

Design and migration: Design for Arrival

How might we foster hospitality and conviviality through art, design, and media.

Since at least the 18th century, political, social, environmental, and economic instability and subsequent wars have displaced populations seeking employment, safety, and social mobility. Today that pattern continues in greater force than ever. Statistics show that there are currently 65 million people who have been forced from their homes, and over one-third of them are considered refugees. With this in mind, how might communities, cities, and citizens engage with the large-scale flow of humans? What would it look like for people to co-create an environment that acknowledges and draws on invisible networks, transnational private interests, and growing inequalities? What can design contribute to the co-creation of a more convivial and sustainable future?

This working group will look at how newcomers have been integrated into local communities through formal and informal structures and institutions but also investigate how past migrations have forged today's society. It will propose ways in which systems, products, and services might develop a culture of community-building, coexistence, and inclusivity. In this scheme, refugees, immigrants, and transitory populations are no longer considered as a burden but rather contribute to their own wellbeing, to the urban environments they inhabit, and to the overall betterment of society.

Building on the experiences and projects of its members, the group will delineate lessons, patterns, and generalized knowledge, while also seeking opportunities for future collaboration. By addressing the central question of how we can co-design convivial communities, the group will address larger concerns in design history and theory about cultural values, ethics, participatory methodologies, and Do-It-Yourself (DIY) infrastructures.

The Cumulus "Design and Migration" working group will build a network among peers aiming at creating and sharing knowledge within the disciplines of art, design, and media through discussions and exchanges around existing and new research, experiences, and projects related to the topic. The working group also aims to produce

- Report that summarizes the group discussions and conclusions after each meeting
- Strategic plan for future initiatives
- Online repository of case studies on the topic of Design and Migration
- A communication channel for all members

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