REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER: 15064224 (England and Wales)
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1210067

Report of the Trustees and

Unaudited Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2025

for

THE DESIGN RESEARCH SOCIETY

WEDNESDAY

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A27 30/09/2026 #48

COMPANIES HOUSE

Knox Cropper LLP
Chartered Accountants
153 -155 London Road
Hemel Hempstead
Hertfordshire
HP3 9SQ

THE DESIGN RESEARCH SOCIETY

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for the Year Ended 31 December 2025

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Report of the Trustees
for the Year Ended 31 December 2025

The trustees who are also directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2025. The trustees have adopted the provisions of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019).

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objectives

To advance research and education into all aspects of design and to make publicly accessible the results of this activity.

Aims

The aims of the Design Research Society are to recognise design as a creative act common to many disciplines; advance the theories, methods and practices of design; and to understand research and its relationship to education and practice.

Public benefit

The trustees confirm that they have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the charity's aims and objectives and in planning future activities.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

Conferences

The DRS Summer Meeting 2025 took place on 18-19 July at the School of Architecture in San Sebastián, Spain. This two-day gathering represented a milestone for the organisation. This inaugural Summer Meeting brought together members of the Executive Board, the International Advisory Council (IAC), and convenors from Special Interest Groups (SIGs) to create a shared space for strategic dialogue, reflection, and future planning for the discipline of design research.

The programme was structured around two core days:
• Design Research Day focused on the state of the field and featured presentations of perspective papers from international contributors, encouraging critical discussion on emerging challenges and opportunities in design research.
• Strategic Planning Day centred on governance, participation models, including the development of Research Studios and strategic projects by the IAC.

The 2025 Summer Meeting proceedings are available at: https://dl.designresearchsociety.org/drs-summer-meetings/26/

Public repository (Digital Library)

Highlights include a 70 percent increase in downloads from 2024 and the addition of a two conference series (ServDes, EKSIG) to the Digital Library.

According to the Digital Library dashboard:
• 754,395 total downloads from 217 countries
• 224,390 metadata page hits
• 630 posted works

The top countries for downloads were:
• United States (156,344)
• Brazil (70,763)
• China (51,404)
• United Kingdom (42,908)
• Singapore (31,744)
• Viet Nam (25,363)
• Germany (23,506)
• Netherlands (23,247)
• India (21,481)
• Australia (20,805)

The following conference series were added:
• ServDes, the Service Design and Innovation conference, full conference series
• EKSIG, full conference series added

The following conferences proceedings were published in 2025:
• 'Nordes 2025: Relational Design', held at Oslo School of Architecture and Design, Norway. The conference proceedings are available at: https://dl.designresearchsociety.org/nordes/nordes2025/
• 'ServDes 2025: Empowering Diversity, Nurturing Lasting Impact', held at Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Hyderabad, India. The conference proceedings are available at: https://dl.designresearchsociety.org/servdes/servdes2025/
• 'IASDR 2025: Design Next', held at Taiwan Design Research Institute. The conference proceedings are available at: https://dl.designresearchsociety.org/iasdr/iasdr2025/conferencevolume/

Special interest groups (SIGs)

Achievements:
• Design Education: Organised 'Learn X Design 2025: Intertwinia in Design Education', held at University of Aveiro, Portugal. The conference included 130 research outputs across the following submission formats: visual submissions, statements of pedagogy, letters, full papers, conversations, and case studies. The conference proceedings are available at: https://dl.designresearchsociety.org/learnxdesign/learnxdesign2025/
• Designing Retail & Services: Organised 'Designing Retail & Services Futures Colloquium: Sustainable Retail and Services Futures', held at Politecnico di Milano, Italy. The colloquium include 14 papers. The colloquium proceedings are available at: https://dl.designresearchsociety.org/retaildesign/rsf2025/

• Experiential Knowledge: Organised 'EKSIG 2025: Data as Experiential Knowledge and Embodied Processes', held at Moholy-Nagy University of Art and Design, Budapest. The conference included 28 papers organized into eight paper tracks, four workshops, and a student exhibition. The conference proceedings are available at: https://dl.designresearchsociety.org/eksig/eksig2025/
• Sound-Drive Design: Organised the symposium, 'Sounding Objects for Societal Impact', held at IRCAM – Institut de Recherche et Coordination Acoustique/Musique in Paris. The two-day symposium brought together 45 participants in dialogue structured around three thematic sessions: Design Process & Methodology, Human-Technology Entanglements, and Societal & Ecological Impact.

Journal (Designing)

The journal launched in December 2025 with one issue. The issue includes 10 articles, all editorials or editor perspectives.

Membership

There were 851 members at the time of the 2025 Summer Meeting, which is in line with prior odd-year (non-conference year) membership levels.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Financial position

Gross income for the year was £59,515 (2024: £202,070). Total expenditure was £100,261 (2024: £87,693), giving rise to net expenditure of £40,746 (2024: net income of £114,377).

All funds are unrestricted. Total funds at the year end stood at £73,631 (2024: £114,377).

Going concern

After making appropriate enquiries, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that The Design Research Society has adequate resources to meet any commitments and sustain a comparable level of activity for at least the next twelve months from the approval of the financial statements, and therefore the financial statements have been prepared on the going concern basis.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

The Design Research Society is a company limited by guarantee, as defined by the companies Act 2006, and a registered charity. Its governing document are its Articles of Association, which provide for a Board of Trustees (the directors of the company) who are also the members of the company for the purposes of company law.

Key management remuneration

Key management personnel of the charity are those persons having authority and responsibility for planning, directing and controlling the activities of the charity, directly or indirectly. This includes the trustees and the senior leadership team.

The total remuneration (including employer pension contributions and national insurance) received by key management personnel during the year was £55,705 (2024: £17,219).

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Company number

15064224 (England and Wales)

Registered Charity number

1210067

Registered office

85 Great Portland Street
First Floor
London
W1W 7LT

Trustees
Dr H Dong University Professor
Professor C M Gray University Professor
Dr S Lenzi University Professor (resigned 22.2.26)
Professor P A Lloyd University Professor (resigned 1.7.26)
Dr E Tsekleves University Professor (resigned 16.6.26)
Ms P D P Contreras Correa (appointed 1.7.26)
Dr F Del Caro Secomandi (appointed 1.7.26)
Dr L Simeone (appointed 1.7.26)

Independent Examiner
Knox Cropper LLP
Chartered Accountants
153 -155 London Road
Hemel Hempstead
Hertfordshire
HP3 9SQ

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 28 September 2026 and signed on its behalf by:

Dr L Simeone - Trustee

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of The Design Research Society ('the Company')
I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Company for the year ended 31 December 2025.

Responsibilities and basis of report
As the charity's trustees of the Company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the Company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under Section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under Section 145(5) (b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement
I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Company as required by Section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of Section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
4. the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities (applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)).

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Stephen Anderson

Knox Cropper LLP
Chartered Accountants
153 -155 London Road
Hemel Hempstead
Hertfordshire
HP3 9SQ

Date: 28/09/2026

THE DESIGN RESEARCH SOCIETY

Statement of Financial Activities
for the Year Ended 31 December 2025

	Notes	2025 Unrestricted fund £	2024 Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM			
Donations and legacies		-	91,871
Charitable activities			
To advance research and education into all aspects of design		**58,635**	110,199
Investment income	2	**880**	-
Total		**59,515**	202,070
EXPENDITURE ON			
Charitable activities			
To advance research and education into all aspects of design		**100,261**	80,003
Other		-	7,690
Total		**100,261**	87,693
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)		**(40,746)**	114,377
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS			
Total funds brought forward		**114,377**	-
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		**73,631**	114,377

The notes form part of these financial statements

Balance Sheet
31 December 2025

	Notes	2025 Unrestricted fund £	2024 Total funds £
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors	6	**11,029**	7,974
Cash at bank		**68,139**	110,885
		79,168	118,859
CREDITORS			
Amounts falling due within one year	7	**(5,537)**	(4,482)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		**73,631**	114,377
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		**73,631**	114,377
NET ASSETS		**73,631**	114,377
FUNDS	8		
Unrestricted funds		**73,631**	114,377
TOTAL FUNDS		**73,631**	114,377

The charitable company is entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the year ended 31 December 2025.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2025 in accordance with Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for
(a) ensuring that the charitable company keeps accounting records that comply with Sections 386 and 387 of the Companies Act 2006 and
(b) preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company as at the end of each financial year and of its surplus or deficit for each financial year in accordance with the requirements of Sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the charitable company.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to charitable companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 28 September 2026 and were signed on its behalf by:

L Simeone - Trustee

The notes form part of these financial statements

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparing the financial statements
The financial statements of the charitable company, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Companies Act 2006. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

Income
All income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities once the charity has entitlement to the funds, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Expenditure
Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Taxation
The charity is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities.

Fund accounting
Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

Pension costs and other post-retirement benefits
The charitable company operates a defined contribution pension scheme. Contributions payable to the charitable company's pension scheme are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period to which they relate.

2. INVESTMENT INCOME

	2025	2024
	£	£
Deposit account interest	880	-

3. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

There was no trustees' remuneration for the year ended 31 December 2025 nor for the year ended 31 December 2024.

An honorarium of £500 was paid to trustee Colin Gray (2024: nil).

Trustees' expenses

There were no trustees' expenses paid for the year ended 31 December 2025 nor for the year ended 31 December 2024.

4. STAFF COSTS

The average monthly number of employees during the year was as follows:

	2025	2024
Administration	2	2

No employees received emoluments in excess of £60,000.

5. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted fund £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM	
Donations and legacies	91,871
Charitable activities	
To advance research and education into all aspects of design	110,199
Total	202,070
EXPENDITURE ON	
Charitable activities	
To advance research and education into all aspects of design	80,003
Other	7,690
Total	87,693
NET INCOME	114,377
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	114,377

6. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2025 £	2024 £
Other debtors	**2,712**	-
Accrued income	**3,900**	7,974
Prepayments	**4,417**	-
	11,029	7,974

continued...

7. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2025	2024
	£	£
Social security and other taxes	-	477
Other creditors	1,937	2,205
Accrued expenses	3,600	1,800
	5,537	4,482

8. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 1.1.25	Net movement in funds	At 31.12.25
	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	**114,377**	**(40,746)**	**73,631**
TOTAL FUNDS	**114,377**	**(40,746)**	**73,631**

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Movement in funds
	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	**59,515**	**(100,261)**	**(40,746)**
TOTAL FUNDS	**59,515**	**(100,261)**	**(40,746)**

Comparatives for movement in funds

	At 1.1.24	Net movement in funds	At 31.12.24
	£	£	£
Unrestricted fund	-	114,377	114,377
TOTAL FUNDS	-	114,377	114,377

Comparative net movement in funds included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Movement in funds
	£	£	£
Unrestricted fund	202,070	(87,693)	114,377
TOTAL FUNDS	202,070	(87,693)	114,377

continued...

8. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

A current year 12 months and prior year 12 months combined position is as follows:

	At 1.1.24	Net movement in funds	At 31.12.25
	£	£	£
Unrestricted fund	-	73,631	73,631
TOTAL FUNDS	-	73,631	73,631

Net movement in funds included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Movement in funds
	£	£	£
Unrestricted fund	261,585	(187,954)	73,631
TOTAL FUNDS	261,585	(187,954)	73,631

9. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

There were no related party transactions for the year ended 31 December 2025, other than those disclosed in note 3 above.

10. CHARITABLE STATUS

The Design Research Society became a registered charity on 17 September 2024. Prior to this the society had existed as a membership organisation. All funds held by the membership organisation were donated to the charity.