

IDEC 2026 Annual Conference – High-level Agenda

The 2026 Annual Conference theme is *Make Good Design Decisions*. The conference will be held primarily at Columbia College Chicago with unique opportunities to visit vendors at Fulton Market and The Merchandise Mart.

Throughout the agenda, you will see opportunities to have **Consequential Conversations**, attend **Workshops**, discuss **Posters**, and more. The full paper presentation schedule is available at <https://idec.org/conference/idec-2026-annual-conference/>

Monday March 16, 2026 – Opening Day at The Mart

11:30 am – 6:00pm	Registration Open
10:00 am – noon	Consequential Conversation – The Future of CIDA Standards
11:30 am – 12:30 pm	Journal of Interior Design New Initiatives Drop-in (<i>Reg area</i>)
12:00 pm – 3:00 pm	Service Charette
1:00 pm – 2:30 pm	Consequential Conversation - Industry Associations (by invite only)
1:00 pm – 5:00 pm	<i>Peer-Reviewed Paper Presentations at The Merchandise Mart</i>
3:30 pm – 5:00 pm	Consequential Conversation – The Future of Sustainability with Metropolis
5:30 pm – 7:30 pm	Welcome Reception at Haworth showroom at The Mart
7:30 pm – 8:00 pm	Return Busses Only (<i>there is no bus service TO The Mart</i>)

Tuesday March 17, 2026 – Columbia College Chicago

6:30 am – 8:00 am	Breakfast on your own
7:00 am – 5:00pm	Registration Open
8:00 am – 5:00 pm	Student Day at The Merchandise Mart (separate registration required)
8:15 am – 9:00 am	President’s Welcome Address
9:00 am – 9:50 am	Keynote: What Makes <i>Good Design Decisions</i> Good? - <i>Colin M. Gray</i>
9:50 am – 10:30 am	Break [Exhibits Open]
10:30 am – noon	<i>Peer-Reviewed Paper Presentations & Panel Discussions</i>
10:30 am – noon	Consequential Conversation – Promotion & Tenure White Paper
12:00 pm – 1:00 pm	Lunch with Exhibitors
1:15 pm – 2:45 pm	Peer Reviewed Posters – Sessions I&II and Exhibits Open
2:00 pm – 4:30 pm	CV Reviews
3:00 pm – 5:30 pm	<i>Peer-Reviewed Paper Presentations & Panel Discussions</i>
3:00 pm – 4:15 pm	Teaching & Learning in the Round
4:30 pm – 6:00 pm	Workshop – Data Driven Design
6:00 pm	Dinner on your own

Wednesday March 18, 2026 – Columbia College / Fulton Market

7:00 am – 12:30pm	Registration Open at Columbia College
7:30 am – 9:15 am	IDEC Community Breakfast
8:00 am – noon	Exhibits Open
9:15 am – 10:30 am	Consequential Conversation – The State of Higher Education
9:15 am – noon	<i>Peer-Reviewed Paper Presentations and Panel Discussions</i>
9:30 am – 11am	Peer Reviewed Posters – Session II
10:45 am – 12:15 pm	Workshop – Social Impact
12:00 pm – 1:30 pm	Bussing to sponsor and lunch at sponsor – JSI
1:00 pm – 3:00 pm	Registration Open at JSI
1:30 pm – 2:00 pm	Welcome by JSI
2:00 pm – 5:45 pm	<i>Peer-Reviewed Paper Presentations at JSI</i>
3:00 pm – 4:30 pm	Consequential Conversation – Artificial Intelligence
5:45 pm – 6:45 pm	Reception sponsored by Fellowes
6:30 pm – 7:00 pm	Bussing to Hotel from Fellowes reception
7:00 pm	Dinner on your own

Thursday March 19, 2026 – Columbia College Chicago

6:30 am – 8:00 am	Breakfast on your own
7:00 am – 11:30am	Registration Open
8:00 am – 11:30 am	<i>Peer-Reviewed Paper Presentations and Panel Discussions</i>
8:00 am – 9:30 am	Regional Meeting: South
10:00 am – 11:30 am	Workshop – Creative Scholarship
10:00 am – 11:30 am	Regional Meeting: East
10:00 am – 11:30 am	Regional Meeting: Midwest and Pacific Northwest
11:45 am – 2:00 pm	Closing Awards Luncheon

