



WDO INTERDESIGN
SIARGAO ISLAND 2026

Design Innovation and Resiliency for the Tropics

13-24 July 2026

Siargao Island, Surigao del Norte, Philippines

Interdesign® is an initiative of

WDO WORLD
DESIGN
ORGANIZATION



DE LA SALLE
COLLEGE
OF SAINT
BENILDE



Introduction on the Design Center of the Philippines



**The Design Center of the Philippines
is the Philippines' national government agency
committed to cultivating a culture that thrives
on creativity, value creation, and innovation.**

Shaping Cities Through Design

A guide for Local Government Units
looking to enrich their development plans

An initiative by:



DESIGN CENTER OF THE PHILIPPINES

In partnership with:



A person wearing a white t-shirt and dark shorts is riding a bicycle on a street. The background shows a row of multi-story buildings with arched windows and a black street lamp. A large orange rectangular box is overlaid on the center of the image, containing the word "Malasakit" in white. Below this box, the text "the core of Philippine design" is written in white. At the bottom of the image, there is a small line of text providing a YouTube link.

Malasakit

the core of Philippine design

Please note that this slide contains a video file. To view, please access via <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kq672Kh5Qbw>.



Introduction on World Design Organization® and Interdesign®

About the World Design Organization®



WORLD
DESIGN
CAPITAL

WORLD DESIGN
CONGRESS



WORLD
INDUSTRIAL
DESIGN DAY



WORLD
DESIGN
TALKS



WORLD
DESIGN
CIRCLES



WORLD
DESIGN
IMPACT PRIZE



INTER
DESIGN

World Design Organization (WDO)® is an international non-governmental organization that promotes the profession of industrial design and its ability to generate better products, systems, services, and experiences; better business and industry; and ultimately a better environment and society.

Today, the WDO counts more than 200 member organizations from 39 nations, and is the only organization connecting corporate, educational, professional, promotional and municipal design institutions.



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With the mounting pressures of climate change, rapid urbanization, and public health crisis, communities around the world are exploring new design strategies to best respond to the needs of their citizens.



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About the Interdesign®

Interdesign®

Interdesign is WDO's two-week residency where designers from around the world come together to work collaboratively on a design challenge that is locally significant and globally relevant.

The host country identifies a particular issue and teams of multidisciplinary designers work together with local experts and communities toward the goal of providing innovative solutions to address the challenge while also being applicable in similar, international contexts.



1st INTERDESIGN
1971

2 WEEKS
WORKSHOP

80 LOCAL & INTERNATIONAL
DESIGNERS & EXPERTS

45 INTERDESIGNS HELD
SINCE 1971

Photos from World Design Organization



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Interdesign Siargao Island 2026

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Siargao Island: A Living Laboratory for Design Innovation and Resiliency for the Tropics

Siargao Island, an island facing the Pacific Ocean located in the southern part of the Philippines, is both an ecological treasure and an emerging economic hub – driven largely by MSMEs that are increasingly threatened by the intensifying impacts of climate change.

The island is renowned for its exceptional and legally protected biodiversity, being home to the country's richest mangrove forests and endangered species such as sea cows, saltwater crocodiles, and the Philippine tarsier. At the same time, the island's location along the typhoon corridor puts it on the frontlines of climate risk. Experiencing an average of around 20 typhoons each year, recurrent disasters such as Typhoon Rai / Odette in 2021 have disrupted enterprises, damaged infrastructure, and strained supply chains across key local economic sectors.



Siargao Island: A living laboratory for design innovation and resiliency for the tropics

A dual crisis

Siargao Island faces a dual crisis: climate vulnerability, due to its geographical location along the Pacific and the challenges of rapid growth brought by a surge in tourism.

These dimensions reinforce each other: tourism generates waste and strains infrastructure, climate disasters threaten local tourism and way of life, leaving residents vulnerable to external shocks.

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For Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprise (MSME) – which serve as the backbone of Siargao's economy – the island's current challenges offer a strategic opportunity to build resilient tropical communities through design innovation.

By strengthening business continuity and diversifying livelihoods, the island can pilot context-specific, inclusive, and circular models. These design-led innovations, ranging from nature-based products to climate-adaptive practices, establish a competitive advantage that can be scaled to island communities worldwide.

The design challenge

The main design challenge that will be addressed through Interdesign Siargao Island 2026 is:

How might we reimagine Siargao Island as a resilient, circular, and sustainable tropical island ecosystem through design innovation?

Photo by Municipality of Del Carmen, Siargao Island



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The design challenge

Potential thematic areas include:

Circular Economy Transformation

Zero-waste systems and material innovation for island economies to create sustainable value chains that prioritize local skills over traditional tourism.

Climate Resilience & Disaster Preparedness

Design-led infrastructure and spatial strategies that empower tropical communities to adapt to and recover from extreme weather events.

Ecosystem Restoration & Protection

Nature-based interventions and community tools to protect critical coastal and marine environments through scalable, science-driven design.

Sustainable and Resilient MSME & Communities

Inclusive, resilient, and productive economic models that can shape local competitive advantage and at the same time promote social well-being and equitable local participation.



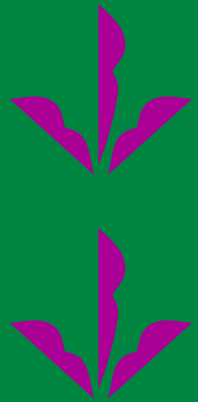
Photo by Municipality of Del Carmen, Siargao Island





Outcome and Objectives

To demonstrate how humanity-centered design can translate complex environmental, economic, and social challenges into inclusive, context-responsive solutions.



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Outcome and Objectives

Program Objective

To convene a multidisciplinary ecosystem in Siargao Island using design as a living laboratory to co-create scalable, climate-resilient, and sustainable solutions with lasting policy, community, and knowledge impact beyond Interdesign 2026.

Learning Objective

To deepen participants' understanding of climate-vulnerable island and coastal contexts, build their capacity to apply design skills alongside multidisciplinary teams, and create a conducive learning environment that delivers both meaningful outcomes and a positive delegate experience.

Thematic Objective

To strengthen climate resilience, ecosystem stewardship, circular economy transformation, and sustainable livelihoods in Siargao Island and other island/tropical communities.

Photo by Alessio Roversi on Unsplash

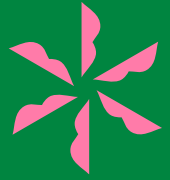


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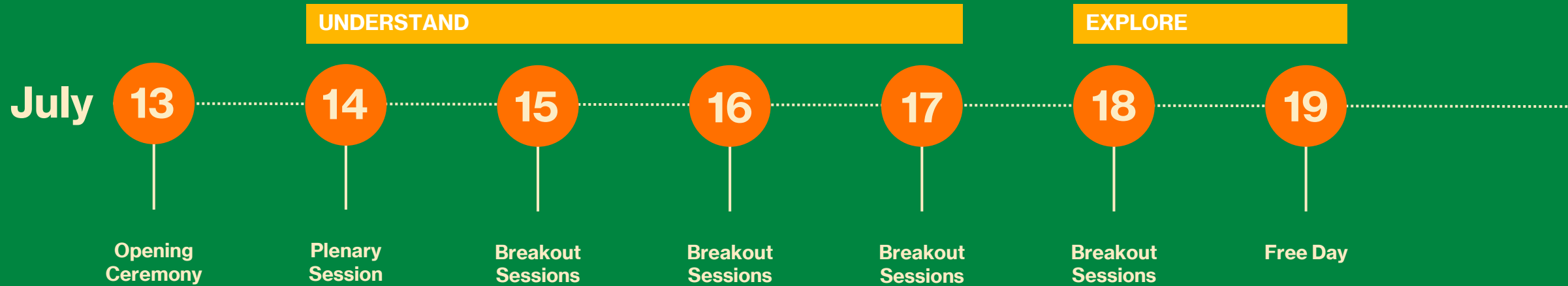
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Working Programme



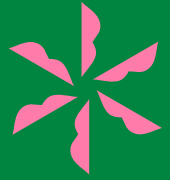
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Working Programme

MATERIALIZE

20

Prototype
Building

21

Prototype
Building

22

Prototype
Building

23

Prototype
Building

24

Closing
Ceremony

July



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Interdesign Siargao Island 2026 is for you:

- Designers working at the **systems, service, and policy level**
- Industrial Design, architecture, interior design, fashion, communication, UX/UI
- Practitioners engaged in **climate resilience, sustainability, or circular economy**
- **Designers** bringing lived island and tropical context
- **Innovators and changemakers**
- **Purpose-driven visionaries** who are passionate about design, sustainability, investing, and education to be part of next generation of Interdesign.



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What are expected from the participants

Travel & Logistics

Secure international and domestic flights to/from Siargao Island. Arrange personal travel and health insurance.

Interdisciplinary Collaboration

Work alongside designers, researchers, architects, planners, strategists, creatives, among others, to exchange perspectives and develop context-responsive and impactful design concepts.

Active Participation

Commit to a rigorous schedule of workshops, field immersions, and guided design sessions.

Knowledge Exchange

Share professional expertise, academic insight, and diverse perspectives with international experts and local stakeholders.

Voluntary Commitment

Contribute your skills, technical knowledge, and creativity on a voluntary basis to drive meaningful social impact and design outcomes



Support & framework provided

On-Site Hospitality

The host provides full hotel accommodation, all meals, and local transportation during the official hours of residency.

Expert Mentorship

Direct access to international design experts, thematic advisers, and local knowledge holders.

Professional Growth

A structured environment for skill-building and expanding professional practice through the Interdesign methodology.

Field Immersion

Facilitated access to local contexts and guided collaborative spaces.

Global Networking

Integration into a worldwide network committed to socially and environmentally responsible innovation.



Residency Director

Dan Matutina

Dan Matutina is an award-winning designer and illustrator, and co-founder of Plus63 and Hydra Design Group, with extensive experience in international residencies, speaking, and creative leadership – making him highly suited as Interdesign Residency Director. He has participated in and directed residency-based programs such as the Door to Asia Program in Japan, and has been invited as a designer-in-residence, speaker, and jury member across Asia, Europe, and the United States, including engagements at Fabrika in Italy, Graphika Manila, and major international design fairs and awards.



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Design Research and Strategy Director

Dr. Pamela Gloria Cajilig

Pamela Gloria Cajilig, PhD is an applied anthropologist, design researcher, and educator with extensive experience in organizing and participating in international research, art, and design residencies, fellowships, and conferences across Asia, Europe, Australia and the United States – including programs with Brown University, Ars Electronica, World Wildlife Fund USA Environment and Disaster Management, RMIT University, the Southeast Asia Neighborhoods Network, UN University Tokyo, and the British Council – focused on design for disaster resilience, climate justice, sustainability and participatory practice. Cajilig is a sought-after keynote speaker, moderator, and panelist at major global forums such as the PH International Design Conference, UN-led disaster risk reduction conferences, and academic institutions worldwide, bringing deep expertise in facilitation, interdisciplinary dialogue, and community-centered design.



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Timeline

04 February 2026

Start of participant applications

11 February 2026

1st Info webinar on Interdesign Siargao Island 2026

11 March 2026

2nd Info webinar on Interdesign Siargao Island 2026

31 March 2026, 23:59 EDT

Application deadline for participants

01-30 April 2026

Review and selection of applications

May 2026

Successful applicants notified

Online briefing with selected participants

13-24 July 2026

Interdesign Siargao Island 2026 programme



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Participants' brief



Participants' Brief

DESIGN INNOVATION AND
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Calling all interested applicants! Global applications are now open for Interdesign Siargao Island 2026.

Guided by the theme Design Innovation and Resiliency for the Tropics, Interdesign Siargao Island 2026 presents a rare opportunity to contribute to climate resiliency in one of the Philippines' most dynamic coastal environments.

Hosted in partnership with the Design Center of the Philippines and De La Salle-College of Saint Benilde, Interdesign participants will be fully immersed in Siargao Island's social, environmental and cultural landscapes, working closely with local stakeholders to co-create community-driven, sustainable design solutions tailored to tropical realities.

Don't miss this chance to engage in hands-on, impact-driven design at the intersection of climate, culture and place.

The deadline to apply is **31 March 2026, 23:59 (Eastern Daylight Time)**.



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SIARGAO ISLAND 2026**
DESIGN INNOVATION AND RESILIENCY FOR THE TROPICS

13-24 July 2026
Siargao Island, Surigao Del Norte, Philippines

For more information, please contact InterdesignPH@designcenter.gov.ph.

Need more information?



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Andrea Dabuet

Project Co-Lead, Interdesign Siargao Island 2026

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