

Design & Health

International Academy for Design and Health



A global knowledge forum for
creating healthy built environments

www.designandhealth.com

www.worldhealthdesign.com

info@designandhealth.com

The International Academy for Design & Health (IADH) is a global non-profit organisation with an interdisciplinary knowledge community dedicated to the stimulation and application of research concerning the interaction between design, health, science, culture and economics.

Founded by Dr Alan Dilani at the Karolinska Institute, Medical University in Stockholm in 1997 after the successful outcome of the 1st World Congress in Trondheim in Norway, the aim of the IADH is to provide a highly visible global forum for promoting an ongoing international exchange of research findings among scientists, designers, health professionals, industry and Ministries of Health worldwide.

Faced with the 21st century challenges of chronic disease, ageing populations and rising healthcare costs, global health systems are seeking new ways to address these growing threats to the development of a healthy and productive global society.

Fundamental to the Academy's work is the development of a theoretical understanding of the importance of salutogenic design, and its application in the design of physical environments that prevent disease and support and promote human health, wellbeing and quality of life.

As the leading global organisation developing and promoting the exchange of information, knowledge and research within the field of design & health, the Academy offers an inclusive environment for collaborating with its government, academic and professional partners around the world.



Design & Health

International Academy for Design and Health

Our vision: Improving health through design

To create social, economic and cultural value within global communities through the promotion and advocacy of high quality research based design and professional practice in the development of salutogenic built environments and technologies that improve human health, wellbeing and quality of life.

Our mission

To be the leading global forum for researchers, practitioners, decision makers and industry.

Our objectives

- To serve as the leading global forum for researchers, practitioners, industry, governmental agencies and non-governmental organizations (NGO's)
- To develop and promote the exchange of information, knowledge and research
- To advocate design standards that contribute to health
- To collaborate as research partners in the development of built environments
- To provide training in research, practice, industry, governmental and NGO leaders

Our values

- To be creative, innovative and inspirational with integrity and honesty
- To embrace sustainability in our business practices, products and services
- To be a global learning organisation
- To be transparent and accountable
- To develop our stakeholders interests and exceed their expectations
- To demonstrate a high level of corporate social responsibility and empathy
- To be fair and not to discriminate on economic, social, cultural or political grounds



Advocacy

International Academy Awards

The Design & Health International Academy Awards is an annual program recognizing professional excellence in the research and practice of designing healthy built environments. Consisting of ten categories every year across the key areas of health promotion and healthcare delivery, the program is recognized worldwide as the premier awards program in the field of design and health. The judging panels consist of leading interdisciplinary experts from Europe, North America, Asia, Africa, Oceania and the Americas.



International Design Competitions

Supported by the Ministry of Health in South Africa, the Academy organizes an international design competition for the development of a Health Promoting Lifestyle Centre (HPLC) in South Africa, with the potential to extend the model across sub-Saharan Africa. These community HPLCs are focused on primary healthcare with strong considerations given to health promotion, wellness, education, preventative care and early intervention – a salutogenic, rather than a curative approach. The award winner receives a financial prize and funding for the realization of the project.

International Masters Program

Delivered in partnership with the University of Portsmouth, this unique internationally taught Masters Program addresses the impact of the built environment in human health, wellbeing and quality of life. The program offers continued professional development to practitioners from a range of professional backgrounds, helping candidates to develop an interdisciplinary understanding of the fields of public health, psychology, health management, architecture, design, economics, and their interactions. Delivered from locations across Europe, the two year program includes four core units covering: 1) health, wellbeing and quality of life; 2) design for healthy environments; c) impact of design on health and economy; and 4) research methods in design and health; together with a final dissertation undertaking in a research project of the candidates choosing.

International Research Projects

The Academy supports, develops and collaborates on global, interdisciplinary research projects in the field of design and health, working with Ministries of Health, universities, health providers and private industry to progress and develop knowledge on issues relating to the development of psycho-socially supportive environments. Each project aims to bring new thinking to an issue concerned with the design of healthy environments in a range of settings within healthcare, education, correctional institutions, elderly care, the workplace, urban environments and the domestic home.



The Design & Health International Academy Awards recognises and rewards excellence



From left: Prof Alan Dilani with Lifetime Leadership Award Winners, Derek Parker (2011) and Eb Zeidler (2010)



The challenge of the indoor environment: Dr John D Spengler of the Harvard School of Public Health



Approaches to Ecological Urbanism: Mohsen Mostafavi, dean of the Graduate School of Design, Harvard University

Events

World Congress

The Design & Health World Congress & Exhibition is the centerpiece of the Academy's activities. The five day event, which includes a three day conference, a Gala Awards dinner, and study visits to local healthcare and architectural sites of interest, is the leading global forum supporting a continuous dialogue between researchers and practitioners in the field. Delivered in partnership with leading professional bodies, academic institutions, health providers and industry sponsors, the congress engages the world's foremost interdisciplinary network of architects, designers, psychologists, physicians, nurses, health planners and policy makers. The foundation of the event's success is a rigorous 'double blind' selection process of research papers and case studies. After the success of its first event in 1997, the congress has travelled the world delivering its message and expanding its network.



Professor Clayton M Christensen, Harvard Business School, USA; Professor Richard Jackson, University of California, USA; Chris Liddle, HLM Architects, UK; and Lord Nigel Crisp, House of Lords, UK.



Dr Julio Frenk, Harvard School of Public Health, USA.



Deputy Health Minister Malaysia (right)
Mrs Datuk Rosnah binti Haji Abd Rashid Shirin.

International Symposium

The Academy's international symposiums and workshops in Europe, Africa, Asia, Australasia and North America respond to local challenges concerned with the research and professional practice of design and health within a global context. By blending leading international speakers with local speakers, the symposiums allow participants to explore how global ideas can be adapted to solve local problems.



Innovative design solutions in the exhibition



Media

World Health Design

World Health Design is a subscription based international journal with an interdisciplinary readership that includes architects, designers, developers, health scientists, clinicians, health managers, psychologists, economists working within government, academia and business. The editorial content strives for a balanced mix of scientific articles and research papers combined with business and professional content including news, opinion, thought leader interviews, project reviews, book reviews, feature articles, events diary, letters, product information and advertising.

Book publishing

The International Academy for Design & Health is a prolific publisher of journals, books and research papers, dedicated to promoting the values, wisdom and knowledge of the academy's network and community to business, governments and other public organizations.



● **Design & Health 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

● **Design & Health Symposiums**

- Sydney 2010
- Toronto 2010
- Brussels 2010
- Melbourne 2011
- Cape Town 2011
- Helsinki 2012

Contact us



Ray Pentecost III
 DrPH, FAIA, FACHA, LEED AP
 President
 T: +1 757 617 5329
 E: RPentecost@ClarkNexsen.com



Prof Alan Dilani PhD
 Director General
 T: +46 70 453 90 70
 E: dilani@designandhealth.com



Marc Sansom MBA
 Corporate Development & Communications Director
 T: +44 (0) 1277 634 176
 M: +44 (0) 7515 516 482
 E: marc@designandhealth.com

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