

Design History Society

Annual Review 2025-2026

Design History Society
Charitable Incorporated
Organisation 1155117

Appendix to the Trustees'
Annual Report 2026

Prepared for the Annual
General Meeting,
September 2026

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DHS Trustees Report

Chair's introduction

I am delighted to introduce the 2026 Annual Report of the Design History Society. This Report summarises the finances and activity of the Society in the twelve months since the Annual General Meeting at Ankara Bilim Üniversitesi, Ankara, Türkiye in September 2025.

The 2025 DHS Annual Conference '[Converging Paths: Design in the Creative Economy](#),' was held at Ankara Bilim Üniversitesi in Ankara, Türkiye 4th-6th September. The Trustees of the DHS are immensely grateful to the convenors and to the Rector, staff and students of Ankara Bilim Üniversitesi for organising and hosting such a welcoming and fruitful event. We are also grateful to the City of Ankara for their generous hospitality. The conference saw scholars and students from a wide geographical range of institutions converge on this historic city for three days of stimulating and collegiate discussion on a truly diverse range of topics, including an open strand which showcased research which sat outside the main theme. It also offered an opportunity for Editors from the *Journal of Design History* to workshop different ways of writing design history as championed by the *Explorations* section of the *Journal*.

We greatly look forward to the 2026 DHS Annual Conference '[Design in an Age of Uncertainty](#)' which will be held on 3rd-5th September at Mazaryk University, Brno, Czech Republic. Given the challenges of the times we are currently living in, this topic feels urgent and

opportune and will, no doubt, generate lively and profitable debate.

On the 13th and 14th June 2026 the DHS hosted its second annual online student conference, [Ephemeral Encounters](#). This conference offered a vital platform for emerging scholars to give new and global perspectives on manifestations of ephemerality in design history. In June 2025 the DHS, spearheaded by former Student Ambassador Dan MU, held its first annual online student conference, '[Revisiting Design History: Global Cross-Cultural Interactions and Narratives](#)'. A publication resulting from this conference and edited by Dan MU will be launched at the 2026 conference in Brno.

The DHS continues to forge links with allied organisations such as the College Art Association, CHEAD, and the Association for Art History. In February 2026, the Society sponsored a panel at the annual CAA conference in Chicago. The session, chaired by Alex J. Todd and Harriet Atkinson, focused on the very timely theme '[Design Activism as Repetition, Reconstruction and Reinvention](#)' and it provided a wonderful forum for emerging voices in the field of Design History.

The DHS has long hoped to make its oral history archive publically accessible, and I am very pleased to announce that later this year it will become part of the important [British Library Sound Archive](#). This means that these recordings, which consist of conversations with

preeminent design historians, will be cared for and made accessible to any researcher who wishes to use them. We are also still intending to have the relatively small paper-based DHS archive professionally catalogued, something which will be pursued over the next twelve months.

In 2026 the DHS will say goodbye to JDH Chair Grace Lees-Maffei, Grants and Prizes Officer Elli Michaela Young, Teaching and Learning Officer Deepika Srivastava, Communications Officer Alex Bannister and Student Officer Alex J. Todd. On behalf of the Society and the Editors of the *Journal*, I would like to thank them all for their hard work - they will all be greatly missed. Grace and Elli Michaela in particular have been mainstays of the Society for many years and their tireless commitment to the field of Design History is deeply appreciated.

We would also like to welcome Sarah Lichtman, current Managing Editor of the *JDH*, as the incoming Chair of the Editorial Board of the *Journal*, Jane Tynan as incoming Managing Editor of the *Journal*, and Tanveer Ahmed who has joined the Board of Trustees in the new role of Inclusion Officer. Tanveer will work to ensure that all of the work and procedures of the Society are inclusive and equitable.

I would like to thank all of the *JDH* Editors and DHS Trustees and Student Officer Alex J. Todd for all of their efforts in blind

peer-reviewing the conference abstract submissions, and the DHS Trustees for their hard work in reviewing conference convenor applications and award and grant applications. I would also like to thank my fellow *JDH* Editors and all of the authors and peer reviewers whose efforts go towards the creation of the *Journal of Design History*. The dedication required to undertake this work amidst the increasing workloads and stresses of academia and the cultural heritage sector is hugely important and greatly appreciated.

I would also like to thank our Senior Administrator Jenna Allsopp- Douglas for all of her hard work on behalf of the DHS, to thank our Ambassadors Aurore Damoiseaux, Abigail Agwunyenga, Alice Ji-Won Kim and Katherine Easthill for all of their efforts and initiatives, and to thank all the members for their continued support of the Society.

Assoc. Prof Dr Sally-Anne Huxtable
Chair of the Design History Society;
Editor, Archives, Collections &
Curatorship, *Journal of Design History*; Ex
Officio Editorial Board Member, *Journal of Design History*

Chair of the Editorial Board of the *Journal of Design History*

ACCOUNTS

Subscriptions

The Design History Society (DHS) has taken charge of the Society's membership subscriptions, which were previously managed by Oxford University Press (OUP), and introduced a range of membership types, including those which do not carry a subscription to *The Journal of Design History* (JDH). *Journal* subscriptions were therefore down across all categories year on year 2024 to 2025, and subscriptions as a whole dropped from 212 to 194, but the income from those subscriptions increased from £72,113 in 2023 to £89,345 in 2025. Income raised from *Journal* subscriptions far exceeds that from Society memberships. Memberships are up from 267 in 2023 to 358 in 2025, with an increase in revenue from £10,374 to £12,900.

Income

Total income for the JDH increased considerably, year on year, from £159,959 in 2024 (vol. 37) to £191,606 in 2025 (vol. 38).

- Collections subscriptions decreased slightly from £64,602 in 2024 to £62,510 in 2025. Traditional subscription income increased from £72,113 in 2024 to £89,345 in 2025. As noted above, membership income increased from £10,374 to £12,900 in the same period.
- Non-subscription income saw considerable increases from the digital archive, from £348 to £1,146;

from standard open access, £258 to £2,658; from Read & Publish open access, £1,731 to £11,650 but note that there were different Read & Publish (R&P) deals in place in these years. There was a modest increase in secondary rights, from £9,923 to £10,801. Small decreases occurred in the categories of pay per view £252 to £246, and single and back issues £357 to £322. The latter is expected to diminish over time.

Expenditure

Production costs increased across all four categories of copy editing / proofreading £959 to £1,264; typesetting £1,338 to £2,693; printing and binding £3,185 to £4,745 and electronic publishing from £2,287 to £3,669 making total production costs increase from £5,851 in 2024 to £12,371 in 2025. Editorial costs also increased from £7,357 to £9,778. Distribution and marketing costs increased slightly from £5,208 to £6,538 (distribution) and from £321 to £359 (marketing). Total expenditure therefore increased by more than 50% from £18,737 to £29,046.

Nevertheless, JDH profit increased from £141,222 for vol. 37 (2024) to £162,560 for vol. 38 (2025) making the Society's share increase from £70,611 to £81,280. Thank you to the authors, the Editorial Board and production staff at OUP for doing the work required to generate this income for the Society.

The full JDH Volume 38 2025 Accounts

are supplied on request.

EVENTS

Conference Contributions

JDH Editors made an important contribution to 'Converging Paths: Design in the Creative Economy', the 2025 DHS conference, hosted at Ankara Bilim University in Turkey in September 2025. Our EB meeting there was followed by a two-part publication workshop, with the opening part hosted by DHS Executive Committee Member Deepika Srivastava, focussing on moving beyond the canon in design history publishing, and a second part focussed on the JDH *Explorations* section, led by *Explorations* Editors Dr Livia Rezende and Professor Sarah Cheang. Five members of the Editorial Board (EB) were represented among the presenters at the workshops. The following day, the OUP Reception enabled Editors and delegates to come together to celebrate recent publications and research, and to network. As usual, JDH Editors were among the panel chairs and presented their research at the conference. Thank you to the DHS for supporting the contribution of the EB at its conference. We are planning a similarly high level of engagement at the DHS 2026 conference at Mazaryk University, Brno, Czech Republic.

Oxford Journals Executive Summit

In April 2026, OUP hosted an Oxford Journals Executive Summit to explore the evolving role of learned societies in today's scholarly landscape. DHS Chair, Assoc. Prof Dr Sally-Anne Huxtable

was invited to represent the JDH and a presentation she prepared was shared at the event.

PEOPLE

Editorial Board Changes

In October 2025, I led a full recruitment round to fill the post of Asia Editor on the EB. Assoc. Prof Dr Chi Zhang was appointed and attended her first EB meeting in December. She brings a wealth of expertise in Asian design history and experience of convening research networking and exchange events across the region.

In January 2026, three changes to the EB occurred:

- We said farewell and thanks to Dr Jane Tynan as her five-year term ended. Jane was recruited as one of three 'new formats' Editors, subsequently termed *Explorations* Editors, in January 2021. During her term of office she kindly moved to very ably cover the Reviews Editorship for 14 months during Dr Leah Armstrong's absence before returning to the role of Editor.
- Professor Sarah Cheang's term as *Explorations* Editor also ended in January 2026, at which point she moved, at the invitation of the EB, to become a member of the JDH Advisory Board (AB). Sarah brings her international expertise and experience and her knowledge of the *Explorations* section to the AB.

- Finally, following a full recruitment round which I led, Dr Livia Rezende was formally appointed as *Explorations* Managing Editor for a five-year term. This new role enables Livia to progress her editorial responsibilities to follow *Explorations* submissions from initial idea all the way through to production, and assist the Managing Editor in so doing.

In May 2026, the Chair of the DHS undertook a recruitment round to appoint a new Chair of the Editorial Board, following the completion of my five-year term as EB Chair. Dr Sarah Lichtman was appointed and will therefore move from her current role as Managing Editor into her new role in September 2026.

Incoming *JDH* EB Chair Dr Sarah Lichtman led the recruitment of her successor as Managing Editor. Dr Jane Tynan has been appointed to the role for a September 2026 start. One or two Editors may be recruited in the coming academic year, potentially including the Reviews Editor.

Advisory Board

In June 2026, the EB met online with the AB in what has now become an annual fixture. We welcomed Professor Cheang to the AB. Discussion centred on the difficult situation in UK higher education and its potential impact on staff and students in the field of design history, and on Editors and others. While some

AB members were aware of the situation, others were fortunately able to report little of a similar nature in their own locales. At the subsequent EB meeting, it was agreed to change the way the EB engages with the AB, including setting an agenda, and other strategies that the new Chair will carry out.

Outgoing Chair's Five-Year Term in Review

The September 2026 DHS conference marks the end of my term as Chair of the EB, working to deliver our commitment to excellence, and equality, diversity and inclusion as mutually beneficial. Notwithstanding the unprecedented challenges currently faced in academic journals publishing, including how to fund academic societies when their journals are open access, and how to identify and respond to AI-generated content and that of paper mills, how to thrive when Higher Education Institutions are making deep budgetary cuts, I believe the *JDH* is in a better place than when I arrived as a result of the following initiatives:

Working with Editors, we agreed a portfolio of responsibility for each one, to exercise and develop their editorial skillsets:

- I revived the [DHS/JDH Translations](#) section, which I had introduced during my term as Managing Editor, and appointed Prof Dr Dr Kjetil Fallan as lead Editor;
- I revived our [Archives, Collections and](#)

[Curatorship](#) section, and appointed DHS Chair, Assoc. Prof Dr Sally-Anne Huxtable as AC&C Editor;

- I redefined the role of Social Media Editor, introduced by my predecessor Chair, and appointed Sarah Stafford Turner to it;
- Working with the 'new formats' Editors, we developed [Explorations](#) and the *Explorations* Editor roles

I introduced three new editorial roles:

- [Obituaries](#), which I had long hoped to formalise, and with which Dr Harriet Atkinson has displayed great sensitivity as *Obituaries* Editor;
- *Explorations* Managing Editor, a new leadership role undertaken by Dr Livia Rezende to assist the Managing Editor with the volume of editorial and production challenges raised by this innovative section.
- Asia Editor, a role which was needed to help the *JDH* Managing Editor navigate the quantity of submissions from Asia, chiefly China, and to develop top quality submissions therefrom.

I reintroduced, revised and expanded the EB Handbook, which is an enabling tool for all Editors, and particularly those new to journal editing, such as Early Career Researchers. It is invaluable for instance during EB meetings to avoid misremembering or inventing policy on the fly. The EB Handbook offers authoritative guidance on journal policy and process.

I have attempted to revive *JDH* [Virtual Special Issues](#) to showcase the extensive and rich *JDH* archive and make it relevant to contemporary concerns through article-length peer-reviewed introductions available online. It is my hope that the incoming Chair will continue with this commitment.

Notwithstanding the challenges mentioned above, the most intractable issue during my term as Chair relates to the backlog of issues. When I arrived in post, production colleagues attributed the late running of the *JDH* to the Covid-19 pandemic, associated employment issues and paper shortages, etc. However, the delays persisted. The Production and Revision Schedule is within the remit of the Managing Editor and I know Dr Sarah Lichtman has worked hard to address these persistent delays, latterly meeting with OUP production colleagues on a monthly basis so that they are now at last diminishing somewhat.

During the September 2023 EB meeting, I alerted Editors to the fact that Special Issues were not moving through editorial and production phases quickly enough and that we needed a moratorium on new proposals in order to manage the overload we had at that time, and maintain currency of content as far as possible. Happily, we can now see a light at the end of the Special Issue tunnel, which should allow the incoming Chair to reopen the *Journal* to Special Issue proposals.

My report this year marks the end of a very long association with the DHS and the *JDH*. I gave my first conference paper at the 1995 DHS annual conference 'Design and the Workplace' at the University of Plymouth. I

joined the Society and in 1998, the incumbent Treasurer of the DHS suggested that I should apply to be his successor, as I was working as Finance Officer in the Education Department of the V&A at the time. I was appointed as a Trustee and member of the Executive Committee that year. In 2001, my three-year term expired and I was appointed Event Award Coordinator. I left that role the following year to take up the post of *JDH* Book Reviews Editor. That term ended in 2006, and I stayed on the EB for two more years until I went on maternity leave with my second child and my term was ended. I returned to the EB as Managing Editor in 2011, staying on an extra year to assist the incoming Chair and leaving in 2017. I returned again as Chair of the EB and Trustee and Executive Committee Member of the DHS in 2021 with my five-year term ending in 2026. The DHS and the *JDH* have been constants across my career. Over the past 28 years since 1998, I have served 9 years in post for the DHS and 17 years in post for the *JDH*. As someone working in isolation in one of the institutions that is not fortunate enough to employ a group of design historians, my external network has been extremely important. The *JDH* is an intellectual home for those around the world who seek a rigorous double-anonymous peer reviewed venue for their research writing, as it has been for me, and I know the DHS fulfils a similar function.

Thank you to the EB, AB and our colleagues at OUP for their work in

producing the *JDH*. Thank you to the DHS Trustees, Executive Committee, and its members.

Prof Dr Grace Lees-Maffei
Chair of the Editorial Board of the
Journal of Design History



Treasurer

This year's report is quite short as there is not much change from last year. Banking changes are still very restricted due to global unrest so the banking set up remains the same. The finances of the Society are in a good state, with outgoings not exceeding the Society's income. The contingency savings account has not been used and my focus for this coming year will be looking at where best to store those savings and whether to add more to that account. In a time where academia is facing increasing financial uncertainty and cuts, it may be useful for the trustees to discuss what other schemes could be implemented to support members.

Dr Jo Pilcher

Treasurer of the Design History Society

Digital Secretary

It is a pleasure to provide an update to the membership of the Design History Society on the activities concerning the DHS website in the last year. As Digital Secretary, my responsibility is to maintain and develop the website to grow and support membership. This was a new role when I was appointed in 2023. Since then, and working closely alongside our Senior Administrator, Dr Jenna Alsopp-Douglas, I have overseen both necessary infrastructural improvements to the website, as well as the addition of features useful for our membership. These include the development of a new member's portal and Member's Directory (2023-24), improvements to the website's accessibility (2025) and the launch of a biannual members survey, which was last run in 2024.

Following the results of that survey, members voted for 'creating more networking and knowledge exchange opportunities' as a priority for the Society's activities. Acting on this in the last year, I have worked with our Teaching and Learning Officer, Deepika Srivastava, on two online initiatives:

The first was a networking and mentoring event that took place on 20 November 2025. Pairing attendees with mentors who had been interviewed as part of the *Routes to Design History* podcast, the event aimed to provide an opportunity to discuss and ask for advice on careers within the field. Of 31 registered attendees, we had 22 total

participants on the day. In a follow up survey, responses were positive. Most saw the event advertised on the DHS members News Bulletin, would come to a similar event in the future and wrote in response to the question: 'What was the most useful discussion point from mentoring conversations?':

- 'On keeping a reflective practice as an aspiring design historian.');
- 'Learning others viewpoints (especially in other countries) on similar research interests that I have.:' and
- 'I liked the variety of mentor experiences. Each offered valuable insights.'

This was also the first event where we trialled a nominal fee of £5.00 for non-DHS members to participate. In total, we raised £50.00. Although small, its success in proportion to the number of attendees indicates that such a model might be implemented in future events.

The second is an online Teaching Resources or "Knowledge/Resource Bank" section of the website. In the 2024-25 survey, members wrote that they were interested in knowledge exchange experiences and some way to share materials related to teaching design history (for example, content, methods, curricula, syllabi, etc.). To act on this, Deepika, Jenna and I worked together with our web developers to leverage the website and create a teaching resource sharing section where members can

upload materials and share these with other members. Further, this resource bank could provide an opportunity to generate events, such as symposia on teaching design history or discussion over specific materials. In keeping with my mandate to grow membership, this will be a new members-only benefit and will be accessible only through the online members portal.

Work on the website is paid for by a yearly retainer we hold with our web developers, Ten4 (Company number 04138592). This retainer allows for approximately one major web development project per year. In June 2025, in the midst of development of the resources section, we were alerted that our retainer would need to be used for essential security and infrastructural updates to the website. This delayed the development of the resources section, as it was then necessary to wait until the renewal of the retainer at the end of November 2025. However, this delay did allow time for consultation with The University of Edinburgh's Open Education team concerning copyright of uploaded materials. There is now both guidance and a disclaimer statement on the upload form resulting from these discussions. As of writing in July 2026, the resources section is nearly ready to be launched and will be a key aspect of membership promotion in 2026-27, which I will work with our Communications Officer, Alex Banister, on creating.

Finally, there is a new '[Key Dates](#)' page on the website where we have consolidated the Society's deadlines for grants; calls for papers' conference submission, registration, and attendance; bursaries; the annual Design Writing Prize; and membership renewals.

Looking to next year, I met with two of our Student Ambassadors to discuss the development of a page on the website where we can highlight the many outputs and events being carried out by that prolific team. The development of this page will likely be the primary use of our retainer for 2026-27.

I would like to thank the DHS membership for their continued support of this work and engagement with the Society's online presence and activities. Should you have any questions about the website or suggestions for features, do reach out.

Dr Anna K. Talley
Digital Secretary of the Design History Society

Grants and Prizes

As mentioned in my last report (2025), we consolidated several awards that were previously separated into student and professional strands in order to increase the sums available per award and ensure that the time required to apply is commensurate with the potential benefit. For many awards, this consolidation has made the scheme more competitive. There are some awards, such as the [Decolonising Design History Grant](#), which supports research and projects that actively contribute to the decolonisation of design history, and the [Research Access Grant \(Student and Academic\)](#), which assists design historians who need to travel to undertake essential research for their scholarship, that continue to be highly competitive.

However, there are a number of awards for which we have struggled to attract many submissions, including the [Outreach and Event Grant](#) and the [Virtual Event Grant](#). The reasons for this low level of engagement are not entirely clear; perhaps the wording of the awards is unclear, or we are not advertising them widely enough. Before making any changes to these awards, we have undertaken targeted promotional activity and are advertising them more broadly in the hope of increasing the number of submissions. However, as my term comes to an end this year, this will be something for the new Grants and Prizes Officer to consider.

Last year, we noted that we were

attempting to reimagine the Student Essay Prize because of a significant decline in applications. Initially, we sought to align the prize with the new Student Annual Conference; however, this is something we have not yet implemented. It may be more appropriate to develop an award that is open to students and can be submitted in a range of formats, such as an essay, conference paper, or research poster. As my term comes to an end this year, this will be something for the new Grants and Prizes Officer to review once appointed. If any members have suggestions or ideas about the type of award that could be introduced, please feel free to send them to the DHS Senior Administrator at designhistorysociety@gmail.com.

In 2025–26, the Society awarded 25 grants. These funds amounted to c.£18,000 (an increase of £2000 since 2024–25).

As my term as Grants and Prizes Officer comes to an end, I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has been part of my journey with the Design History Society. It has been a privilege to serve the Society and to work alongside so many dedicated colleagues, members, applicants, reviewers, and fellow trustees. Their support, generosity, and commitment have made this an immensely rewarding and enjoyable experience. I am grateful for the opportunity to have contributed to the Society's work and look forward to seeing the continued development of

the grants and awards programme in the years ahead.

Dr Elli Michaela Young
Grants and Prizes Officer of the Design History Society

Grant/Prize	Recipient	Project Funded
Research Publication Grant	Helen Shaw , Deputy Director, Westminster Abbey Institute and Independent design historian	£1000 to support the reproduction and permissions costs for 30 archival images required for the monograph <i>Crafting the Civic Surface</i>
	Sabrina Rahman , Senior Lecturer in Art History and Visual Culture, University of Exeter, and Davinia Gregory-Kameka , Assistant Professor in Arts Administration, Teachers College, Columbia University	£973.60 to fund image rights and transcription and editing services for <i>The Routledge Companion to Race and Design</i>
	Anne Massey, Professorial Fellow, UCA Canterbury, Victoria Kelley, Professor of the History of Design and Material Culture, University for the Creative Arts (UCA), Canterbury, Jessica Kelly, Reader in Architectural and Design History, London Metropolitan University, Catharine Rossi, Professor of Architecture, UCA Canterbury, and Kim Trogal, Reader Social and Political Design, UCA Canterbury	£990 to fund permissions and high-resolution images and the indexing for the book <i>Borders and Boundaries in and Through Histories of Design</i>
Research Access Grant (Student)	Metini Krivanish , PhD candidate	£810 towards travel, accommodation and associated costs in support of archival research and qualitative fieldwork in Northern Thailand for the project "Social Lives of Teak: Access, Practices and the Coloniality of Lanna Woodcarving and Danish Modern"
	Milia Lorraine Khoury , PhD candidate for a Joint-PhD in Visual Arts at Hasselt University (Belgium) and Stellenbosch University (Stellenbosch, South Africa) and lecturer and researcher in History and Theory of Art and Design at Cape Peninsula University of Technology (Cape Town, South Africa)	£500 to support a research stay at Ca' Foscari University in Venice for the project "African Representation at the Venice Biennale"
	Sinan Wang , PhD researcher, Glasgow School of Art	£300 towards UK travel and document reproduction costs for research into the project "Everyday Infrastructure as Design History: Tracing Street Furniture Across Governance, Materiality, and Urban Life in Glasgow"
	Yifan Li , Centre for Studies of Home / Department of Geography and Environmental Science, Queen Mary,	£980.80 to cover travel and accommodation for UK-based research activities combining research in archives and museum collections and engagement with commercial dealers for the project "Image production and

	University of London and Yichuan Chen : PhD Candidate at University College London (UCL)	techniques in the transformation of China's exported cheap collectables c. 1900-1970"
	Samiha Hassan, Postgraduate History of Design Student at the Royal College of Art and Victoria and Albert Museum	£1000 to cover travel and accommodation for research visits to the Perfume Museum in Paris and National Museum of Comoros for the project "Ylang-Ylang: A Visual and Olfactory Emblem of the Comoros Islands"
Research Access Grant (Academic)	Chiara Rubessi , Lecturer ISIA Design, Florence, Italy	£850 to cover travel, accommodation, and research expenses necessary for accessing primary sources and conducting object-based analysis for the project "Carlo Bugatti's Furniture as Agents of Meaning in the Italian Colonial Context"
	Pramila Choudhary , PhD Candidate and Researcher at The Concordia University, Montreal, Canada	£1000 towards travel and accommodation for a research trip to India for the project "Embodied Ecology in the Thar Desert: Tracing the Provenance and Gendered Craft Knowledge of Pattu, a wool textile Tradition"
	Maria Chiara Scuderi , Independent Early Career Researcher	£307.11 to cover travel and accommodation costs to facilitate a research visit to the Moravian Museum (Moravské zemské muzeum) in Brno for the project "The 'European Others' in British Craft-Practice Education: Animating Czechoslovak objects in the Dryad 'Handicrafts' Press"
Decolonising Design History Grant	Nathan Douenbourg , Independent scholar	£868 to support fieldwork for the project "Decolonizing the 'Efteling': On the dissonance of decolonization attempts of Efteling's amusement park design"
	Vivien Chan, Asia in the World Fellow, International Institute for Asian Studies, Leiden University, and Zara Arshad, PhD candidate, Brighton University/V&A Museum	£1000 support the cost of producing the publication " Archiving Archiving: Scoping ", an umbrella research project that explores archival cultures of design across East and Southeast Asia (ESEA).
	Inês Jorge , Independent Researcher in History of Art and Craft	£300 to support travel costs required to attend the workshop "Agents of Change: Folk Cultures in the Long 20th Century" in Brno, Czech Rep. for the project "From Portugal to Wolverhampton: Basketry, Tourism, and the Transnational Politics of Folklore"
	Arshad Arshad, Independent Scholar	£1000 towards travel and accommodation to undertake research in Lisbon for the project "From Securitisation to Genocidal Warfare: Gaza as Method in a Decolonial Critique of Israel's Counterterrorism Response Post-October 7"
	Oknim Jo , PhD student at the University of Brighton, Centre for Design History	£1000 towards travel to Seoul for fieldwork for the PhD thesis "Transnational Studies of Interior Design Practice in South

		Korea from the 1960s to the 1980s”
Research Exhibition Grant	Harry Foley , PhD Candidate in Architectural and Urban History and Theory at The Bartlett School of Architecture, University College London	£800 to cover reproduction costs for an exhibition to mark 75 years since the results were announced for the 1951 Coventry Cathedral design competition, and a preliminary public lecture to promote the exhibition.
	Jane Connory , Deputy Chair of Communication Design, Director of Master of Design and Senior Lecturer at Swinburne University of Technology’s School of Design and Architecture	£1000 to support archival research, image preparation and exhibition development directly connected to the realisation of the exhibition <i>Queer Graphic Histories: Visual Cultures of Discipline, Desire and Resistance</i>
Outreach and Event Grant	Helen McCormack , Reader in Art and Design History, The Glasgow School of Art, Jennifer Gray, programme director in jewellery and silversmithing, Edinburgh College of Art, and Anne Nellis Richter, independent scholar (affiliated with the Smithsonian Internship Program at Smith College, Northampton, Massachusetts)	£895 to cover travel and accommodation for two speakers and local colleagues to attend Glasgow for a one-day interdisciplinary symposium themed on the edited volume Reassembling the social interior: historical spaces from contemporary viewpoints (MUP, 2025)
	Meena Azhakappan , Independent Researcher (Architectural Historian)	£800 in support of a guided architectural reading of Chettinad houses for a small group of 25-30 participants in Tamil Nadu, India
Student and Precariously-Employed Speaker Conference Bursary	QI Xiaolian, Master’s Student, Academy of Arts & Design, Tsinghua University, China	Free place at the 2025 conference and gala dinner and up to £200 towards travel and accommodation for a paper on Pan Changhou’s design education thought as a case study to examine the transformation of knowledge and the formation of design methods within Chinese art and design education in the second half of the twentieth century.
	Dimitrios Moutafidis, prospective doctoral student at UCLA in USA	Free place at the 2025 conference and gala dinner and up to £200 towards travel and accommodation for the paper: “Speculative Fulgurology*: Imagining Design with Earth Energies in the Age of Climatic Uncertainty”
	Peter Grace, Masters student in Social Ecological Design at Istituto Europeo di Design Torino	Free place at the 2025 conference and gala dinner and up to £200 towards travel and accommodation for a paper which explores the way that the gender division of labour is depicted, imagined, and designed for in the interior environments of Joe Colombo.
	Rebecca Bertero, Research and Teaching Assistant, SUPSI – University of Applied Sciences and Arts of Southern Switzerland	Free place at the 2025 conference and gala dinner and up to £200 towards travel and accommodation for the paper: Community Memory and Collective Internet Practices. Towards an Expanded Digital Design History

	Georgina Pantazopoulou, PhD Candidate, University of Antwerp, Faculty of Design Sciences	Free place at the 2025 conference and gala dinner and up to £200 towards travel and accommodation for a paper which interrogates and redefines the dynamics of sociability, conviviality, familiarity, creativity, and imagination within domestic environments, advocating for a more intersectional, gender-sensitive, and inclusive approach to interior architecture.
Design Writing Prize	To be announced at the DHS Annual Conference 2026	

Grants and Prizes 2026 summary:

Grant/Prize	Applications received	Applications granted
Research Access Grant (Student)	7	6
Research Access Grant (Academic)	4	2
Decolonising Design History Grant	6	5
Accessible Design History Grant	0	0
Outreach and Event Grant	2	2
Research Exhibition Grant	2	2
Research Publication Grant	7	3
Virtual Event Grant	0	0
Day Symposium Grant	0	0
Student Speaker Conference Bursary	5	5
Total	33	25
Design Writing Prize	15	1

Student Matters

This year the Society said goodbye to Student Ambassador Dan Mu, who completed her tenure in January, and recruited four new Ambassadors: Abigail Egwunyenga, Alice Ji-Won Kim, Aurore Damoiseaux, and Katherine Easthill. Abigail is a PhD student in the School of Design and Creative Arts at Loughborough University; Alice is a recent MA graduate in Fine and Decorative Art and Design from the Sotheby's Institute of Art; Aurore is a PhD student in the History of Art and Design at the University of Brighton; and Katherine is a PhD student working between Brunel University and the Marx Memorial Library. The number of ambassadors — an increase on the three that we recruited in the last cycle — represents the strength of the pool of applicants as well as the demands of the new annual student conference. Between them, our new Ambassadors bring an abundance of experiences, perspectives, and research interests to DHS student activities.

Since the start of their tenure in February, the Student Ambassadors have developed several new initiatives, including a DHS student Substack, a series of student-led and student-focused 'Meetups' across the UK, and a graphic identity for DHS student events. These initiatives have been successful in further establishing a community of student design historians within the DHS, providing informal spaces in which they can share research and build connections.

In addition to bringing fresh initiatives to the DHS, the Ambassadors have also continued to develop existing projects, such as the annual Student Conference, which was staged for the first time in 2025. This year's conference, titled '[Ephemeral Encounters](#)', explored ideas of ephemera, ephemerality, and ephemeral encounters across the broad spectrum of design history. The conference was held online and included five panels — with a total of 15 papers — across June 12th and 13th. The annual student conference continues to attract a wide range of voices and perspectives to the Society and provides a platform for students looking to share their research in a generous, peer-to-peer, environment. Recordings are available on the Society's [YouTube channel](#).

The Ambassadors also have several involvements in the conference in Brno in September. Firstly, in nominating, alongside the Society's student membership, the Student Keynote, which was selected in conjunction with the conference convenors in Brno. The student nomination, Zeina Maasri, graciously accepted and will give the keynote on her recent research project, '[Decolonizing the Page: A Forgotten Golden Age of Arabic Book Arts \(1950s-1980s\)](#)', an online exhibition, archive, and learning resource. Secondly, the Ambassadors have worked with Valéria Bláha — PhD student in the Centre for Modern Art and Theory at Masaryk University in Brno — to develop a series of student-focused workshops and events

during the conference schedule. These include a meetup, titled 'Bring your research challenge' where students can share research questions and issues; a workshop on writing abstracts for design history, facilitated by Ambassador Aurore Damoiseaux; and a workshop on the digital humanities, titled 'Materialising the "Immaterial": How to Make Design Historical Interventions in Cyberspace' and facilitated by DHS Digital Secretary Dr Anna K. Talley.

Dr Alex J. Todd
Student Representative of the Design History Society



Design History Ambassadors: OUR FIRST 3 MONTHS IN OFFICE

So design history? What is it all about? It is a multidisciplinary field that sits at the intersection of anthropology, cultural studies, history of craft, history of science and technology and so much more. The Design History...

[DHSSTUDENTS.SUBSTACK.COM](https://dhsstudents.substack.com)

Outreach and Membership

As the Design History Society Trustee responsible for Outreach and Membership, my focus this academic year has been on promoting the Society across borders, particularly in Beirut and other Arab cities, while actively involving students and faculty.

June 2026

“Reality and Imagination Through Marie al-Khazen’s Lens”

Exhibition and Panel Discussion – 18 June – 28 July, 2026

Co-curated by Georgia Makhoul and Yasmine Nachabe Taan, this exhibition presents more than 60 photographs by pioneering Lebanese photographer Marie al-Khazen (1899–1983). The project is a collaboration between the Institute of Art in the Arab World (IAAW), the Arab Institute for Women (AIW), and the Arab Image Foundation (AIF).

April 2026

Exhibition “Woodwork and Drawings by Naim Doumit”

This event is postponed until Fall 2026 due to the war in Lebanon.

Co-curated by Yasmine Nachabe Taan and George Hanna, this exhibition presents a selection of woodwork and drawings by Lebanese sculptor Naim Doumit. Known for his refined sensibility and reverence for wood as a living medium, Doumit’s work blurs the boundaries between art, design, and craft.

March 2026

Panel Discussion: “Beyond the Frame:

Owning Space, Sharing Vision”

This event was postponed until Fall 2026 due to the war in Lebanon.

The Institute of Art in the Arab World, in collaboration with the Arab Institute for Women, organise a roundtable discussion at Galerie Janine Rubeiz in Beirut. Panel moderator, Yasmine Nachabe Taan.

February 2026

Panel Discussion: “[Revealing, Recording, Reflecting: Graphic Women from Southwest Asia to North Africa](#)”

The Institute of Art in the Arab World, in collaboration with the Khatt Foundation (Amsterdam), organised a book presentation and panel discussion.

December 2025

Panel Discussion: “[Rewriting Women’s Art History in the Arab World](#)”

The Institute of Art in the Arab World hosted a talk by Rémi Homs, curator at the Barjeel Art Foundation (Sharjah), examining new approaches to writing women’s art histories in the Arab world.

November 2025

Talk: “[Framing Pain: The Civil War in Lebanon in a Photograph](#)”

In collaboration with the Arab Institute for Women, the Institute of Art in the Arab World hosted a lecture by Maher Attar exploring photography, war, and collective memory in Lebanon.

October 2025

Panel Discussion: “[Food as Art, Memory, and Resistance](#)”

The Institute of Art in the Arab World collaborated with the Department of Nutrition and Food Science at LAU to organise a panel exploring how contemporary artists and designers across the Arab world and diaspora use food as a medium to address questions of identity, memory, migration, and resistance.

Talk: “[Dressed for Dissent: Activist Fashion in Palestine](#)”

The Institute hosted a talk by Roberto Filippello (University of Amsterdam) examining the role of fashion and dress in Palestinian activism and political expression.

September 2025

DHS Conference Participation and Student Outreach

A group of sixteen Graphic Design students from the Lebanese American University became members of the Design History Society and attended the DHS 2025 Conference in Ankara.

During the conference, students attended selected sessions and documented their experiences through written reflections and photography. Upon their return to Beirut, they presented their findings and reflections in a public event at the university gallery attended by faculty, students, and members of the wider community. In addition, one LAU faculty member and one LAU student presented papers at the conference.

This initiative introduced students to the Design History Society, exposed them to international networks in design history, and provided valuable professional and academic development opportunities.

Following the success of this initiative, participation in the DHS 2026 Conference in Brno was proposed. However, the proposal was not approved by the university administration because the conference dates overlap with the beginning of the Fall semester. The administration expressed concerns that students’ absence during the first week of classes could create scheduling difficulties and disrupt the start of the academic term.

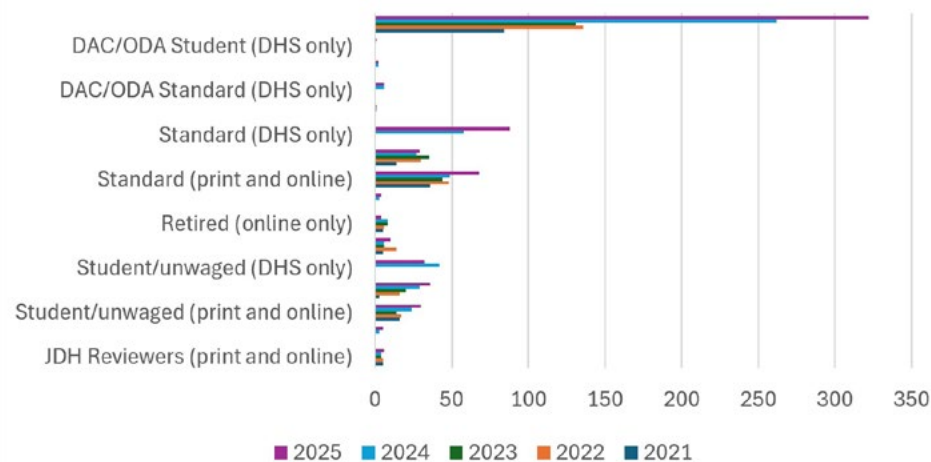
Membership

The following pages show the membership rates for the year 1st August 2025 to 31st July 2026. Since taking back management of individual subscriptions and offering a non-*Journal* membership option, there was a 100% increase in total membership subscriptions for 2024-25 and a further 22% increase for 2025-26. The concessionary rate for those residing in countries and territories that DAC note are eligible to receive [Official Development Assistance \(ODA\)](#) was purchased by 10 people for 2025-26. Despite the popularity of non-*Journal* subscriptions, there has been a slight increase in print subscriptions.

Dr Yasmine Nachabe Taan
Outreach and Membership Officer of the Design History Society

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
JDH Reviewers (print and online)	5	5	4	4	6
JDH Reviewers (online only)	n/a	n/a	n/a	3	5
Student/unwaged (print and online)	16	17	14	24	30
Student/unwaged (online only)	3	16	20	29	36
Student/unwaged (DHS only)	n/a	n/a	n/a	42	32
Retired (print and online)	5	14	6	6	10
Retired (online only)	5	6	8	8	4
Retired (DHS only)	n/a	n/a	n/a	3	4
Standard (print and online)	36	48	44	49	68
Standard (online only)	14	30	35	27	29
Standard (DHS only)	n/a	n/a	n/a	58	88
DAC/ODA Standard (online only)	n/a	n/a	n/a	1	1
DAC/ODA Standard (DHS only)	n/a	n/a	n/a	6	6
DAC/ODA Student (online only)	n/a	n/a	n/a	2	2
DAC/ODA Student (DHS only)	n/a	n/a	n/a	0	1
Total	84	136	131	262	322

Membership 2021-2025



Communications

In my third and final year as Communications Officer of the Design History Society, I'm delighted to report on our activities for 2026. My tenure in this role comes to an end at the end of the year, and it has been a pleasure to work as part of such a dedicated and supportive Committee. I'm grateful to both the Society's Trustees and to the Senior Administrator, Dr Jenna Allsopp-Douglas, for their company and support.

In May we co-organised the online symposium [Crafting Furniture in the Global South: Contemporary Practices, Histories and Futures](#), in collaboration with [Dr Rukmini Chaturvedi](#). The event saw 20 papers presented over four thematic panels: 'Colonial Objects, Material Histories and Extraction', 'Global Circulations and Material Economies', 'Craft, Labour and Distributed Making', and 'Institutions, Studios and Design Formation'. For those who missed out on the event, we are now in the process of working with the contributors to publish the papers as a series of blogs on our website. Recordings are also available on the Society's [YouTube channel](#). We are grateful to Rukmini for her work on developing the event and blog series and for chairing the event, and to all of the contributors for sharing their research.

Our quarterly newsletter and social media platforms continue to grow and act as vital means through which we communicate our news, events, and opportunities to a wide audience of members and non-members. Our

Linkedin community has grown by 40% and our following on Instagram has grown by 30% over the last twelve months. We continue to have a consistent following on Facebook and our recently launched accounts on BlueSky and TikTok. Further details of follower figures can be found in Figure 1. We continue to upload more content to both video and podcast platforms, including our regular podcast series *Routes to Design History*, demonstrating our ongoing commitment to open access formats and making design history available through a variety of media for all.

Lastly, our [Provocative Objects and Places](#) blog continues to be a popular forum for design historians to publish their work online. We have had contributions from a diverse group of international collaborators, on themes from a variety of places and periods. 2027 will mark the 5 year anniversary of the blog.

Alex Banister
Communications Officer of the Design History Society

Social Media platform	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26
BlueSky	N/A	N/A	102	138
Facebook	2159	2200	2100	2195
Instagram	1193	1797	2484	3235
LinkedIn	2146	2406	3982	5424
TikTok	7	7	17	17

Figure 1. DHS social media followings (figures correct July 2026)



CRAFTING FURNITURE IN THE GLOBAL SOUTH: CONTEMPORARY PRACTICES, HISTORIES AND FUTURES
PROGRAMME ANNOUNCEMENT
SATURDAY 9TH MAY 2026



PROVOCATIVE PLACES
GREENHAM COMMON WOMEN'S PEACE CAMP
AURORE DAMOISEAUX

Teaching and Learning

Over the past year, my work as Teaching and Learning Officer has focused on bringing together the community of design historians through workshops, publications, podcasts, and networking activities. The key activities I have been involved in, include:

1. Publishing Workshop 2026

The 2026 Publishing Workshop has been developed as a two-part programme designed to support members at different stages of the academic publishing process. The first session, “Developing an Academic Book Proposal” (2 September 2026), features Suzie Nash, Commissioning Editor at Bloomsbury. The workshop will provide participants with practical guidance on preparing an academic book proposal, offering insights into what publishers look for, the key components of a successful proposal, and common pitfalls to avoid. The session includes an interactive exercise, followed by opportunities for participants to receive tailored feedback on their own book ideas through one-to-one and small-group consultations during the conference.

The second session, “Explorations: Alternative Approaches to Writing in Design History” (3 September 2026), focuses on publishing in the *Explorations* section of the *Journal of Design History*. The session opens with Sarah A. Lichtman, Managing Editor of the *Journal of Design History*, who will introduce the *Journal*, its editorial vision, and the submission process. This will be followed by Dr Livia

Rezende, Managing Editor of the *Journal*'s *Explorations* section, who will introduce participants to alternative scholarly formats—including visual essays, interviews, letters, creative writing, and short essays—and discuss pathways to successful publication. Participants conclude the session by beginning to develop their own *Explorations* proposals, encouraging experimentation with new forms of design history writing.

2. Design Writing Prize

The 2026 Design Writing Prize received 15 submissions from emerging researchers and practitioners across the world.

The entries demonstrated the breadth of contemporary design history research, exploring themes including typography, graphic design, architecture, textiles, exhibition design, craft, material culture, community archives, political protest, disability, ecology, biomaterials, and everyday objects through decolonial, feminist, Indigenous, and practice-based perspectives. The submissions represented a broad geographical range, including India, Palestine, the United Kingdom, the United States, South Korea, Japan, Ukraine.

The prize was judged by Professor Jane Pavitt, Director of Research, Knowledge Exchange and Innovation at the University for the Creative Arts, UK. The winner will be announced during the OUP Reception at the 2026 Annual Conference.

The 2025 DWP winning paper was titled “‘A Firm Nudge’: Politics of ‘Ethical’ Reform through ‘Native Arts and Crafts’ in Dutch-Occupied Indonesia” by Rosa te Velde. Listen to Rosa in conversation with the 2025 Guest Judge Professor Elizabeth Guffey on [Spotify](#).

3. DHS Student Publication

Along with Grants and Prizes Officer, Elli Michaela Young, and former DHS Student Ambassador, Dan MU, I contributed to the planning and development of the inaugural DHS Student Publication, which will be launched at the 2026 Design History Society Conference. Emerging from the [first DHS Student Conference held in 2025](#), the publication aims to become an annual platform showcasing outstanding student research in design history and related fields.

We established an external peer-review process to ensure academic quality, and had Yaw Ofosu-Asare (RMIT University, Australia), Wendy Wong (York University, Canada) and Sabrina Rahman (University of Exeter, UK) as external reviewers. The publication seeks to provide visibility and publishing opportunities for emerging voices who may not otherwise have access to established academic publishing platforms.

4. Routes to Design History Podcast

I continued to develop the *Routes to Design History* podcast series, which highlights diverse career paths and approaches to practising design history

through conversations with scholars, curators, designers, writers, and practitioners from around the world. Over the past year, the series featured interviews with:

- Elizabeth Guffey (Professor Emerita, Art History, State University of New York, Purchase College)
- Justine Boussard (UK-based Independent Curator and Creative Producer)
- Ana Elena Mallet (Mexico-based contemporary art and design curator)
- Yaw Ofosu-Asare (Professor at RMIT University and author)
- Rick Poynor (Writer, Curator, Editor, Emeritus Professor, University of Reading)
- Sabrina Rahman (Professor in Languages, Cultures, and Visual Studies, University of Exeter)
- Wendy Wong (Full Professor, Department of Design, York University, Toronto)
- Jesse Adams Stein (Director of Design Studies, UTS School of Design, Sydney)
- William Seung (Assistant Curator, Design and Digital, Victoria & Albert Museum)
- Johanna Agermann Ross (Chief Curator, Design Museum and Founder and Director, *Disegno*)

Upcoming episodes include interviews with Tanishka Kachru (Professor at National Institute of Design, Ahmedabad) and Dr Livia Rezende

(Senior Lecturer, UNSW School of Art & Design, Sydney). Earlier episodes in the series also featured Shirley Surya (Curator of Design and Architecture, M+, Hong Kong), Barbara Perata-Smith (Lead of the Net Zero Programme, UK Regulators Network), Sarita Sundar (India-based Communication Designer and Design Historian, Author of *Frugal to the Ornate: Stories of the Seat in India*), Ezrena Marwan (Educator, Graphic Designer, Co-founder of Malaysia Design Archive), and Derrick Gaiter (Assistant Attorney General, Florida), reflecting the Society's commitment to presenting globally diverse perspectives and multiple routes into the field of design history. The podcast continues to serve as an accessible resource for students, early-career researchers, and the wider design history community.

5. Routes to Design History Networking and Mentorship Event

Building on the podcast series, along with Digital Secretary, Anna K. Talley and former DHS Student Ambassador, Dan MU, I organised the [Routes to Design History Networking and Mentorship Event](#), held on 20 November, to facilitate meaningful exchanges between established practitioners and emerging researchers.

The event brought together approximately 10–15 students and early-career researchers with podcast guests Barbara Perata-Smith, Sarita Sundar, Ezrena Marwan, Derrick Gaiter, Sabrina Rahman, Rick Poynor, Ana Elena Mallet,

and Yaw Ofosu-Asare through a series of rotating breakout-room discussions.

Feedback from participants was positive, highlighting the value of direct conversations with experienced practitioners. Reflections from the event identified opportunities for future improvement including sharing mentee biographies with mentors in advance, enabling screen-sharing to allow participants to present their work, and refining breakout-room planning to better align mentor expertise with participant interests.

A second edition of the event is currently being planned for mid-November 2026 to continue strengthening mentorship and community-building within the Design History Society.

Deepika Srivastava,
Teaching and Learning Officer of the
Design History Society



Conference

This was my first full year as Conference Liaison Officer after taking full responsibility for the role at the end of the [2024 Canterbury Conference](#).

As CLO my priorities for the success of each conference are maintaining positive and productive relations with the host institution and improving the sustainability and inclusivity of each event. I am also keen to encourage new countries and regions as hosts and thereby expand the reach of design history research fostered through the DHS.

DHS Annual Conference: Ankara Bilim, 4-6 September 2025

[“Converging Paths: Design in the Creative Economy”](#)

Participation and Keynotes

This event brought together speakers from across the globe with a strong presence from the host country, Turkey, which was most welcome. Prof. Gülay Hasdoğan, industrial designer and founding member and former president of the Industrial Designers Society of Turkey was able to present on the history of industrial design in Turkey. Unfortunately Dr Süha Ozkan was unable to present due to some technical difficulties and we will continue to work on hybrid elements in future conferences. John Newbiggin, OBE and former founder and first Chairman of Creative England (UK) gave a very inspiring talk on his work with companies internationally on sustainability issues.

In the final programme there were 59 presentations in 22 sessions and 81 registered delegates.

General total income: Euro 18,670
Outgoings: Euro 13,060
The conference made a surplus of Euro 7,810.

Venues and Tours

We were able to discover highly interesting points of regional cultural history during the conference. The opening event was held at the beautiful Museum of Anatolian Civilizations. The Oxford University Press Reception co-sponsored by the Head of the Board of Trustees (Ankara Bilim University) was held at the Divan Çukurhan Hotel, an impressive, restored 16th-century Ottoman caravanserai opposite the Citadel. A second reception was held at the City Council and was sponsored by the Ankara Municipality.

There were further cultural opportunities: a walking tour to Anıtkabir, Mauseleum of Atatürk, two parallel walking tours – one including early Republican Architectural Heritage and another to the Hacı Bayram Veli complex and the adjacent Temple of Augustus in the Roman district of the city. On the final day, participants were able to visit the ancient archaeological site of Gordion.

Publication

It was decided not to go forward with a conference publication due to insufficient capacity from the host side.

However, the complete book of abstracts from the conference can be viewed [here](#).

I am pleased to say that eye, the international review of graphic design, [published a piece written by me](#) which reviewed the graphic design history papers made at the conferences. I hope that this will encourage more submissions from this discipline which is generally a little underrepresented.

I would like to thank our Ankara hosts for their kindness and hospitality, and for the hard work involved in putting together the event with a small team.

DHS Annual Conference: Masaryk University, Brno, 3-5 September 2026

[“Design in an Age of Uncertainty”](#)

I have been working together with the DHS Senior Administrator, Jenna Allsopp-Douglas with our hosts at the Masaryk University in Brno on the preparations for the 2026 conference. The host team is led by Dr Marta Filipová.

We are expecting 96 presentations (panels and papers) presented by 123 scholars. The cooperation with the Brno partners has been excellent. The timings are well on schedule in all aspects. Registration has been opened now with a system of payments in line with the fees agreed with DHS Trustees.

DHS Annual Conference 2027

2027 marks the 50th anniversary of the Design History Society. Two applications

were received to host this landmark conference, with the chosen host to be announced in the closing remarks of the 2026 conference.

Dr Jessica Jenkins,
Conference Liaison Officer of the
Design History Society



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-

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Appendix:

Annual
Statement
from the
Accountants

**Report of the Trustees and
Unaudited Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 July 2026
for
DESIGN HISTORY SOCIETY**

Knox Cropper LLP
153-155 London Road
Hemel Hempstead
Hertfordshire
HP3 9SQ

DESIGN HISTORY SOCIETY

**Contents of the Financial Statements
for the Year Ended 31 July 2026**

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DESIGN HISTORY SOCIETY

Report of the Trustees for the Year Ended 31 July 2026

The trustees present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 July 2026. The trustees have adopted the provisions of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019).

**Report of the Trustees
for the Year Ended 31 July 2026**

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objectives and aims

To promote the study of and research into design history and to disseminate and publish the useful results thereof.

Significant activities

Journal

The **Journal of Design History** is published by Oxford University Press on behalf of the Design History Society. It is the leading journal in its field and plays an active role in the development of design history, including the history of crafts and applied arts, as well as contributing to the broader fields of visual and material culture studies.

Conference and virtual events programme

The annual DHS Conference provides an international platform for interdisciplinary approaches to research and critical debate in design history. Hosted each year by a different partner institution, the conference furthers global dialogues on design and its histories. Since 2021, the Society has created a new portfolio of virtual workshops, seminars and symposia (and archival recordings of these offerings), podcasts and enhanced social media content-driven communications which engage with a worldwide audience for free.

Membership

2025-26 memberships ran from 1st August 2025 to 31st July 2026. The system implemented in 2024 continues to work well. The Chair and Trustees continue to explore how the Society can diversify its income streams and its membership as the turn towards Open Access publishing will inevitably diminish the income from traditional membership through our partnership with OUP in publishing the Journal of Design History. This year there was an increase of £11,000 in income through the profit share with OUP. The Chair and Trustees understand that new streams of income and models of membership are vital to the ongoing financial security of the DHS. It will also offer opportunities for the Society to further diversify its membership to include researchers and design professionals whose work, research and interests may sit outside the realms of traditional academia. As of August 2024, the Society now offers a dramatically-reduced membership option that does not include access to the JDH but allows members to access other Society benefits.

In 2024 the Society launched a Membership Survey to understand the aspirations of the wider community and to help shape the direction of the Society based on the survey responses. Over half of the respondents identified as academics, with the next highest being students at just over 20%. The top three fields of interest were graphic design, museology/exhibitions and architectural design. Books and journal articles were the highest engaged content. Respondents said the following professional development, training or knowledge exchange opportunities are currently lacking in the field: (i) Meetings and workshops with other design historian academics and students, (ii) Assistance with how to find and write proposals for/publishing advice, (iii) Opportunities to engage and learn with cognate fields, (iv) Design History academic networks in North America and (v) Online symposia, series of podcasts, online workshops. The responses to the survey will inform the activities of Trustees throughout 2025 and 2026, such as the implementation of a Teaching Resources portal launched during summer 2026.

Funding

A range of annual Awards, Prizes and Research Grants encourage debate and research in design history. Individual grants are awarded to support particular research activities, including exhibitions, publication costs, travel and DHS annual conference attendance, scholarship and outreach particularly in underrepresented areas within of our field in particular the Society's current decolonising and sustainability strategic agendas. As of January 2025, the grants and awards were revised to better support the Society's community and research needs. This included removing grants that attract few applications and launching new grants which align more closely with the Society's decolonising initiatives. The grants were reviewed without amendments throughout 2025-26.

The Outreach and Event Grant assists DHS members to convene a public event to promote design history beyond a traditional academic setting.

The Research Access Grant (Student and Academic) and the Research Publication Grant supports, early career and established scholars.

The Research Exhibition Grant supports research leading to an exhibition (physical or virtual).

Student members benefit from a Student Research Access Grant and Student/Precariously Employed Speaker Bursary for the annual Conference scheme.

DESIGN HISTORY SOCIETY

Report of the Trustees for the Year Ended 31 July 2026

In March 2020 a special Virtual Design History pathway of funding was instigated in 2020-1 which has been sustained to facilitate opportunities for the more sustainable format of virtual interaction worldwide.

The Decolonising Design History Grant was launched in 2025 to recognise and support ground-breaking research and projects that actively contribute to the decolonisation of design history. This has proved to be a popular award with all funds being allocated for 2025-26.

The Accessible Design History Grant was launched in 2025 to remove structural barriers that prevent disabled researchers, students, and practitioners from engaging fully with the field of design history.

Prizes

Launched in 2017, the Design Writing Prize, recognises outstanding writing that engages academic and non-academic audiences in critical and contemporary issues in design. In 2025 nineteen submissions were received, an increase from fourteen submissions in 2024. The Grants and Prizes Trustee, Elli Michaela Young, shortlisted three submissions from the top scoring entries blind-reviewed by Trustees, from which a winner was selected by this year's judge, Elizabeth Guffey, Professor emerita in Art History at the State University of New York, Purchase College.

The Student Essay Prize was established in 1997 and was awarded to one undergraduate and one postgraduate essay each year to celebrate excellence in student writing in design history. In 2025, the prize was paused due to decreasing submissions and was replaced with a prize related to the online Student Annual Conference, which is due to launch in 2026.

Events

The DHS hosts a rolling calendar of events and activities convened by Trustees working with relevant educational, professional and cultural partners. These events create opportunities for outreach and engagement beyond the annual conference and aim to reach new audiences, both internationally and across the UK. The Teaching and Learning Officer normally host events, support students, educators, curators, archivists at all levels throughout the year. They are convening two Publishing Workshops at the 2026 annual DHS conference in Brno with the help of JDH Editors and other colleagues.

The College Art Association and the Association for Art History are the two leading scholarly organisations for Art History in the USA and the UK respectively, and both have broad international reach. Both organisations hold an annual conference, both of which are large, extremely prestigious, and a wonderful opportunity to promote the DHS and network with potential members and other organisations. Design History as a discipline is closely related to Art History but for a long time was largely overlooked and ignored by the main discipline, hence the founding of the DHS in the 1970s. However, in recent years successive DHS Chairs and Trustees have forged much closer links with both organisations and are now invited to organise an annual session or workshop focused on contemporary design historical issues. We feel that the expense and time required to do this is worth it for promoting the work of the Society, attracting new members, networking on behalf of the society, and further forging interdisciplinarity in the expanded academic field. This year, Harriet Atkinson and Alex J Todd convened a DHS-sponsored panel themed 'Design Activism as Repetition, Reconstruction and Reinvention' at the 2026 CAA Annual Conference in Chicago, US

In 2025, the Society's Student Representative Alex Todd and former Ambassadors Dan Mu and Pippy Stephenson launched the inaugural virtual DHS Annual Student Conference under the theme 'Revisiting Design History: Global Cross-Cultural Interactions and Narratives'. In 2026, the second conference was convened by current Ambassadors Alice Ji-Won Kim, Aurore Damoiseaux, Katherine Easthill and Abigail Egwunyenga under the theme EPHEMERAL ENCOUNTERS featuring fifteen speakers across two days.

Network & Legacy

The DHS Newsletter (published quarterly) and online Blog includes updates on the Society's activities, reports from award winners and relevant news items. The social media of the DHS and JISCMAIL Mailing List provides a forum for discussion of design historical issues and the exchange of related information and reviews for members and interested non-members. In 2025 it was decided to deactivate, archive and delete both the DHS and JDH Twitter/X accounts and launch new accounts on Bluesky.

Developed by our Teaching and Learning Officer Deepika Srivastava, Student Officer Alex Todd, and former Ambassadors Dan Mu and Pippy Stephenson, the 'Routes to Design History' podcast series was launched in 2025, which explores diverse ways of practising the field. Throughout 2026-26 the podcast continued to publish a new episode each month with the help of new Ambassadors Alice Ji-Won Kim, Aurore Damoiseaux, Katherine Easthill and Abigail Egwunyenga.

DESIGN HISTORY SOCIETY

Report of the Trustees for the Year Ended 31 July 2026

Instagram and LinkedIn followers continue to increase (by 30% and 40% respectively in 2025) and there has been consistent growth in followers of the BlueSky account since its launch in 2025. The Provocative Objects and Places blog continues to be a popular forum for design historians to publish their work online. We have had contributions from a diverse group of international collaborators, on themes from a variety of places and periods. 2027 will mark the 5 year anniversary of the blog.

In 2026 the Society advertised and interviewed for a new Trustee role - Inclusion Officer. Dr Tanveer Ahmed, Senior Lecturer in Fashion and Race at Central Saint Martins, University of the Arts London, was appointed. This new Trustee role was created to ensure that the best practices of inclusion, equity, and diversity are enacted across the Society. The Inclusion Officer will be responsible for developing a set of clear guidelines for inclusive practices across the DHS conference, the student conference, and membership.

Volunteers

All the Society's Trustees, Student Officer, Ambassadors and Editors of the Journal of Design History carry out their duties in a voluntary capacity. The Chair of the Editorial Board, the Managing Editor and the Book Reviews Editor receive stipends from Oxford University Press out of the Publishers' half-share of annual profits amounting to £9778.00 in 2025.

Each Trustee oversees a specified area of the Society's annual activity. The Chair and Treasurer are Honorary Officers, Trustees areas oversight include Communications, Conference Liaison, Membership, Teaching and Learning, Inclusion and Grants and Prizes. A Student Officer facilitates and mentors student engagement but is not a Trustee. The Digital Secretary oversees all digital matters of the Society.

The Society also appoints up to four volunteer Ambassadors to support the work of the Board of Trustees directly by promoting DHS activities through social media channels, by generating online content and by developing new initiatives in partnership with Trustees. The Student Representative and Ambassadors are eligible for free annual membership to the DHS (including online access to the Journal), and for registration at events in the Society's annual programme. Ambassadors are expected to serve for at least 1 year, with the option to extend to 2 years.

Each member of the Editorial Board plays a leading role with certain submissions and takes particular responsibilities in relation to special features or aspects of the Journal's work. Board members devote at least two days per month to the Journal, including meetings which take place twice a year. Appointment to the Board is for a five-year renewable term of office. The Editorial Board is responsible, through its Chair, for the operation of the Journal, which is fundamental to the Society's aims and activities. The Managing Editor is responsible for maintaining the Journal's high standards and overseeing the work of the Editorial Board in this regard.

Between 2015 and 2020, and for 2022-2023, payments for conference registration, travel, accommodation and subsistence costs amounting to 50% of the Society's annual expenditure were reimbursed to Editors, Trustees, the Student Representative and Ambassadors. As unanimously agreed on 27 June 2020, any and all expense claims must be agreed with the Chair and the Treasurer in advance to be reimbursed; authorisation of any payment will be predicated upon need. In the first instance, Trustees and Editors are requested to seek institutional funding to attend the annual conference, and to seek DHS funding only if this cannot be attained.

Public benefit

The Design History Society promotes and supports the study of design histories, both in the UK and internationally. Through its Journal, annual conference and programme of events it brings together all those engaged in the subject - students, researchers, educators, designers, designer-makers, critics and curators among them. It also acts as an advocate for the subject in a number of different contexts.

As such, all Trustees of the Design History Society act with due regard to public benefit guidance in exercising their powers and duties where this guidance is relevant. Details of the Society's activities over the last year can be found below.

Grantmaking

The programme of DHS grants awarded is designed to meet the needs of design history researchers at all stages of their careers and in a wide geography. They enable high-level research outputs to be realised that fulfil the Society's aims to promote a wider understanding of design, craft and visual and material culture in their many aspects.

In 2025-26, the Charity funded 25 projects (a slight increase from 24 projects in the year 2024-25) through its portfolio of grants and awards: Research Publication Grant, Research Access Grant (Student and Academic), Outreach and Event Grant, Decolonising Design History Grant, Research Exhibition Grant, and Student and Precariously-Employed Conference Speaker Bursary. These funds amounted to £18,000 (an increase of £2000 in 2024-25).

DESIGN HISTORY SOCIETY

Report of the Trustees for the Year Ended 31 July 2026

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

Charitable activities

In its publication of the Journal of Design History, the Society contributes to the promotion of design history as a scholarly subject internationally.

By taking the annual DHS Conference to international venues most years (eg California College of the Arts, San Francisco 2015; University of Oslo, 2017; Parsons, The New School, New York in 2018, Academy of Art and Design, Basel in 2021, Izmir Institute of Technology, Turkey 2022, ESAD/IDEA, Portugal, 2023, UCA Canterbury UK 2024, Ankara Bilim, Turkey, 2025, Brno, Czech Republic, 2026), the Society has sought to further global dialogue on design and its histories and draw new members and wider constituencies.

The DHS Research Grants and Awards offers support to student, early-career, and established researchers from the university and cultural sector to promote excellence in the subject, leading to significant outputs in the form of publications, exhibitions and events. All award and grant applications are blind reviewed by a panel of Trustees to fund applicants internationally, guided by principles of equal opportunities and respect for cultural diversity.

The Society is consulted by official bodies (eg Arts and Humanities Research Council, Research England; Council for Higher Education in Art and Design; Royal Historical Society) to offer views on policy.

While membership of the Society and participants in its activities are largely from the academic and professional fields of design and visual culture, through its programme of activities, the Charity contributes to wider benefits of society as a whole. Members of the public benefit from and participate in the events, publications and exhibitions that arise from the Society's achievements. The ongoing programme of virtual seminars and symposia, podcasts, research and outreach collaborations with fellow learned societies, and the more dynamic and impactful social media presence of the Society facilitated during the last year with the increased use of moving image content continues to enhance the security, reach and advocacy of the Society.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Financial position

The year to 31st July 2026 showed charitable income from publications of £94,177 (2025: £77,207), dissemination of £704 (2025: nil) and deposit interest of £960 (2025: £1,173). Charitable expenditure amounted to £76,993 (2025: £88,348). The net income for the period amounted to £18,848 (2025: deficit of £9,968).

The reserves at 31st July 2026 amounted to £224,724 (2025: £205,876). The reserves are substantially held in cash at bank, which at 31st July 2026 amounted to £228,787 (2025: £208,782).

Principal funding sources

The principal source of funds for the charity is income from subscriptions to the Journal of Design History. When an annual conference makes a profit, this is additional income.

Reserves policy

In line with Charity Commission guidelines, the DHS has a policy to keep money in reserve to enable expansion of activities and to sustain core activities if there is a loss of income.

Going concern

In the aftermath of the Covid Pandemic and amidst the uncertain climate about Open Access, the continued income from the **Journal of Design History** is less guaranteed than it has ever been, nonetheless the charity should be secure as a going concern.

The principal financial risk to the charity is if there was a severe reduction in subscriptions to the **Journal of Design History**. The inclusion of the Chair of the editorial board as a trustee of the DHS ensures that the charity can be made aware of any threat in this regard.

FUTURE PLANS

The future agenda for the field of Design History continues to focus upon its location as a subject, its institutional standing and how the Society can contribute towards securing a firm base for growth in the years to come. Our active commitment to equality and sustainability are areas of particular strategic importance upon which the Trustees have agreed to focus attention in during the Chair's tenure prioritising:

1) Facilitating Design History as a subject-specific discipline worldwide

The evolving character of Design History as a subject taught at school, college and university level, as well as pursued through research in universities, the media, cultural institutions, museums and galleries, remains one of vital significance for the Society and of increasing vulnerability. The DHS can make an active contribution to encourage the vitality and morale of our field as we navigate the complexities of economic precarity. The Society hopes to provide a forum for dialogue and support around the pressures of increased workload and loss of employment. Research activity, impossible for many of our constituencies amidst the pressures of the pandemic, has begun to revive as access to archives and objects gradually reopen if often in a more limited capacity. The negative impact of cost-of-living pressures and redundancies continue to impact upon our field, career progression and wellbeing, and with particular intensity for colleagues on precarious and part-time employment contracts and as well as care-givers and ethnic minorities.

2) Virtual engagement and diversifying Design History as a community

Since its foundation in 1977, core aims of the Society have been to encourage, to disseminate and to publish the subject for public benefit. Amidst the pandemic, the Society reassessed how it engages and serves its community more equitably creating a new portfolio of podcasts and virtual seminars and symposia accessible worldwide for free. A core ambition underlying these explorations was to assess how enhancing virtual activity might expand and diversify design history as a community, both by identifying intersectional inequalities across its frameworks and institutions and by supporting under-represented constituencies. The creation of ongoing virtual seminar series has ensured a robust calendar of activities presenting the research of colleagues to audiences worldwide. The aspiration to develop a new more affordable membership category targeted at less-affluent sectors within the design history community worldwide was addressed in 2024 with the addition of a reduced rate for students and those residing in countries and territories that DAC note are eligible to receive Official Development Assistance (ODA), as well as offering a non-journal membership tier which is more relevant to practitioners and those who sit outside the traditional academic framework.

3) Advocacy and Sustainability

In 2024 the Digital Secretary Trustee Anna K Talley implemented further guidance to all grant overviews and application forms to instruct applicants to explain how their work and research contribute to the Society's sustainability and decolonising efforts. In 2025 the Decolonising Design History Grant was established to recognise and support ground-breaking research and projects that actively contribute to the decolonisation of design history, and the Accessible Design History grant was established to remove structural barriers that prevent disabled researchers, students, and practitioners from engaging fully with the field of design history. Both Grants have proved to be extremely popular with the Society's membership.

4) Inclusion

In July 2026, Tanveer Ahmed joined the Board of Trustees as Inclusion Officer. This new Trustee role replaces the former (non-Trustee) Student Officer role (the duties of the student role will be covered by various Trustees, including the Teaching and Learning Officer). The role of the Inclusion officer is to work towards ensuring that the best practices of inclusion, equity, and diversity are enacted across the society. The Inclusion Officer will be responsible for developing a set of clear guidelines for inclusive practices including across the DHS conference, the student conference, and membership, as well as, wherever needed, in any other areas of DHS work and practice.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

Since November 2014, the Society has been registered with the Charity Commission under the listing as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, number: 1155117. Transfer of the Society's assets to the CIO, including key assets such as our membership of the DHS-OUP publishing contract was completed with due consideration for data protection and to maintain the same terms of partnership with OUP.

Charity constitution

The Society's Constitution remains unchanged from 2014 and is available from the DHS website (<http://www.designhistorysociety.org/about/charitable-incorporated-organisation/index.html>); this document sets out in detail the structure, governance and management of all aspects of the Society.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Recruitment and appointment of new trustees

An elected Executive Committee (Board of Trustees) works together to enable the activities of the Society.

Trustees must be members of the Design History Society. New trustees must apply in writing detailing their relevant experience and skills. Applications are blind reviewed by the Executive Committee and successful applicants are co-opted and confirmed at the Design History Society Annual General Meeting, or forms of shortlisted applicants will be presented to the Design History Society Annual General Meeting for final vote and confirmation. Trustees serve for an initial term of three years.

The Executive Committee comprises 11 members: 10 Trustees (of which Chair and Treasurer are Honorary Officers) and 1 Student Officer (non-Trustee role) and meets quarterly. During 2025-26, the level of meeting attendance was 90% or more. Each Trustee is responsible both for their individually designated areas of activity and for the collective responsibility of the Society's policy and decision-making.

Organisational structure

At Executive Committee meetings which each include a Strategic Forum, the members agree the broad strategy and areas of activity for the Society, including grants and awards making, financial status, reserves, risk management and performance and achievements; weekly administration is conveyed through the Society Administrator who consults with the Chair and Trustees on any policy issues.

The Chair of the DHS and the Chair of the JDH Editorial Board address fiscal and partnership matters with OUP regarding the Journal of Design History. The strategic management of the JDH is delegated to the Chair of the Editorial Board (a Trustee), to lead the board, which comprises the Chair of the DHS (ex-officio) and further appointed members: a Managing Editor to manage the peer reviews system, a Reviews Editor and other editors.

As of 2023, the Editorial Board now meets virtually three times a year and in person at the annual conference. The two Chairs (of the Society and of the Editorial Board) and the Managing Editor meet with our publishers annually: again, these meetings facilitate the agreement of broad strategy and areas of activity for the JDH.

As volunteers, both the Executive Committee of the Society, the Student Representative and DHS Ambassadors, the JDH Editors (non-post holding) and Advisory Board are highly valued in their joint efforts to support the Society and its Journal. A summary prepared by the Chair of the Editorial Board is presented at Executive Committee Meetings and Editors are invited to join the Strategic Forum section of Executive Committee meetings where pertinent. Executive Committee members and Editorial Board members are required to disclose all relevant interests and, in accordance with the DHS constitution, withdraw from decisions where a conflict of interest arises.

Induction and training of new trustees

The DHS trustees make available to each new charity Trustee, on or before their first appointment: a copy of the DHS Constitution and any amendments made to it; and a copy of the CIO's latest Trustees' Annual Review and statement of accounts.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Risk management

The Trustees are responsible for assessing the major risks to which the DHS is exposed and to establishing procedures to manage/mitigate those risks. As a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, the DHS has the benefits of a distinct legal personality; this enables the Society to conduct business in its own name rather than in the name of its Trustees. CIO status also removes the Society's Trustees and Members from personal liabilities for the Society's debts. In 2022, the Society has also enhanced the level of appropriate Charity and Community Insurance to protect the Society's assets, resources, Trustees and Editorial Board members and other volunteers against loss, damage or liability arising from the risks that all charities face. The Society's income is generated almost entirely from the Journal of Design History publication. Loss of income from this source therefore poses the biggest risk to income (although this risk has been somewhat mitigated by the outgoing Chair's identification of the policies of high overspend and low reserves which have been rectified with the unanimous support of Trustees and Editors).

Trustees continue to be vigilant in the mitigation of this risk through close co-operation with the Editorial Board of the Journal, by holding quarterly committee meetings to report on developments and to ensure the successful promotion of the Society's membership offer through events, networks and contacts. Further, the reserve policy and annual budget forecast, instigated by the outgoing Chair and reviewed annually, should enable the Society to continue its core activities, such as grants, awards, bursaries and an annual conference, in the event of the loss of income for at least two years. At the 2024 year-end, the Charity's accounts hold over £200,000 ensuring that the incoming the Executive Committee and Editorial Board will embark on their governance of these challenges in 2024-25 on a much more secure footing.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Charity number

1155117

Principal address

70 Cowcross Steet
London
EC1M 6EJ

Trustees

Ms M Young Joint Teaching, Learning, and Continuing
Professor G Lees-Maffei Chair of the Journal of Design History
Dr S Huxtable Chair
Dr Y Taan Membership
Dr J R Jenkins Joint Conference Liaison
D Srivastava Teaching and Learning
A Banister-Fletcher Communications
A K Talley Digital Secretary
Dr J R Pilcher

Independent Examiner

Knox Cropper LLP
153-155 London Road
Hemel Hempstead
Hertfordshire
HP3 9SQ

Solicitors

Bircham Dyson Bell
50 Broadway
London SW1H 0BL

Bankers

Barclays Bank PLC
Leicester LE87 2BB

DESIGN HISTORY SOCIETY

Report of the Trustees for the Year Ended 31 July 2026

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Administrator

Dr Jenna Allsopp-Douglas

Student Officer

Alex Todd

Ambassadors

Dan Mu

Pippy Stephenson

JDH Editors

Professor Grace Lees-Maffei, Chair of the Journal of Design History

Assistant Professor Sarah Lichtman (Managing Editor)

Dr Leah Armstrong (Book Reviews Editor)

Dr Sally-Anne Huxtable (ex officio)

Associate Professor Priscila Farias

Dr Livia Rezende

Dr Jane Tynan

Dr Sarah Cheang

Dr Harriet Atkinson

Professor Kjetil Fallan

Approved by order of the board of trustees on and signed on its behalf by:

.....
Dr S Huxtable - Trustee

**Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of
Design History Society**

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Design History Society

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of Design History Society (the Trust) for the year ended 31 July 2026.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under Section 145 of the Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under Section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by Section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Stephen Anderson

Knox Cropper LLP
153-155 London Road
Hemel Hempstead
Hertfordshire
HP3 9SQ

Date:

DESIGN HISTORY SOCIETY

**Statement of Financial Activities
for the Year Ended 31 July 2026**

		2026 Unrestricted fund £	2025 Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM	Notes		
Charitable activities	3		
Dissemination		704	-
Publication		94,177	77,207
Investment income	2	960	1,173
Total		95,841	78,380
EXPENDITURE ON			
Charitable activities	4		
Study		15,276	12,984
Research		15,209	17,253
Dissemination		9,703	15,527
Publication		26,461	30,172
Outreach		10,643	12,412
Total		77,292	88,348
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)		18,549	(9,968)
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS			
Total funds brought forward		205,876	215,844
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		224,425	205,876

The notes form part of these financial statements

DESIGN HISTORY SOCIETY

Balance Sheet 31 July 2026

		2026 Unrestricted fund £	2025 Total funds £
CURRENT ASSETS	Notes		
Debtors	8	2,652	3,589
Cash at bank		228,787	208,782
		<u>231,439</u>	<u>212,371</u>
CREDITORS			
Amounts falling due within one year	9	(7,014)	(6,495)
		<u>224,425</u>	<u>205,876</u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS			
		<u>224,425</u>	<u>205,876</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		<u>224,425</u>	<u>205,876</u>
NET ASSETS		<u>224,425</u>	<u>205,876</u>
FUNDS	10		
Unrestricted funds		224,425	205,876
TOTAL FUNDS		<u>224,425</u>	<u>205,876</u>

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on
and were signed on its behalf by:

.....
S Huxtable - Trustee

The notes form part of these financial statements

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparing the financial statements

The financial statements of the charity, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Charities Act 2011. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

Financial Reporting Standard 102 - reduced disclosure exemptions

The charity has taken advantage of the following disclosure exemption in preparing these financial statements, as permitted by FRS 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland':

- the requirements of Section 7 Statement of Cash Flows.

Income

All income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities once the charity has entitlement to the funds, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Taxation

The charity is exempt from tax on its charitable activities.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

Hire purchase and leasing commitments

Rentals paid under operating leases are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities on a straight line basis over the period of the lease.

Pension costs and other post-retirement benefits

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme. Contributions payable to the charity's pension scheme are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period to which they relate.

Going concern

After reviewing the charity's forecasts and projections, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. The charity therefore continues to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements.

DESIGN HISTORY SOCIETY

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued for the Year Ended 31 July 2026

2. INVESTMENT INCOME

	2026	2025
	£	£
Deposit account interest	960	1,173

3. INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Activity	2026	2025
		£	£
Conference income	Dissemination	704	-
Journal of Design History	Publication	81,280	70,611
Membership income	Publication	12,897	6,596
		94,881	77,207

4. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES COSTS

	Direct Costs	Support costs (see note 5)	Totals
	£	£	£
Study	5,575	9,701	15,276
Research	5,506	9,703	15,209
Dissemination	-	9,703	9,703
Publication	16,758	9,703	26,461
Outreach	940	9,703	10,643
	28,779	48,513	77,292

5. SUPPORT COSTS

	Management	Governance costs	Totals
	£	£	£
Study	7,763	1,938	9,701
Research	7,765	1,938	9,703
Dissemination	7,766	1,937	9,703
Publication	7,766	1,937	9,703
Outreach	7,766	1,937	9,703
	38,826	9,687	48,513

Activity	Basis of allocation
Management	Evenly between activities
Governance costs	Evenly between activities

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31 July 2026

6. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31 July 2026 nor for the year ended 31 July 2025.

Trustees' expenses

During the period, total expenses of £6,807 (2025: £14,327) were paid to 7 trustees (2025: 8 trustees), relating to travel and subsistence.

7. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted fund £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM	
Charitable activities	
Publication	77,207
Investment income	1,173
Total	<u>78,380</u>
EXPENDITURE ON	
Charitable activities	
Study	12,984
Research	17,253
Dissemination	15,527
Publication	30,172
Outreach	12,412
Total	<u>88,348</u>
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)	(9,968)
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS	
Total funds brought forward	215,844
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	<u><u>205,876</u></u>

8. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2026 £	2025 £
Trade debtors	68	379
Prepayments and accrued income	<u>2,584</u>	<u>3,210</u>
	<u><u>2,652</u></u>	<u><u>3,589</u></u>

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31 July 2026

9. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2026 £	2025 £
Trade creditors	1,076	382
Taxation and social security	29	-
Other creditors	5,909	6,113
	<u>7,014</u>	<u>6,495</u>

10. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 1.8.25 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31.7.26 £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	205,876	18,549	224,425
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>205,876</u>	<u>18,549</u>	<u>224,425</u>

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	95,841	(77,292)	18,549
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>95,841</u>	<u>(77,292)</u>	<u>18,549</u>

Comparatives for movement in funds

	At 1.8.24 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31.7.25 £
Unrestricted fund	215,844	(9,968)	205,876
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>215,844</u>	<u>(9,968)</u>	<u>205,876</u>

Comparative net movement in funds included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted fund	78,380	(88,348)	(9,968)
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>78,380</u>	<u>(88,348)</u>	<u>(9,968)</u>

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31 July 2026

10. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

A current year 12 months and prior year 12 months combined position is as follows:

	At 1.8.24 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31.7.26 £
Unrestricted fund	215,844	8,581	224,425
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>215,844</u>	<u>8,581</u>	<u>224,425</u>

Net movement in funds included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted fund	174,221	(165,640)	8,581
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>174,221</u>	<u>(165,640)</u>	<u>8,581</u>

11. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

There were no related party transactions for the year ended 31 July 2026.

DESIGN HISTORY SOCIETY

Detailed Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 July 2026

	2026 £	2025 £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS		
Investment income		
Deposit account interest	960	1,173
Charitable activities		
Journal of Design History	81,280	70,611
Conference income	704	-
Membership income	12,897	6,596
	<u>94,881</u>	<u>77,207</u>
Total incoming resources	95,841	78,380
EXPENDITURE		
Charitable activities		
OUP Online Membership share	12,457	13,691
Journal of Design History - editor expenses	4,301	6,696
Teaching and learning events	4,363	2,041
Student essay prize	716	3,323
Student travel award	5,351	4,930
Publication grant	651	3,000
Conference expenses including student bursary places	940	5,742
	<u>28,779</u>	<u>39,423</u>
Support costs		
Management		
Pensions	245	245
Rent	1,633	1,687
Insurance	953	942
Telephone	141	-
Stationery and equipment	18	59
IT Software and Consumables	1,419	1,733
Travel and hotel expenses	752	1,213
Administrator Salary	14,399	14,358
Bank charges	684	669
Legal and professional fees	1,607	1,295
Travel, subsistence and subscriptions to partner organisations	5,878	1,296
General expenses	140	997
Advertising & Marketing	1,920	-
Website	9,037	7,440
	<u>38,826</u>	<u>31,934</u>
Governance costs		
Trustees' expenses	6,807	14,327
Carried forward	6,807	14,327

This page does not form part of the statutory financial statements

DESIGN HISTORY SOCIETY**Detailed Statement of Financial Activities
for the Year Ended 31 July 2026**

	2026 £	2025 £
Governance costs		
Brought forward	6,807	14,327
Independent Examiner's fees	2,880	2,664
	9,687	16,991
Total resources expended	77,292	88,348
Net income/(expenditure)	18,549	(9,968)

This page does not form part of the statutory financial statements