



09-13 February 2026
IDW 2026
BE+LONGING
Call for workshops
submissions until 15 September 2025

IDW is the annual International Design Workshop week for master students of the Faculty of Design Sciences of the University of Antwerp (architecture, interior architecture, product development, heritage studies, urbanism and spatial planning), as well as for master students of the Royal Academy of Fine Arts of the AP University of Applied Sciences and Arts Antwerp.

BE+LONGING

In a world marked by constant change, migration, fragmentation, and hyper-connectivity, the question of where and how we belong has become more urgent than ever. Belonging is about more than identity—it is about relationships, rituals, language, care, and the spaces we inhabit, claim, and share.

BE+LONGING invites us to explore the complex relationship between being and longing—to ask not only where we belong, but what we long for. To *belong* is to feel seen, rooted, included. But it also requires us to reckon with systems of exclusion, histories of displacement, and the deep human desire for connection. IDW 2026 encourages designers to see *longing* not as a lack, but as a generative force. To treat *belonging* not as a static state, but as an ongoing process—a becoming. Let's design spaces, futures, and imaginaries where everyone can belong!

CRITICAL DESIGN ATTITUDE

The IDW week aims to explore **BE+LONGING** using the power of the critical design attitude. Instead of the traditional affirmative design approach (problem-solving and solution-focused), the aim of the IDW week is to focus on 'problem-finding'. This critical design attitude leads to a deeper understanding of all factors that influence a design and encourages to reflect on the impact of a solution or intervention. It triggers the exploration of alternative and out-of-the-box scenarios thus increase the likelihood of more (socially) sustainable and desirable futures becoming reality [1].

The workshop week is open to radical pedagogical experiences, which open the eyes, broaden thinking and foster new encounters. It stimulates international and interdisciplinary exchange and offers an informal platform for discussing design education and its agency.

WHAT WE LOOK FOR

We are looking for workshop tutors who are eager to actively engage with an interdisciplinary group of approx. 20 master students in a week-long critical design adventure. Students have no other courses that week. They are expected to be fully dedicated to the workshop they are involved in. Tutors are also expected to be wholeheartedly committed to the workshop (full working days from Monday to Friday).

WHAT WE OFFER

We offer an interdisciplinary group of approx. 20 master students to work with (product development, architecture, interior architecture, urbanism and spatial planning, heritage studies and arts).

We offer a lump sum of 500 euro to cover fee, costs of transport and meals during your stay. For duo's we can offer a lump sum of 800 euro. However, we can only afford a limited number of duo tutored workshops.

We offer the company of a group of marvellous fellow tutors, and overnight accommodation. Indeed, we highly suggest staying in Antwerp for the duration of the week, in order to keep focus and vibes. Therefore, we will take care of hotel accommodation for all tutors (unless they ask us not to do so) from Sunday 08 February until Saturday 14 February 2026.

SUBMISSION

By **15 September 2025** a workshop proposal is submitted through this [link](#).

This submission contains:

- The title of the proposed workshop
- A description of the topic and the workshop, in which the proposal is clear (max. 2000 characters, including spaces), including a paragraph about the link to the theme, your pedagogical approach and incorporation of interdisciplinarity.
- Three images, representative for the topic / your approach / your work
- A short biography (max. 800 characters, including spaces)
- A picture of yourself

ENQUIRIES

More information on www.uantwerpen.be/idw. For any enquiries about submission, content organization and practicalities of the workshop, please email IDW@uantwerpen.be.

ORGANIZATION

Dean: Prof. dr. Inge Bertels

Curatorial board: Els De Bruyn (arts), Yonca Erkan (heritage studies), Marleen Goethals (urbanism and spatial planning), Tine Segers (architecture), Inge Somers (interior architecture), Kristof Vaes (product development)

Administrative support: Nele Simons, Evelien Van Akeren

Communication: Nele Simons, Evelien Van Akeren

REFERENCES

- [1] Vaes, K., Torkildsby, A.B. and De Boeck, M. (2022) 'Design with a critical lens: teaching students how to find, rather than solve, design challenges using interdisciplinary workshops', in *Proceedings of the 24th International Conference on Engineering and Product Design Education: Disrupt, Innovate, Regenerate and Transform, E and PDE 2022*. The Design Society. Available at: <https://doi.org/10.35199/epde.2022.2>