

MUSEU NACIONAL D'ART DE CATALUNYA



Elvira at La Pedrera, Barcelona, c. 1952, photo: Roca-Sastre Archive

ICOM Design 2026

Annual Conference, Barcelona

The Architect Beyond the Building: Design and the Decorative Arts

Museu Nacional d'Art de Catalunya (MNAC)

Conference: **11–13 November 2026**

Post-Conference Programme: **14 November 2026**

MUSEU
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Parc de Montjuïc
Barcelona
www.museunacional.cat

M DESIGN ICOM
international committee
for decorative arts
and design

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This symposium is organised by the Museu Nacional d'Art de Catalunya in collaboration with ICOM Design (formerly ICOM-ICDAD), International Committee for Decorative Arts and Design with the support of the International Council of Museums, ICOM SPAIN, and Istituto Italiano di Cultura di Barcellona.

The 2026 Annual Meeting of ICOM Design will be held in Barcelona, in a year of particular significance for the city. Designated World Capital of Architecture, Barcelona also commemorates the centenary of the death of Antoni Gaudí, whose work has left an enduring mark on the city's built environment and cultural identity. Gaudí's practice provides a particularly compelling starting point for this discussion, challenging the boundaries between architecture, design, craftsmanship, and the decorative arts.

The conference, "Architect Beyond the Building: Design and the Decorative Arts," will take place at the Museu Nacional d'Art de Catalunya (MNAC) and will explore the figure of the architect beyond the traditional role associated with architectural and urban projects. Bringing together leading scholars, curators, and museum professionals, the conference examines architectural practice through the lenses of design, craftsmanship, and the intimate scale. It considers the wide range of creative outputs produced by architects both as part of and beyond building projects, including furniture, ceramics, jewellery, graphic design, exhibition-making and display, as well as interior design and architectural ornamentation. The conference explores these multidisciplinary practices beyond the scale of the building, addressing projects, creative processes, materials, photography, and artistic influences across diverse geographical and cultural contexts around the globe.

Wednesday, November 11

08.45 h–09.15 h Registration at conference desk (Main entrance of the Museum)

09.15 h–9.30 h Welcome Remarks

Presentation and Moderation of Session One:

Pepe Serra, Director, Museu Nacional d'Art de Catalunya
Mariàngels Fondevila, Conference Convener, Board Member ICOM Design, MNAC.
Shoshana Resnikoff, Chair ICOM Design, Milwaukee Art Museum, Wisconsin, USA

Theme 1: The Architect and the Total Work of Art: From the Spoon to the City

Moderator: Shoshana Resnikoff, Chair of ICOM Design, Milwaukee Art Museum, Wisconsin, USA

9.30 h Keynote lecture: Carme Pigem, RCR Arquitectes, *Illation*

10.00 h Wendy Kaplan, Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA): *From Table to Town: Barry Parker and Raymond Unwin's Total Design*

10.15 h Lucie Vičková, Museum of decorative arts in Prague: *The Relationship between Design and Architecture in Czech Cubism*

10.30 h Robin H. Prater, The Lutyens Trust America: *Edwin Lutyens at Every Scale: Geometry, Craftsmanship, and Wit*

Discussion

Coffee Break

11.20 h Marissa Hershon, Ca' d'Zan, The John & Mable Ringling Museum of Art, Sarasota, Florida: *Rediscovering Earl Purdy: Architectural Renderer, Printmaker and Watercolorist*

11.35 h Nicholas Oddy, Glasgow School of Art: *Charles Rennie Mackintosh, 78 Derngate and Bassett Lowke. Almost an Identity*

11.50 h Virginia Rigney, Visual Art, Canberra Museum and Gallery, Australia: *Enrico Taglietti: From the spoon to the city. A life in design*

Discussion

Break

Moderator: Denise Hagströmer, Board Member ICOM Design National Museum of Art, Architecture and Design, Oslo, Norway

12.30 h Alessandro Munari, Cleto Munari associati srl ICC, Vicenza: *Jewelry by Architects & Everyday Objects: An Inside Perspective*

12.45 h Eloise Donnelly, Historic Furniture & Decorative Arts Houses of Parliament, London: Heritage Collections: *Building for a new kind of World: Crafting the House of Commons Chamber 1943-1950*

13.00 h Leena Svinhufvud, Architecture & Design Museum Helsinki: *The architect and the total work of art-Finish cases deconstructed*

Discussion

13.30 h -15.00 h Lunch (Absis MNAC restaurant)

15.00 h Keynote lecture: Paolo Sustersic, Elisava-Barcelona School of Design and Engineering, UVic-UCC: *The Architect beyond the Building: Design and Decorative Arts. A perspective from Barcelona*

15.30 h General Assembly ICOM Design

18.30 h Drinks, reception and visit to Gaudí's Palau Güell, one of Antoni Gaudí's earliest major works, showcasing his distinctive approach to expressive space, craftsmanship, and symbolic ornament in Barcelona's historic quarter

Thursday, November 12

Theme 2: Displaying Architecture: The Making of Exhibition Displays

Moderator: Paola Cordera, Board Member ICOM Design, Politecnico di Milano

9.00 h Marco Magni, M. Cristina Rizzello, Guicciardini & Magni Architetti, Florence, *Architectures of Display: Three Exhibition Projects between History, Design and Cultural Memory*

9.15 h Guida Ferrari Collados, Museu Nacional d'Art de Catalunya: *Displaying Architecture, or Architecture of Displaying. A historical approach, 1920-1950*

9.30 h Colin Fanning, Philadelphia Museum of Art: Consuming History, Negotiating Modernity: *Architecture and Design at Philadelphia's Sesquicentennial Exposition, 1926*

9.45 h Laura Martínez de Guereñu, IE University: *Building Exhibitions by Lilly Reich: "My real heart ... belongs to building"*

Discussion

Coffee Break

10.40 h Margaret Connors McQuade, Museum of the City of New York: *Objects as Architecture: Recreating New York's Revolutionary World in Occupied City*

10.55 h Gabrielle Tonneguzi, Iuav University of Venice: *L'arte del porgere: Museum, House, and Shop in Italian architecture, 1930s-1950*

11.10 h Leticia Sastre Sánchez, Associate Deputy Director of State Museums. Spanish Ministry of Culture: *The 'Home Environments and Domestic Appliances' Exhibition, 1960*

Discussion

Break

12.00 h Noemi Espinosa, Hispanic Society NY: *The Spanish Kitchen at the Hispanic Society Museum and Library (HSM&L)*

12.15 h Taeyoung Deborah Ban, Museum of Craft Art Seoul, Korea: *Beyond Display: Crafting Museum Architecture at the Intimate Scale*

12.30 h Becca Goodrum, The Kirkland at the Denver Art Museum: *From Gesamtkunstwerk to Curated Interior: Recontextualizing Architect-Designed Decorative Arts in a Museum*

Discussion

13.00 h - 14:30 h Lunch (Absis MNAC restaurant)

Theme 3: Reviving traditions, material culture and identity

Moderator: Cristina Jiménez Peralta, Board Member, ICOM Design, Independent Designer and Heritage Professional, Amsterdam

14.30 h Sakshi Jain, University of Oslo: *Lime and Craft: Reviving Araish Traditions at the City Palace Museum Jaipur*

14.45 h Komal Buttar, Lahore Museum, Pakistan: *From Monument to Museum: Blue Tilework, Craftsmanship, and Architectural Memory in the Islamic Collection of Lahore Museum*

15.00 h Sandrine Fritz Maupetit, PhD Student, Ecole Pratique des Hautes Etudes (EPHE-PSL), Paris. *Alexandre Sandier (1843-1917), an architect at the artistic direction of the National Manufactory of Sèvres*

15.15 h Jordi Falgàs, Rafael Masó Foundation in Girona: *Rafael Masó between Craft Tradition and Industrial Production*

Discussion

16.30 h Optional visit to the Fundació Joan Miró. Designed by Josep Lluís Sert, it is conceived as a dialogue between art, architecture, light, and the Mediterranean landscape. Visit to the temporary exhibition *Charlotte Perriand: Free to Rethink the World*

18.30 h Optional visit to Casa Batlló, by Antoni Gaudí, and Casa Amatller, by Josep Puig i Cadafalch: two jewels of Catalan Modernisme and paradigms of the revival of the decorative arts as an integral part of architecture

Friday, November 13

Theme 4: Case Studies. Collections and Museum Practices

Moderator: Melissa Rinne, Vice-Chair of ICOM Design, Kyoto National Museum, Japan

9.00 h Roser Cambray, Museu Nacional d'Art de Catalunya: ***Photographing Design: Architecture, Interiors, and Applied Arts through the Photography Collection at the Museu Nacional d'Art de Catalunya***

9.15 h Thomas Szolwinski, Museum of Wisconsin Art: ***Fabrication as Design-Historical Inquiry: Realizing Frank Lloyd Wright's Furniture Designs***

9.30 h Frida Rosenberg, the Swedish Centre for Architecture and Design (ArkDes): ***The interior City: Swedish Churches as Urban interiors in the Postwar Era***

9.45 h Radomíra Sedláková, Architecture historian and curator, Prague: ***Letters and architecture***

10.00 h Virgine Mamet, Musées royaux des Beaux-Arts de Bruxelles: ***Tapta: Textiles in Architecture***

10.15 h Discussion and concluding remarks

12.00 h Optional visit to the Sagrada Família, an unmistakable icon of the city of Barcelona, envisioned by Gaudí.

13.30 h *Lunch*

15.00 h Optional visit to the Palau de la Música Catalana, designed by Lluís Domènech i Montaner. A landmark of Catalan Modernisme, conceived as a *Gesamtkunstwerk* (total work of art) and recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

16.00 h Architectural Walk through the Gothic Quarter, from Santa Caterina Market to Santa Maria del Mar, a masterpiece of Catalan Gothic architecture, known for its luminous stained-glass windows and harmonious proportions.

17.30 h Optional visit to the Barcelona Design Museum (DHub), located in the renewed Plaça de les Glòries. Barcelona's leading hub for design and creative industries, home to the Design Museum and its renowned collections of graphic design, product design, fashion, and decorative arts.

Saturday, Novembre 14

Post Conference

9.00 h Coach departure from Plaça Espanya

9.45 h Visit to Casa Gomis – La Ricarda, designed by architect Antoni Bonet Castellana. El Prat de Llobregat (Barcelona)

11. 30 h Exploring the artistic and architectural heritage of Sitges through the Museu del Cau Ferrat, the studio of Catalan artist Santiago Rusiñol, and the Palau de Maricel, created by Miquel Utrillo for American patron and art collector Charles Deering

13.00 h Lunch

16.00 h Visit to Torre de la Creu, an original work by Josep Maria Jujol in Sant Joan Despí, followed by a visit to Villa Andrea in Barcelona, designed by Óscar Tusquets Blanca, one of today's most renowned architects and designers

19.30 h Arrival in Barcelona and optional farewell dinner

Special thanks to Fundació Joan Miró, Casa Batlló, Casa Amatller, Palau de la Música Catalana, Palau Güell, DHUB-Museu del Disseny, Museus de Sitges, Museu Comarcal de la Garrotxa, Casa Gomis, Òscar Tusquets and Ajuntament of Sant Joan Despí for hosting us during the visits.

Tickets

Conference Fee: 130 €

The registration fee includes: Access to all three days of conference sessions, guided visits and architectural tours, lunches and coffee breaks at the museum

Post-Conference Excursion Fee: 60 €

Accommodation

A limited number of single rooms have been reserved at:

Hotel Actual (C. Rosselló 238), until 3rd November at 138 €/night (individual room) and 171 € double room + tourist tax 7.70 € per night, including a breakfast. For reservations, please email to info@hotelactual.com giving the reference number 6160 to get these rates.

B Hotel (Plaza España). Reservations have been made thorough this link https://reservations.b-hotel.com/hotel/nh_bhotel?adultos=1&fini=10-11-2026&noches=5&origin=gronline&epc=U1RNVEhCQkdSUDFCQioqLE1OQUMK with a special discount and including breakfast, subject to rooms availability. Reservations can be cancelled without charge until 11 October.

Membership requirements

Please note that all participants must be individual members or representatives of institutional members of ICOM Design at the time of the conference. Accompanying guests and other interested ICOM members will be welcome, subject to space availability. Find more information about how to become a member of ICOM and ICOM Design here: <https://icom.museum/en/get-involved>

For any questions relating to ICOM Design, please email: secretary.design@icom.museum

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