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**Design as the 'Bridge'**

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EDITORIAL
Design as the 'Bridge'

Design plays a multifaceted and widely acknowledged role in enhancing human life and shaping a better world. Metaphorically, one of its most vital roles is acting as a 'bridge' - seamlessly connecting technology and humanity, tradition and modernity, and users with their experiences. This connection fosters design outcomes that go beyond mere functionality, creating solutions that are inclusive, sustainable, and emotionally resonant.

From wearable technologies and smart textiles to generative Al, the integration of emerging innovations with a human-centred approach is essential for ground-breaking advancements. Likewise, in preserving and reimagining cultural heritage - whether through digital revitalization, embedding traditional elements in contemporary settings, or leveraging Augmented Reality (AR) for heritage tourism - design links the past with the present, enriching both. The methodologies and principles of design further elevate user experiences, ensuring they engage both practically and emotionally. These themes take centre stage in the Issue 3 of Volume 28, which features a diverse collection of fourteen contributions: one book review, two discussions, ten research articles, and one PhD report, all highlighting design's transformative potential.

Opening the issue are two discussions. The first, by Diak and Diak (2025), explores how smart textiles can function as advanced digital interfaces in the metaverse, bridging the gap between traditional clothing and digital interaction. Their conceptual model supports both Human-Computer Interaction (HCI) and human-digital twins (HDTs) for seamless virtual engagement. The research highlights Al's role in optimizing interactions, the economic shifts needed for adoption, and the potential for personalized digital identities. It also raises concerns about sustainability, data security, and the ethical implications of biometric tracking. Additionally, the study identifies structural elements that demonstrate how smart textiles can revolutionize user experience, industry standards, and digital connectivity.

The second discussion, led by Lee, Hwang, et al. (2025), explores sensory-friendly inclusive design principles particularly relevant to those engaged in multisensory design. Using Sensory Integration Theory, the authors analyze a series of case studies, classifying them into three categories: tactile sense, proprioceptive sense (focusing on the user's movement and posture), and vestibular sense (relating to balance and stability). They then develop a framework to classify and identify types of sensory-friendly inclusive design and suggest methodological strategies for its implementation.

Wearable technology is increasingly vital for health monitoring. Shahidi et al. (2025) deliver an in-depth study on designing electronic yarns (E-yarns) for wearable health devices. The research focuses on embedding electronic components into tex-

tile yarns, balancing functionality with comfort and flexibility. Highlighting flaws in initial E-yarn designs, the authors combine a thorough literature review with experimental testing to develop an improved version, boosting durability, and refining