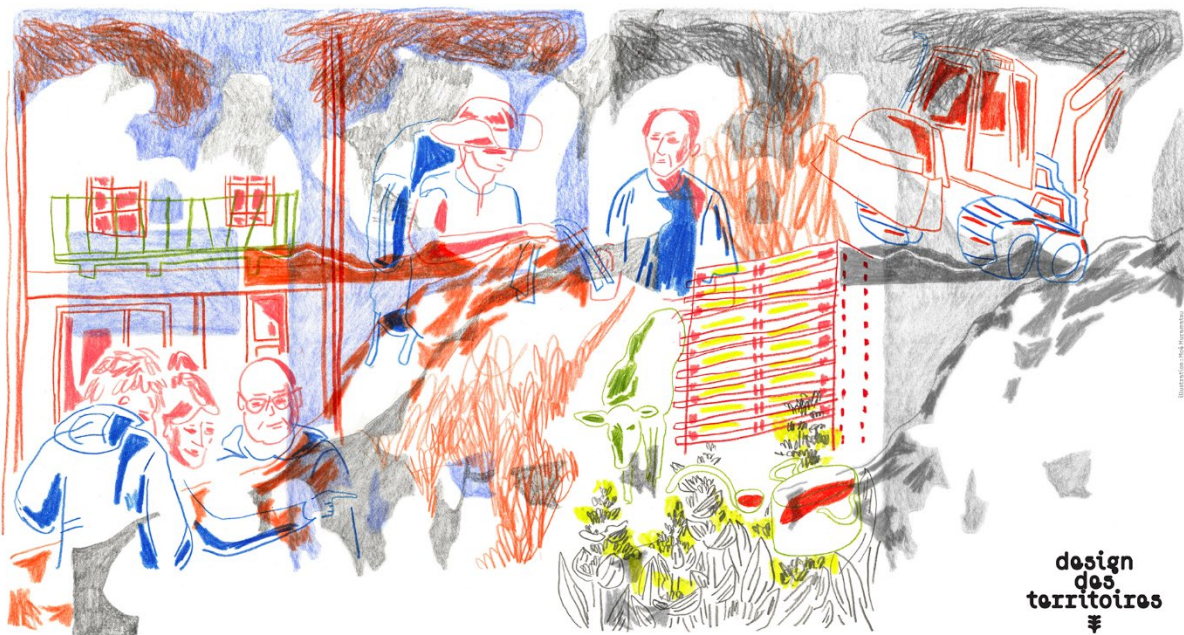


appel à candidature

Designing Territories Cohorts 2026-2027

A multisite program dedicated to supporting territories through design, led by the École des Arts Décoratifs – PSL and the French Ministry of Culture.



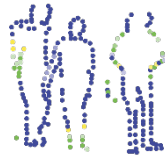
design
des
territoires
✦

© Moé Muramatsu

Designing Territories is a post-master program structured around six types of environments and grounded in responses to situated issues.

Through Designing Territories, the École des Arts Décoratifs – PSL aims to contribute to training a generation of practitioners committed to shaping ways of inhabiting, at the heart of public action and the balance of living systems. The program supports singular approaches—neither normative nor standardized, but sensitive and situated—capable of co-producing, deepening and caring for our relationships with living environments.



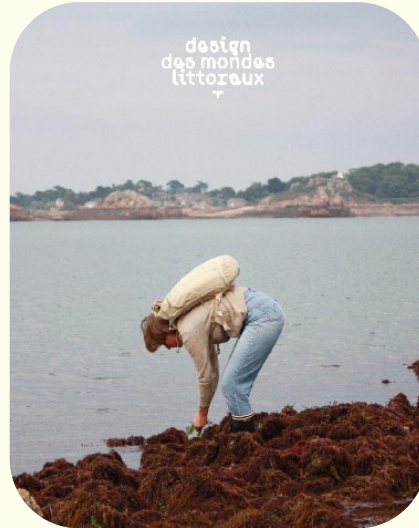


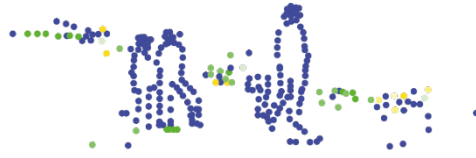
The Program

Designing Territories operates simultaneously as **an immersion program** offering shared accommodation and workspace, along with a living and production grant; **a laboratory** dedicated to experimentation and social innovation; **a research office** developing full-scale projects in response to situated challenges; and **an incubator** enabling professional projects to be tested and consolidated.

- It is composed of **six field schools** representing diverse living environments, each facing specific issues that design can help address.
- Each territory welcomes approximately **six young practitioners** for a **10-month immersion** (September to June), living in shared accommodation and working in a collective studio. Participants come from diverse disciplinary backgrounds (design, architecture, landscape architecture, urban planning, sociology, engineering, geography) and receive pedagogical guidance and expert input throughout the year. This format requires a strong commitment to **collective living**, based on adaptability, cooperation and autonomy. As some sites are geographically isolated, strong organizational skills and resilience are expected.
- The program addresses **issues identified by local stakeholders**, enabling each cohort to engage directly with real challenges through **field practice**. Topics include water governance, agro-food transition, rural mobility, transformation of industrial territories, the shift from coastal development to coastal care, reprogramming of urban enclaves, and revitalization of the timber sector.
- **Collective work**—in all its possible forms—and the **multidisciplinary approach** to local issues are central expectations. Particular attention will therefore be given to the complementarity of profiles and practices within each field school.

The program offers young professionals the opportunity to reframe their practice across scales and intentions, creating a continuum between pedagogy and professional integration, and reaffirming the school's active role in society. The post-master fosters lasting evolution in practices and trajectories. Through immersion in public action contexts, participants leave the program equipped to engage in human-scale projects closely connected to territories and their major challenges.





Measuring Impact

The program is grounded in four core principles capable of generating tangible and lasting impact:

- **Enhancing the image residents hold of their territory:** Seen through the perspective of young practitioners discovering the area, the territory appears in a new light, revealing its potential to those who inhabit it;
- **Embedding proposed solutions within territorial transformation processes:** Projects influence actors, structures, places and sectors by informing public action and development strategies.
- **Transforming professional practices:** Immersion in public policy challenges fosters long-term evolution in participants' trajectories.
- **Encouraging participation in territorial governance:** Tools for sharing and discussion enable local populations to engage with and contribute to ongoing reflections.

An Emerging Form of Engineering

Situated Anchoring

Taking the territory as a starting point—not as a backdrop but as raw material. Immersing oneself in its uses, narratives and rhythms in order to formulate needs and possibilities in dialogue with those who live there.

Inhabiting and Making Common

Making the project a space of relationships as much as production. Working and living together—between practitioners and inhabitants—to experiment with shared forms of presence, cooperation and care, and to conceive design as a gesture of commoning rather than merely a functional response.

Systemic Approach

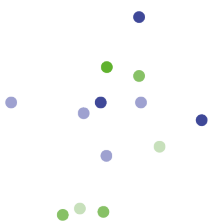
Rejecting fragmented responses in favor of a comprehensive engagement with issues and projects—from sensitive reading of the territory to concrete activation of produced forms. Each phase is considered interconnected within a continuous process linking conception, mediation, realization and projection.

Relational Grounding

Aligning projects with existing resources, gestures, knowledge and practices rather than imposing exogenous forms. Conceiving design as a space of dialogue between divergent interests, where negotiated and co-constructed proposals can emerge.

Transformation of Practices

Using experimentation as a lever for lasting transformation in ways of conceiving and acting, fostering new collaborations across disciplines, scales and institutions.



Applying to the Program

Applications close on May 4, 2026 (midnight).

The call is open to candidates under 31 years old as of December 31, 2026, holding a Master's degree (Master 2) by September 1, 2026, or with at least three years of professional experience in design, architecture, landscape architecture, or human and technical sciences (sociology, anthropology, geography, environmental engineering, agronomy, etc.), with knowledge of research methods.

The digital application file must include:

- A motivation letter indicating a ranked preference among the six environments;
- A CV;
- A copy of ID and higher education diplomas;
- A portfolio (maximum 10 pages).

🔔 Applications must be submitted before May 4, 2026 (midnight) via the French government's **Démarches Simplifiées** platform.

Pre-selected candidates will be invited to interviews on **June 10, 11 and 12** with a jury composed of external personalities and members of the École des Arts Décoratifs – PSL.

Evaluation Criteria:

- Interest in the proposed environments and approaches
- Autonomy
- Quality of previous work
- Sense of collaboration
- Motivation
- Organizational capacity and experience

Financial Conditions:

Selected candidates will be enrolled at the École des Arts Décoratifs – PSL.

They will receive a €6,000 living and production grant and will be required to pay registration fees (€458 in 2026) and the CVEC (student life and campus contribution, €105 in 2026).

As the program includes a subsistence grant, full-time commitment is required. Any parallel activity (doctoral preparation, artistic residency, ongoing project overlapping the residency period, etc.) must be clearly stated in the application and will be discussed during the interview.

Contact

design.territoires@ensad.fr

