

Design Day

2022

International

27 April

Suspended
in
transition



suspended in transition

international design day 2022

The theme of International Design Day 2022 is ‘Suspended in Transition’. The old ways are no longer fit for purpose but the new ways have yet to be created. We find ourselves in this in-between, “liminal” space. It feels urgent to act.

Rather than succumb to the urge to simply move forward, this is an opportunity to sit with the discomfort of the unknown and allow for considered regeneration and growth. The pandemic and its related crises have shown how some phenomena of our time will not end definitively, but will instead usher in a series of uncomfortable and unclear states and situations. We can choose to respond to this lack of clarity with confusion and frustration or embrace the opportunity to explore alternative futures, rethinking everything from the ground-up. It feels urgent to act...somehow. But how? Which designs will matter in the near or far futures? Which designers' voices need to appear? Being both “suspended” and “in transition” can cause anxiety but also, potentially, growth. We wonder if it is from this blurry border zone between things— full of contradictions, tensions, and undeniable interconnections—that staying suspended in transition might be the best place ever to be: open and receptive to generative design possibilities?

International Design Day 2022: Suspended in Transition asks designers to step out of their comfort zone, to accept moments of partial-knowing, not-defining, and not designing-yet, to reflect from a place of discomfort and flux at the same time.

- In this privileged space of radical change-making, how should the design profession (re)define itself?
- Evolution can be painful, how can designers embrace the opportunity to imagine alternative futures?
- Designers as gatekeepers, practicing design refusal: We know what can be done, but do we know if it *should* be done?

2022 ACTIONS

Here are some kickstart ideas for *Designers*.

01 Discuss and share ideas on social media

We encourage you to post about issues relating to the theme on social media (Twitter, Facebook, Instagram), including how you have adapted professionally to all the changes taking place, how it is increasingly becoming clear that design can have unintended negative impacts (environmental degradation, propagation of misinformation, reproduction of cultural stereotypes, etc.), how a proliferation of new methods of collaboration and communication change how and who designers work with. Share with us the things that inspire you. Post and tag us so that we can see and share

your stories. Posts can include: personal experiences or vision, issues in the headlines that highlight the impacts on or of design, design projects that show the potential for design to impact an improvement on everyday life for people, imagined futures. Please note that the use of the ICoD logo is not permitted without the approval of ICoD. Here's how to submit:

- [Twitter](#): tag @theicod #IDD2022
- [Facebook](#): join the IDD Group and post your stories
- [Instagram](#): tag @internationaldesignday #IDD2022

Please note that only posts that follow the IDD2022 ‘Suspended in Transition’ theme will be shared.

02 Build a community

Change starts in our local communities. United, we enrich our own practice and strive to make change happen. We encourage you to use International Design Day as an opportunity to connect with your local communities to discuss design issues. Create a design club with fellow practitioners, join a professional association or have a powerpoint party with friends.

The 2022 theme has many sub-themes that could be interesting to explore, including:

- the impact of design on planet (the responsibility of design for the current climate crisis: biodiversity loss, carbon emissions and waste, etc.)
- how designers have adjusted to the large-scale changes that have taken place during the pandemic
- self-awareness and how this global crisis has made more evident the responsibilities that designers shoulder in relation to their communities
- the politicisation of design, how design is being used for dubious purposes (to thwart democracy, to promote disinformation, to surveil and infringe on privacy) and why designers need to be more aware of their unwitting complicity
- the proliferation of new methods of collaboration and communication and what opportunities this creates for designers
- the effects of socio-economic stratification globally and how that can have local impact
- hope: how designers are uniquely positioned to imagine and build a better future
- much more...

LINKS

[ICoD Twitter](#)

[ICoD Instagram](#)

[ICoD Facebook \(IDD event page\)](#)

The IDD2022 visuals were designed by the Swedish illustrator and designer Tyra von Zweigbergk. Based in Stockholm, von Zweigbergk is a regular guest lecturer at Konstfack University College of Arts, Craft and Design, has been a Board Member of the Association of Swedish Illustrators and Graphic Designers (Svenska Tecknare) since 2010 and was the Secretary General of the International Council of Design from 2015 to 2019.

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