

the
DESIGN
MUSEUM

◎ FUTURE
OBSERVATORY



The Design Museum launches Future Observatory Journal, where design, ecology and futures intersect

[PRESS IMAGES](#)

Future Observatory Journal can be read online [here](#)

The Design Museum today launches Future Observatory Journal, a new online publication that seeks to reshape the discourse around design and sustainability.

Published biannually by the museum's research hub, Future Observatory, each issue explores a theme at the intersection of design, ecology and futures. The first issue's theme is 'bioregioning', a concept with the potential to redraw the boundaries of climate action. A 'bioregion' refers to an area that is demarcated by its natural rather than political borders.

The journal brings together established and emerging writers, researchers, theorists and practitioners from design and related disciplines such as anthropology, sociology and philosophy to explore this theme. Essays, interviews and reports explore bioregions from Kagoshima in Japan, to the Cauca Valley in Colombia.

Each journal's theme is explored in three sections: Forecast, Practice and Strategy. **Forecast** borrows the format of trend forecasting to offer a thematic overview of a key concept; **Practice** substantiates that view with case studies, interviews and think pieces; and **Strategy** provides an analysis of the systemic implications of the theme.

Contributors to the first issue include Arturo Escobar, Dan Hill, Sharon Prendeville, Shayari De Silva, Justinien Tribillion and BC Architects and Studies. Topics include the mapping of landscapes, the challenges of scaling up bioregional design and the extractive demands of green transition technologies. The journal also features a previously unpublished text by notable systems-designer Donella Meadows as well as a range of ongoing work from Future Observatory's research portfolio.

The journal is designed by award-winning graphic design and film practice, Studio Airport, based in Utrecht, the Netherlands, which has garnered acclaim for its design of Emergence Magazine, Sapiens Magazine and Normal Phenomena Of Life. Future Observatory Journal is published on a bespoke digital platform which priorities a fresh reader experience.

Future Observatory Journal is led by editor Justin McGuirk, director of Future Observatory; deputy editor Cher Potter, curatorial director of Future Observatory; and commissioning editor George Kafka, Future Observatory curator. Future Observatory Journal's editorial board consists of Arturo Escobar, Dan Hill, Kristina Hill, Lydia Kallipoliti, Ramia Mazé, Timothy Morton, DK Osseo-Asare, Sarah Teasley and Thomas Weaver.

Future Observatory Journal is published by Future Observatory, the Design Museum's national research programme for the green transition, delivered in partnership with the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC), part of UK Research and Innovation (UKRI).

Justin McGuirk, Director of Future Observatory at the Design

Museum, said: "So much design that purports to address the green transition is trapped within systems and structures that have no desire to be changed, and will brook only a thin environmentalism. They will allow for improved recyclability, reduced plastic and the electrification of everything, as long as quarterly profits stand. The purpose of Future Observatory Journal, however, is to create space for rethinking the frameworks within which design operates. We want to widen the space for considering more fundamental shifts in the narrative."

-Ends-

Notes to Editors

PRESS ENQUIRIES:

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About the Design Museum:

The Design Museum is the world's leading museum devoted to contemporary architecture and design. Its work encompasses all elements of design, including fashion, product and graphic design. Since it opened its doors in 1989, the museum has staged over 100 exhibitions and showcased the work of some of the world's most celebrated designers and architects including Paul Smith, Zaha Hadid, Jonathan Ive, Frank Gehry, Eileen Gray, Dieter Rams, Margaret Calvert and Yinka Ilori.

On 24 November 2016, the Design Museum relocated to Kensington, west London. John Pawson converted the interior of a 1960s modernist building to create a new home for the Design Museum giving it three times more space in which to show a wider range of exhibitions and significantly extend its learning programme. Since opening in Kensington in 2016, the Design

Museum has hosted major exhibitions including *Stanley Kubrick: The Exhibition*, *Moving to Mars*, *Amy: Beyond the Stage*, *Sneakers Unboxed: Studio to Street*, *Electronic: From Kraftwerk to The Chemical Brothers*, *Charlotte Perriand: The Modern Life*, *Football: Designing the Beautiful Game*, *Waste Age: What can design do?*, *Ai Weiwei: Making Sense*, *The Offbeat Sari*, and *REBEL: 30 Years of London Fashion*.



Supported using public funding by
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About Future Observatory:

Future Observatory is the Design Museum's national research programme for the green transition. Based at the museum, it is coordinated in partnership with the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC), which is part of UK Research and Innovation (UKRI).

Acting as both a coordinating hub for a nationwide programme, as well as a research department within the museum, Future Observatory curates exhibitions, programmes events and funds and publishes new research, all with the aim of championing new design thinking on environmental issues.



futureobservatory.org

#FutureObservatory

About Arts and Humanities Research Council:

The Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC), part of UK Research and Innovation, funds internationally outstanding independent researchers across the whole range of the arts and humanities: history, archaeology, digital content, philosophy, languages and literature, design, heritage, area studies, the creative and performing arts and much more. The quality and range of research supported by AHRC works for the good of UK society and

culture and contributes both to UK economic success and to the culture and welfare of societies across the globe.



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Future Observatory Journal Team

Editor: **Justin McGuirk**

Deputy Editor: **Cher Potter**

Commissioning Editor: **George Kafka**

Picture Editor: **Andrea Conde Pereira**

Assistant Editor: **Lila Boschet**

Collaborators

Design and Art Direction: **Studio Airport**

Code: **September Digital**

Forecast researcher: **Jennifer Cunningham**

Editorial Board

The volunteer Editorial Board brings together a group of experts to advise and oversee the Future Observatory Journal. Their expertise ranges from across the various fields of design, steering the Journal to be a rigorous, inclusive and intersectional publication in the design sphere today. Future Observatory Journal's editorial board consists of Arturo Escobar, Dan Hill, Kristina Hill, Lydia Kallipoliti, Ramia Mazé, Timothy Morton, DK Osseo-Asare, Sarah Teasley and Thomas Weaver.