

when	WEDNESDAY 7 October
13.00–15.00	Board meeting
13.00–16.00	Initiatives / Working groups*
16.30–17.30	Lahti Museum of Visual Arts Malva*
17.30–19.30	Malski, mingle & light dinner*
when	THURSDAY 8 October
8.30–9.00	Registration & morning mingle
9.15–9.45	Welcome
9.45–10.30	Collective keynote: Future reformer capabilities
10.30–11.00	Coffee & mingle
11.00–11.45	Campus tour
11.45–12.45	Lunch
12.45–14.15	Tour de Schools
14.15–14.45	Coffee & mingle
14.45–16.15	Sessions
16.15–18.30	Discussions & initiatives or sauna & relaxing
19.00	Dinner Party
when	FRIDAY 9 October
9.00–10.20	Panel discussion: How does AI reform the creative field?
10.20–10.50	Coffee & mingle
10.50–11.30	Sharing ideas & reflections
11.30–12.15	Light lunch
12.15–13.40	Cirrus Assembly
13.40–14.00	Closing words
14.00–16.00	Lahti culture excursions*

TALKS

Thursday 9.45–10.30

Collective keynote: Future reformer capabilities

This collective keynote by the Design for Futures research group members discusses the planetary boundaries for design, and the requirement for strong sustainable and increasingly regenerative design. Operating within planetary boundaries requires a shift from problem solving to future-oriented systems reforming and a turn from human-driven design towards more-than-human understandings of agency, value and care. Accordingly, design education needs to consider what it takes to cultivate a new generation of imaginative, future literate, collaborative and enabling reformers.

Friday 9.00–10.20

Panel discussion: How does AI reform the creative field?

As students move from education into professional practice, the ability to work with AI is no longer optional – it is a fundamental working-life skill. This panel discussion brings together perspectives from the Cirrus Network to explore how higher education is responding to this shift in a responsible, ethical and future-oriented way.

Looking specifically at creative fields, the panel examines how AI is reshaping creative processes, professional roles and expectations. Rather than framing AI as a threat to creativity, the discussion asks how creative work is changing, where human expertise remains essential, and how roles within design and other creative disciplines are likely to evolve. What kinds of new competencies are emerging, and what may be fading away?

SESSIONS Thursday 14.45–16.15

When registering, please select two alternative sessions that interest you the most.

Reforming together: Initiating the Cirrus manifesto

The session explores the role of future reformers in times of social, ecological, and institutional transformation, not only as critics of existing systems, but as active agents in creating new conditions for change.

We will ask: what must change for meaningful change to become possible? Through discussion and collaborative drafting, the session aims to develop a manifesto for the Cirrus Network that challenges entrenched structures, fosters new forms of collaboration, and reimagines how systemic transformation can emerge across institutions and society.

Nature of session: Discussion-based

Methods for viable futures: Reforming through protopia

The session proposes futures methods that proposed methods to envision realizable protopia futures to advance design and lifestyles that stay within planetary boundaries. The proposed methods support both ideation without path dependency on old systems and solutions, and take the planetary boundaries and positive vitality of planetary life into consideration. Protopia represents especially the second horizon from the Three Horizons of futures thinking as it demonstrates the possibilities of realizable, positive futures in the urgency of needs for sustainable transition.

Nature of session: Hands-on, discussion-based

AI in design education and practice

This session explores how artificial intelligence is reshaping the work of designers and what that means for design education. Participants will engage with a central question: how should design teachers and students embrace AI in their practice? The session will examine how these technologies are challenging designers’ professional identity and the skills they need, and will open space to discuss the emerging roles and profiles that are beginning to define the field’s future.

Nature of session: Hands-on, discussion-based

Design for happiness

Here in the World’s Happiest Country, we work together to explore how design can make a difference in sustainable wellbeing for all.

This session uses the Empathy Café method to explore how empathy, creativity and co-creation can drive meaningful reform in designing for happiness. Participants rotate through guided small-group conversations that surface lived experiences, shared challenges, and diverse perspectives.

Nature of session: Co-creation, discussion-based

Reverse mentoring: How to improve the student experience?

This session invites students to take the lead as “reformers,” guiding participants through a structured reverse mentoring experience. Through facilitated discussions, students share insights into their everyday lives and the realities that shape how they engage with learning.

The focus is on helping educators gain a deeper understanding of students’ perspectives–what supports them, what challenges them, and how their experiences extend beyond the classroom. The session emphasizes honest dialogue and active listening, positioning students as partners in building greater awareness and empathy in design education.

Nature of session: Discussion-based

Interdependence: Between humans, nature and design

This session explores how humans, nature and design are connected and influence each other. Rather than seeing design as separate from nature, it invites participants to reflect on how they are already intertwined.

Through activities, the session creates space to think about relationships, co-existence, and designing through interdependence. The session encourages diverse perspectives and approaches the topic with curiosity.

Nature of session: Hands-on, co-creation