

Design[®]
TO

annual report 2025—2026

Design[®]
TO



'ALL LIGHT' at Gallery 1065, photo by Nicole Carbone.

- 5 Directors' Message
- 6 About DesignTO
- 9 Equity, Diversity and Inclusion
- 10 Organization Reach
- 12 2026 Festival
- 13 We are Toronto
- 15 Festival Map
- 17 Partners + Sponsors
- 20 Year-Round Projects
- 28 Festival Week Projects
- 45 DesignTO Team
- 46 Join the DesignTO Community

“The festival continues to play an important role in putting Toronto on the design map, and I’m inspired year after year by the incredible talent it showcases.”

2026 Festival Attendee
(anonymous)

“Volunteering at the DesignTO Festival was such a rewarding experience. I kicked off the festival at the launch party, welcoming hundreds of guests into an atmosphere buzzing with creativity and community”

Cindy Reyes
2026 Festival Volunteer

“Design Toronto creates opportunities for people to engage with art, design, artists and culture in the deepest part of our Toronto winter. It is a curative for the isolation that many of us feel this time of year with so many barrier free and welcoming spaces to visit.”

Danielle Cole
2026 Festival exhibitor, 'Wallflowers'

Dear Friends,

This past year marked an important moment in DesignTO's evolution. After fifteen years of growing Canada's leading design festival, DesignTO became a registered charitable organization, opening new opportunities to deepen our impact and expand how design serves communities.

Now in our 16th year, we continue to build on this momentum. What began as a grassroots design event has grown into a city-wide platform connecting artists, designers, architects, and audiences across Toronto. Together we have welcomed more than 1.2 million attendees, showcased thousands of creative voices, and demonstrated the role design plays in shaping vibrant and inclusive cities.

Looking ahead, our priority is to strengthen the systems that will sustain DesignTO's next phase of growth by enhancing governance, charitable capacity, fundraising, and partnerships, while offering year-round programming and increasing access for artists, designers, and audiences to participate in the cultural life of the city.

Thank you to everyone who contributes to this work, from the artists, designers, and partners to our staff, volunteers, sponsors, funders, and audiences. DesignTO exists because of this collective effort.

Your support helps ensure that design remains accessible, visible, and deeply connected to the communities it serves.

Together, we are building the future of DesignTO

**With gratitude,
Anna Bartula, Executive Director**

DesignTO is a registered charitable arts organization that curates exhibitions, presentations and educational programming to increase the public's knowledge and appreciation of design and its role in creating a sustainable, just and joyful world. DesignTO organizes the annual DesignTO Festival. It is Canada's largest celebration of design, forming Toronto's design week.

For 10 days every January, Toronto buzzes with energy and creativity. The DesignTO Festival celebrates design as a multidisciplinary form of creative thinking and making. People from near and far come to explore, learn, and get inspired through architectural tours, craft and design exhibitions, storefront window installations, thought-provoking talks, and other unique experiences. The 2026 DesignTO Festival featured 500+ artists and designers, drew over 250,000 visitors, and generated \$30.6 million in visitor spending, highlighting its vital role in the community. Since 2011, we have welcomed over 1.2 million attendees, reached 2.7 billion people through print and digital media, showcased 7,500+ artists and designers, and generated over \$600 million in tourism impact.

But it doesn't stop there. DesignTO keeps its creativity flowing all year long. DesignTO Talks, DesignTO Tours, DesignTO Youth, and exclusive Members events offer ongoing opportunities to engage with design. We're committed to making design accessible to everyone, proudly reflecting Toronto's diversity with 100% of our team and 62% of attendees identifying as part of equity-deserving groups.

Innovation is in our DNA. We love taking creative risks and pushing boundaries. Through strategic partnerships and forward-thinking programs, we're building a future where design enriches lives and neighbourhoods.

At DesignTO, everyone is welcome. Whether you're a seasoned designer, a curious newcomer, a design lover, or a potential collaborator, we provide a platform to dive deep into design, engage with vibrant communities, and help reimagine tomorrow. Join us as we explore new areas, celebrate creativity, and redefine what design means for our city and beyond. Whether at the DesignTO Festival or through our year-round events, be part of a movement that celebrates the transformative power of design.



Design[®]
TO

'Dying.exhibit' by Dying.series collective at Youngplace, photo by Anne Fleming.

Purpose

We bring people together to design a better future.

Mission

We curate exhibitions, presentations and educational programming to increase the public's knowledge and appreciation of design and its role in creating a sustainable, just and joyful world.

Vision

Through our public programming, embolden all Canadians to participate in designing a future where people and the planet are thriving again.



'Traces' at Gallery 235, photo by Garry Bakuniec.

about equity, diversity and inclusion

Founded by a team of diverse creatives, DesignTO continues this leadership with a multi-generational, intersectional team, from many places. We aim to mirror Toronto's vibrant diversity, with equity-deserving* representation.

- Team: 100%
- Board: 86%
- Exhibitors: 69%
- Audience: 62%

This representation fuels our mission to reflect Toronto's creative landscape. While proud of our progress, we acknowledge there's more to do. We're actively working to increase representation and accessibility.

*A group of people who, because of systemic discrimination, face barriers that prevent them from having the same access to the resources and opportunities that are available to other members of society, and that are necessary for them to attain just outcomes. In Canada, groups generally considered to be equity-denied groups include women, Indigenous Peoples, people with disabilities, people who are part of 2SLGBTQI+ communities, religious minority groups and racialized people. The types of equity-denied groups may vary based on factors such as geography, sociocultural context or the presence of specific subpopulations.

Some people may prefer the term "equity-deserving group" because it highlights the fact that equity should be achieved from a systemic, cultural or societal change and the burden of seeking equity should not be placed on the group. Others argue that this term could be seen to imply that not all people are deserving of equity. (Source: Government of Canada Guide on Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Terminology.)

60

Youth Served
(221 since 2019)

61K

Tourists
(268K tourists since 2014)

347

DesignTO Members
(1914 since 2016)

\$330.6M

in Tourist Spending
(600M+ tourists since 2014)

Design[®]
TO

100+

Free events and exhibitions
(1.4K+ since 2011)

500+

Artists and designers
(7.5K since 2011)

250K+

Attendees
(1.2M since 2011)

61K

Tourists

20+

Neighbourhoods activated with art and design

\$30.6M

in Visitor Spending in 2026

\$13.5M

in Direct Economic Impact on GDP in Toronto

\$21.6M

in Total Economic Impact on GDP in Toronto

\$28.6M

in Total Economic Impact on GDP in Ontario

2026 festival reach



'Slow Furniture: Recent work from the Studio of Heidi Earnshaw' at Craft Ontario, photo by Garry Bakuniec.

Diversity

100% of the DesignTO Team identify as equity-deserving, with a programming team that is **100%** BIPOC and **80%** new generation.

Industry

76% of the DesignTO Team and **49%** of visitors are from design, arts and culture.

Age

64% of the DesignTO Team and **68%** of visitors are 39 and under.

92%

Feel DesignTO is helping to create a more sustainable, just and joyful world.

95%

Would recommend the Festival to a friend or family member exploring Toronto.

94%

Are likely to attend future DesignTO Festival events.

97%

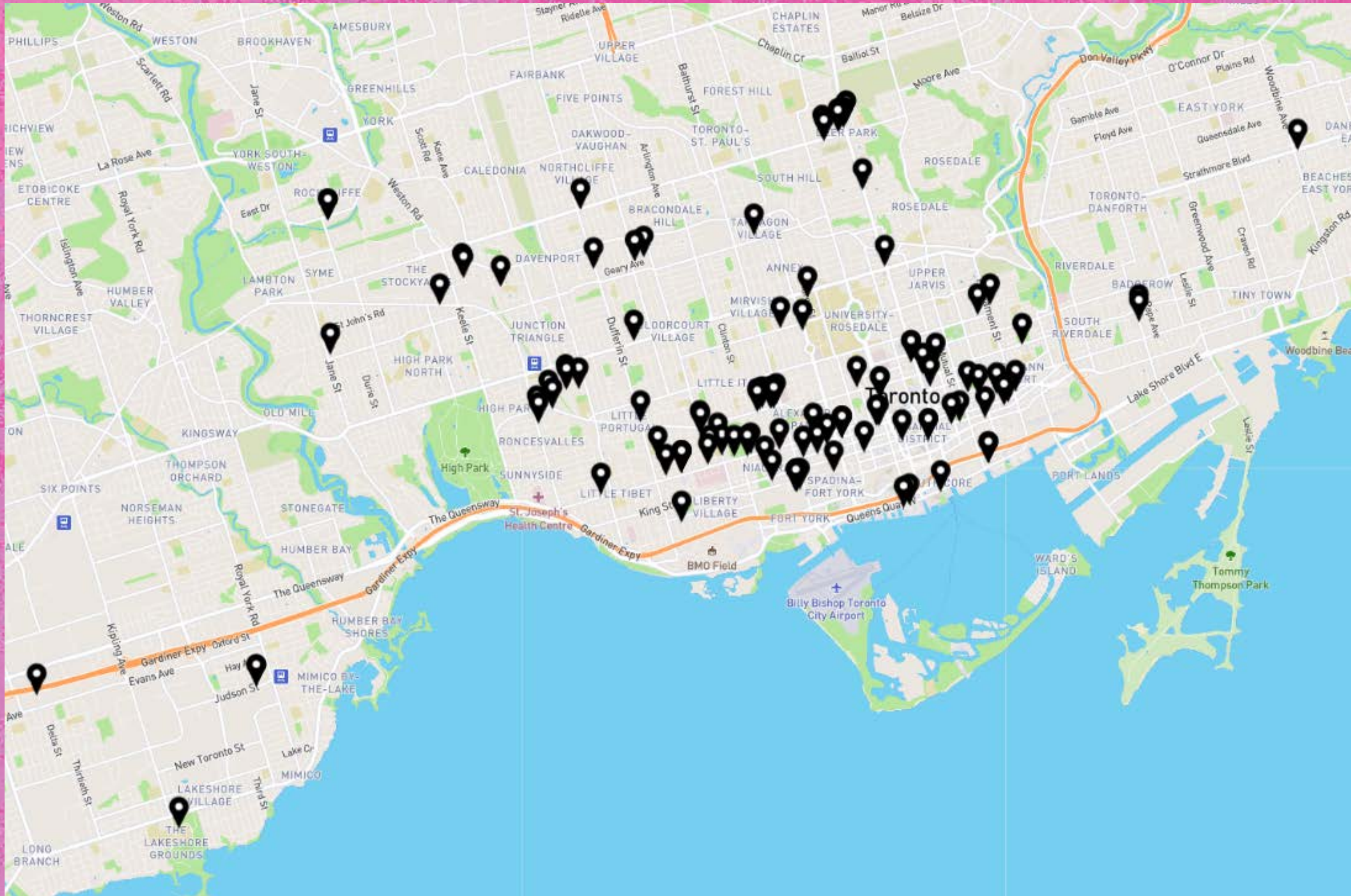
Feel welcome at the Festival.

63%

Explored businesses, places or neighbourhoods that were new or not recently visited.

74%

Contributed to the local economy.



From January 23-February 1, 2026, the DesignTO Festival presented 100+ free in-person events, exhibitions and window installations, transforming over 20 neighbourhoods across the City of Toronto into bustling hubs of creativity.

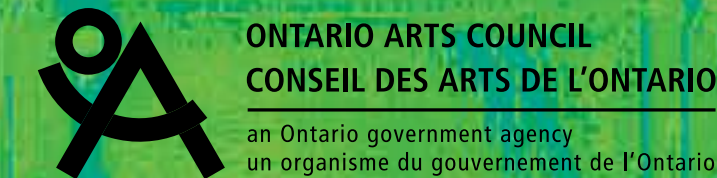
Design[®]
TO



'Ensemble presents Pot-au-feu' at The Plumb, photo by Christine Lim.

DesignTO would like to thank the Ontario Cultural Attractions Fund, Ontario Arts Council, Government of Ontario, City of Toronto, and our corporate sponsors and partners.

Major Funders



Partners



Supporters

Aēsop[®]

EQ Bank



Associate

entro

Media Partners

Google

AZURE

blogTO

designlines

LIVING LUXE

stir
www.stirworld.com

Studio



v2com
newswire

Association Partners

ACIDO

IDSA

idc

interior designers of canada
designers d'intérieur du canada

smps
Ontario

TSA
Toronto Society of Architects
Est. 1887



DOWNTOWN
YOMEO

**THE INTERIOR
DESIGN SHOW**

**Wanted
Design**

Friends



gh3*

Hanabi

ICON

K Kriss
Communications

NAK ■
design strategies

yabu
pushelberg

“As a designer living in rural Newfoundland, the festival was an incredible experience of creative connection and inspiration.”

Kate Golding

2026 Festival exhibitor, ‘Drawed’ Through’

“The DesignTO festival is such an important pillar of the design community. I'm honoured to receive this award alongside Mark Khoury and we're already looking forward to the 2027 festival.”

Devansh Shah

2026 DesignTO Award winner (with Mark Khoury), sconce at ‘Nice to Meet You!’

“I attended DesignTO this year because I love to experience the energy it brings to Toronto, see innovative new works, and discover artists and designers I have not encountered before.”

2026 Festival Attendee
(anonymous)



'Futures Fund - Final Stretch' at Akb Architects, photo by Bruno Beli.

Leading up to DesignTO's charitable status, granted in the fall of 2025, we launched the Futures Fund, raising \$28K. We brought together a community of supporters at two events, graciously hosted by Yabu Pushelberg and Akb Architects, and bolstered three fundraising house tours with the generosity of homeowners.

As we enter a new chapter, we hope to continue to raise funds to:

- Present over 100 free exhibitions and events each January across Toronto
- Share the work of hundreds of Canadian artists and designers annually
- Mentor equity-deserving youth through a free youth program, increasing opportunities for arts appreciation and design education
- Expand public access to design programming and education

To donate and support design with lasting impact, [click here](#).

For information about corporate giving, please contact Executive Director Anna Bartula: annab@designto.org.

fundraising + charitable status



'Futures Fund - Summer Social' at Yabu Pushelberg, photo courtesy of Yabu Pushelberg.

Design[®]
TO



'DesignTO Tours: Garden Laneway House'

fundraising + charitable status

DesignTO House Tours

In 2025, DesignTO introduced a series of exclusive house tours to support fundraising efforts. From converted industrial spaces, to laneway houses, to new builds, attendees were given access to private residences inhabited and/or designed by Toronto's creative community.

Thank you to the homeowners and Sensory Partner Aesop.

DesignTO Tours: Inside a Geary Avenue Creative Hub on Jul 17, 2025

DesignTO Tours: Garden Laneway House on Sep 13, 2025

DesignTO Tours: Riverside House on Oct 28, 2025

DesignTO Youth is a community engagement program which offers equity-deserving youth access to creative disciplines and professionals, concluding in a public showcase of their work at the DesignTO Festival.

Over six sessions, 60 equity-deserving youth were prompted to explore how art and design can be used as tools for conscious change. The program questioned the systems that shape our realities and to imagine alternative futures rooted in care, collaboration, and possibility.

Youth were inspired by talks and workshops delivered by practicing artists and designers from Toronto and abroad: Jeyolyn Christi, Sheri O. Nault, Luke Pearson (You+Pea), Keisha St. Louis McBurnie, and Shaya Ishaq. Plus mentorship from Michael Barry, Vanessa Fong, Isabel Okoro, and Pheinixx Paul.

60 Youth served (221 since 2019)



*'Otherworld: DesignTO Youth Showcase' at PARTISANS,
photo by Jacqueline Chan.*



'Motherland'

Motherland

May 7, 2025

DesignTO and Scavolini presented a celebration of the kitchen as a site of gathering and cultural exchange.

The free event brought together multicultural food, music, and art in Scavolini's Toronto showroom where attendees enjoyed snacks from Nigeria, Pakistan, and Iraq by Newcomer Kitchen, alongside a live performance by Mark Marczyk of the Lemon Bucket Orkestra.

The program featured work across textiles, photography, ceramics, sculpture, video, and papercutting by Anne Campbell in collaboration with Waard Ward, Daria Alyoshkina, Ernesto Cabral De Luna, Oksana Hawrylak & Arnaud Brassard, Par Nair, William Ukoh, and Yasmin Mora.

'Motherland' was curated by DesignTO, and supported by Scavolini Toronto.



Design[®] TO

The King East Design District (KEDD) Party returned to celebrate design, creativity and community. A roaming neighbourhood celebration, the event included six dynamic Party Hubs offering unique experiences at every stop. Whether you hopped between hubs or settled in at your favourite, this can't-miss night brought together designers, design-lovers, and curious creatives for an evening of connection and discovery.

- Artopex, 366 Adelaide Street East, Suite 130
- Blinds To Go, 330 King Street East
- Candace & Basil, 75 Ontario Street
- Design Within Reach Toronto, 214 King Street East
- Engel & Völkers Toronto City, 71 King Street East
- Home Soci t , 570 Adelaide Street East



King East Design District Party presented by DesignTO

May 23, 2025



'KEDD Party presented by DesignTO 2025', photo by Anna Jasinska.



The 'Virtual Exhibition Design' talk was a panel discussion that took a deep dive into the processes and practices of designing expansive and dynamic virtual exhibitions. Featuring three Canadian creators, Cat Bluemke, Brendan 'Brendy' Lehman, and Zoe Osborne, who are making strides in the field, the talk spotlighted each of their digital projects as touchstones for a conversation exploring a range of exhibition-making strategies to harness the possibilities of virtual space.

This talk was organized by DesignTO and supported by EQ Bank. Thanks to the Toronto Society of Architects for hosting us.

'DesignTO Talks: Virtual Exhibition Design' speakers: Cat Bluemke, Brendan 'Brendy' Lehman, and Zoe Osborne.

“I have been attending the festival for several years. I go to support artists and designers, network, and see new things.”

2026 Festival Attendee
(anonymous)

“DesignTO plays an important role by positioning design as a public and civic practice, grounded in dialogue with communities rather than confined to professional silos.”

Wesley Reibeling
Speaker, 'Ideas Forum: Advocating for a Better City'

“My piece is called 'Connections' because it encourages everyone to connect with those around us. Winning the People's Choice Award is extra special because it means that many connected with the work as well.”

Cherie Leung
2026 DesignTO Award Winner, 'Connections'



'Assembly: A holding space for culture' at It's OK Studios, photo by Sarah Murray.

Design
TO[®]



DesignTO Launch Party

January 23, 2026

Guests kicked off the 10-day Festival at the 2026 DesignTO Launch Party at the Museum of Contemporary Art Toronto. Across three floors, attendees experienced 'Jeff Wall Photographs 1984–2023' alongside music curated by local-global featuring Isabel Okoro and Adeola Abegunde. Inspired by art and architecture, attendees connected with the creative community.

The DesignTO Launch Party was organized by DesignTO, with venue partner the Museum of Contemporary Art Toronto, and supported by Grohe, media sponsor The Globe and Mail, and media partner AZURE Magazine. Beverages provided by Burdock Brewery and Paradise Grapevine. The DesignTO Festival was supported by the Government of Ontario and the City of Toronto.



'DesignTO Launch Party 2026' at MOCA Toronto, photo by Stephen Chu.

Design[®]
TO

S.A.D.

January 1-31, 2026

'S.A.D.' was a series of eight evocative images by Chinese-Canadian artist and photographer Steven Beckly presented on five digital screens at Sankofa Square.

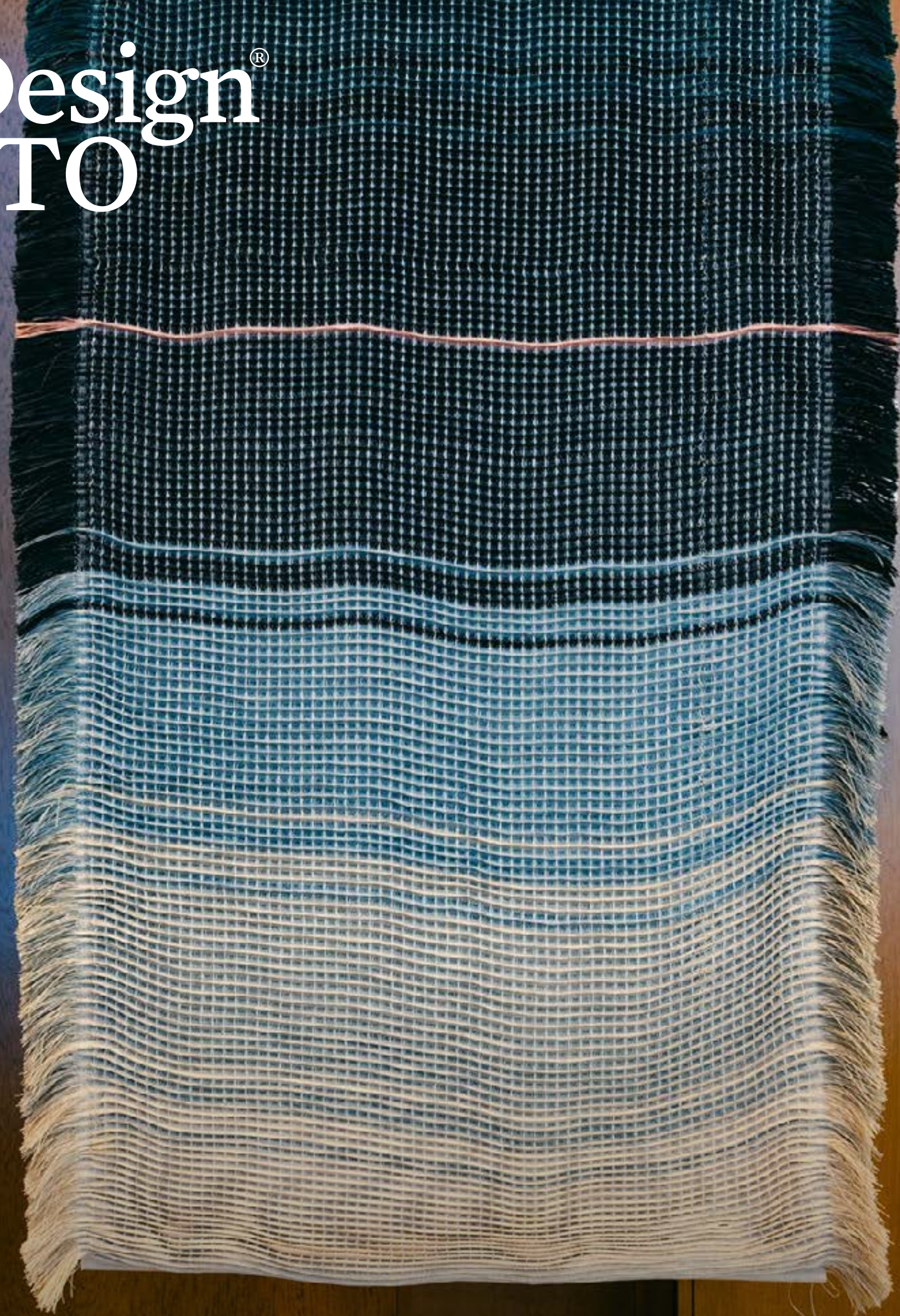
The title refers to seasonal affective disorder. In Canada, it is commonly known as the "winter blues," due to the reduction of activity and sunlight that occur during the winter months. The primary treatment is light therapy, mimicking the brightness of natural sunlight. Emerging from momentary encounters, the captivating images that comprise 'S.A.D.' conjured multiple metaphors of light: a curtain pulled back, a doorway out of darkness, a healing touch, a friend you can feel, a poem you can move through.

'S.A.D.' was curated by DesignTO, with venue partner Sankofa Square. The DesignTO Festival was supported by the Government of Ontario and the City of Toronto.



'S.A.D.' by Steven Beckly , photo by Christine Lim.

Design[®]
TO



*'Soft Grid' by Shao-Chi Lin at Le Germain Hotels Toronto Mercer,
photo by Christine Lim.*

Soft Grid

January 23 - February 28, 2026

'Soft Grid' was a textile installation by fibre artist Shao-Chi Lin, inspired by her time as an artist-in-residence at Le Germain Hotel Toronto.

Lin drew inspiration from the lobby's changing light, the steady flow of guests, and the grid of the surrounding Entertainment District neighbourhood. Installed in the hotel's lobby, the work translated these observations into a soft, measured rhythm. Rooted in Lin's research into rhythm and iterative pattern, 'Soft Grid' bridged traditional craft and contemporary technique to create a meditative pause in the heart of the city.

'Soft Grid' was organized by DesignTO in partnership with Le Germain Hotel Toronto. The DesignTO Festival was supported by the Government of Ontario and the City of Toronto.



LE GERMAIN
HOTELS

Design[®] TO

'Traces' was a group exhibition featuring the work of ten local and international artists, designers, and collectives, exploring the weight of migration, forced relocation, and preserving culture and identity: what we carry, what we leave, and how we belong again.

Featuring Hangama Amiri, Sonny Assu, Meena Chowdhury, Nilojan Jegatheeswaran, Jenn Kitagawa, Dennis Lin, Rose Nordin, Anahita Norouzi, Waard Ward, and Abhishek Wagle, this multidisciplinary exhibition included a broad range of works in sculpture, installation, cyanotypes, geographic maps, furniture, and textiles to foreground lived experience and shared storytelling.

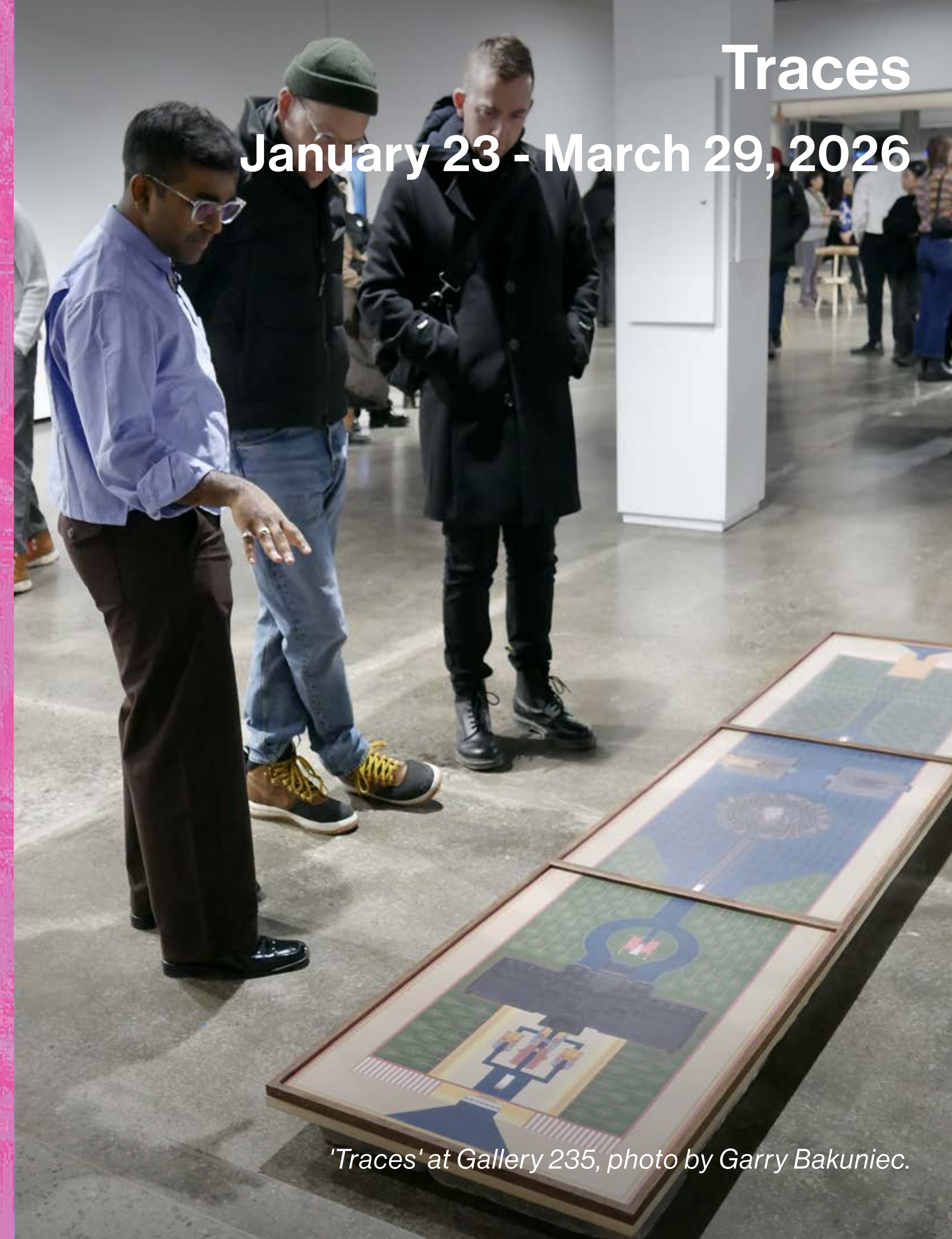
On Friday, January 30, 2026, the exhibition reception included the launch of 'Roses for Cooking and Baking', an artist cookbook by Waard Ward collective and collaborators, plus a performance of 'No Place Like (no) Home' by Meena Chowdhury.

Ontario    Harbourfront centre

yabu pushelberg  

Traces

January 23 - March 29, 2026



'Traces' at Gallery 235, photo by Garry Bakuniec.

DesignTO Tours: Material Memory

January 25, 2026

This walking tour invited guests to explore artworks that reflect ongoing dialogues between artist, object, and environment. Moving through the neighbourhood, attendees encountered works that have been added to and layered over time and across generations, highlighting how material practice becomes a vessel for memory, care, and interconnection.

The tour started at 'Hope and Healing Canada – A Journey Towards Decolonization and Reconciliation' (with Tracey-Mae Chambers), followed by 'Connections' (with Cherie Leung), and 'Close Your Eyes, Heal in a Parallel World' (with Firouzeh Saremifar), all within a short walking distance of each other.

'DesignTO Tours: Material Memory' was organized by DesignTO, and supported by the Yonge + St. Clair BIA. The DesignTO Festival was supported by the Government of Ontario and the City of Toronto.

'Connections' by Cherie Leung at 55 St. Clair Avenue West.

Design[®] TO

‘Design Hustle’ was a candid, cross-generational exploration of contemporary design practice, through a conversation with Arancha González Bernardo, Pat Hanson, and Paul Lee.

Established architects and interior designers joined emerging voices in a dynamic conversation, sharing insights on purpose, profit, planet, and process, while learning from each other’s approaches to today’s professional challenges and opportunities. The discussion sparked an engaging exchange of ideas and debate, offering a nuanced view of how the field is evolving, where it is resisting change, and how diverse experiences are shaping the future of the design.

‘Design Hustle’ was organized by DesignTO, and supported by Cosentino. The DesignTO Festival was supported by the Government of Ontario and the City of Toronto.

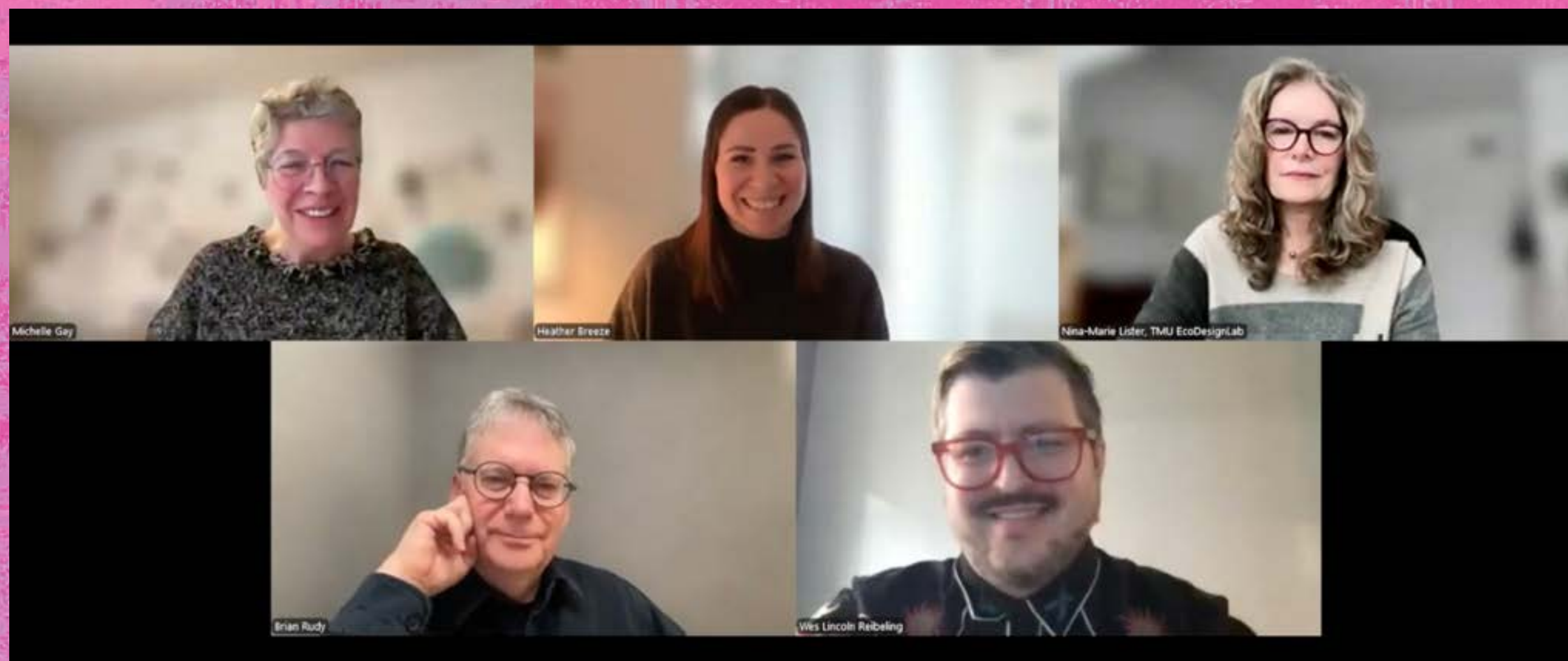


Design Hustle: what masters and new voices teach each other

January 27, 2026



*'Design Hustle: what masters and new voices teach each other'
at COSENTINO, photo by Zooey Wu.*



Ideas Forum Speakers (clockwise): Nina-Marie, Lister, Wesley Lincoln Reibeling, Brian Rudy, Michelle Gay, Heather Breeze.

Changing Toronto's built environment is challenging, requiring time, money, and collaboration. Yet many individuals and organizations are driving progress through advocacy, research, and design. The 'Ideas Forum: Advocating for a Better City' showcased the efforts of Active18 (Michelle Gay), Park People (Wesley Lincoln Reibeling), Moriyama Teshima Architects (Brian Rudy), and Toronto Metropolitan University (Nina-Marie Lister) through dynamic presentations and discussion.

'Ideas Forum: Advocating for a Better City' was organized by DesignTO in partnership with the Toronto Society of Architects. The DesignTO Festival was supported by the Government of Ontario and the City of Toronto.

Design[®]
TO

For the 2026 Festival, The Globe and Mail presented three talks:

Design in Canada Now

Moderated by The Globe and Mail Style Magazine's Editorial Director, Andrew Sardone, this panel brought together Mischa Couvrette of hollis+morris, Heidi Earnshaw, Stanley Sun of Mason Studio, Deborah Wang of DesignTO, Tura Cousins Wilson of SOCA Architecture, and Jane Son of Casson Hardware to discuss how local design has evolved alongside a growing "elbows up" enthusiasm, and where homegrown architecture, interiors, and housewares are headed next.



The Globe and Mail Talks

January 28, 2026



'Design in Canada Now' at hollis+morris, photo by Gwendell Cordova.

Design[®]
TO



Bonne Choice Showroom, photo by Lauren Aubry.

The Globe and Mail Talks

January 29, 2026

The Collected Home: How to live with the best of design

In a conversation with Odessa Paloma Parker, Carlo Colacci of Bonne Choice, designer Clarisa Llaneza, and Kaelen Haworth of Absolutely Fabrics discussed how to assemble a collection of housewares that reflects your personal taste. From surrounding yourself with objects you love to investing in blue-chip pieces, the panel explored how the design market offers opportunities to build an idiosyncratic collection, and share their perspectives on the contemporary works destined to become future icons.

Design[®]
TO

STUDIO SESSION: JAMIE WOLFOND

In an interview with The Globe and Mail's Senior Style Editor, Haley Steinberg, designer Jamie Wolfond discussed how his Junction studio and hands-on approach to making shape the way he thinks about design. Known for creating lighting, furniture, and accessories for brands including Muuto, Moooi, and Ferm Living, Wolfond reflected on how materials, process, and experimentation inform his practice.

THE
GLOBE
AND
MAIL

The Globe and Mail Talks

January 30, 2026



'STUDIO SESSIONS: JAMIE WOLFOND'

Design[®]
TO



'DesignTO Tours: hollis+morris'

DesignTO Tours: hollis+morris

January 30, 2026

'DesignTO Tours: hollis+morris' provided an opportunity to take a deep dive into the 14,000 square foot Toronto production studio of hollis+morris, where furniture and lighting are designed, prototyped, manufactured and showcased on-site.

As a combo shop, assembly hall, office and showroom overlooking a park, the studio tour provided a behind-the-scenes look at a space for local manufacturing designed by architect Jonathan Mandeville of Passage Studio (Halifax) in collaboration with hollis+morris founder Mischa Couvrette. Located in a former Cooper Canada sporting goods factory, the context opened up larger conversations about sustainability, Canadian manufacturing and growth.

This tour was organized by DesignTO in partnership with hollis+morris. The DesignTO Festival was supported by the Government of Ontario and the City of Toronto.

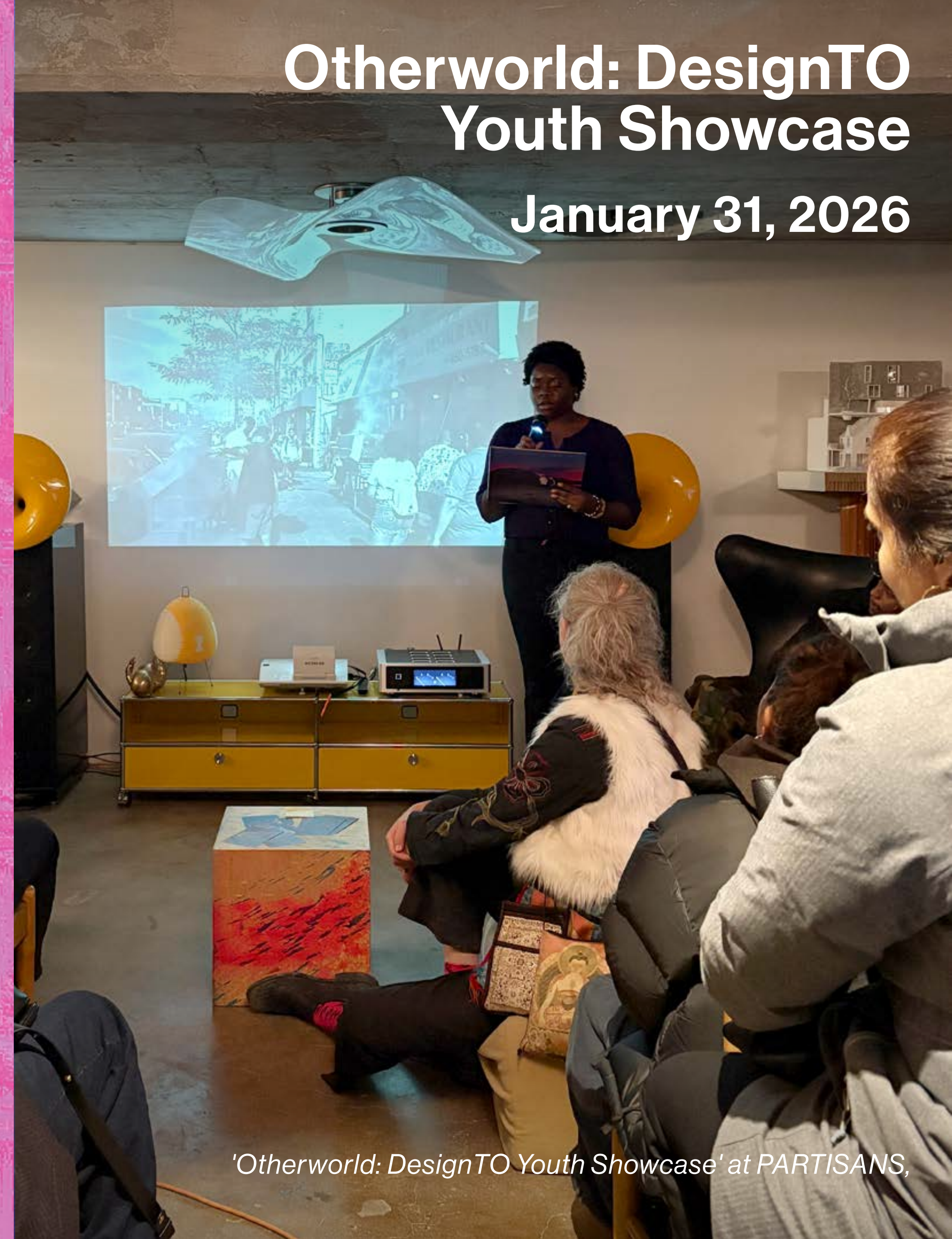


hollis+morris

The 'Otherworld' Showcase presented an evening of shared imagination through art and design, exploring the world not only as it is, but as it could be. It also marked the culmination of a six-week youth program that explored how art and design can be used as tools for conscious change.

Guided by guest speakers and mentors, youth developed personal and collective responses to the question: What kind of world do you want to live in, and how can you begin to build it now? This showcase brings these ideas to life through a range of presentations.

'Otherworld: DesignTO Youth Showcase' was organized by DesignTO in partnership with JAYU, and supported by Entro, with media partner AZURE Magazine. The DesignTO Festival was supported by the Government of Ontario and the City of Toronto.





'DesignTO Talks: Within the Weave' at Collective Arts Toronto Taproom, photo by Henry Chan.

DesignTO Talks: Within the Weave

February 1, 2026

'Within the Weave', was a conversation tracing the meeting points of material and memory. This panel brought together Jennifer Coghill, Helen Kong, Amanda Rataj, and Kathleen Morris, artists who explore how fragments of personal and environmental histories can be gathered and transformed into new, interconnected wholes.

Through dialogue, they reflected on how material practice becomes a form of storytelling — revealing how the landscapes we inhabit might be translated by incorporating elements of repetition and irregularity, the familiar and the abstract.

'DesignTO Talks: Within the Weave' was organized by DesignTO, and supported by the Trinity Bellwoods BIA. The DesignTO Festival was supported by the Government of Ontario and the City of Toronto.

Design[®] TO

DesignTO recognizes design excellence in the Festival each year with the DesignTO Awards. Each year, a jury of designers and industry experts vote for the 'Founders', 'Emerging Artist/Designer' and 'Best Product' awards, as well as three 'Best in Festival' categories and three 'Juror's Choice' each, while the public votes for three 'People's Choice' awards.

On March 26, 2026, awardees were recognized and celebrated through a celebration at the BSH Experience & Design Centre, courtesy of Awards supporter Thermador. Prizes accompanied most awards.

2026 Jurors: Sarah Edo (curator and writer), Jeff Ma (Design Director, Lemay), Michaela MacLeod (artist and designer, and co-founder of Polymetis), Eric Mutrie (Senior Editor, Azure Magazine), Michael Nyarkoh (creative producer and cultural programmer).

The 2026 DesignTO Awards were supported by Thermador.

Thermador★

Design TO Awards

DesignTO Awards



'DesignTO Awards Ceremony' at BSH Experience & Design Centre - Toronto, photo by Ted Chai, courtesy of Thermador.

“There was a wealth of well curated events...I attended to see friends and be part of the vibrant Toronto design community.”

2026 Festival Attendee
(anonymous)

“The highlight of volunteering as a photographer for DesignTO is connecting directly with emerging designers and artists to learn more deeply about their work. The exchanges are inspiring, thought-provoking and support me in capturing better-informed images that showcase the passion each designer puts into their pieces.”

Anna Jasinska
2026 Festival Volunteer

Design[®]
TO



'Nice to Meet You!' at Gagné Contemporary, photo by Thao Thu Nguyen.

Executive

Anna Bartula, Executive Director
Deborah Wang, Artistic Director
Michael R. Madjus, Head of Marketing

Operations + Development

Anna Kao
Ann Peng
Diana Nigmatullina

Programming

adé abegunde
Kiran Qureishi
Markhan Hussain
Renée Powell-Hines

Marketing

Başak Duman
Isabelle Layfield
Kerala Woods
Tory Healy

Brand + Design

aftermodern.lab, Graphic Design
Hwa-Jin Jun, Art Director
Aiyana Alzamora, 2026 Look & Feel Designer
Kenson Chan, Web Design
Mike Spears, App/Mobile Design

Public Relations

Idea Workshop

Board of Directors

Bobby Hrehoruk
Ilan Ishai
Leslie Jen
Trevor Kruse
Zviko Mhakayakora, Chair
Julian Mills
Catherine Osborne

As of February 1, 2026

Founders

Deborah Wang
Christina Zeidler
Jeremy Vandermeij
Joy Charbonneau
Julie Nicholson
Katherine Morley
Shaun Moore

Address

DesignTO
PO Box 31027 College Square
Toronto ON
M6G 4A7
designto.org
hello@designto.org

Data Sources

Muckrack, DesignTO Festival Surveys,
DesignTO Attendance Records, Meta
Analytics, LinkedIn Analytics, MRP
Report, TREIM, City of Toronto Signalized
Intersection Traffic Data, Google Analytics

Volunteers

Thank you to the 100+ volunteers who
help make every DesignTO Festival
possible.



Design[®]
TO



*'Contemporary Textile Art x Contemporary Design' at Minimal Toronto,
photo by Garry Bakuniec*

join the DesignTO community

At DesignTO, we curate exhibitions, presentations, and educational programming to increase the public's knowledge and appreciation of design — and its role in creating a sustainable, just, and joyful world.

With over 200,000 visitors, 100+ exhibitions and events, and 95% free public programming during each festival, your support helps expand access to design, amplify creative voices, and activate communities across Toronto.

Together, we are demonstrating the power of design to shape a sustainable, just, and joyful world.

[Become a Donor](#)

[Become a Member](#)

[Become a Sponsor](#)

Charitable Registration Number: 803833300RR0001