

Temes de Disseny #37

Invisible Conflicts: The New Terrain of Bodies, Infrastructures and Information.



Alice. 2019. Installation designed and produced for the Llum BCN festival by a team of students of Elisava MEATS and the Degree in Design: Elise Chukri, Miquel Estany, Marta Esteban, Anna Gayete, Tatiana Glock, Laia Gonzalez, Laura Gusart, Mariana Magalhaes, Aida Pastor, Amalia Puga, Elisabeth Pujol, Albert Sanz, Valentí Soler, Marta Velasco. Mentored by: Maria de la Càmara, Toni Montes, Roger Paez, Gabriel Paré. Assembly: Kike Alvarez (LAVIUDA). Sponsors: Lledó (illumination) and Ariño-Duglass (glasses).

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.

Special Issue

Invisible Conflicts:
The New Terrain of Bodies, Infrastructures and Information.

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Call for Authors

This issue of *Temes de Disseny* sets out to humbly explore the topic of conflict and disobedience in a networked planet. Traditionally, design offers tools and procedures to tackle known problems, analysing how new objects and processes can provide solutions. In this issue, instead, we gather research about instability, frictions, resistance, counter-practices, cultural clashes, and even material conflict.

The complex world we live in is defined by the uncanny patterns resulting from the accelerated intersection of different spheres and their often competing invisible layers. For instance, the personal sphere collapsing into new automated privately-owned infrastructures. Or traditional State jurisdictions and frontiers being pierced by data and platforms. Or the realm of the biological becoming both a new battleground and a source of extended subjectivity, or even counterpower.

Can an age of instability and global threats be seen through design research? How does resistance emerge if conflict is barely visible? Can design provide relevant approaches to understand planetary-scale problems?

Temes de Disseny invites designers, critical technologists, and fringe researchers to offer insight on creative strategies of practical dissent, as well as casting light over the design of (and the resistance to) new infrastructures of information, labor and energy. We are also interested in research that outlines new approaches to the agency of non-human agents and how alternative design practices relate to a radically different vision of bodies and post-identities.

Temes de Disseny welcomes the account of radical practices, comparative case study, practice-based reflections, visualisations and cartographies, and even exploratory work, from the whole spectrum of contemporary design, including when it leaves the beaten path and allies with activism, art, cultural studies, or biotech.

Key Themes

- New creative strategies in practical dissent: the material aspects of disobedience, collapse, rebellion.
- Invisible battlegrounds: Critical engineering / Mapping of systems, new production chains and their controversies / Networks and quantification systems.
- Information, labour, energy: new strategies against extractivism of planetary and human resources, beyond techno-fetishism and techno-phobia.
- Design at a planetary-scale: ideas, metaphors, and debates about the design of the Earth as an habitable planet; design and geopolitics.
- The agency of non-human actors: Design practices as multi-species endeavors / DIY - DIT - DIWO practices of biodesign / Biodesign and new models of accountability / Design, biosafety and control / Design and radical open health / Bio-techno interfaces, gender and noise.
- Material-affective dimensions of design: how the material dimension of design practices generates affects and these have effects on the agents involved.

Type of papers and length

Temes de Diseny publishes the following type of contributions:

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 (Footnotes, references and bibliography are not included in this word count).

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 2010. 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:

17 November 2020

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

1 December 2020

The editorial team will communicate if the proposal is accepted.

14 January 2021

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.

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 2021.

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.

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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.