

The Politics of Design Conference during the Salone del Mobile 2019

10 April 2019, 2 pm to 6:30 pm (entry 1:30 pm), Triennale Milano, Teatro dell'Arte
Free admission (no registration required), the conference will be held in English

Design is a political activity. Every day, designers all over the world make decisions about complex social issues such as inclusion, identity, and sustainability. This makes design a powerful tool for social and political change, but does this have a real effect on things? In what ways can design truly contribute to solving the world's most pressing issues? What does this mean for the practice of design? In this moment of transition, as we leave old ideas, convictions, and strategies behind and move further into the 21st century, we must ask ourselves: How can design be part of the solution and not the problem?

These urgent questions will be discussed at an interdisciplinary conference titled »The Politics of Design« hosted by the Vitra Design Museum at the Triennale Milano on 10 April 2019 as part of this year's Milan Design Week. An international group of high-profile experts from various backgrounds including design, design theory, philosophy, sociology, and political economy will take part in three panels – Design and Post-Industry, Design and Post-Governance, as well as Design and Post-Nature. Speakers such as Paola Antonelli, Bruce Sterling, Danah Abdulla, Jan Boelen, Claudia Chwalisz, Indy Johar, Amelie Klein and Etienne Turpin will discuss design's changing role and responsibilities in the 21st century. The conference aims to foster debate surrounding design's political relevance and will embrace ambiguity and contradiction in an increasingly complex and conflict-ridden world. It aims to serve as a transformative agent for the classical design industries and to initiate a wider discussion about a design that recognizes its responsibility to society and the planet. Each panel includes an extended Q&A segment in which audience members can participate. The conference will end with an aperitivo, hosted by Atelier Luma on the occasion of the book launch »Design as a Tool for Transition: The Atelier Luma Approach«.

For the latest information about speakers and panels, visit www.design-museum.de/milan2019

The conference »The Politics of Design« is presented by the Vitra Design Museum in cooperation with Volkswagen Group.

Conference programme

1:30 pm

Doors open

2 pm

Welcome address

Mateo Kries (Director Vitra Design Museum)

Benita von Maltzahn (Director Cultural Engagement, Volkswagen Group)

Design and Post-Industry

Key Notes and Discussion

Danah Abdulla, Bruce Sterling

Moderated by Amelie Klein

Design and Post-Governance

Key Notes and Discussion

Claudia Chwalisz, Indy Johar

Moderated by Jan Boelen

Design and Post-Nature

Key Notes and Discussion

Paola Antonelli, Etienne Turpin

Moderated by Amelie Klein

6:30 pm

Aperitivo, Atelier Luma book launch, Caffè in Giardino

Fact Sheet

Conference:	The Politics of Design
Location:	Triennale Milano, Teatro dell'Arte Viale Alemagna 6, 20121 Milan
Date:	10 April 2019, 2 pm to 6:30 pm (entry 1:30 pm)
Curator:	Amelie Klein, Vitra Design Museum
Website:	www.design-museum.de/milan2019
Hashtag	#PoliticsOfDesign
Press images:	www.design-museum.de/press_images
Press contact:	Vitra Design Museum Lara Schuh, Head of Communications T +49.7621.702.3153 E communications@design-museum.de
	BUREAU N Sören Zuppke T +49.30. 62736.104 E soeren.zuppke@bureau-n.de