

NORDES 2025

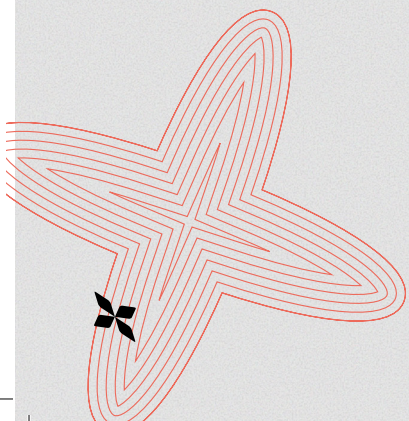
RELATIONAL DESIGN

**NORDES 2025 Exhibition Opening
by Einar Stoltenberg, OsloMet**

Orientation by Nicholas Stevens (Programme Committee)

Date: 7th August 2025. Time: 17:00.

Location: Pilestredet 46, Oslo Metropolitan University

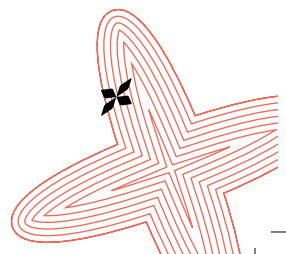


The Exhibition that accompanies *NORDES 2025 - Relational Design* explores expanded approaches and ideas of multiplicity to attend to a broad set of negotiations that play out in society. The exhibitors include designers, researchers and artists who invite the audience to join an exploration of these multiple states of relational design; that illustrate the interwoven and dialogical nature of these negotiations and the resulting myriad of proposals and concerns. All exhibitors combine physical objects in the Exhibition with research texts for the conference. With the new conditions we now encounter in society, the *NORDES 2025 Exhibition* explores how to design with these relational tensions and synergies to embrace emergent opportunities.

The works deal with the contemporary realities of designing, accommodating concerns of sustainability and materiality in the intersections of AI, virality and the speculation of proposed realities. With critical views on the historic narratives in design histories, examples of the influences of exposure, dissemination, production, and process are shown. The Exhibition maps how personal experience and nature strongly influence our perceptions and understanding of objects, situations and progress. Together the exhibits ask us to observe how these points of intersection experience alignment and tension and to use these nodes as opportunities for both reflection and intervention.

NORDES 2025 - Relational Design is a design research conference organised between the Oslo School of Architecture and Design, University of Oslo and Oslo Metropolitan University. The NORDES 2025 Exhibition is a part of the conference and a part of OsloMet Exhibition Arena. The Exhibition reflects the new international landscape of research as described in the EU aims in the New European Bauhaus that enhance the importance of solutions that are not only sustainable, but also inclusive and beautiful. Up to date information including links to papers can be found online at Nordes.org. and in the *NORDES 2025 Conference Proceedings*.

Arild Skarsfjord Berg, OsloMet – Oslo Metropolitan University
Nicholas Stevens, University of Oslo
Exhibition Co-Chairs Nordes 2025



1.BACKWARDS INCIDENTALITY



“Backwards incidentality” is a collaborative mapping of the diverse pasts that have led us to the current moment in design—one that foregrounds relationality. It involves sharing past practices, encounters, and wonderings that, although not originally understood as relational, now make relational sense. This exercise maps experiences that were not necessarily part of an explicit inquiry into relationality, yet have incidentally become—and continue to become—integral to our understanding of it. This collective articulation of relationality through lived examples offers an opportunity to connect our differing understandings of relationality with the distinct consequences they entail for design practice.

Sheida Amiri Rigi, Lund University

2. TRACES OF NATURE



When I was a child, I walked to school through the forest. The path went between tall pine and birch trees. I have always been very fond of birds—especially the redthroat—and I often stopped just to listen to them. The forest was a big part of growing up for me. It was something steady, something familiar. I miss it a lot now.

Hilde, 78

The project explores participatory processes through an art exhibition of stories and photographs of nature, involving care home residents. The aim is to investigate the potential for health promotion by facilitating conversations about memories of past nature experiences. Residents, who often lack access to nature and art exhibitions, engage in dialogue with the artist about places in nature that are meaningful to them. The artist then visits these locations and captures them through photography, offering an interpretation of the chosen site. The resulting stories and images are exhibited at institutions, fostering discussions about memories, nature, and art among residents and care staff.

Vigdis Storsveen, Visual Artist, Anders-Petter Andersson, Norwegian University of Science and Technology

3.CONSPIRACY CAPITALISER



The Conspiracy Capitaliser is a physical interface for Generative AI which allows the user to produce a bespoke conspiracy through the operation of knobs, switches and buttons. The original intent of the artefact was as a personal exploration of how conspiracy theories were being monetised against a backdrop of social media disinformation and how these observations could be communicated to the general public.

Robert Collins, Umeå University

4.ENTANGLED IN THE DESIGN OF A RELATIONAL MATERIALITY: BEYOND SMART TEXTILES



The project relates material science and engineering to textile and interaction design in discovering a vibrant responsive materiality triggered by ultraviolet (UV) energy. A collection of explorative textile artefacts was created as “a cabinet of curiosities” to illustrate how responsive textiles can be designed when ultra-violet radiation (UV) from the sun is used as an agent for change, rather than relying on electrical energy commonly used in smart textile designs. The artefacts aim to communicate the omnipresence of UV energy and its agential qualities combined with agencies of textile materials that, as a result, open to differing temporalities, and suggest diverse acts of use.

Anne Louise Bang, VIA University College, Malene Harsaae, VIA University College, Hanna Landin, University of Borås, Alicja Lawrynowicz, University of Turku, Zahraalsadat Madani, Aalto University, Mithila Mohan, Aalto University, Lena Kramer Pedersen, VIA University College, Pedro Silva, Aalto University, Jaana Vapaavuori, Aalto University, Delia Dumitrescu, University of Borås, Inger Marie Ladekarl, VIA University College, Mika Lastusaari, University of Turku, Erin Lewis, University of Borås, Kati Miettuen, University of Turku, Mikael Nyberg, University of Turku, Kristian Rødby, University of Borås, Maija Vaara, Aalto University, Linda Worbin, University of Borås

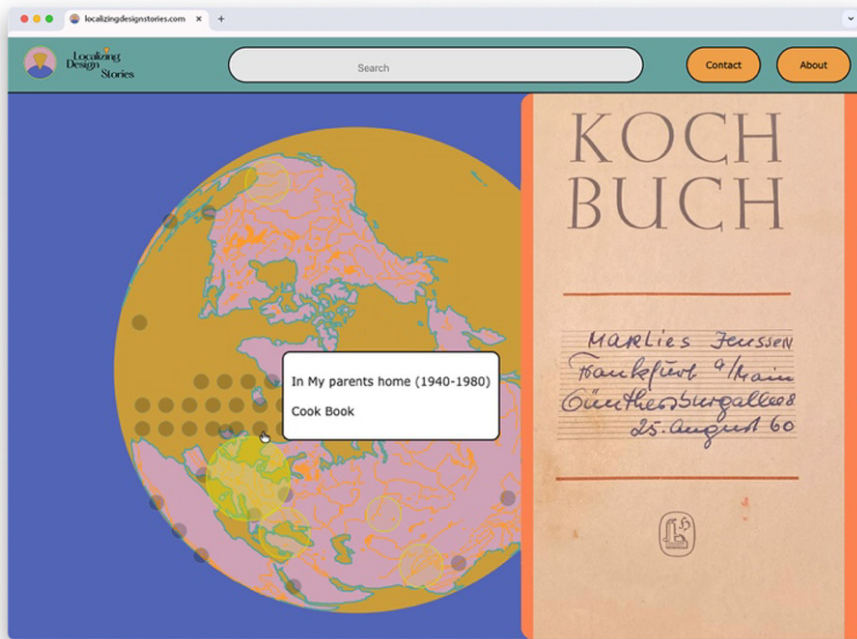
5.NURTURING TECHNOLOGICAL IMAGINATION THROUGH MATERIAL EXPLORATION



We invite you to explore our exhibition showcasing a tangible, modular toolkit designed for hands-on exploration of both computational and traditional materials and share your impressions. The tool kit is a result of a research through design process guided by two questions; What do participants need to know about digital materials to creatively design with them, and how can we provide opportunities to get to know them? Recognising challenges posed by limited technological experience and age-related changes, we aim to empower diverse participants to discover and modify technological options, fostering their technological imagination in the design process.

Heidi Bråthen, University of Oslo

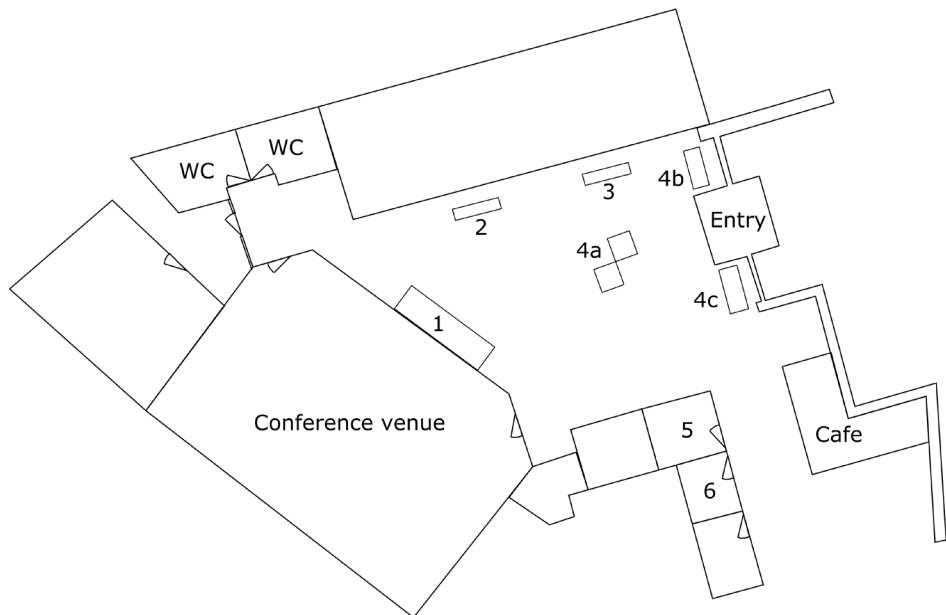
6. LOCALIZING DESIGN STORIES



Localizing design stories is a collectively developed design research project. An offer to form a temporary group of facilitators and participants interested in design who agree to share a Braver Space. Together they explore and reflect on relations between their design practice, stories told to them about design, and stories they wish to share. The project consists of an adaptable seminar format and an interactive platform: a virtual globe gathering situated design stories beyond a dominant design historiography. Participants are invited to tell their stories, to localize, situate, share them, as well as to talk, listen, and engage with others.

Bianca Kóczán, Braunschweig University of Art, Michaela Anzer, Burg Giebichenstein University of Art and Design, Philipp Stingl, University of Applied Sciences and Arts Coburg

Exhibition Floor Plan



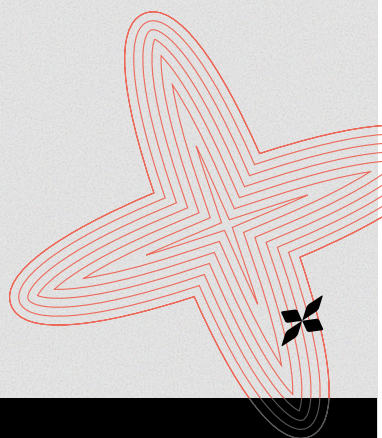
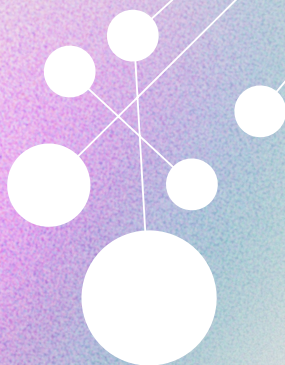
This exhibition and the Nordes 2025 conference is organised by Oslo School of Architecture and Design (AHO), OsloMet– Oslo Metropolitan University and University of Oslo.



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RELATIONAL DESIGN



OSLOMET

OSLO METROPOLITAN UNIVERSITY
STORBYUNIVERSITETET



Arkitektur- og designhøgskolen i Oslo
The Oslo School of Architecture and Design



**UNIVERSITY
OF OSLO**