



Announcement:

DIGITAL CATAPULT
Community Membership



The DESIGN EDUCATION TRUST is pleased to announce it has joined the DIGITAL CATAPULT as a 'Community Member' (www.digicatapult.org.uk). Although the charitable activities of DET extend beyond 'the digital', new technologies are a focus of current initiatives. These explore dynamic technologies, like robotics and AI, where the dynamic arts have a role to play in adding value to designs.

"If it moves, it should move elegantly".

The DET activities include providing support for the Cyber-Physical Systems Workshop of the joint RCA-IMPERIAL course of IDE (Innovation Design Engineering). This support aims to encourage experimental design of 'kinetic aesthetics' within the project outcomes. Linked indirectly to this initiative is an annual student design competition called INTERPLAY, which was established with a similar theme to encourage such exploration too. The INTERPLAY Kinetic Design Competition is its third year.

INTERPLAY23 was open to UK creative students generally, and an Exhibition with a Symposium took place at the Royal Society of Sculptors, London (www.sculptors.org.uk) in December 2023. An £8K Award was given to a concept that challenged the future pedestrian crossing with a whimsical design. Called 'URBAN ELEGANCE' the project idea culminated in a Final Exhibition as a full scale prototype. It was exhibited at the Hockney Gallery of the Royal College of Art in July 2024, and made a provocative artistic statement that everyday things can also have a cultural form that is delightful and enjoyable to use as well as functional. See, www.josephsmjones.com/urban-elegance/ *

INTERPLAY24 had, in addition to the prime competition criterion of exploring 'elegant movement', the requirement that 'light' had to be incorporated into the kinetic aesthetic design proposal. It also had to be a table-top object with the potential to be a consumer lamp product. The Major Award of £5K went to a simple kinetic object proposal called PLANETARY PROJECTOR with an elegantly designed structure that moved around an illuminated sphere. A video of the proposal can be seen at <https://youtu.be/S1GmNUHltPQ?si=PITt9gmZL3dZnK16>. A summary video of the InterPlay24 Awards can be seen on YouTube via link: <https://youtu.be/uZ-NFLMc5YI?si=4n8MQjoDZrRFX-V3>.

The ART HUB online Magazine also published an overview of INTERPLAY24 accessed via this link:

<https://art-hub-magazine.com/2025/06/17/the-art-of-motion-exploring-kinetic-design-through-interplay24/>

The DesignEducation Trust.

www.designeducationtrust.org.uk

INTERPLAY25 had an extra theme that the kinetic object should ideally encourage 'emotional wellbeing' – in other words objects should be a pleasure to experience. It resulted in two Major Awards each of £4k and four £1K Awards for design proposals. The Major Award projects are being developed further, and the final prototypes will be exhibited at the DIGITAL CATAPULT later in 2026. There were ten awards made and a Video Trailer of these projects is available on YouTube via this link at <https://youtu.be/ymWFscuKYYo?si=rtWQLUt4J2ZIYYUT>

The INTERPLAY competition has provided numerous young designers with the opportunity to express their design talent publicly for supporting their potential futures. It is also hoped its outcomes will inspire and encourage design education as a whole to give more attention onto the design of 'kinetic aesthetics' in student projects generally. Ultimately, it might even lead to dynamic consumer products being a pleasure to use as well as being functional, adding both commercial value to them and encouraging 'emotional wellbeing in their users.

Details of all the INTERPLAY competitions are available via link:

www.designeducationtrust.org.uk/competition/

There are many videos of INTERPLAY Award projects on the Design Education Trust's YouTube Channel at (www.youtube.com/@Interplay23/).

DET will show an occasional exhibit from the INTERPLAY competitions, along with a video reel to view a range of award projects at the Digital Catapult, 101 Euston Road. This is available to Digital Catapult members only.

*Like all charities the DET is open to donations from industry. If you would like to support a Design Scholarship, or sponsor **INTERPLAY26**, then please contact DET by the email: info@designeducationtrust.org.uk*

For general information visit see the DET website at www.designeducationtrust.org.uk

Alec Robertson ma(rca) frsa , Trustee. 9th February 2026