



ROYAL COMMISSION FOR THE EXHIBITION OF 1851

2-Year Fellowship in Design : £50,000 per year

Closing Date for applications 5 September 2022

Design: Waste Not Want Not

Production and delivery of food, goods, machines and services and even energy to users generates waste. Highly variable, but at each stage of production through to delivery and consumption waste occurs despite our efforts to make best use of by-products through recycling. We are familiar with the ubiquitous nature of packaging and we are used to discarding products that are obsolete, in need of repair (too difficult) or just because we desire new.

In the building industry for instance, there is waste from inefficient use of materials and over specification unnecessarily consumes resources. Difficulties in re-using many materials following demolition or stripping out for refurbishment leads to large volumes of waste. Furthermore, there is risk of downcycling of materials through recycling (rather than direct reuse), often more energy intensive and potentially wasteful – so designing for reuse at end of life to minimise risk of downcycling is also important.

Waste material has its own previously embodied carbon and excessive waste may well require yet more waste in order to be processed for re-use or even to be discarded safely. We waste in order to save both effort and money; being diligent with the recycling bins is not enough to counter the unseen production of waste.

Theory related to the circular economy illustrates that much is and can be done to re-use, repair, refurbish, re-cycle or even up-cycle or just to extract energy, but can we do more to encourage the design of products to enable efficient use, repair and re-use without waste? Can we design waste to not be wasted? Can we learn from other systems like nature?

This year's fellowship for design is looking for how design can become a regenerative discipline, whether through product, process or service.

Outcomes

The Fellowship will result in a detailed report with serious, well-researched and practical proposals that address the question and challenge designers to take the outcomes into account. The means of dissemination should be carefully considered to provide maximum impact and genuinely make a difference.

Who Should Apply

Applications are welcomed from post-graduates, researchers, practitioners or professionals on a career break. Entries will be accepted not only from individuals but also from formal or informal partnerships. Candidates should be UK based aiming to carry out research over a 2 year period culminating in a milestone output of significance. In all cases candidates should identify a mentor who can contribute objectively to the project and widen the reach of outputs to help make a difference.

Applications are made via our online application portal, where we ask applicants to upload an outline of the proposed project of no more than two pages of A4 and a CV.

Please visit www.royalcommission1851.org.uk for full details of how to apply.