

newsletter

quarterly bulletin of the International Council of Design



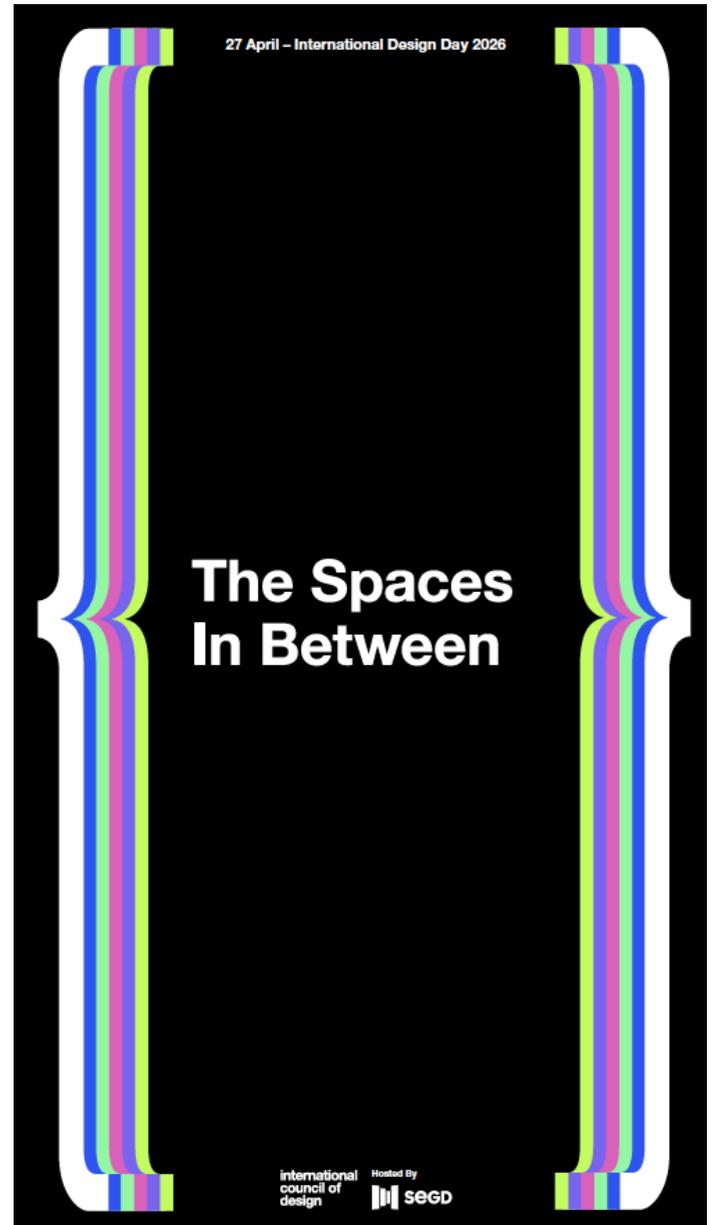
ICoD Regional Meeting Europe 2026 Sofia, Bulgaria

The International Council of Design (ICoD) is delighted to announce its first-ever Regional Meeting in Balkan Europe. The theme, **Confessions of a Designer: Design, Decisions and Impact**, invites participants to candidly discuss the realities of decision-making in design. We will delve into the tensions, uncertainties, instincts and trade-offs shaping everyday practice amidst current geopolitical, economic and technological disruptions, including artificial intelligence (AI).

Decision-making is rarely unbiased and constantly changes as our knowledge, values, and accountability evolve. Today, our perceptions of the 'right' design choices are influenced by human sensitivity, AI, and institutions. In this meeting, we will explore **how** we set the criteria, **who** gets to decide, and **what** makes them decide. It will also explore **how** awareness or blind spots affect public life and tangible benefits.

The Regional Meeting will take place on **11 June 2026** at the National Palace of Culture (NKD) in Sofia, and will be held as part of the European Design Festival.

[Read more and register](#)



International Design Day 2026

Each year on 27 April, designers around the world celebrate International Design Day (IDD), a global initiative led by the International Council of Design (ICoD) that recognizes design's impact on our lives, cultures, and communities. It is a day to reflect on how design shapes our shared human experience and how, through design, we connect to one another and the world around us.

For 2026, ICoD and the [Society for Experiential Graphic Design SEGD](#) invite the international design community to explore this year's theme: **The Spaces In Between**. This theme focuses on the nuanced moments, transitions and thresholds where human connection is formed. Often overlooked, these spaces quietly shape how people relate to

one another, how belonging is felt, and how meaning is created.

[Read more and download the toolkit](#)



**IN MEMORIAM:
Jorge Frascara (1939-2026)**

It is with deep sadness that we announce the passing of our dear friend and colleague, Jorge Frascara, former President of ICoD.

He passed away on 20 February 2026 at the age of 87 in Lucerne, Switzerland, where he had been living with his wife, Guillermina Noël, for the past few years. He was one of the most influential figures in Canadian and international communication design, research, education, and leadership.

[Read more](#)



AWDA Book: How Many Women Are in the Room?

How Many Women Are in the Room? brings together the outcomes of the fifth edition of Aiap Women in Design Award (AWDA), the international biennial prize dedicated to women in visual communication design. Framed around a question that continues to resonate across institutions, awards, and decision-making spaces, the publication invites readers to reflect on visibility, absence, and the hierarchies that still shape the design field. More than a documentation of an award, AWDA operates as a platform for dialogue, advocating for gender equality and amplifying the contributions of women—past, present, and future—whose work has too often been overlooked in official narratives.

Founded in 2012 and led by [AIAP \(Italian Association for Visual Communication Design\)](#), AWDA counts ICoD as Institutional Partner since 2019. ICoD has been AWDA's Institutional Partner since 2019, supporting its international dissemination through its global network of design organisations. The book is co-edited by AIAP and The Printing Office (Lazy Dog Press), continuing a shared commitment to advancing critical discourse in design culture.

Looking ahead, AWDA, with ICoD once again as Institutional Partner, is preparing to launch its 6th edition. New collaborating partners will be announced soon, and the upcoming call will once again invite the global design community to take part in this important platform for visibility, dialogue, and recognition. We look forward to sharing the official announcement and call with ICoD Members very soon.

[More about AWDA](#)



Honouring Robert L. Peters' Legacy

We take this opportunity to honour the legacy of Robert L. Peters and his lifelong advocacy for thoughtful, ethical design in Canada and around the world. A former ICoD President (2001-2003) and DesCan Fellow, Robert dedicated his career to advancing professional standards, education, sustainability, and cross-cultural dialogue through design. A visionary graphic designer and co-founder of Circle Design, he led international branding and communication projects, created over 30 Canadian postage stamps, and received more than 60 design awards. Beyond his professional achievements, he was deeply committed to strengthening the role of design as a force for cultural understanding and social good. To continue the work he championed, DesCan Foundation is establishing a scholarship in Robert's name. Contributions will help nurture the next generation of designers committed to meaningful impact, carrying forward his belief in design's power to shape culture and build a better tomorrow.

[Learn more and support the initiative](#)



New Member

We are pleased to welcome **Beijing Normal University (BNU), China**, as a new Educational Member of ICoD. Founded in 1902 and directly under China's Ministry of Education, BNU is a prestigious "Double First-Class" institution, with its Art & Design subject ranked within the 151–200 band in the QS World University Rankings by Subject 2025. Design education at BNU is led by the School of Future Design (SFD), established in 2021. The school stands out for its forward-looking, interdisciplinary model integrating art, technology, and education, structured around three core directions: Design and Future Production/Lifestyles; Art and Technology; and Design and Education. Its comprehensive academic structure spans undergraduate to doctoral levels. Through a strong project-based learning approach, advanced facilities, and international collaborations, BNU connects research, industry, and global cultural exchange. Guided by the philosophy of "design for a better future life," the School of Future Design cultivates transdisciplinary innovators prepared to address complex societal challenges.

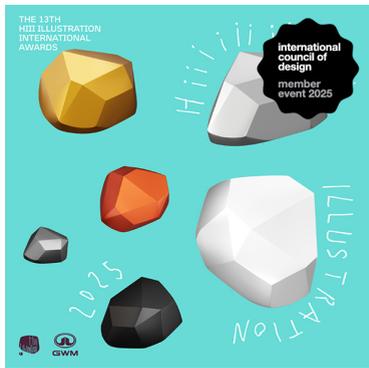
[Read the New Member Story](#)



New Member

We are pleased to welcome **Design for Ukraine (D4U)** as a new Professional Member of ICoD. As a Ukrainian non-profit organisation based in Kyiv, D4U works to strengthen the country's design sector through professional ethics, legal literacy, education, public dialogue, and international cooperation. Design for Ukraine initiates and supports systemic change within the design community, bringing together designers, researchers, and cultural practitioners around principles of collaboration and responsibility. Its key initiatives include Kyiv Design Week, research on professional ethics in Ukrainian design, and the Uzgoda Contract Toolkit, a set of open-access contract templates developed in collaboration with the National Intellectual Property Office of Ukraine. With a strong commitment to advancing ethical standards and professional practice, D4U contributes to policy development, knowledge production, and international exchange within the design field. By joining ICoD, Design for Ukraine strengthens its global engagement and brings the perspective of the Ukrainian design community into broader professional dialogue.

[Read the New Member Story](#)



13th Hiii Illustration International Awards

submissions are open until 10
March 2026
Hiiibrand



Kunpeng Global Design Award 2026

submissions open until
6 April 2025
*Shenzhen Culture, Creativity &
Design Association (SCCDA)*

The International Council of Design (ICoD) was founded as Icograda in 1963. The name changed in 2014 to reflect the Council's focus shift towards multidisciplinary.

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