







First Announcement & Call for Abstracts

Sydney- Australia 17-21 November 2027

Design & Health

16TH WORLD CONGRESS & EXHIBITION

Reinforcing Australian Health Systems
Through Salutogenic Design, Equity, and Sustainability

Deadline for Abstracts 30 January 2027

Design & Health
International Academy for Design and Health

NSW GOVERNMENT

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Ngonyama Okpanum & Associates

Message from Minister for Health

On behalf of the New South Wales Government, I am delighted to welcome you to the 16th World Congress & Exhibition on Design and Health in Sydney, Australia, from 17–21 November 2027.

Sydney is an ideal host city for this global gathering, bringing together leaders in healthcare, design, research, and policy to advance the science and practice of Salutogenesis. As the relationship between people, place, and wellbeing becomes increasingly important, the Congress provides a unique opportunity to explore how health-promoting environments can support physical, mental, social, and ecological wellbeing.

NSW Health is delivering one of the largest health infrastructure programs in Australia, guided by principles of patient-centred care, sustainability, resilience, and wellbeing. Across hospitals, mental health facilities, community health services, and regional healthcare settings, we are increasingly applying salutogenic design approaches that foster healing, dignity, connection, and positive health outcomes.

The World Congress on Design and Health provides a unique platform for international collaboration and knowledge exchange. It will bring together global expertise to explore the latest scientific developments in Salutogenesis and to examine how the built environment can contribute to healthier individuals, organisations, and societies.

I wholeheartedly support WCDH2027 and look forward to welcoming delegates from around the world to Sydney to help shape the future of salutogenic design and healthier built environments.



Hon. Ryan Park MP.
NSW Minister for Health,
Minister for Regional Health

Reinforcing Australian Health Systems Through Salutogenic Design, Equity, and Sustainability

The International Academy for Design and Health (IADH), in partnership with the New South Wales Government, leading universities, health industry partners, and Australian Health Design Council proudly announces the 16th Design and Health World Congress & Exhibition, to be held from 17–21 November 2027 in Sydney at the Hyatt Regency.

This milestone event marks the 30th anniversary of the International Academy for Design & Health (IADH), following its inaugural Congress in Trondheim, Norway, in 1997—an occasion that established a global benchmark for leadership, innovation, research, and practice at the field of design and health.
As we celebrate three decades of achievements, international collaboration, and the advancement of salutogenic design, we also look confidently toward the future.

This historic anniversary will mark the official transition of the IADH from Sweden to the United States, with the Academy becoming part of Texas A&M University. This new chapter represents an important evolution of the organization while preserving the values, knowledge, and international legacy established over the past 30 years.

Thirty years of IADH: honoring our legacy, celebrating our achievements, and imagining the next 30 years of design and health with Texas A&M University.

Your participation and contribution are highly valued as we collectively explore the challenges and transformations shaping contemporary health systems. Together, we will examine innovative, design-led solutions that respond to the evolving needs of Australia's population and support the delivery of more sustainable, equitable, and future-focused healthcare environments.

Healthcare systems are undergoing a fundamental transformation in response to fiscal constraints, demographic change, environmental pressures, and evolving expectations of care. These forces are accelerating a shift away from hospital-centric models toward distributed, preventative, and human-centered systems of care.

A key challenge within this transition is the strategic allocation of limited capital investment. Greater emphasis must be placed on high-need areas such as aged care, mental health, and subacute services—particularly in Australia, where subacute care remains underfunded despite its critical role in alleviating demand on acute hospitals. At the same time, the continued expansion of acute infrastructure is increasingly being questioned.

merging models of care are more distributed and integrated, extending beyond hospitals into homes and communities. Approaches such as hub-and-spoke systems demonstrate how coordinated networks can enhance access, efficiency, and continuity of care while supporting the delivery of care in place. This shift is enabled by advances in technology - including wearable devices, artificial intelligence, and remote monitoring which facilitate personalization, preventative care, and improved system performance through data-driven insights.

Concurrently, there is a growing emphasis on prevention and public health, supported by salutogenic design principles that position the built environment as an active contributor to wellbeing. This perspective recognizes that health outcomes are shaped not only by healthcare services, but also by broader social and environmental determinants, including housing, water access, air quality, and climate conditions. As such, planetary sustainability is increasingly understood as integral to healthcare, with climate-responsive design and environmental stewardship essential to both ecological and public health outcomes.

Equity and inclusion are central to this transformation. Persistent disparities—particularly among First Nations communities and populations in remote areas—highlight the need for more accessible, culturally appropriate, and context-responsive models of care. Embedding cultural safety and addressing social determinants are critical to achieving meaningful and equitable health outcomes.

In parallel, there is increasing recognition of the importance of the human experience of care. The integration of arts, creativity, and flexible design can enhance psychological wellbeing, dignity, and patient autonomy, yet remains underutilized in many healthcare settings. Incorporating lived experience through interdisciplinary and non-hierarchical collaboration further strengthens the relevance and responsiveness of design outcomes.
Despite these advances, systemic barriers persist. Risk-averse cultures, fragmented governance, and restrictive policy and funding frameworks continue to constrain innovation and integration. Addressing these challenges requires system-level reform, including the simplification of processes, strengthened cross-sector collaboration, and the development of enabling policy environments.

In summary, the future of healthcare lies in systems that are distributed, preventative, equitable, and sustainable supported by technology and grounded in salutogenic design. Achieving this vision requires not only the redesigning of healthcare infrastructure, but the reimagining of the entire care ecosystem, aligning investment, policy, and design with long-term health, social, and environmental objectives.

We warmly invite you to contribute to this important dialogue and submit your abstract for consideration. Abstract submissions are due by 30 January 2027.



Prof. Alan Dilani, PhD
Founder of Academy



Prof. Ray Pentecost DrPH, FAIA
President of Academy



Kate Copeland
Australian Health Design Council

Call for Abstracts

The WCDH2027 offers a unique opportunity to connect with a premier global interdisciplinary network of leading professionals - from architects and designers to health planners, engineers, physicians, economists, and key decision-makers across disciplines. Marking the 30th anniversary of the Congress - first established in Trondheim, Norway in 1997—this event continues to serve as a global platform for advancing the intersection of design, health, and the built environment.

Theme
Reimagining Australian Health Systems Through Salutogenic Design, Equity, and Sustainability

Key Topics of Interest
We welcome submissions that engage with, but are not limited to:

- Salutogenic and preventative design approaches
- Health equity, First Nations health, and cultural safety
- Sustainable, climate-responsive, and low-carbon healthcare design
- Community-based, home-based, and virtual care models
- Subacute care, aged care, and mental health infrastructure
- Integration of digital technologies (AI, robotics, data systems)
- Patient experience, dignity, and the role of arts and creativity
- Policy innovation, funding models, and systems reform
- Interdisciplinary collaboration and co-design approaches






Photos from the World Congresses in Singapore (2025) and Malaysia (2026)

Who Should Submit

We encourage contributions from:

- Researchers and academics
- Healthcare planners and clinicians
- Architects, designers, and urbanists
- Policymakers and government representatives
- Industry leaders and innovators

Why Participate

This Congress offers a unique opportunity to:

- Contribute to global discourse on the future of health systems
- Share research, case studies, and innovative practices
- Build interdisciplinary connections
- Influence policy, planning, and design outcomes

Submission Information

Abstract Deadline: 30 January 2027

Submission guidelines and details:
Authors are invited to submit abstracts of 300 words in English. The abstract should clearly state the objectives, methods used, results and conclusions. The paper will be presented to an audience with diverse interests and disciplines. Consequently, we are seeking presentations that focus on the practical importance of environmental design qualities that promote health and well-being.

All abstracts will be reviewed by the Scientific Committee. A limited number will be selected for oral presentations as full papers; others will be presented as posters. All papers will be subjected to a blind peer review process.

All abstracts and enquiries should be submitted via the website at www.designhealth.academy or by email to info@designhealth.academy no later than 30 January 2027.

Website: www.designhealth.academy
Email: info@designhealth.academy

Abstract must include a title, author(s), organizational affiliation, and three keywords. Papers chosen for presentation will be published in the Final Program and Book of Abstracts, with selected papers published in the journal World Health Design. The author(s) or co-author(s) should register and pay the registration fee to present the paper at the conference.

Key Dates

Call for Abstracts Opens:
October 2026

Abstract Submission Closes:
30 January 2027

Academy Awards - first announcement:
January 2027

Notification of Abstract Acceptance:
February 2027

Deadline for Early Bird Sales, Speaker Registration, Submission for Academy Award:
June 2027

Congress Date: 17 - 21 November 2027
Location: Hyatt Regency, Sydney, Australia

Wednesday 17 November 2027
Day 1 Pre-congress Symposium and Book Launch with Welcome Reception

Thursday 18 November 2027
Day 2 Scientific Congress Program and Exhibition

Friday 19 November 2027
Day 3 Scientific Congress Program and Exhibition

Saturday 20 November 2027
Day 4 Scientific Congress Program and Exhibition
Academy Awards Gala Dinner

Sunday 21 November 2027
Study Tours of the major Health Design Project in Sydney

Brainstorming meeting at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Sydney on Wednesday, 18 February 2026



Organizing and Scientific Committee

16th World Congress on Design & Health (WCDH2027), Sydney – Australia



Prof. Alan Dilani
Founder, International Academy for Design and Health



Prof. Ray Pentecost
President of International Academy for Design and Health



Kate Copeland
Australian Health Design Council



Prof. Nimish Biloria
Professor School of Architecture, University of Technology Sydney



Prof. Anthony Capon
University of Sydney



Gunther De Graeve
Destravis Group, Brisbane



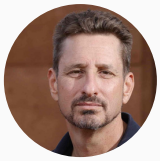
Solaire Eggert
Senior Manager, Stakeholder and Industry Engagement, Health Infrastructure



Arch. James Grose
BVN



Jasmine Jahani
Kaunitz Yeung Architecture, Sydney



Prof. David Kaunitz,
Director, Kaunitz Yeung Architecture



Prof. Susan Thompson
Professor of Planning,
School of Built Environment
UNSW, Sydney



Charlie Olofsson, IT Director,
International Academy for Design and Health



Dr. Saman Skaker
MD, NSW, Rural Health Emergency



Dr Kim Sutherland MBA PhD PSM
Executive Director, Office for Health and Medical Research



Prof. Evelyne de Leeuw
UNSW University, Sydney
Urban health and policy

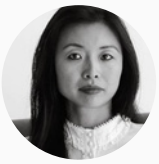


Organizing and Scientific Committee

16th World Congress on Design & Health (WCDH2027), Sydney – Australia



Hediyeh Vahdat
Linéaire Projects, Sydney



Dr Anita Vandyke
Program Manager at Health Infrastructure



Arch. Kristen Whittle
Principal, Hassell, Melbourne



Ka Wai Yeung
Director, Kaunitz Yeung Architecture



Arch. Rebecca Yeo
Principal, Billard Leece partnership



Anna Fox
Australian Health Design Council Senior Associate,
Grieve Gillett Architects



Dr Parisa Ziaesaeidi
PhD Western Sydney University



Stefano Scalzo
Director, FRONTEND Advisory

Editorial Committee for the Book

Australian Design & Health 2015–2030: A Review of Australian Health Infrastructure Between 2015 and 2030 (2nd Edition)

- Warren Kerr, Hames Sharley, WA
- Isabelle Mansour, NSW Health
- Harm Hollander, previously Conrad Gargett, Qld
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- Sanaz Memari, AHDC Research Subcommittee
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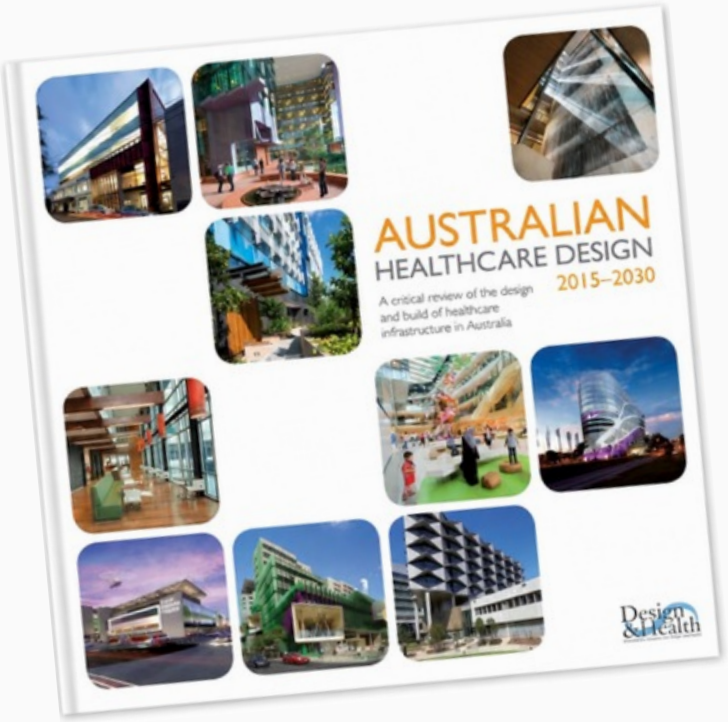

Call for Projects opens: October 2026
Call for Projects closes: 1 February 2027
Announcement and acceptance: 1 March 2027
Book distribution: October 2027

"Australian Design for Health 2015–2030" will provide a unique reference for researchers and practitioners, both regionally and internationally. This publication offers a comprehensive review of past, current, and future projects and trends in design and health across Australia.

Published by the IADH and reviewed by an editorial board chaired by Kate Copeland of the Australian Health Design Council, the book is produced in collaboration with state health departments and the Australasian partners of the 16th Design & Health World Congress (Sydney, 17–21 November 2027).

Celebrating the Academy's 30th anniversary, this publication builds on a legacy launched at the inaugural 1997 World Congress in Trondheim, which established Salutogenic Design as a foundational tool in design and health. The content features a collection of essays from prominent Australian academics and practitioners, alongside a detailed catalogue of projects that showcase this powerful methodology in action. Complimentary copies will be distributed to all federal and state health departments in Australia and to delegates of the 16th Design & Health World Congress. Additional copies will be available for purchase during the event and thereafter.

Submission Requirements

Each entry must include the following:

A. Completed Submission Form

Please ensure the form is filled out in its entirety and submitted by the deadline: February 1st, 2027.

B. Project Description (750 words)

Provide a concise, factual narrative that outlines: The project brief, narrative, and how key challenges were met. The model of care and its integration into the design. The application of research within the design process. Specific examples of innovation. Any available post-occupancy feedback.

C. Images and Illustrations - Due March 1st, 2027

After signed agreement, submit a comprehensive set of high-quality, professionally taken images that meet these specifications:
Format: TIFF, EPS, or JPEG, Resolution: 300 DPI minimum, Size: At least 300x300mm
Content: A full selection of interior and exterior photographs, concept drawings, and plans/sections (where available). All images must be clearly labelled.

For submission form and request, please contact:

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Special Committee

International Academy Awards, Lead Judge – WCDH2027, Sydney, Australia

Prof. Hessam Ghamari, University of California USA
Prof. Alan Dilani, Founder, International Academy for Design and Health
Prof. Ray Pentecost, President of the International Academy for Design and Health
Prof. Stefano Capolongo, Politecnico di Milano, Italy
Prof. Sahand Abbasi, USA
Kristen Whittle, Principal Hassell, Melbourne
Prof. David Kaunitz, University of Sydney
Dr. Innocent Okpanum, South Africa/ Nigeria

Celebration of 30 Years and the Inauguration of the Institute for Design & Health (IDH)

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Inge Fottland, Norway
Tye Farrow, Canada
Nadia Tobia, Canada
Ian Sinclair, Canada
Innocent Okpanum
Kirk Hamilton, USA
John Zeisel, USA
Ian Forbes, Australia
Alan Dilani, Sweden
Ray Pentecost, USA





Design & Health Global Events Map

World Congresses

1st Trondheim 1997
2nd Stockholm 2000
3rd Montreal 2003
4th Frankfurt 2005
5th Glasgow 2007
6th Singapore 2009
7th Boston 2011
8th Kuala Lumpur 2012
9th Brisbane 2013
10th Toronto 2014
11th Hong Kong 2015
12th Vienna 2017
13th Milano 2024
14th Singapore 2025
15th Sarawak, Malaysia 2026
16th Sydney, Australia 2027



Symposiums

Sydney 2010
Toronto 2010
Brussels 2010
Melbourne 2011
Cape Town 2011
Sydney 2012
Helsinki 2012
Singapore 2013
Doha 2013
Beijing 2014
Hanoi 2015
Brisbane 2016
Campo Grande 2017
Amazona 2019

Contacts

For general Congress questions:
congress@jtproductionmanagement.com

For Abstract questions:
info@designhealth.academy

For sponsorship opportunities, contact:
julia@jtproductionmanagement.com

