[ij]

idea journal

imagining interiors

Special Issue
Edinburgh College of Art
The University of Edinburgh

vol. 23, no. 02

2026

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

idea journal

imagining interiors

Special Issue
Edinburgh College of Art
The University of Edinburgh

vol. 23, no. 02

2026

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

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 and 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.

Current members:

AUT University, Auckland
Curtin University, Perth
Massey University, Wellington
Monash University, Melbourne
Queensland University of Technology, Brisbane
RMIT University, Melbourne
University of New South Wales, Sydney
University of South Australia, Adelaide
University of Technology Sydney, Sydney
Te Herenga Waka Victoria University of Wellington

Affiliate Members:

Affiliate membership is open to programmes at higher education institutions in Australasia that do not currently qualify for institutional membership but support the objectives of IDEA. Affiliate members are non-voting members of IDEA.

Associate Members:

Associate membership is open to any person who supports the objectives of IDEA. Associate members are non-voting members of IDEA.

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

© Copyright 2026 IDEA (Interior Design/Interior Architecture Educators Association).

All rights reserved.

No part of the work must in any mode (print, photocopy, microfilm, CD, or any other process) be reproduced nor — by application of electronic systems — processed, manifolded, nor broadcast without approval of the copyright holders.

ISSN 2208-9217

Registered at the National Library of Australia

Idea Journal is published by IDEA (Interior Design/Interior Architecture Educators Association) ACN 135 337 236; ABN 56 135 337 236. All articles are open access at time of publication on the journal website.

https://journal.idea-edu.com

IDEA

***Idea Journal* editorial board**

Luke Tipene, Executive Editor
School of Architecture, University of Technology Sydney, Australia

Dr Olivia Hamilton, Editor
School of Architecture and Urban Design, RMIT, Australia

external advisory panel

Dr Lilian Chee, SDE
National University of Singapore, Singapore

Dr Helene Furjan
Westphal College of Design, Drexel University, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA

Vlad Ionescu
University of Hasselt, Belgium

Tiiu Poldma
University of Montreal, Canada

Dr Jana Scholze
Kingston University, UK

Peter Thule Kristensen
Royal Danish Academy, Denmark

cover image

Imagining Interiors Edinburgh 2025, Nicky Regan.

copy editor

Madeleine Collinge Publishing Services

design + production

Lauren Poynter

Imagining Interior conference graphic identity

Nicky Regan

correspondence

Correspondence regarding this publication should be addressed to:

Andrew Wallace
Chair IDEA
Andrew.Wallace@unisa.edu.au

special issue partners

THE UNIVERSITY of EDINBURGH
Edinburgh College of Art

Interior Educators

imagining interiors EDINBURGH 2025

UTS

Imagining Interior 2025 conference provocation

‘Imagining Interiors’ is a deliberately ambiguous title, that can refer both to the process of making things up, creating, dreaming, describing and so on; and also, more literally, to the activity of making images.

In *The Emergence of the Interior* (2008) the interior historian Charles Rice writes of the ‘doubleness’ of the designed interior – both as a space to be occupied, and an image to be contemplated. Seventeen years on, in a world saturated by images imagined by machines, what might that doubleness actually mean? What opportunities might it present to people who design, build, and occupy – imagine – interiors?

This conference invites contributions that re-imagine interiors – that is, what interiors might be, as practice or product. These re-imaginings will be of interest to the designers, historians and theorists of interiors and to those who study its representation (imagination) in film, fiction, journalism or other media.

We invite contributions in the form of papers that might be spoken and written, and images that can be imagined and exhibited.

issue doi: doi.org/10.37113/ij.v23i2

conference organising committee

Ed Hollis, The University of Edinburgh
Dave Loder, The University of Edinburgh
Gina Olsson, The University of Edinburgh
Andy Siddall, The University of Edinburgh
Rachel Simmonds, The University of Edinburgh
Gillian Treacy, The University of Edinburgh

reviewers for this issue

Christina Deluchi, University of Technology Sydney
Daniel Brown, Victoria University of Wellington
Dave Loder, The University of Edinburgh
Ed Hollis, The University of Edinburgh
George Themistokleous, Norwich University of the Arts
Gillian Treacy, The University of Edinburgh
Gina Olsson, The University of Edinburgh
Jana Scholze, Kingston University
Julieanna Preston, Massey University
Maria Costantino, University of the Arts London
Olivia Hamilton, Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology
Rachel Simmonds, The University of Edinburgh
Roger Kemp, Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology
Susan Hedges, Auckland University of Technology

foreword

It is with great pleasure that *Idea Journal* has partnered with Edinburgh College of Art, The University of Edinburgh, to publish this special issue, *Imagining Interiors*. Its essays come to us care of the UK's Interior Educators Imagining Interiors conference, held at Edinburgh College of Art in November 2025. Its aims were to examine and re-imagine how we represent, design, and understand interiors through their historical, contemporary, and emerging relationships with image-making practices and visual culture.

IDEA: The Interior Design + Interior Architecture Educators Association and the UK's Interior Educators are two organisations with parallel histories on either side of the globe. Initiated independently, they have both responded to the need within educational and academic environments to provide forums for collective academic voices within a discipline that crosses the boundaries between design, art, and spatial practices. Both have been dedicated to developing an intellectual community of scholars and practitioners engaged with the histories, theories, practices, and experimental futures of interior and spatial design.

Equally, Edinburgh College of Art and *Idea Journal* have their own shared history. Several members of the Edinburgh team responsible for organising the 2025 conference have engaged with *Idea Journal* over many years since its 1999 inauguration, as academic writers, contributors, and guest editors. Details of this noteworthy history are warmly described in the Editorial Introduction for this issue by Ed Hollis and Rachel Simmonds. The publication of this special issue begins a new chapter in our ongoing relationship, continuing an intellectual engagement in the ever-expanding field of research concerning the conceptual, material, and social relationships between people and their interior environments.

Working with the authors of this special issue has been a great privilege, and we have been delighted to see the development of their insights and creative engagements with the questions and practices of working with images in the interior. We are also grateful to this issue's peer reviewers for their thoughtful consideration and feedback.

Please enjoy this 2026 special issue of *Idea Journal: Imagining Interiors*.

Sincerely,

Luke Tipene
Executive Editor of *Idea Journal*
0000-0003-0928-3839

cite as:
Luke Tipene, 'Foreword', *Idea Journal*, 23.2 (2026), p. 6,
doi.org/10.37113/ij.v23i2.660.

in this issue

6 foreword
Luke Tipene

8 editorial introduction: imagining interiors — 2025 interior educators conference
Ed Hollis
Rachel Simmonds

27 seeing double: reflections on an unrealised interior
Shaun Young

44 soft minimalism: georgia o'keeffe's aesthetics of photographic personhood
Chris Fernald

57 image as moment
Gillian Treacy

66 *looking-beyond-seeing*: the interwar interior as mediated
Vanessa Vanden Berghe

80 ossian's hall of mirrors: nature, artifice, and the environmental imagination
Ro Spankie

94 image as host
Gina Olsson

103 tracing subjective spatial experience through architectural drawings
Andrea Placidi
Orit Sarfatti

116 the interior as digital disruptor
Pamela Flanagan

130 images between imagination and memory
Dave Loder

140 *this voice; this life; this procession*: sensorial journeys and entanglements with lidar and kinect in virginia woolf's writing room
Brass Art:
Chara Lewis
Kristin Mojsiewicz
Anneké Pettican

157 imagining the unseen: ai, memoryscapes, and the interiorities of the red road flats
Xiaobin Huang