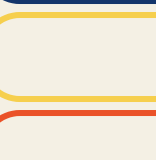


# SOCIAL DESIGN NETWORK NEWSLETTER



Projects, ideas, and learnings from the social design community.

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## EDITORIAL NOTE

Welcome to the second edition of the Social Design Network newsletter.

This issue gathers conversations around participation, collective care, transformation, and planetary responsibility.

You'll find upcoming gatherings and symposia, ongoing collaborative practices, new publications, as well as a selection of grants and open calls – invitations to contribute, exchange, and connect.

Thank you to everyone shaping this growing collective. We hope this edition brings new ideas and possibilities for what comes next.

Warm regards,

The Editors: Flavia Alice Mamefi and Zsófia Pataky

## NETWORK HIGHLIGHTS

### Transformation design: Towards an eco-social perspective Collaboration of SDN Members Margherita Vacca & Melanie Sarantou

The Kyushu University Strategic Design programme's transformation design course enters its third iteration this April. Initiated by **Dr Melanie Sarantou** in 2024, the eight-week spring course welcomes eco-social designer **Dr Margherita Vacca** (University of Florence) as co-lecturer – an exchange both lecturers, as SDN members, hope to continue.

The course develops reflexive designers capable of navigating complex socio-ecological contexts. Rather than focusing on solutions, students learn to create conditions for transformative practice through theories of change, community engagement, and context-sensitive methodologies. Drawing on Ferrando's (2020) reading of posthumanism as plural and decolonising, it moves beyond human-centred approaches toward more-than-human perspectives. This year, 22 students will analyse eco-social projects and develop systems mapping as a hybrid methodology for adaptive, sustainable change.

<https://desig.weebly.com/>

(Home page: A Transformative Collaboration)

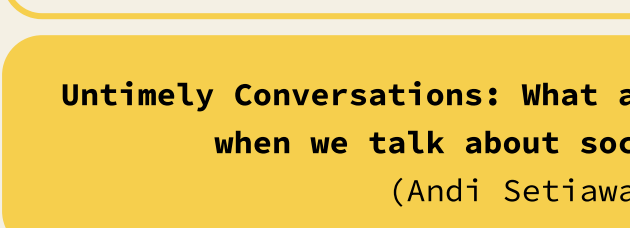


### Community (&) Design. Material, Spatial, And Social Encounters (Tom Bieling) with contributions from SDN members Seçil Uğur Yavuz and Janka Csernák

This book explores how design shapes and is shaped by communities across diverse physical and digital, urban and rural, and local and transnational contexts. Bringing together scholars and practitioners from around the world, it investigates how design fosters interaction, identity and belonging. From grassroots initiatives to global networks, COMMUNITY (&) DESIGN examines design for, in, and by communities, revealing how shared spaces, tools, and practices shape collective life – and how communities, in turn, design their own worlds. Crossing disciplines and geographies, it offers fresh insights into how design redefines what community can mean today.

Bieling, Tom / Jonas, Wolfgang & Loschivos dos Santos, Maria Cecilia (Eds.) (2026): Community (&) Design – Material, Spatial, and Social Encounters. Design Meanings 4. Milano: Mimesis International.

Link to publication: <https://mimesisinternational.com/category/design-meanings/>



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### DRS26 Conference

8–12 June, 2026 Edinburgh, United Kingdom

<https://drs2026.thedrs.org/>

### PDC: Peace, Dialogue, Coexistence

Participatory Design Conference 2026

15–19 June, Politecnico di Milano

<https://www.pdc2026.polimi.it/>

### DGTF Conference

25–26 June, 2026 Goethe University Frankfurt/Main

Registrations now open!

<https://pretix.eu/dgtf/2026/>

### 'Social Dialogues in Art & Design' 2026 Symposium

7–9 October, 2026

Moholy-Nagy University of Art and Design Budapest

Save the Date!

### Design in/for Transformations

2026 Swiss Design Network Symposium

26–27 November, Eventfabrik Bern

<https://www.designtransformations.ch/>

### Planetary Design – Nordes Conference 2027

26–28 April, 2027 Rovaniemi, Finland (Lapland)

<https://nordes.org/>

## PROJECTS & COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

### Untimely Conversations: What are we talking about when we talk about social design? (Andi Setiawan)

The Social Design Lab at the Departure of Architecture, the National University of Singapore, organized the exhibition "Assembling the Social: Acts of Caring, Nurturing, Repairing, and Imagining" from 5 Feb to 8 Mar. We are invited to condense our teaching and learning process at PolyU Social Design in Hong Kong since 2017 into a 5-metre long display, which consists of an 8-year-long extensive and intensive conversation(s) among teachers, students, researchers, activists, collaborators, and a range of community members. Here, we examine the singular capacities of these (meta-)design conversations, articulating how they might give form to our pedagogical infrastructure and orient our in-situ studio practice. The multitude of conversation threads and layers not only slows the process but also opens up our thoughts and practice, rendering them productively untimely and incomplete.

[More information](#) on the project & exhibition.



### Design Education for Social Change: Co-creating a Glossary Co-facilitated by the Social Design Network & the Desis Network

Design Education for Social Change (DESC) is a collaboration between the **DESIS Network** and the Social Design Network, launched in 2023 in the form of a **Komulus Working Group**.

As DESC expands across diverse educational, cultural, and institutional contexts, it requires a shared yet flexible vocabulary that supports plurality, practice, and critical reflection.

Currently the group's main initiative is the collective development of a **Glossary for Design Education for Social Change**, an open project that can be joined by anyone who wishes to contribute. The output of the project will be a dedicated **webpage with a constantly expanding online glossary** of related terms and project examples.

If you are interested in joining this work, please reach out to one of the **Group Coordinators** from the SDN team:

**Bori Fehér** (bori.feher@ome.hu),

**Jonathan Ventura** (jonathan.ventura@mail.huji.ac.il)



### Waterside Voices project- field visits Living Lab in Rijeka, Croatia- Janka Csernák and Borbála Marosán (MOME)

In an ongoing research collaboration between Belgian, Croatian and Hungarian field-based designer collectives that focuses on **resilient urban waterscapes and their accessibility to communities**, the team of Moholy-Nagy University of Art and Design Budapest provides the methodological framework for participatory design research and evaluation. The project applies a **Living Lab approach** to examine current relationships to urban waterscapes and develop scalable and adaptable design methods. Among three working Living Labs, this research milestone's focus was placed on the Rijeka-based Urbani Separe's community design process and interdisciplinary research embedded in eco-social citizen science methods.

Project website: <https://www.watersidevoices.eu/>



## GRANTS

### Matchmaking platform: ESS26 Project Call Resilience & Crisis

23 March 2026 – 17 June 2026 Vienna, Austria

[Registration](#) open until 17 Jun 2026

### Biesse International Design Award

Materials Across Design

Deadline: 2026, November 2

<https://www.polidesign.net/en/concorsi/biesse-international-design-award/>

### Design History Society

Decolonising Design History Grant

Applications open: **January 2027**

<https://www.designhistorysociety.org/awards/decolonising-design-history-grant>

## RESOURCES & PUBLICATIONS

### Design and Technology Education: An International Journal

Available open access:

<https://openjournals.ljmu.ac.uk/DesignTechnologyEducation/issue/view/1287>

### Reshaping Relations: Attachments in Citizens' Participatory History Making

(Noémi Zajzon)

Design Issues (2025) 41 (4):32–48.

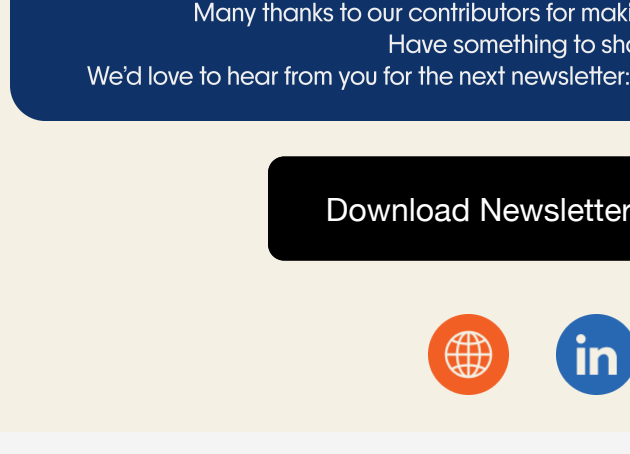
<https://direct.mit.edu/desi/article/41/4/32/136867/Reshaping-Relations-Attachments-in-Citizens>

### Spacetimes Matter

A Collection of Mapping Methodologies

Jamie-Scott Baxter / Anna Juliane Heinrich / Séverine Marguin / Vivien Sommer (eds.)

<https://www.jovis.de/en/book/9783986122522>



## CALLS FOR COLLABORATION

### THE DESIGN VILLAGE Borgo Priolo, Italy

The Design Village launches international campus in Borgo Priolo, Italy. TDV Europe is the first Indian design school to open a dedicated overseas campus in Europe.

The **Design Village** (TDV), India's pioneering new-age design institute, launched its first international campus in Italy on April 11, 2026, in the presence of key diplomatic and cultural representatives, including Lavanya Kumar, Consul General of India to Italy (Milan), Maria Porro, President Salone del Mobile, and Andrea Anastasio, Director, Italian Cultural Centre, Embassy of Italy in New Delhi.

Located at Villa Castello di Torrazzetta in Borgo Priolo, south of Milan, the campus marks a significant step in the institution's global journey and reflects a growing dialogue between Indian and European creative education ecosystems.

The campus will function as an **active academic space** from April 2026, bringing together students, practitioners, and institutions from across geographies through a series of short, intensive programmes.

TDV invites **expressions of collaboration from educators who work at the intersection of design and real-world impact** to take workshops and short courses at our Italy campus near Milano.

For more information, please reach out to:

**Mudita Pasari**, [mudita@thedesignvillage.org](mailto:mudita@thedesignvillage.org)

**Vatsal Agrawal**, [vatsal@thedesignvillage.org](mailto:vatsal@thedesignvillage.org)



### METHODOLOGIES FOR ACTION: A Collective Toolkit for Design Futures

An Open Call inviting submissions from designers, educators, researchers, and practitioners across the disciplines of architecture, urban design, landscape architecture, urban planning, and allied creative fields.

The call seeks to compile submissions towards a published Methodologies Book, a curated compendium of strategies for action, and in parallel to launch an open-access online repository where these approaches can continue to evolve as a **living, collaborative resource**.

This repository is envisioned not as a static catalog but as an **open and evolving toolbox**, one that allows methods to be transferred, adapted, and hybridized across different contexts, scales, and disciplines. Each contribution becomes a modular component within a broader ecosystem of design thinking—one that can be reassembled to address diverse forms of action.

Submission deadline: **June 26, 2026**

[More information & Submission Form](#)



## CALL FOR PAPERS

### NORDES CONFERENCE 2027

Submissions open: August 1, 2026

<https://nordes.org>

### Issue 8 (2026) DIGITAL DESIGN & BEYOND: Rethinking Critical Digital Fashion Trajectories

Deadline: May 31, 2026

<https://riviste.fupress.net/index.php/fh/announcement/view/90>

### Issue 01 – Everyday Life Research Across Disciplines International Journal of Public Culture, Art and Design

Deadline: June 31, 2026

<https://everydaylifejournal.uk/>



## OPEN POSITIONS

### W2 PROFESSORSHIP (50%) IN PROGRESSIVE DESIGN STRATEGIES IN DIGITAL MEDIA

Hochschule Trier

Application deadline: **June 21, 2026**

More information: [here](#).

Many thanks to our contributors for making this issue possible. Have something to share? We'd love to hear from you for the next newsletter: [info@socialdesignnetwork.org](mailto:info@socialdesignnetwork.org)

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