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ICOM-DESIGN
Newsletter from the Chair
April 2025

Dear Members,

Greetings from Kyoto, Japan, where the cherry blossoms are in full bloom. Spring is a time of renewal, so on behalf of our board, I am excited to share with you some important news about our international committee and its upcoming activities.

1) ICOM–ICDAD Has Become ICOM–DESIGN!

We are delighted to announce that, with a majority of votes from ICDAD members and subsequent approval by the ICOM Executive Board, our international committee has officially adopted a new name.

Old name: ICOM–ICDAD

International Committee for Museums and Collections of Decorative Arts and Design

New name: ICOM-DESIGN

International Committee for Decorative Arts and Design

This change aligns with ICOM's directive to move away from acronyms to make international committee names more accessible to all members. Since we are part of the International Council of Museums, we have removed "Museums and Collections" from our name to create a simpler, more concise identity.

Despite the prominence of the word DESIGN in our name, our committee continues to uphold its broad purview, encompassing decorative and applied arts—as well as design—across all mediums, from ancient to contemporary, including such topics as product design, the experiences and stories behind objects, interior spaces, historical reconstitution, conservation and exhibition, craftsmanship and techniques, future preservation, and more.



Museum of the Future, Dubai

2) Save the Date: ICOM Dubai 2025 General Conference, 11–17 November 2025

Join ICOM–DESIGN for our 2025 Annual Meeting at the World Trade Centre, Dubai, during ICOM’s triennial General Conference, 11–17 November 2025.

Find more information on their newly launched website:

<https://dubai2025.icom.museum/>

The overall theme of ICOM Dubai is “The Future of Museums in Rapidly Changing Communities,” with three subthemes: “Intangible Heritage,” “Digital Technologies,” and “Youth Power.”

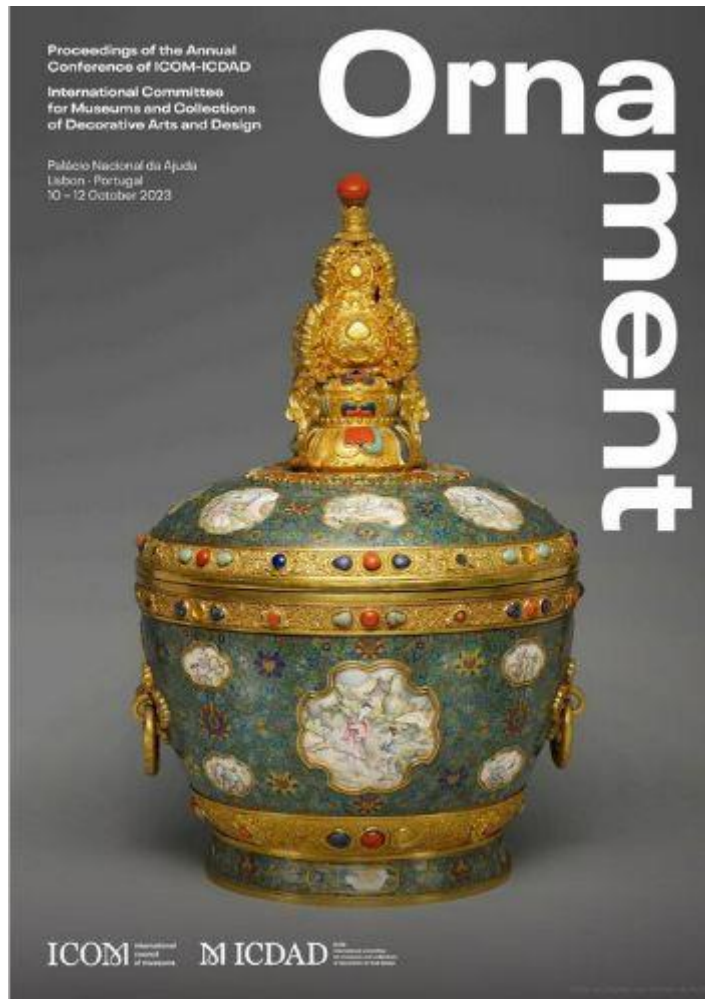
ICOM–DESIGN is planning three separate joint sessions with the international committees GLASS, COSTUME, and DEMHIST on the theme of “Adornment and Identity.” We will also have a specially organized DESIGN IC Day touring museums and other sites in Dubai of relevance to decorative arts and design professionals. Look for a Call for Papers on this topic in the coming weeks. Presentations will likely be relatively short, 10–15 minutes, and should relate to “Adornment and Identity,” hopefully in the context of one of the conference subthemes. We will send out a mailing as soon as the CFP registration is open.



Image courtesy of Nasjonalmuseet www.nasjonalmuseet.no/

3) Save the Date: ICOM–DESIGN International Symposium and Post-Symposium Tour in Oslo, Norway, 28 October–1 November, 2025

In addition to its Annual Conference in Dubai, ICOM–DESIGN is also organizing a separate 2025 International Symposium on the theme of “Design Collection Displays Reassessed” at the new National Museum of Art, Architecture and Design, Oslo (Nasjonalmuseet), 28–30 October, 2025. This program, organized by Nasjonalmuseet Senior Curator and ICOM–DESIGN board member Dr. Denise Hagströmer, will be followed by a special post-symposium tour to local destinations 30 October–1 November. Stay tuned for more information to come!



4) New ICOM–ICDAD Publication “Ornament,” Now Available Online!

Thanks to the hard work of our former board member Maria Jos Gaivo de Tavares and her team, we are proud to announce the publication of an online book _Ornament_ containing 13 papers by colleagues from the 2023 ICDAD Annual Conference at the Palácio Nacional da Ajuda in Lisbon. [It is available at this link](#). More details about this publication will go out in a future mailing.

5) ICOM–DESIGN Talk “The Moholy-Nagy Archive Project,” on April 22, 10 AM New York, 3 PM Paris, 11 PM Tokyo

Our next online talk is “The Moholy-Nagy Archive Project,” by Andreas Hug, Moholy-Nagy Foundation archivist and grandson of the artist. By popular demand, we have rescheduled this talk after it had to be postponed last October. Look for an email announcement with registration information in the very near future.

Our online series ICOM–DESIGN Talks (formerly ICDAD Talks) feature presentations on significant exhibitions or projects related to decorative arts and design by curators and specialists around the world. If you have an exhibition project or other topic that you think might be of interest to ICOM–DESIGN members, feel free to contact us at secretary.design@icom.museum.



A visit to the Gropius House, home of Walter and Ise Gropius, Lincoln, MA, a property of [Historic New England](#).

6) Successful ICDAD 2024 Annual Conference and Post-Conference Tour at the Peabody Essex Museum in Salem, Massachusetts, USA, November 19-23, 2024

ICDAD's 2024 Annual Conference took place at the Peabody Essex Museum in Salem, Massachusetts, USA, with the theme "Dwelling, Design, and the Decorative Arts." The event welcomed international curators and scholars from 12 countries in North America, Europe, Asia, and the Middle East, who came together for presentations and dialogue on decorative arts, domestic design, and cultural identity. It featured 6 thematic sessions, 16 research presentations, as well as some 10 special talks to our group by the director and curators of the Peabody Essex Museum and other local experts. In the afternoons, we went on excursions to PEM's numerous historic houses as well as remote destinations such as the Gropius House (in the attached photo) and PEM's new Hawkes Collection Center and Phillips Library.

Following the conference, an enriching two-day post-conference tour was organized from November 22 to November 23, visiting the Clark Art Institute, Hancock Shaker Village, artist workshops, and other key cultural and artistic sites across Western Massachusetts, further enriching our experience in the New England region.

We are grateful to the Peabody Essex Museum, Hamilton Hall, and especially to our ICDAD board member Sarah Chasse, Curator-at-Large at PEM, who organized this fantastic conference together with ICDAD vice-chair Shoshana Resnikoff, Demmer Curator of 20th and 21st Century Design, Milwaukee Art Museum.

On behalf of all of us on the ICOM-DESIGN (formerly ICOM-ICDAD) board, I send best wishes for the season and hopes to see you online or in person soon!

Sincerely,
Melissa Rinne

Chair, ICOM-DESIGN

Senior Specialist, Kyoto National Museum



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