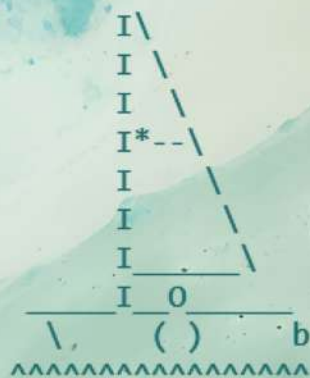


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Strategic Design, Futures, and the Pluriverse: Theoretical-Methodological Essays

This editorial presents to the readers of the Strategic Design Research Journal (SDRJ) the second of two numbers of a special issue dedicated to a partnership built with the SDS - Simpósio de Design Sustentável + Sustainable Design Symposium (X SDS, 2025). This is an editorial initiative developed jointly by the journal's editorial board and the symposium's organizing group, born out of a perceived synergy between their respective values. The SDS, in its tenth edition, has established itself as a significant space for the Brazilian, Latin American, and global design communities. Throughout the event, participants sought to reflect on the role of design in relation to climate change as a profound expression of an unprecedented impact on practices of which we ourselves are part.

As explained in the editorial that opens Number 1 of this special issue, published alongside this one, X SDS moved across the relationships between design, sustainability, territories, and possible futures, delving into the critical, political, and speculative dimensions of sustainability, and exploring an even closer connection with traditional knowledge and multispecies collaborations as possibilities of conceiving and producing design in the face of the challenges of the Anthropocene. The SDRJ finds in the dynamics promoted by the symposium concerns that dialogue directly with its scope and trajectory, while also inspiring the journal to further value local design practices, especially in times of crisis and hopelessness.

The symposium brought together researchers from different regions of Brazil and abroad around thematic axes such as political design, cosmopolitics, decoloniality, the pluriverse, strategic design, systemic design, and design of and for territories; axes that correspond, to a great extent, to those that guide the SDRJ's own editorial line. Given the volume and diversity of the 15 articles finally accepted for publication across both numbers, we chose to organize them into two thematic issues, distributed according to the predominant nature of the research gesture in each text. While Number 1, *Cosmopolitics of Care: Territories, Bodies, and Situated Knowledges*, gathers works anchored in case studies, specific territories, and situated bodies and communities, this second number, *Strategic Design, Futures, and the Pluriverse: Theoretical-Methodological Essays*, brings together contributions of an essayistic, theoretical, and speculative character, oriented toward the construction of concepts, methods, and scenarios for the field of strategic design and for the transitions. This division does not intend to establish a hierarchy between practice and theory (since the two numbers speak to and complement one another), but rather to offer readers a coherent thread through the diversity of approaches that characterized the X SDS 2025 itself. Even so, we invite readers to move freely between the articles of both issues, finding other possible coherences in the relationships among the texts.

This issue results from an invitation extended to selected authors to revisit their original texts, deepening their theoretical-methodological articulation with the scope of the SDRJ, and updating them considering the most recent contingencies. All texts were submitted to a new round of evaluation by referees distinct from those who evaluated the works within the scope

of the event, rigorously following the journal's regular editorial flows and criteria. Thus, the articles gathered here may be read as memories of the event, but should be understood as autonomous contributions, conceived as singular original contributions to the field.

This second number opens with the article by Imaíra Portela, Luiz Izidio, and Raquel Noronha, "Design as Political Praxis," which systematizes the debates of the seventh Seminar of the NIDA/UFMA research group, structured around seven meetings and the axes of praxis, intersectionalities, and design and politics. The article argues for the politicization of design and for the relevance of a cosmopolitical praxis.

Carlo Franzato, in "Assembling Design Atlases," develops the concept of the "design atlas" from Aby Warburg's *Mnemosyne Atlas*, proposing a methodological device for organizing visual references and for image-based work in speculative and scenario-building processes, illustrated through the analysis of four design atlases.

Bibiana Oliveira Serpa, in "Participatory Design in Latin America," examines, through an autoethnographic account of her work with the organizing team of the International Development Design Summit held in Guatemala, the ways in which participatory practices can either reproduce extractivist dynamics or foster politicization when grounded in care and relational commitment.

"Floating: Design for Living on Water," by Lara Leite Barbosa, speculates on floating solutions for a world of cities increasingly flooded by climate change, comparing four constructive technologies, from the restoration of a traditional water vehicle to a proposal for a modular floating metropolis. The paper proposes ontological design as a guiding principle for a transition toward ways of living on water.

Samuel da Silva Miranda and Guilherme Englert Corrêa Meyer, in "Extinction as Crisis," propose a theoretical reflection on extinction as a multidimensional process that also runs through knowledges, artisanal practices, and situated ways of life, discussing the ambivalent role of design between the acceleration and the regeneration of these processes.

The issue closes with the article by Marcos Caetano Corrêa, Debora Barauna, and Lucas Osorio Alves da Silva, "Sympoietic Implications for Strategic Design," which articulates Donna Haraway's concept of sympoiesis with Arturo Escobar's notion of the pluriverse to think through a sympoietic ethic directed toward strategic design as a culture for the co-creation of sustainable futures.

Taken together, these papers offer valuable perspectives through which the situated experiences gathered in Number 1 (from a Maranhão carnival mask to a revitalized square in the Historic Center of São Luís, from an Amazonian cuia to a Candomblé terreiro in Rio de Janeiro) can be interpreted, while maintaining their specificity. Political praxis, the design atlas, participatory design, floating architectures, extinction, and sympoiesis are all, in their own way, attempts to build vocabularies and methods for a design that takes on the demands of the Anthropocene and the possibility of the pluriverse. Read side by side, they suggest that strategic design's task today is less to solve problems from a position of mastery than to compose with communities, with non-human others, and with degraded worlds. Such understanding can be thought of as a way toward a new grammar for imagining and co-creating futures that are plural, interdependent, and shared.

By bringing these contributions together in this special issue, the journal not only broadens its dialogue with the research community but also reaffirms its commitment to an academic

design production capable of navigating through theory and practice, territory and concept, situated care and the imagination of plural futures. We thank the authors for their dedication to the process of rewriting and articulating their texts, and the referees who contributed to the final qualification of these works. We also thank the volunteers who carried out the technical review of the articles, named below. Without this dedicated work, these numbers would not have been possible. We wish everyone a good read.

Editorial

Guilherme Englert Corrêa Meyer (Editor SDRJ)

Raquel Gomes Noronha (Guest editor)

Samuel da Silva Miranda (Guest editor)

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As editors, we want to express our sincere gratitude to the team of volunteer reviewers for their essential and dedicated work, and to the cover designer for issues V18.Nº.1 and V18.Nº.2:

Aline do Prado Rezende

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