



FOUNDATIONS FOR MODERN BRANDS

In an uncertain world, a robust and resilient brand strategy is central to achieving sustainable growth.

By using a 4C framework — such as Company, Category, Competitors, and Customers — companies can design brands that are relevant to today's challenges and adaptable to a sustainable future.

As always, the right approach is the one that works for your challenges.

1. COMPANY: BRAND CORE AND FUTURE VISION

2. CATEGORY: THE COMPLEXITY OF ECOSYSTEMS

BRAND SYNTHESIS:

Discover the strategic foundations to design a brand that is:

- CONNECTED
- DISTINCTIVE
- RESPONSIVE
- RESPONSIBLE

3. COMPETITION: DIFFERENTIATION AND EXTENSION

4. CUSTOMERS: VALUE(S) BEYOND THE TRANSACTION

BRAND CORE AND FUTURE VISION

We begin by looking inwards. Conducting stakeholder interviews to gather insights, while reviewing internal documents to understand a brand's history and potential futures. This allows us to understand the current strategy and operations within the context of long-term challenges.

1. COMPANY

THE COMPLEXITY OF ECOSYSTEMS

Then we explore each brand as part of a larger, interconnected system.

Looking at a range of entities, trends, and influences — from suppliers,

distributors, retailers and partners,

to communities, groups, and regulators.

2. CATEGORY

DIFFERENTIATION AND EXTENSION

We need to view competitors as not just our rivals. They are part of the wider market ecosystem.

Understanding how competitors influence our brand, and vice versa. Making it clearer how to compete — and where there are points of difference.

3. COMPETITORS

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VALUE(S) BEYOND THE TRANSACTION

We view customers as active participants and not just end-users. They are cocreators of brand value and experience.

And as the world evolves, so do needs and preferences — a rich source of insight for a customer-centric business.

4. CUSTOMER

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BUT WHERE'S THE C FOR CULTURE?

We have not separated 'culture' into its own section. This is because we can view culture in various ways.

Culture is integrated across the framework — from subcultures and the culture of organisations, to the shared values that connect ecosystems.

? – CULTURE

EC T R B

BRINGING IT ALL TOGETHER

Through the 4Cs, we look for the links between different sources of information - using systems and brand thinking to connect the dots. Gathering different perspectives, and questioning established ways of doing business, ensures we are open to fresh thinking.

BRAND SYNTHESIS

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