

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? How can organisations support this process?
- Designers as gatekeepers, practicing design refusal : We know what can be done, but do we know if it should be done?

### 2022 ACTIONS

Below are some kickstart ideas for organisations. The 2022 theme has many sub-themes that could be of interest for design organisations to explore. These could include:

- 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 (case studies)
- self-awareness and how the pandemic 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 how designers—and design communities—can connect more than ever
- the effects of socio-economic factors on the suitability of design solutions
- hope: how designers are uniquely positioned to imagine and build a better future
- much more...

### 01 Events around the theme

We encourage our Members and other design organisations to create events on this theme. These could be digital events like instagram live interviews, on-line conferences or talks, Zoom gatherings or in-person conferences and discussions.

### 02 Inter-organisational collaboration

One legacy of the pandemic is that we are more connected than ever. Time zones, and travel costs need no longer hinder collaboration around the globe. We encourage our Members and other design organisations to develop small projects with their counterparts in other countries for IDD 2022. Some ideas could be:

- student workshops on one of the IDD 2022 sub-themes listed above
- a collection of works in published form (digital or analog) or an exhibition of member or community projects relating to the themes

### 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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