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idea journal

unplanned interiors

vol. 22, no. 01

2025

the journal of IDEA: the interior design +
interior architecture educators association

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about

Idea Journal recognises interiors and interiority as emerging, discursive, and interdisciplinary fields of research across spatially oriented design, artistic, and architectural practices. It promotes the production of new knowledge on interiors and interiority through the critical appraisal of the conceptual, material, and social relationships between people and built environments. Uniquely, *Idea Journal* provides a space for scholarly engagement through the publication of both text-based and visual-based research essays. It serves an international academic, professional, and student readership, and welcomes contributions from researchers and practitioners involved in bolstering theoretical and creative discourse on spatial design.

<https://journal.idea-edu.com>

Launched in 1999, *Idea Journal* is an international, double-blind peer-reviewed academic journal dedicated to publishing scholarly and practice-based research on interiors and interiority. *Idea Journal* is an open-access publication that produces one journal issue annually. It is a subsidiary of the parent institution IDEA—The Interior Design / Interior Architecture Educators Association.

www.idea-edu.com

The objectives of IDEA are:

1. Objects

1.1 The general object of IDEA is the advancement of education by:

- (a) encouraging and supporting excellence in interior design/interior architecture/spatial design education and research globally and with specific focus on Oceania; and
- (b) being an authority on, and advocate for, interior design/interior architecture/spatial design education and research.

1.2 The specific objects of IDEA are:

- (a) to be an advocate for undergraduate and postgraduate programmes at a minimum of AQF7 or equivalent education in interior design/interior architecture/spatial design;
- (b) to support the rich diversity of individual programmes within the higher education sector;
- (c) to create collaboration between programmes in the higher education sector;
- (d) to foster an attitude of lifelong learning;
- (e) to encourage staff and student exchange between programmes;
- (f) to provide recognition for excellence in the advancement of interior design/interior architecture/spatial design education; and
- (g) to foster, publish, and disseminate peer reviewed interior design/interior architecture/spatial design research.

membership*Institutional Members:*

Membership is open to programmes at higher education institutions in Australasia that can demonstrate an ongoing commitment to the objectives of IDEA.

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Honorary Associate Members:

In recognition of their significant contribution as an initiator of IDEA, a former chair and/or executive editor: Julieanna Preston, Chris Cottrell, Suzie Attiwill, Rachel Carley, Lynn Chalmers, Lynn Churchill, Jill Franz, Anthony Fryatt, Susan Hedges, Roger Kemp, Tim Laurence, Gini Lee, Marina Lommerse, Gill Matthewson, Antony Pelosi, Dianne Smith, Harry Stephens, George Verghese, Andrew Wallace, and Bruce Watson.

publishing

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this issue's provocation

Planning is a cornerstone of designing interior spaces, yet the complexity of planning to predict and accommodate the future actions, behaviours, and needs of would-be occupants is rarely resolved. In 1978, Robin Evans showed us that the 'moral geography' of the plan had a mercurial relationship with the composition of interior spaces and that the ordinary, unassuming, and unexamined elements of domestic interiors change in time to reflect our emergent social values. At the same time, Manfredo Tafuri's analysis of the endless interiors in Piranesi's *Il Campo Marzio dell'antica Roma* ichnographia engraving showed us that the unprescribed interpretation of the plan was the only way to surpass the well-intentioned mistakes of functional and utopian idealism.

The 2025 issue of *Idea Journal* sought contributions that explored the history, theory, practice, and futures of unplanned interiors. In opposition to the aesthetic idealisation of interior compositions in the commercial contexts of department stores, lifestyle magazines, and presentation drawings, it asked authors to consider the un-ideal interior. How do interior spaces work in ways that are unplanned, unforeseen, and unintended? What do instances of human action exceeding the prescriptive ideas of the plan tell us about who we are, our emergent social and moral values, and where these values are going? In the contexts of rising climate and political uncertainty, what is the significance of agility, temporality, and openness to change needed for new approaches to interior planning?

Authors were encouraged to use text-based research essays to offer new knowledge on how unplanned interiors reflect the social and cultural conditions of their time. They were also invited to use image-based research essays to respond to, comment on, and convey ideas of unplanned spatial practices.

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