

Temes de Disseny #39

Emerging Habitats: Design as a Worldmaking Agent



El funeral de la llet. Liam Kelly, 2022. Elisava Degree in Design final project.

CALL FOR AUTHORS

A DESIGN RESEARCH JOURNAL
by ELISAVA BARCELONA SCHOOL OF DESIGN AND ENGINEERING

About the journal

Temes de Disseny (Topics on Design, hereinafter TdD, in its Catalan acronym) started in 1986 as one of the first design local journals. It was created with the goal of being a knowledge transfer channel between design professionals, pedagogues and scholars. TdD aims to bring together knowledge generated by experts from multiple disciplines, who study design from distinct points of view. Each journal edition intends to approach specific topics related to design, such as: design methodologies; innovation through design; indoor spaces and objects shapes; transmedia and macro- trends; design, food and health; visual communication or industrial design, among others. The 34th issue of the journal was the first step towards transforming TdD in an open access, peer reviewed, indexed journal that locals and foreign designers can use to share their knowledge at an international level.

Temes de Disseny is currently indexed in: Carhus Plus+, CrossRef, Dialnet, DOAJ, ERIH PLUS, Google Scholar, Latindex Catalog, REDIB, Scopus.

Special Issue

Emerging Habitats: Design as a Worldmaking Agent

Guest Editors

Mariana Amatullo, PhD
Roger Paez, PhD

Editors-in-Chief

Danae Esparza, PhD
Oscar Tomico, PhD

Managing Editor

Guim Espelt, PhD

Editorial Board

Pau Alsina, Laura Benítez, Miquel Bruns, Bani Brusadin, Tomas Diez, Delia Dumitrescu, Jéssica Fernández, Albert Fuster, Ariel Guersenzvaig, Pere Llorach-Massana, Ezio Manzini, Sonia Massari, Andrew Morrison, Viviana Narotzky, Javier Peña, Anna Petit-Boix, Valentina Rognoli, Ramon Sangüesa, Ron Wakkary.

Call for Authors

This issue of *Temes de Disseny* explores emerging habitats and the roles of design as a worldmaking agent. From domestic to territorial scales, from urban to rural settings, human habitats are ever-changing interactions between physical, material bodies and social, relational events. In times characterized by an accelerated rate of global change and a disconcerting uncertainty from a new world order of socio-economic disruptions, profound inequities, and climate emergency, design invites uniquely reflexive, imaginative, and generative pathways forward.

Given design's potential for transdisciplinarity and multiscalarity, both as a knowledge domain and as a field of practice, the discipline at large is ideally placed to identify, mediate and generate new relations between the hard and soft dimensions of human habitats, to foster social innovation, political experimentation, and radical imagination.

Can design explore its worldmaking potential, using its symbolic and operative apparatuses to proliferate diverse versions of the world to enrich our understanding of it and enhance our conceptual and technical capabilities for transforming it? More importantly, can it maintain and even multiply plural worlds in the face of global homogenisation?

Temes de Disseny invites a broad scope and breadth of contributions from all fields of design, urbanism, architecture, and the arts that explore emerging habitats and the present and future roles of design as a worldmaking agent. The call also welcomes engineering, humanities, and social sciences contributions. We are particularly interested in bringing together a multiplicity of perspectives: theoretical and practitioner-based inputs that might illustrate research-driven insights as well as design through research approaches and exploratory, trail-blazing provocations in the expanded field of human habitats in both urban and rural ecologies.

Temes de Disseny welcomes the account of radical practices, applied research, comparative case studies, practice-based reflections, visualisations and mappings, and exploratory work from the whole spectrum of topics and scales of contemporary design, including when it leaves the beaten path and allies with activism, art, cultural studies, and politics.

Key Themes

Worldmaking

Many worlds exist as the world we know right now / design's symbolic and operative apparatuses allow to explore diverse versions of the world / worldmaking enriches our understanding of lived environments and enhances our capabilities to transform them / worldmaking's task is to multiply plural worlds in the face of global homogenisation.

Transition Design

Contributions that explore, propose or exemplify pathways to transition from present states and conditions to long-term desirable futures / Wicked Problems and Problem Mapping / Visioning centred on Political and Governance Priorities and Socio-Technical systems.

Indeterminacy and Openness

How contemporary design negotiates radical indeterminacy / embracing change / temporality / new modes of design authorship / collaboration and co-design / open-ended design processes / play and game-based practices / chance operations / hyperstition.

Social Innovation, Equity and Empowerment

Equity-centred design approaches/ social innovation design practices and non-extractive modes of participation / relational and power dynamics / design and community / the political dimension of agency / creative dissent.

Material-relational dimensions of habitats

Human habitats are simultaneously material and relational / the material dimension of design practices generates affects and these have relational effects on the agents involved in a specific habitat.

The agency of non-human actors

Relevance of non-human agents in human habitats / Design practices as multispecies endeavours / Biodesign and new models of accountability / systems ecology / complex systems / xenodesign.

Multi-Cross-Trans disciplinarity

Include all design areas and disciplines: space, product, interaction, service, graphic, material design / foster multi, cross and trans disciplinarity / include all relevant design approaches, from pragmatic to speculative, from reflexive to activist.

Type of papers and length

Temes de Diseny publishes the following type of contributions. (Footnotes, references and bibliography are not included in the word counts)

Original research papers

Research papers which expose a hypothesis that is tested with a specific methodology and supported by results. The length must be between 3000 and 8000 words.

State-of-art papers

State-of-art papers collect the most recent information (i.e. methods, case-studies, project examples) of a specific topic. These are expected to provide more than 50 literature references which are properly discussed to identify future challenges. At least 75% of the literature must have been published after 2014. A length between 4000 and 12000 words is mandatory.

Case studies papers

Case study papers aims to collect and properly describe the theoretical framework, processes and results of one or several design projects within a specific topic. The article must remark the strengths and weaknesses of the example/s. A length between 3000 and 8000 words is mandatory. Pictures of the different case studies are mandatory. It is recommended to classify properly the case studies.

Pictorials

Pictorials are illustrated capsules that presents a design project, a workshop or a research process with a strong focus on images or illustrations that convey knowledge. Each image or set of images should be accompanied by descriptive texts that puts them in context as well as describing what are they showing (aesthetics, processes, materials, concepts, results...). For each set a length of 200 words is recommended; and the total length must be maximum 2000 words. Pictorials should also provide an introduction of the project and the concluding remarks of its research process.

You can see examples of previously published articles at tdd.elisava.net

Submission Process and Requirements

*Submit your
proposal here!*

The publishing process for the present *Temes de Disseny* special issue has the following key dates:

~~29 September 2022~~ EXTENDED: 6 October 2022

Authors must submit an extended abstract through the form in [this link](#).

500-600 words for Original, State-of-Art and Case Studies.

300-400 words for Pictorials

25 October 2022

The editorial team will communicate if the proposal is accepted.

20 December 2022

Authors must submit the manuscript of the article.

The submission will be assessed by independent reviewers – double blind peer review– who will suggest the suitability of the manuscript for its publication and will provide improvement suggestions for the authors.

If the proposal is accepted, authors must then respond reviewers' comments, apply reviewers' comments into their manuscript and submit a reviewed version of the manuscript.

Guest Editors will decide upon final acceptance, and the final selection will be published on Summer 2023.

Follow [this link](#) for a more detailed overview of the process.

Ethics of publishing

Authors are responsible of presenting totally original works and must properly cite others work if used. Moreover, authors cannot submit and already published paper or submit a paper that have already been submitted to another journal which is still under a review process.

Authors are encouraged to acknowledge potential conflicts of interest and/or sources of funding by including a brief disclaimer at the end of the paper.

Licensing

Authors will hold the copyright of the text.

The articles will be published under Attribution Creative Commons (CC BY-NC-ND) license. If the proposal should be published under another CC license, authors can state their preference.

Language

Authors are highly suggested to write and submit their manuscripts in English. However, with the aim to promote local authors' publications, Catalan and Spanish manuscripts will also be accepted.

Publishing ethics and malpractice statement

Please read the [journal's PEMS](#) before submitting.