Tampere University



11.-14.8.2026, Tampere, Finland

Values, Culture and the Future Paradigms with Engineering Design

About the conference

The Tampere University is delighted to invite participation in the 2026 NordDesign conference, which will take place August 12th-14th at the Tampere University City centre campus. The conference is organised by The Automation Technology and Mechanical Engineering unit.

NordDesign is a biennial Nordic conference covering many topics in design, design engineering, and design education. It is known for its friendly and informal atmosphere, and PhD students are particularly welcome.

ORGANISERS

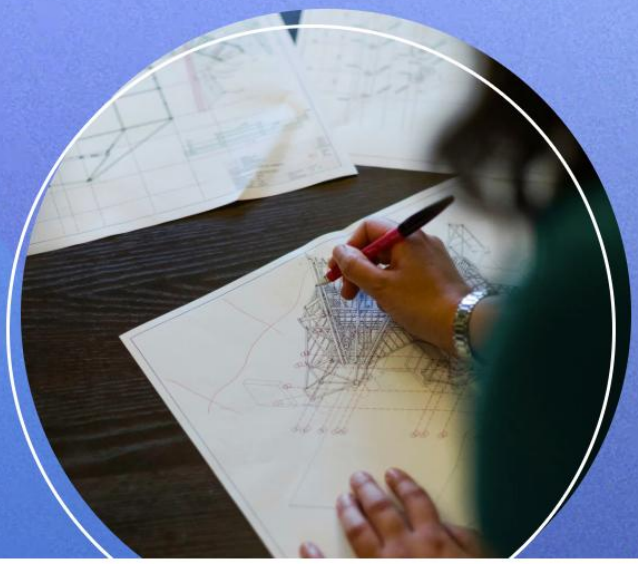
Tampere University

Design Society

the Design Society
a worldwide community

Nordic Chapter

Enhancing a Nordic approach to product development in industry, education and research.



About this Chapter

About

Enhancing a Nordic approach to product development in industry, education and research. The Nordic Chapter shall seek to: enhance knowledge and understanding of next generation product development research, education and practice, contribute to fostering Nordic ecosystems for design research-based realization of innovations, contribute to the ability to drive change and renewal in higher education through collaboration between industry and academia and strengthen the ability in academia and industry to lead change and benefit from state-of-the-art technologies.

Core Aims & Objectives

The Nordic Chapter coordinates research across Nordic countries in the focus areas of:

- Design of innovative concepts, systems and product solutions.
- Design automation and digital engineering.
- Sustainable life cycle design.
- Engineering management.

How can members get involved?

Examples of Nordic Chapter activities are:

- NordDesign Conference (biennial): NordDesign 2024
- Common PhD courses. Some PhD courses open for Nordic Chapter PhD students can be found at: Nordic Chapter PhD Courses

PREFACE

The *NordDesign 2026 Conference* takes place at a pivotal moment for the design and engineering community. As societies across the globe confront unprecedented challenges related to sustainability, digitalization, resilience, demographic change, and technological transformation, established approaches to product development are being reassessed. The NordDesign 2026 emphasizes the profound influence of values, beliefs, and cultural contexts in shaping not only the artefacts we create, but also the methods, processes, and tools through which design and engineering are practiced.

Looking toward the horizons of 2040 and 2050, this field is experiencing a paradigm shift from predominantly technology-driven innovation toward a broader understanding of socio-technical systems. Products, services, and engineered systems no longer exist in isolation; they are embedded within complex networks of stakeholders, institutions, cultures, and environments. Addressing this complexity requires holistic perspectives that integrate technical excellence with ethical responsibility, societal relevance, and contextual understanding.

A central message emerging from this conference is the growing importance of value-oriented product development. Future engineering solutions must deliver more than functional performance and economic efficiency. They must create sustainable value for individuals, organizations, communities, and society at large. This necessitates new approaches that incorporate stakeholder involvement, perspectives, long-term societal impact, and diverse forms of knowledge creation throughout the development process.

The contributions collected in these proceedings reflect the richness and diversity of this evolving research landscape. Authors explore novel methodologies, design approaches, development tools, and engineering practices that support the creation of products and systems capable of addressing future societal needs. The papers demonstrate how transdisciplinary collaboration can bridge traditional boundaries between engineering, design, social sciences, and the humanities, thereby fostering more responsible and impactful innovation.

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