

FORM/FUTURE 2026: Design as a Key Resource for Berlin's Transformation

International design conference gathers over 50 speakers and around 700 guests at Tempelhof Airport / 20 years of Berlin as a UNESCO City of Design in focus

Berlin, 18 September 2026

On September 10, 2026, around 700 guests, over 50 international speakers, and experts from design, business, politics, and society gathered at Tempelhof Airport for FORM/FUTURE. Under the theme "Process & Principles", the international design conference discussed the role design can play in the transformation of cities, the economy, and society.

Initial feedback confirms what was already evident during the conference: a diverse program covering highly relevant topics emphasized above all a major realization of our time: we must find intersections and synergies, learn across other industries, and discover new approaches. Design offers an invaluable quality in seeking out, establishing, and guiding precisely these new connections into meaningful, fruitful processes.

Under the motto "Process & Principles" and marking the 20th anniversary of Berlin's designation as a UNESCO City of Design, the conference put the transformative power of design for urban development front and center against a unique and iconic backdrop: the main hall of Tempelhof Airport.

The program reflected the full breadth of this perspective: design is a crucial topic for Berlin. Sessions on EXPO 2025 Berlin, the Olympics, and city branding met contributions on future-oriented thinking and design, participation, and orientation in legislative processes, such as through Public Legal Design. Another key focus was the design of our spaces and cities to ensure they remain livable, especially in times of major transformation.

In light of the profound changes in our working, economic, and daily lives, design stands as one of the central resources and core domains of expertise today. FORM/FUTURE 2026 demonstrated that transformation always happens in the concrete. It requires people and companies who develop new approaches and perspectives that exert an impact beyond their own fields. The role of designers in companies is changing rapidly; AI is taking over many traditional execution tasks. However, this shift is also changing teams, processes, and business models, and it is precisely here that designers are becoming increasingly vital.

Above all, it became clear that spaces for encounters like this conference, which bring such examples to light and foster open discussion, hold immense value today not only for the design industry, but for other sectors as well.

ORGANIZER

FORM/FUTURE is an initiative within the framework of Berlin's designation as a UNESCO City of Design. Funded by the Senatsverwaltung für Wirtschaft, Energie und Betriebe. Implemented by Berlin Partner. Curated by 3STN.

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MEDIA CONTACT

presse@formfuture.berlin

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