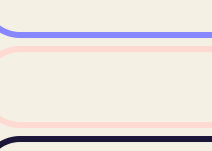


# SOCIAL DESIGN NETWORK NEWSLETTER

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



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## EDITORIAL NOTE

Dear Readers,

Welcome to the third edition of the Social Design Network Quarterly Newsletter, sharing projects, perspectives, and opportunities from across our international community.

In this issue, we look back at the SODA Symposium in Budapest, Hungary, explore community-led work through Nomadic Living Labs in India and youth co-design in Surakarta, Indonesia, and discover an interactive approach to sustainability in Bonn, Germany.

We also look ahead to our 2027 conference, *Systems at Play*, in Linz, Austria, alongside upcoming events, funding opportunities, new publications, calls for papers, and an invitation to collaborate on ethical reflection in design.

Thank you to everyone shaping this growing collective.

Warm regards,

The Editors: Flavia Alice Marneli and Katalin Vasali

## NETWORK HIGHLIGHTS

### SAVE THE DATE: System at Play Conference Designing Within, Against and Alongside

From 20–22 October 2027, the University of Arts Linz will host the next Social Design Network Conference: *Systems at Play – Designing Within, Against, and Alongside*.

What does it mean to be at play? How can we imagine and make futures together? We invite you to explore what it means to be at play with the systems we are part of: To bend defaults and cultivate curiosity as ways of thinking through uncertainties, building solidarities, and setting degrees of freedom for what might be possible amid social, ecological, and political challenges.

The conference aims to offer a space for thinking-feeling together and making collectively. We warmly welcome contributions that come with an experimental, participatory, performative, or otherwise refreshing touch.

**The Call for Proposals will be released in November 2026.**  
Submission deadline: 10 March 2027  
Website coming soon: <https://conference.socialdesignnetwork.org/>

## Social Design Network Conference

### Systems at Play

October 20–22, 2027  
University of Arts Linz

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Society-Centered Research and Innovation Through Design

13 November, 2026 Garching, Germany  
<https://www.events.tum.de/frontend/index.php?sub=281>

### Design in / for Transformations Symposium

26–27 November, 2026 Bern, Switzerland  
<https://www.designtransformations.ch/register>

### 21st International Conference on Design Principles & Practices: Design Tolerances

10–12 March, 2027 Dublin, Ireland + Online  
<https://designprinciplesandpractices.com/2027-conference>

### 6th Design History Foundation Symposium: Design and the Cultures of the Ephemeral

11–12 March, 2027 Zaragoza, Spain  
[CFP for the 6th Symposium of the Design History Foundation, 2027 | FHD](#)

### Planetary Design - Nordes Conference 2027

26–28 April, 2027 Rovaniemi, Finland (Lapland)  
<https://nordes.org/>

### EAD27 Conference: TRUST\_\_DISTRUST

3–7 May, 2027 Porto, Portugal  
<https://trust.fba.up.pt/>

### Learn X Design 2027: Crossings

8–10 September, 2027 Istanbul, Türkiye  
<https://www.learnxdesign2027.com>

### Social Design Network 2027 Conference: Systems at Play

20–22 October, 2027 University of Arts Linz, Austria  
Call for proposals opens in November 2026!  
Submission deadline: March 2027  
Website coming soon.

## PROJECTS & COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

### ‘Social Dialogues in Art & Design’ 2026 Symposium

Janka Csernák, Moholy-Nagy University of Art and Design, Budapest

Moholy-Nagy University of Art and Design hosted the international *Social Dialogues in Art and Design Symposium*, exploring how contemporary creative practices can respond to social and ecological challenges.

SDN members contributed through plenary talks, workshops, discussions, and project presentations. **Prof. Shilpa Das** explored disability-centred health design and led a workshop with **Beáta Sosity**, while **Dr. Bori Fehér** facilitated a session on community engagement in design research. **Dr. Erzsébet Hosszu** and **Borbála Marosán** presented the **D-Dance research project** through an interactive programme featuring contemporary dancers.

The ecological programme included **Dr. Flavia Marneli's** keynote on agency and urgency and her workshop on algae and mycelium, alongside **Dr. Janka Csernák's** accessible waterscapes workshop and the *Waterside Voices* exhibition and panel discussion. The three-day event brought the SDN community together with researchers, practitioners, and students, creating space for shared learning, personal connections, and future collaborations.

For further information please contact [Janka Csernák](mailto:janka@mome.hu), [csernak.janka@mome.hu](mailto:csernak.janka@mome.hu), or visit: [mome.hu](http://mome.hu)



## NOMADIC LIVING LAB by

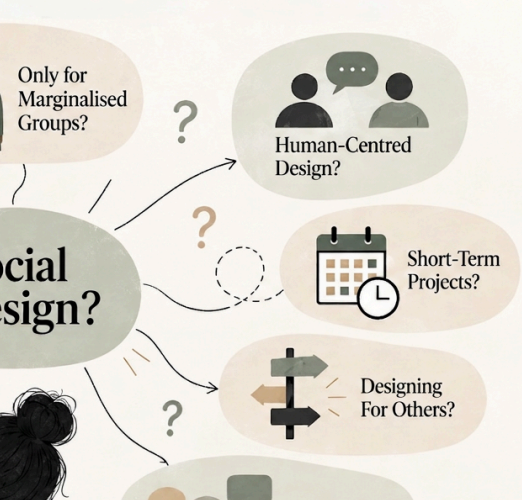
Abhishek Mohan Gupta, Professor Nilanjan Chattopadhyay, Prof. Roger Connah, Dr. Manika Walia, Yashika Munjal

Nomadic Living Labs is a practice-based initiative that brings design, indigenous knowledge and community participation together to create meaningful, sustainable solutions. Working closely with the tribal and nomadic communities of India, the lab explores craft, livelihoods, materials and cultural practices through research, co-creation and real-world projects, enabling communities to strengthen their socio-economic opportunities while preserving and evolving their knowledge systems.

For further information contact Yashika Munjal ([yashikamunjal@gmail.com](mailto:yashikamunjal@gmail.com))

# NOMADIC LIVING LAB

LEVERAGING INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE IN PRACTICE TO ENHANCE THE SOCIOECONOMIC WELL-BEING OF NOMADIC TRIBES



### Beyond tokenism: Co-designing democratic public spaces with youth by Dr Andi Setiawan & Design Culture Research Group

Initiated by our Indonesian SDN member Andi Setiawan as part of the Design and Culture Research Group at Universitas Sebelas Maret, a co-design workshop was recently hosted in collaboration with the Social Design Laboratory. The workshop brought together 25 young people from various creative communities across Surakarta in Indonesia.

The initiative addresses a critical issue: young people are rarely genuinely involved in planning the city's creative public spaces, with participation often reduced to mere tokenism. This research aims to develop a youth engagement framework that local authorities, NGOs, and community groups can adopt or adapt.

For further information contact Dr Andi Setiawan ([andisetiawan@staff.uns.ac.id](mailto:andisetiawan@staff.uns.ac.id))  
Link to Instagram: [here](https://www.instagram.com/andisetiawan)



### Optimistic Perspectives from Art, Design, and Science by Martina Fineder

In September 2026, the transform. NRW platform and its media installation “Touch/ing Transformation” launched at the Bundeskunsthalle in Bonn, Germany. Nearly 50 “Good Practices” from art, design, and science came together on three interactive touch-walls, making visible their concrete contribution to the SDGs alongside a geographic map of partners and places, and portrait films — curated using the participatory methods to map sustainability.

For further information please contact Martina Fineder, [fineder@uni-wuppertal.de](mailto:fineder@uni-wuppertal.de)

Link: <https://www.bundeskunsthalle.de/touching-transformation>



## GRANTS

### Horizon Europe / New European Bauhaus: Health and Well-being in Neighbourhoods

€15M budget (~€5M per project)  
Applications now open until **1 December, 2026**  
[View the call](#)

### Villum Foundation: Enabling Capable Citizens 2027

For projects with budgets exceeding €500,000  
Supporting disadvantaged young people's participation, education, and engagement in the green transition in Poland, Czechia, Slovakia, and Hungary  
Submission deadline: **11 January 2027**  
[View the call](#)

### Driving Urban Transitions (DUT): Call 2026

Funding for transnational research and innovation on inclusive, climate-neutral cities, including 15-minute cities and circular urban economies  
Submission deadline: **17 November 2026**  
[View the call](#)

### ZMINA: Resilience — International Co-Creation of Funds

Support to €25,000 per project, covering up to 90% of costs  
Supporting cultural co-creation and resilience, with at least one Ukrainian partner and one partner from another Creative Europe participating country  
Submission deadline: **4 December 2026**  
[View the call](#)

## RESOURCES & PUBLICATIONS

### Misunderstanding Social Design: What Isn't Social Design? — Linfu Zhang

2026.08.29. Medium Online Platform, Human Stories & Ideas  
Read the blog: <https://medium.com/@lfzcal/misunderstanding-social-design-what-isnt-social-design-5882701644ec>

### “Design Things” and Its Implications on Empowerment — Hatice Server KESDİ

2026.05.01. Design Issues (2026) 42 (2): 57–74.  
Read the article: <https://direct.mit.edu/des/article-abstract/42/2/57/17598/Design-Things-and-its-Implications-on-Empowerment>  
2025.12.22. Taylor & Francis Online  
Read the article: [Direct design empowerment framework \(dDEF\): the empowerment of participants in participatory design: CoDesign: Vol 0, No 0 - Get Access](#)

### Temes de Disseny — Special Issue: Design Practices Transitioning to Systemic Worldviews — Marzia Mortati, Laurene Vaughan, Isabel Ordóñez

2026 Temes de Disseny  
Read the special issue: <https://raco.cat/index.php/Temes/issue/view/100000000000048>



## CALL FOR COLLABORATION

### Ethical Reflection in Design by Hilikka Lyden

Collaborators are invited to test and improve a prototype tool for ethical reflection in design projects and processes, particularly those involving potentially vulnerable groups or individuals. Collaboration could take the form of externally funded joint projects with Laurea University of Applied Sciences (Finland), research and publication, or feedback on the tool.

For more information, please reach out to:  
**Hilikka Lyden:** [hilikka.lyden@laurea.fi](mailto:hilikka.lyden@laurea.fi)



## CALL FOR PAPERS

### Learn X Design 2027: Crossings

Exploring perspectives, challenges and responsibilities in design education.  
8–10 September, 2027 Istanbul, Türkiye  
**Deadline: Dec 11, 2026**  
<https://www.learnxdesign2027.com>

### Journal of Design Service and Social Innovation (JDSI)

Exploring sustainable design, ethics and wicked problems in social innovation.  
**Deadline: Rolling until 31 December, 2026**  
<https://michelangelo-scholar.com/JDSI>

### Social Design Network Conference 2027

Exploring collective design, care and playful ways of reimagining systems  
20–22 October, 2027 Linz, Austria  
Call for proposals opens in November 2026  
**Deadline: March 2027**  
Website coming soon

### Research Through Design (RTD) Roams 2027

Sharing practice-based design research through local encounters and collective critique.  
2027 York, UK (dates TBC); 6–8 July, 2027 Melbourne / Naarm, Australia; week commencing 26 July, 2027 Tokyo, Japan  
Call for contributions launches in **autumn 2026**  
<https://researchthroughdesign.org/announcing-rttd-roams/>

### Design Principles & Practices 2027: Design Tolerances

Exploring inclusion, ecological responsibility, and resilient design practices. 10–12 March 2027, Dublin, Ireland + Online  
**Deadline: 9 December 2026**  
<https://designprinciplesandpractices.com/2027-conference>

### Oxford Intersections: Disability, Power, and Knowledge

Exploring disability, power, and lived experience through care, creative expression, and social justice.  
**Call for contributions:** Authors, section editors, and reviewers welcome  
<https://academic.oup.com/oxford-intersections/pages/disability-power-and-knowledge>



## OPEN POSITIONS

### TEACHING POST — DESIGN 2: PROJECT-LEADER COMMUNICATION-INTERACTION-SERVICES (MA ECO-SOCIAL DESIGN)

**Free University of Bozen-Bolzano, Italy**  
Application deadline: Please check the official call  
More information: [Teaching post — a.y. 2026/2027 \(MA ECO\)](#)

### RESEARCH CONTRACT — DESIGN, ARCHITECTURAL TECHNOLOGY AND BUILT ENVIRONMENT MANAGEMENT

**Free University of Bozen-Bolzano, Faculty of Design and Art, Italy**  
Application deadline: 27 October 2026, 12:00 noon CET  
More information: [Research contract — TASC-ALP and Participatory Design](#)

Many thanks to our contributors for making this issue possible. Have you 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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