Beniwal, "A Critical Analysis of the Human Design System," parts 1 and 2, self-published newsletter (2023): a practicing teacher's argument that the system is at best a "protoscience." Cited, like Dempcy's book, as a self-published primary document of its author's position.

book who teach the system as a starting point to be moved beyond rather than a scripture to be preserved.

Why the critics belong

A comparative reference that mapped only the believing versions would itself be a kind of advertisement. The critics are the field's outer wall. They establish that Human Design is contested at the root, not merely interpreted differently by its adherents, and they keep this book honest about the difference between describing a system accurately and endorsing it. The aim throughout is the former. The critics are the reminder of why that distinction matters.⁵⁵

⁵⁵ The founder-authorized 1999 validation study and its finding that much of the system was unconfirmed are documented in *The Voice on Ibiza*, the validation-study section, and *ZENO*, Section C.

The Fault Lines

Set the versions of Human Design beside one another and they do not differ at random. They divide along a few consistent seams, and naming those seams is the fastest way to see what is actually at stake between the schools. Five fault lines run through the whole field.

Free will

The first and deepest is the question of choice. The canon is hard-deterministic. Ra Uru Hu taught, without hedging, that “no choice” is real, that a person lives their life out rather than choosing it, that the work begins by admitting helplessness. Almost every successful version softened this. Quantum Human Design and the app-era popularizers move the system toward agency, alignment, and conscious creation. Eleanor Haspel-Portner rejects the determinism outright, holding that a person is always choosing. The Gene Keys reframes it as a developmental spectrum a person climbs by their own contemplative effort rather than a verdict they are stuck inside. Where a version sits on free will predicts almost everything else about it.

Language and tone

The second seam is register, and it tracks the first. The canon is deliberately confronting, built to shock a person out of conditioning; its vocabulary diagnoses what is wrong. The popular schools rewrite that vocabulary into affirmation. The Gene Keys replaces mechanics with contemplative language; Quantum Human Design renames the terms toward empowerment; Parkyn keeps the substance but drops the abrasive cosmology. This is the most visible difference to a newcomer and the one the glossary in this book documents word by word.

The not-self

The third seam is the system's central diagnostic idea, and the schools handle it more differently than anything else. The not-self, the notion that a person's ordinary mind-driven self is a false self to be escaped, is kept and taught by the canon and the popularizers, softened by Curry Parker, and rejected at the root by Haspel-Portner, who holds that there is no "not-self" to escape because a person is always living themselves. A reader can place almost any version on the map by asking a single question: what does it do with the not-self?

Ownership

The fourth seam is not doctrinal but commercial, and it shaped the field's whole structure. The canon defines itself by an authorized-versus-unauthorized boundary and went to court to defend it. Every independent system in this book exists, in part, as an answer to that boundary, and the Italian court's finding that the system itself cannot be owned is what made the whole field legally possible. Where a version stands toward the institution, credited, estranged, litigated, or quietly independent, is as much a part of its identity as anything it teaches.

Received versus authored

The fifth seam is the quietest and the most fundamental. The canon's defining claim is that the system was received whole in eight days, not authored. Every divergence is implicitly a position on that claim. The Gene Keys and Quantum Human Design, by freely revising and renaming, treat the material as authored and therefore improvable. Haspel-Portner treats it as a testable hypothesis that partly failed. The popularizers treat it as raw material to be repackaged. Only the canon treats it as revelation. The moment a student picked up the system and changed it, they

had answered the founder's central claim in the only way that matters: by acting as though it could be changed.⁵⁶

⁵⁶ The canonical positions summarized here (determinism, the not-self, the received-whole claim, the ownership boundary) are documented in *The Voice on Ibiza*, the architecture and dispute chapters; the divergent positions are drawn from each school's own published materials as set out in the preceding chapters.

The Self-Empowerment Age

The single largest change to Human Design as it passed from hand to hand was not to its structure. The chart stayed the same. What changed was the meaning laid over it, and the change ran in one direction only: away from words that named a person's limitation and toward words that named a person's power. This chapter describes that turn as what it was, a cultural movement, and treats it the way the rest of the book treats everything, by showing it rather than judging it.

What the founder taught

Ra Uru Hu's register was austere and, by design, unpleasant. He told audiences they were "helpless and incompetent," that surrender meant accepting "that there is nothing that you can do," that the greatest disease was self-hatred and the only freedom was to stop living as someone else. He wore the words "no choice" on his shirt. Whatever else it was, this was not a system built to make a person feel good about themselves quickly. It asked a reader to sit with their own determination and powerlessness for years before anything lifted.

He was explicit, too, that the system was not built to flatter the individual. "The whole mechanism," he told his students, "is not for the fulfillment of individual authority; this is not part of the agenda of the totality," and he set the single self against the mass in the bluntest terms: "for every black sheep there are forces that are constantly controlling and maintaining all the sheep." His picture of the work's reach was equally unsentimental. "We are a very, very small group," he said of those who took it seriously, even as the surface expansion grew. It is difficult to imagine language

further from the affirming, you-are-already-whole register in which most newcomers now meet the system.⁵⁷

What the field made of it

That is almost the opposite of how most people meet Human Design today. The version that reaches a newcomer through an app or a post is warm, affirming, and oriented toward potential. Open centers, which the founder treated as sites of conditioning and vulnerability, are now described as places of wisdom and receptivity. Deconditioning, a grim seven-year purge in the original, becomes “coming home to yourself.” The not-self, the founder’s name for the false self, is softened or quietly dropped. The determinism is replaced by alignment and conscious creation. Term by term, a language of diagnosis became a language of empowerment, and the glossary at the back of this book records the substitutions one by one.

Why it happened

This was not a conspiracy or even a coordinated decision. It was the same self-empowerment turn that reshaped the entire wellness culture in the same years, the broad movement of mind-body-spirit material toward affirmation, agency, and the marketable promise that a person is already whole and need only align with their true nature. Human Design, arriving in that current, was reshaped by it. The

⁵⁷ Ra Uru Hu, *Rave Cosmology 6: Profile, Purpose and Function*, Lesson 9 (recorded teaching): “no blame, no fault”; “the whole mechanism... is not for the fulfillment of individual authority; this is not part of the agenda of the totality”; “for every black sheep there are forces that are constantly controlling and maintaining all the sheep”; “we are a very, very small group.” Reported in the his-account / system’s-own-terms register, as the founder’s statement, not as a claim this book adopts.

versions that adopted the empowering register reached vastly larger audiences than the canon that kept the harsh one, and reach, in a free market of ideas, selects. The gentle versions did not win because they were truer. They won because they were livable, and a livable system spreads.

What is gained and what is lost

A reference does not have to take sides to note the trade. What the turn gained is obvious: accessibility, scale, and a version of the system that a person can use without being told they are helpless. What it lost is the founder's central provocation, the claim that the work only begins when a person stops trying to feel better and faces what he insisted was fixed in them. Whether that provocation was wisdom or a flaw is exactly the kind of question this book leaves to the reader. What can be said with confidence is that the empowering version is now the dominant one, and that for most people alive today, Human Design simply is the gentle system, the harsh original having receded into the canon and the history.

The tide

The turn is not finished and shows no sign of reversing. Each new wave of teachers inherits the empowering language as the default and softens it further. This is the tide the present book exists to document accurately: not to stop it, which nothing could, but to keep on the record what the words originally meant, beside what they were changed to mean. A system whose own founder said the age of believing was over has become, in other hands, a system of belief in oneself. That is the largest divergence of all, and it is the one no single author authored.⁵⁸

⁵⁸ The founder's quoted language ("helpless and incompetent," "no choice," self-hatred as "the greatest disease") is documented in *The Voice on Ibiza*, the architecture chapter; the empowerment-era reframings are

drawn from the published materials of the schools
described in this book and catalogued in the glossary.

The Ownership Question

There is a reason this field could exist at all. A system that could be owned and locked would not have spread into a dozen competing versions; it would have stayed a single licensed product. Human Design became a field instead of a franchise because the one serious attempt to enforce its ownership failed in court, and the failure is worth understanding, because it is the legal floor under everything else in this book.

The claim

After the founder's death the institution moved to consolidate the system into a single ownership that would assert exclusive worldwide control over the teaching. The strategy used the tools of intellectual property: copyright over the materials, and trademarks over the names. For a time the early literature even advertised the system as scientifically proven and presented it as a proprietary body of knowledge with authorized and unauthorized versions. The boundary was real, and people were placed on the wrong side of it.⁵⁹

The test

The claim met its test in Italy. In June 2019 an Italian publisher, Editrice AAM Terra Nuova, issued the Italian edition of Chetan Parkyn's book. The institution's Italian licensee, Human Design Italia, with an associated party, sued to stop it, asserting exclusive Italian-language rights derived by license from Jovian Archive. The case reached the Tribunale di Firenze, in its section for business disputes, which decided it by order of June 3, 2020, and rejected the

⁵⁹ The post-2011 consolidation and the authorized-versus-unauthorized boundary are documented in *The Voice on Ibiza*, the consolidation chapter, and in *ZENO*.

claim, ordering the plaintiffs to pay costs. It found, more fundamentally than any question of who held which right, that the thing being protected was not the kind of thing copyright protects at all. Ideas, methods, and systems are not copyrightable; only the particular words an author uses to express them are. A system, as a system, cannot be owned.⁶⁰

The trademark record tells a parallel story. A 2004 United States application on the words “The Human Design System” was abandoned in 2006 when no statement of use was filed, and a 2023 refiling of the same words was abandoned in 2024. The registrations the rights-holder finally secured, in 2025, were composite brand marks, and each registered only on the condition of a disclaimer entered on the federal record: no claim is made to the exclusive right to use “Human Design” apart from the mark as shown. The institution continues to assert ownership and to hold the certification authority, but the two instruments it would need to actually close the field, copyright over the system and a trademark over its name, did not hold.⁶¹

⁶⁰ Tribunale di Firenze, Sezione specializzata in materia di Imprese, order of June 3, 2020, in case R.G. 2756/2020 (cronologico 944/2020): Human Design Italia and an associated party against Editrice AAM Terra Nuova S.r.l., over the Italian edition of Parkyn’s book. The claim was rejected and the plaintiffs ordered to pay costs; ideas, methods, and systems were held not subject to copyright, and the court further recorded that no evidence had been produced that the founder had transferred rights to the corporate owner at all. Reproduced and discussed in *ZENO*, Section G, and *The Voice on Ibiza*, the chapter on what the record contests.

⁶¹ The USPTO record for the marks over the name: “The Human Design System,” Serial 78500640, filed 2004, abandoned 2006 (no statement of use); refiled as Serial

What it made possible

This is why the field looks the way it does. Because the system itself cannot be owned, anyone is free to learn it, teach it, rename it, and build on it, provided they do not copy another author's specific text. The Gene Keys, Quantum Human Design, Parkyn's books, the apps, the coaching businesses: all of them stand on the ground the Florence ruling confirmed. The institution kept its certifications and its brand, but it could not keep the system, and the result was not one authorized teaching but a whole ecosystem of versions.

The same finding is the legal floor under this book. A comparative reference that summarizes and contrasts the systems, quoting only briefly and attributing carefully, is doing exactly what the court confirmed anyone may do: engage with ideas that no one owns. The ownership question, in other words, was not only the hinge of the field's history. It is the reason a neutral map of the field can be published at all.⁶²

98217560 in 2023, abandoned October 2024 (failure to respond to an office action); the composite registrations of 2025, "MyBodyGraph Human Design" (Reg. 7724676, March 11, 2025) and "Jovian Archive Human Design" (Reg. 7892431, August 12, 2025), each carrying the disclaimer "No claim is made to the exclusive right to use 'HUMAN DESIGN' apart from the mark as shown" (tsdr.uspto.gov). The rights-holder separately holds a registration on the mandala-and-bodygraph design image (Reg. 5797541, registered 2019); the ownership question this chapter traces concerns the system and its name, which no filing secured.

⁶² The principle that ideas and methods are not ownable underwrites this reference's method, set out in the note on method.

The Scoreboard: Who Carried It Furthest

Ra Uru Hu said his only ambition for the system was reach. “Logic crawls,” he told a student, and he wanted the work spread rather than worshipped. By that measure, his own, the question of who won is a question of documented reach, and the answer is not the institution that holds the canon. It is the students who left it.

The proof, by the clearest public metrics

Figure or system	Documented success	Metric type
Richard Rudd, Gene Keys	Named three times (2019, 2025, 2026) to Watkins’ “100 Most Spiritually Influential Living People”; a best-selling book in many languages; a durable independent institution running since 2011	External recognition and longevity
Erin Claire Jones, Human Design Blueprint	A large social following; a stated 43,000+ personalized chart guides sold across 160+ countries; features in major press; a HarperCollins trade book (2025)	Mass coaching and press
Jenna Zoe, My	One of the most	Mass-market

Figure or system	Documented success	Metric type
Human Design / Align	prominent Human Design apps, a daily-use consumer product; a large following; a Hay House book (2023)	product
Chetan Parkyn	The best-selling general introduction to Human Design for over a decade (2009), in many translations	Book sales
Karen Curry Parker, Quantum Human Design	A branded system with its own certification program and a large catalogue	Practitioner market
Emma Dunwoody and DayLuna, the podcasts	Self-reported downloads above two million each; trade books with Penguin (2025) and Quarto (2023)	Mass audio audience
The canon (Jovian / IHDS)	Asserts ownership and holds the certification authority, but a court found the system itself cannot be owned, and it has no comparable	Contested control

Figure or system	Documented success	Metric type
	mainstream consumer footprint	

The clearest winner

Two different games were won, and both deserve naming. By documented external prestige, the clearest single winner is Richard Rudd. He is the only figure in the entire lineage, the founder included, to be named, three times over, to a recognized external list of the most spiritually influential living people, and he did it by building an independent system that became a standalone bestseller rather than by guarding the original. By mass-market reach, the self-empowerment popularizers won decisively, with Erin Claire Jones and Jenna Zoe the front-runners on the metrics that can be counted.

What the scoreboard proves

The pattern is the real finding, and it is the centerpiece of this book. The people who carried Human Design furthest are not the keepers of the canon but the students who reframed it for self-empowerment and took it to the public. The institution asserted ownership of the system; a court found the system could not be owned. The proof is in the winners, because a field this full of thriving, independent versions is exactly what an unenforceable claim looks like.

There is a deeper irony in it that the documentary method can note without straining. The founder built his teaching on a single demand, that no one believe him, that students test the system for themselves and carry it on their own authority. The students who did exactly that, who treated the work as theirs to change rather than a scripture to guard, are the ones who won his game. They took him at his

word, and the record shows that taking him at his word is what worked.⁶³

⁶³ Reach metrics as publicly stated by the figures and their publishers; social and client figures are self-reported and volatile, cited as indicators of reach rather than audited totals. Ra's "logic crawls" remark and his insistence that students not believe him are documented in *The Voice on Ibiza*, the Witnesses and dispute chapters. Full per-figure detail appears in the chapters above.

Section G: Genealogy, who learned from whom

The lineages are easier to hold as a tree than a list. The root is Ra Uru Hu, whose own teachers and sources are documented in *The Voice on Ibiza*; before the canon, the teaching passed through the pre-1993 figures documented in *ZENO*.

From Ra outward:

- **Direct students who built their own systems:** Richard Rudd (Gene Keys); early American teachers including Chetan Parkyn, who carried the system into wide circulation.
- **A commissioned collaborator who diverged:** Eleanor Haspel-Portner, recruited, by her account, in 1999 to test the system, who built Noble Sciences from what she found.
- **An independent student who rebranded the whole system:** Karen Curry Parker (Quantum Human Design), studying from 1999.
- **The national-school lineage:** the German organizing network around Jürgen Saupe, the psychological line of Peter Schöber, the health application developed by Martin Grassinger, the Austrian organization and archive of Ilse Sendler, the British school of Richard Beaumont, and the Spanish-language line of Alokand Díaz, within or alongside the official structures.
- **The second-generation popularizers:** Jenna Zoe and Erin Claire Jones, who learned from the canon and its books rather than from Ra directly, and carried it to mass audiences through apps, coaching, and trade books in the 2010s and 2020s; behind them the podcast teachers, Emma Dunwoody and the DayLuna pair, who did the same in audio.

Read top to bottom, the tree shows the pattern the trilogy documents: a single transmission that, within one generation, became a field of competing and complementary systems, each keeping some of the original and changing the rest.⁶⁴

⁶⁴ Each link in this tree is documented in the corresponding entry above and its notes. Where a link rests on a figure's own account (Rudd's years with Ra, Grassinger's 1993 license, Haspel-Portner's commission, Curry Parker's 1999 start, Jones's certifications), the entry says so; the American founding and the German organizing network are documented in the companion volumes from the public record.

Section J: Master glossary, and the move into the Self-Empowerment age

This glossary serves two purposes. It fixes the accurate, canonical meaning of each core term, and it documents how that term was rewritten as Human Design moved from Ra's confronting, deterministic register into the empowering language of the popular era. The shift is consistent and one-directional: away from words that diagnose what is wrong with a person and toward words that affirm what is right with them. It is, in effect, the same self-empowerment turn that reshaped the whole wellness culture, and within Human Design it is documented term by term below.

Term	Canonical meaning (Ra / IHDS)	Self-Empowerment reframe
BodyGraph	The chart of nine centers, gates, and channels, calculated from birth data	Often softened to "your chart," "your blueprint," "your energy map"
Type	One of five energy classifications (Manifestor, Generator, Manifesting Generator, Projector, Reflector)	Kept, but described aspirationally; Curry Parker renames all five (the Manifestor an Initiator, the Generator an Alchemist, the Manifesting Generator a Time Bender, the Projector an Orchestrator, the Reflector a

Term	Canonical meaning (Ra / IHDS)	Self-Empowerment reframe (Calibrator)
Strategy	The prescribed way each Type is meant to engage (to inform, to respond, to wait for the invitation, to wait a lunar cycle)	Reframed as “flow,” “alignment,” “your natural way of moving”
Authority	The reliable inner decision-making mechanism (emotional, sacral, splenic, and so on)	Reframed as “inner wisdom,” “trusting yourself,” “inner guidance”
Not-Self	The life lived from the conditioned mind; the false self that produces frustration, bitterness, anger, or disappointment	Softened to “the conditioned self” or “misalignment,” and frequently dropped entirely as too negative
Conditioning	The pressure from open centers and other people that pulls a person away from their design	Reframed gently as “what isn’t yours,” “other people’s energy”
Deconditioning	The roughly seven-year process of releasing conditioning	Reframed as “alignment,” “coming home to yourself,” “embodiment”
Open / undefined	Where a person is	Reframed as

Term	Canonical meaning (Ra / IHDS)	Self-Empowerment reframe
centers	inconsistent, conditioned, and vulnerable to amplifying others	where a person is “wise,” “empathic,” “absorbing,” a strength rather than a liability
Defined centers	Where energy is consistent and reliable	Kept, framed as “your consistent gifts”
Correct / Incorrect	Ra’s blunt binary for living as designed or not	Reframed as “aligned / out of alignment”
Experiment	Ra’s insistence that the system be tested, not believed	Kept, but softened to “practice,” “journey,” “exploration”
Profile (e.g., 5/1)	The two-line role or “costume” a person wears	Reframed as “your role,” “your purpose,” “your superpower”
Incarnation Cross	The life purpose derived from four gates	Reframed as “your life purpose” or “your theme,” with the karmic language reduced
Variable / Primary Health System	The arrows and the diet, environment, and perception prescriptions	Largely dropped by the popularizers; retained by the canon and IHDS
Determinism (“no choice”)	Ra’s hard claim that life is lived out, not chosen	Reframed toward agency, “alignment,” and conscious

Term	Canonical meaning (Ra / IHDS)	Self-Empowerment reframe creation, or quietly removed
“Homogenized world” / “the Maia”	Ra’s terms for the conditioning pressure of society and illusion	Mostly dropped as jargon
“Passenger consciousness”	Ra’s claim that the self is a passenger, not a driver	Dropped or softened; agency restored
“Rave” prefix (Rave Chart, Rave Mandala, RaveAstrology)	Ra’s branding for the system’s components	Dropped by nearly everyone outside the canon

The direction of travel is unmistakable, and it is the tide this reference exists to document accurately: the words that named a person’s limitation became words that named a person’s power. Keeping the canonical meanings on record, beside the reframings, is the only way to let a reader see both the original system and what the Self-Empowerment age made of it.

Terms the divergent systems added

The table above tracks what happened to the canon’s words. A newcomer will also meet coinages that belong to the divergent systems themselves; the principal ones are these.

Term	System	Meaning
Gene Key; Shadow / Gift / Siddhi	Gene Keys	One of the sixty-four archetypes; its low, stable, and highest frequency bands

Term	System	Meaning
Golden Path	Gene Keys	The three-sequence contemplative journey (Activation, Venus, Pearl)
Initiator / Alchemist / Time Bender / Orchestrator / Calibrator	Quantum Human Design	The five Types, renamed
Penta; OC16	BG5	The three-to-five-person small-group entity; the analysis for organizations of sixteen or more
Blueprint	Human Design Blueprint (Jones)	A personalized plain-language chart guide

Appendix: Reader's Questions

The questions readers most often ask, answered in the method of this book.

Who created Human Design?

Human Design was founded by a Canadian named Alan Robert Krakower, who took the name Ra Uru Hu. By his own account, the system was given to him over eight days on the island of Ibiza in January 1987, in an encounter he described as a meeting with a "Voice." He reported it always as something that happened to him, never asking to be believed, and the public record carries it as his account rather than as a verified event. He spent the following twenty-four years building it into books, courses, software, and an organization, and died on Ibiza in 2011.

See also: the full life in The Voice on Ibiza; the canon entry in Divergence.

Who was Ra Uru Hu?

Ra Uru Hu was the public name of Alan Robert Krakower, born in Montreal in 1948 by the system's record; the family's death notice gives 1947, a discrepancy the companion biography documents and leaves open. Before 1987 the documented record shows a working life in advertising, publishing, and media, not religion or esoteric study. By his own account the name came to him during the 1987 encounter; the part of it he used before, "Ra," he said attached to him during the years after he left Canada in 1983. He presented himself not as a guru but as a "messenger," and insisted to the end that students test the system rather than believe him.

See also: The Voice on Ibiza, throughout.

Where does Human Design come from?

By its own account, Human Design is a synthesis of four older systems: the I Ching, which supplies its sixty-four gates; astrology, which supplies the planetary calculation; the Hindu chakra system, which supplies its centers in modified form; and the Kabbalistic Tree of Life, which supplies the structure of its channels. Over this it lays the language of genetics and of neutrino physics. Several of these correspondences predate the system; the mapping of the I Ching's sixty-four hexagrams onto the sixty-four codons of the genetic code, for example, was published by others more than a decade before 1987.

See also: the sources interlude in The Voice on Ibiza.

Is Human Design scientifically proven?

No. The system calls itself a “science of differentiation,” but that phrase is its founder’s own label, not a finding that science has validated it. No independent, peer-reviewed research confirms its types or its mechanics, and standard reference works classify it as pseudoscience.⁶⁵ The most telling evidence is internal: in the one large-scale study ever run under the founder’s authority, begun in 1999 by the clinical psychologist Eleanor Haspel-Portner under the entity Rave Life Sciences, the published finding was that one element (“Type”) held up statistically, and its lead researcher has said since that much of the interpretive

⁶⁵ “Human Design,” *Wikipedia* (classified as “a pseudoscientific theory and practice,” as of mid-2026); Robert T. Carroll, *The Skeptic’s Dictionary Newsletter* (March 2012). The 1999 study is documented in *The Voice on Ibiza* and *ZENO*, Section C.

content did not. She later called the system “an incomplete, faulty, and disempowering system.” The accurate statement is that Human Design is an interpretive framework, not an established science.

See also: the validation study in The Voice on Ibiza; the critics in Divergence.

Is Human Design a cult?

The question is contested, and this reference reports the contest rather than settling it. Critics point to high-control and heavy-commercialization features in parts of the system’s institutional history: a former teacher, Jonah Dempcy, titled a 2025 book *The Human Design Cult*, and journalistic coverage, a 2025 *Wired* feature among it, has documented followers reorganizing their lives around the chart.⁶⁶ Defenders point to the founder’s repeated instruction that no one believe him and that the system be tested by personal experiment, which is the opposite of a demand for faith. Both positions are on the record. What can be documented either way is the institutional history of disputes, exclusions, and disassociations set out in the companion volumes; the label is left to the reader.

See also: the dispute chapter in The Voice on Ibiza; the critics in Divergence.

⁶⁶ Jonah Dempcy, *The Human Design Cult* (self-published, 2025); Mattha Busby, “Human Design Is Blowing Up...,” *Wired* (September 16, 2025). The institutional disputes are documented in *The Voice on Ibiza* and *ZENO*.

Why are there so many versions of Human Design?

Because, within a single generation, the people who learned the system carried it in different directions, and the law left the door open for them to do so. Some students built independent systems (Richard Rudd's Gene Keys), some rebranded it in new language (Karen Curry Parker's Quantum Human Design), some popularized it for mass audiences, and a commissioned researcher diverged after testing it. An Italian court's finding in 2020 that the system itself cannot be owned is part of why the field is now so crowded: ideas and methods are not the kind of thing copyright protects.

See also: the full map in Divergence.

Gene Keys versus Human Design: what is the difference?

The short answer: same raw material, opposite purpose. Human Design tells you how to decide; the Gene Keys gives you something to contemplate.

The Gene Keys, created by Ra's former student Richard Rudd, keeps Human Design's sixty-four-fold structure and its birth calculation but changes the purpose. Where Human Design gives a person mechanical instructions for making decisions (its "Strategy" and "Authority"), the Gene Keys asks a person to contemplate each of the sixty-four "keys" as a spectrum running from a "Shadow" through a "Gift" to a "Siddhi." It largely sets aside the chart mechanics and the Types in favor of a meditative path. In short: Human Design is a system to live by; the Gene Keys is a system to contemplate.

See also: the Gene Keys entry in Divergence.

Quantum Human Design versus traditional Human Design: what is the difference?

The short answer: identical mechanics, different language. Quantum Human Design is the same chart rewritten from confrontation into encouragement.

Quantum Human Design, created by Karen Curry Parker, keeps the full mechanical structure of Human Design intact. The chart is the same chart. What changes is the language and the intention. Curry Parker rewrites the system's vocabulary into more affirmative, "empowering" terms and reframes its purpose from shocking a person out of conditioning toward conscious growth. The difference is therefore one of register rather than mechanics: the same diagram, described in a warmer voice.

See also: the Quantum Human Design entry and the glossary in Divergence.

Can anyone own Human Design?

A court has said no. When the institution's licensee tried to use copyright to stop the publication of an independent author's book, the Tribunale di Firenze, deciding in June 2020, rejected the claim and found that the thing being protected was not the kind of thing copyright protects: ideas, methods, and systems are not copyrightable, only the particular words an author uses to express them. The institution continues to assert ownership and to hold the certification authority, but the system itself, as a system, was found not to be ownable.

See also: the Florence ruling in The Voice on Ibiza and ZENO.

What is the Not-Self in Human Design?

In the system's own terms, the "Not-Self" is the life a person lives from the conditioned mind rather than from their design: the false self that, in the canon, produces frustration, bitterness, anger, or disappointment. It is the system's central diagnostic idea and also its most contested. The popular, empowerment-era versions soften it or drop it as too negative, and the researcher who tested the system rejected it outright, holding that a person is "always living yourself." The reference keeps the canonical meaning on record beside the reframings.

See also: the not-self in The Voice on Ibiza; the glossary in Divergence.

What are the five Types in Human Design?

The system divides everyone into five energy "Types": Manifestor, Generator, Manifesting Generator, Projector, and Reflector. Each is said to have its own "Strategy," a prescribed way of engaging with the world. These Types are the practical heart of how Human Design is taught today, but the documented record shows they were not part of the original 1987 material; by first-hand accounts of participants, the founder introduced the four Types, Strategy, and Authority in 1997, a decade after the transmission.

See also: the architecture chapter in The Voice on Ibiza.

What are Strategy and Authority?

Strategy and Authority are the two practical instructions at the center of how Human Design is used. "Strategy" is the way each Type is meant to engage with the world (for

example, to respond, or to wait for an invitation). “Authority” is the reliable inner mechanism the system says a person should use to make decisions, located in one of the defined centers. The founder framed living by Strategy and Authority as an experiment to be tested, not a doctrine to be believed. Both were introduced into the system in 1997.

See also: the architecture chapter in The Voice on Ibiza.

What does “deconditioning” mean?

In the canon, “deconditioning” is the process of releasing the influence of other people and the surrounding world so a person can live from their own design. The founder gave it a timeline, saying it took roughly seven years. The empowerment-era versions tend to rename it in gentler language, as “alignment” or “coming home to yourself.” The underlying idea is the same: a movement away from a conditioned self toward a designed one.

See also: the glossary in Divergence.

Who are the most influential Human Design teachers today?

By documented reach, the figures who carried the system furthest are not the keepers of the original canon but the students who reframed it. Richard Rudd (Gene Keys) is the only one in the lineage named, three times over, to a recognized external list of the most spiritually influential living people. The largest mainstream audiences belong to the self-empowerment popularizers, among them Erin Claire Jones and Jenna Zoe, who took the system to coaching and app audiences in the hundreds of thousands, and the podcast teachers Emma Dunwoody and DayLuna, whose

shows self-report downloads in the millions. The institution holds the certifications; the students hold the audience.

See also: the scoreboard in Divergence.

Is Human Design the same as astrology?

No, though it uses astrology as one of its inputs. Astrology interprets the positions of the planets directly. Human Design takes the planetary calculation as raw data and feeds it through its own apparatus, the I Ching gates, the centers, and the channels, to produce a different kind of chart, the “BodyGraph.” The founder said he came to the system with no astrological background of his own. So the two share a starting point, the moment of birth, but diverge in everything they build from it.

See also: the architecture chapter in The Voice on Ibiza.

The full, linked edition of this FAQ is free to read at thescienceofdifferentiation.com, where new questions are taken; the best become new entries.

How the Three Books Fit

This volume is one of three that follow a single history from three angles. Read together they move from origin, to erasure, to divergence.

The Voice on Ibiza: The Life of Ra Uru Hu is the origin. It reconstructs the life of the man who reported the 1987 transmission and assembled the system from it, and it dates, layer by layer, when each part of Human Design actually entered the teaching. Where this book states that a feature of the canon was added after the founding, that chronology is set out there.

ZENO: Zeno Dickson and the Erasure of Human Design's Teachers is the erasure. It documents, from contracts, filings, and the institutional record, how the early American and European teachers who carried the system in its first decade were written out of the official story. Where this book refers to the pre-1993 root and the founding generation, the documentary case is made there.

Divergence: The Schools and Systems of Human Design, Compared is the present volume: the map of what grew from the transmission once it left one pair of hands. It takes the origin and the erasure as established elsewhere and turns to the living field, comparing the systems side by side.

Each book stands alone. Together they are the archive.

Sources and Further Reading

Every claim in this book rests on publicly available material: the published books and websites of the authors described, court records, and the two companion volumes in which the underlying history is documented in full. This list gathers the principal sources by system so a reader can go to the record directly. Titles are given for identification; where a work is quoted, the quotation and its source appear in the notes to the relevant chapter.

The companion volumes

- A. R. Sayer, *The Voice on Ibiza: The Life of Ra Uru Hu* (Archive House, 2026). The dated origin of the system and its founder.
- A. R. Sayer, *ZENO: Zeno Dickson and the Erasure of Human Design's Teachers* (Archive House, 2026). The documentary history of the founding generation and its erasure.

The canon: Jovian Archive and the IHDS

- Jovian Archive Media, official texts and catalogue, jovianarchive.com.
- International Human Design School, curriculum and faculty pages, ihdschool.com and ihumandesignschool.com (Living Your Design and the professional training track).
- The BG5 Business Institute, bg5businessinstitute.com (the official business application; teaching from 2005).

The lineage teachers and the national schools

- Peter Schöber, *Das Human Design System: Die Zentren* (Human Design Services, 2005) and *Das Human Design System: Typus, Strategie, Autorität* (2008).
- Martin Grassinger, *Human Design und Gesundheit* and the health-application course materials (martin-grassinger.com).
- On Jürgen Saupe's founding organizing role, the chart rights, and the German-language network and software, see *The Voice on Ibiza* and *ZENO* and the sources cited there.
- Ilse Sendler, Human Design Austria / Human Design Worldwide (humandesignww.com) and the ra.uru.hu archive.

- Alokand Díaz del Rio, humandesignalokanand.com and Diseño Humano Hispania (humandesignhispania.com).
- Richard Beaumont, the UK school (humandesigncourses.com; human.design) and Human Design Films.
- 64keys (Nicole and Andreas Ehbart), 64keys.com, the professional consulting platform.

The Gene Keys: Richard Rudd

- Richard Rudd, *The Gene Keys: Embracing Your Higher Purpose* (Watkins, 2013).
- Gene Keys, “Human Design and Gene Keys,” and related material, genekeys.com.

Quantum Human Design: Karen Curry Parker

- Karen Curry Parker, *Understanding Human Design* (Hierophant, 2013) and the *Quantum Human Design* series (GracePoint Publishing).
- The Quantum Alignment System, published training and reference material (quantumhumandesign.com).

The popular line: Chetan Parkyn

- Chetan Parkyn, *Human Design: Discover the Person You Were Born to Be* (HarperCollins UK, 2009; New World Library US, 2010).
- Chetan Parkyn, *The Book of Lines* and *The Book of Destinies*.

Noble Sciences: Eleanor Haspel-Portner

- Eleanor Haspel-Portner, materials published under Unified Life Sciences (from c. 2002) and Noble Sciences, LLC (online by 2008), now Noble Energy Wellness (nobleenergywellness.com), and her recorded talks and interviews (2024-2025).

- Her editorship of the Rave Life Sciences seminar monographs (2000-2002) is on the printed record; see *The Voice on Ibiza*, the validation-study section.

The pre-1993 root and the American founding

- Zeno Dickson and Chaitanyo Taschler, *Human Design Revealed* (Zen Human Design, 2015); the couple's first-person archive at humandesignsystem.com/archive (Zen Human Design).

The popularizers

- Jenna Zoe, *Human Design: The Revolutionary System That Shows You Who You Came Here to Be* (Hay House, 2023); the Align app and myhumandesign.com.
- Erin Claire Jones, *How Do You Choose?* (HarperOne, 2025); the Human Design Blueprint and erinclairejones.com.
- Emma Dunwoody, *Human Design Made Simple* (Penguin Life, 2025); The Human Design Podcast (emmadunwoody.com).
- Shayna Cornelius and Dana Stiles (DayLuna), *Your Human Design* (Fair Winds Press, 2023); the DayLuna podcast (daylunalife.com).

The court record

- Tribunale di Firenze, judgment in the copyright action over the Italian edition of Parkyn's work, June 2020, holding that the Human Design System is not, as such, subject to copyright. Reproduced and discussed in *ZENO* and *The Voice on Ibiza*.

The critics

- Robert T. Carroll, “Human Design...Just when you thought you’d heard it all,” *The Skeptic’s Dictionary Newsletter* 11, no. 3 (March 2012), skepdic.com.
- Jonah Dempcy, *The Human Design Cult* (self-published, 2025).
- J. R. Hustwit, “Myself, Only Moreso: Conditions for the Possibility of Transreligious Theology,” *Open Theology* 2, no. 1 (2016).
- Mattha Busby, “Human Design Is Blowing Up. Following It Might Make You Leave Your Spouse,” *Wired*, September 16, 2025.

The complete, linked edition

- The full text of this book, with every source hyperlinked, is free to read at thescienceofdifferentiation.com.

About the Author

A. R. Sayer is an independent historian who writes on institutional history and the documentary record. The three volumes follow one story: *The Voice on Ibiza* tells the origin of the Human Design System, *ZENO* documents the erasure of its early teachers, and *Divergence* maps what the system became in other hands.