

THE DESIGN SOCIETY

The Design Society is an international professional society whose members are drawn from the worldwide design community and who share a common interest in design knowledge and the design process. Members represent a wide variety of design disciplines and bring to the community many types of design expertise. Membership in the Design Society is open to all persons in the fields of design practice, design management, design research, and design education.

Founded in March 2000 at Rigi-Kaltbad, Switzerland and registered as a non-profit organization in Glasgow, UK, the Design Society is organized to bring to the worldwide community opportunities for sharing design expertise and for celebrating the design experience. The work of the Design Society extends from the foundational efforts of the Workshop – Design - Konstruktion (WDK). Over more than 20 years, the WDK has organized many workshops on topics of interest to designers worldwide and has coordinated biannual meetings of the international design community at International Conferences on Engineering Design (ICED). The Design Society is continuing the mission of the WDK by sponsoring an ongoing series meetings, special interest groups, and conferences for members from around the world who are interested in the development and sharing of design knowledge.

Goals

The Design Society aims to

- develop and promote a broad and commonly shared understanding of design in different domains and disciplines
- support the creation and distribution of a body of knowledge about design
- encourage the development, evaluation and verification of methods and tools to support designing
- support the evaluation and dissemination of research results and their application in education and practice
- promote interdisciplinary approaches to design
- promote the importance of design to external stakeholders and decision-makers.

Activities

The Design Society provides a forum for the cooperative interactions among researchers, educators, and design professionals. It organizes, promotes and supports conferences, workshops and educational programs about design. It conducts international summer school sessions for Ph.D. candidates in design. It works toward bringing together publishers and authors to facilitate the dissemination of new ideas, methods and theories about design.

The Society organizes the biannual ICED conferences (International Conferences on Engineering Design) and various other design related conferences and workshops. It also establishes and maintains Special Interest Groups (SIGs) whose members work together to learn and to expand what is known about a broad range of topics in the field of design. Members

are encouraged to participate in SIGs in areas of their interest and to establish new SIGs to serve their particular needs.

Member Benefits

The Design Society provides its members access to an international community of design professionals who have interests in all areas of design. Members are informed and kept up-to-date on all events and initiatives organized by the Society. They run the *Society* by electing the Management and Advisory Boards. They are entitled to reduced admission fees for the Society's major conferences and workshops and receive reduced rates for subscriptions to international design journals.

Through the Society's website, members have access to information about design and design activities. Special educational opportunities are available for student members. All members are encouraged to participate in and establish new design initiatives, particularly through Special Interest Groups.

All participants in fields related to design are invited to become members of the Design Society. Application for membership can be completed at and submitted through the Society's website: <http://www.designsociety.org>