Call for Papers

Special Issue of the International Journal of Balkan Studies

Design in the Balkans: Identity, Memory and Contemporary Practices

The International Journal of Balkan Studies (IJBS) invites submissions for a special issue on "Design in the Balkans: Identity, Memory and Contemporary Practices"

Thematic Overview

Design in the Balkans emerges from a complex interaction between cultural heritage, historical transformations, local traditions, and contemporary global influences. Shaped by diverse cultural encounters, political transitions, and changing social conditions, design practices offer valuable perspectives on how identity and memory are expressed, negotiated, and transformed through designed environments, objects, and visual communication**.**

This special issue explores the relationship between identity, memory, and contemporary design practices across the Balkans, with particular attention to interior design, graphic design, material culture, and visual communication. It examines how historical references, traditional craftsmanship, vernacular aesthetics, and modernist legacies are reinterpreted through contemporary design, while considering the influence of digital technologies, globalization, sustainability, and emerging creative practices.

The issue seeks to move beyond static representations of regional identity by examining design as a dynamic process through which cultural heritage is interpreted, contested, and reimagined. Contributions may address individual Balkan contexts, cross-border exchanges, or comparative perspectives that situate the region within wider international debates.

Suggested Topics

Submissions may address, but are not limited to, the following areas:

- Interior Design and Spatial Identity: Cultural memory, vernacular influences, modernist legacies, adaptive reuse, and contemporary spatial experiences.
- Graphic Design and Visual Communication: Typography, publishing, posters, visual identities, and the role of design in communicating cultural and social narratives.
- Material Culture and Craftsmanship: Traditional techniques, local materials, craft knowledge, and their reinterpretation in contemporary design.

- Design, Tourism and Place Branding: The representation of local and regional identities through cultural destinations, hospitality environments, souvenirs, and branding.
- Digital Technologies and Emerging Practices: Digital media, virtual and immersive environments, and new approaches to interpreting and communicating cultural heritage.
- Sustainability and Design Futures: Circular design, material reuse, local production, and the relationship between traditional knowledge and contemporary environmental challenges.

Submission Guidelines

Manuscripts must be written in English (American or British English), present original work, and must not have been published previously or be under consideration elsewhere.

Original research articles should normally be 7,000–9,000 words, including references, figures, tables, and captions. Authors must follow the journal's Instructions for Authors and use the appropriate manuscript template. Authors must comply with the APA 7th Edition Referencing Style.

All submissions will undergo the journal's editorial assessment and double-blind peer-review process. Acceptance will depend on scholarly quality, relevance to the special issue, and successful completion of the review process.

How to Submit

Manuscripts should be submitted by email to ijbs@unyt.edu.al

Important Information

Full manuscript submission deadline: [30 December 2026]
Expected publication: [March/2027]
Enquiries: ijbs@unyt.edu.al
Journal website: https://ijbs.unyt.edu.al/