

RMIT Design Archives Journal

Call for Papers

RMIT Design Archives Journal 17.1, 2027 | Designing services, strategies & systems

Abstracts open until 9 November, 2026.

We invite you to contribute to this special issue of the *RMIT Design Archives Journal* that will examine the histories of Service Design, Strategic Design and Systemic Design.

The Design Institute of Australia's 'Write DESIGNER' campaign, which preceded the 2026 Census, encouraged all working designers to identify their occupation. This was part of a longer term campaign to build the case for Service Designer and Strategic Designer to be formally recognised within Australia's occupation classification framework. Subsequently, the Australian Bureau of Statistics has officially included Service Designer in the draft Occupation Standard Classification for Australia (OSCA) ahead of its March 2027 release, and DIA continues its advocacy for Strategic Designer among other design-specific classifications. A similar initiative was undertaken in New Zealand in 2017 through the *Value of Design to New Zealand Report* which defined one design sector, comprising of nine design disciplines and 264 design processes. Service Design and Strategy were two of the nine design disciplines named in that report.

Given that policy is informed by such census data (except in New Zealand where the five-yearly census in 2028 has been cancelled), it is vital that these occupation classifications keep pace with developments in the industry. This is especially so when one of the earliest references to Service Design is a 1984 article in the *Harvard Business Review*, ServDes the Service Design & Innovation conference was conceived in 2007 and its 7th conference (and first outside of Europe) was held in Melbourne in 2020-21, in part due to the success of Service Design Melbourne, which was founded in 2010 by Yoko Akama and Dianne Moy. Strategic Design can similarly be traced back to the 1980s in the academic literature and in practice, and the University of Otago's Design Studies Department introduced an Honours course in Strategic Design in its program in 2006.

Themes may include:

- Design policy
- Design strategy
- Information infrastructures
- Strategic design
- Service design
- Systemic design

Submit a 300-word abstract by 9 November to rdajeditor@rmit.edu.au, identifying one of the four paper types available, including:

- Your Name/s
- Contact/s: Email & Telephone

Types of papers:

We welcome a variety of written papers in response to the Call, including:

- Full papers (3000 – 5000 words) presenting original research.
- Case Studies (3000 words) that describe how a particular designer or design practice, group, project, event, or situation has been studied and analysed.
- Conversations (length dependant on case) offering insights through written discussions between students, educators, or researchers around a particular Archive/designer etc.
- Visual Submissions (maximum 2000 words) making use of primarily visual content and structures, including: visual cases; storytelling and narratives; past projects involving the RMIT Design Archives.

Resources:

Visit the RDA's website to view past issues:

<https://www.rmit.edu.au/library/borrowing-and-collections/rmit-design-archives/journal>

Visit the RDA's collection website to explore the collections:

<https://www.designcollection.rmit.edu.au/>

Related archives

Architecture: Edmond and Corrigan, Peter Elliott, Graeme Gunn, Joyce & Nankivell

Communication Design: Alex Stitt, David Lancashire, Ernest Fooks, Gus Van Der Hyde, Laurie Carew, Max Robinson, Pieter Huveneers

Fashion Design: Fashion Design Council, Jenny Bannister, Prue Action, Rae Ganim