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Top 5 benefits of attending Experience Design Summit 2026

Posted on [August 20, 2026](#)[August 20, 2026](#)
by [rashmikumari65654@gmail.com](#)

October in Rajasthan has a particular quality of light. The heat will soften. The air carries something ancient and unhurried. And this year, inside the stone walls of a 500-year-old fort above the plains of Jaipur, something else will be in the air too.

Some things are worth doing because of what you learn. Some things are worth doing because of who you meet. And some things, rare ones, are worth doing because of what changes in you while you are there.

The Experience Design Summit 2026 falls into the third category.

One hundred and fifty people. Twelve faculty members. Five days. Five days at Mundota Palace and Fort in Jaipur this October. One hundred and fifty practitioners. Twelve faculty members who have built careers at the frontier of experience design across cinema, immersive theatre, sensory science, hospitality, sacred performance, and cultural storytelling. A 500-year-old estate above the plains of Rajasthan that has been shaping the people who enter it for five centuries.

This is not a gathering you attend to collect CPD hours or fill a networking quota. It is a gathering you attend because something in the work needs to move. And you are ready for it to.

Here are five reasons this October is worth your time.

Benefit 1: A new way of seeing your own work

Not with new information. With new eyes.

The shift that practitioners consistently describe after EDS is not that they learned something new. It is that they saw something familiar in a completely different way. Assumptions they had carried for years started to look like choices. Constraints they had accepted started to look negotiable. Work they thought they understood started to reveal edges they had not noticed before.

This happens because of who is in the room. A room where a filmmaker thinks alongside a hospitality leader, where a sensory designer challenges an architect's assumptions, where a sacred experience creator and a brand strategist discover they have been working on the same problem from opposite ends: your own perspective cannot stay where you left it.

This is the benefit practitioners talk about most. And it is the one that is hardest to get anywhere else. This is what genuine cross-disciplinary exchange produces.

Benefit 2: relationships that outlast october

There is a version of professional networking that involves badge scanning and elevator pitches and LinkedIn requests the next morning. It produces contacts. It does not produce the kind of relationships that shape careers.

The relationships that form at the [Experience Design Summit](#) form differently. They form over five days of shared meals inside a fort that has been holding people since the sixteenth century. Over late conversations that started as a debate and became something closer to a friendship. Over the particular bond that forms when people think hard about something that matters to them in close company with others who feel the same way.

What comes out of this:

- Collaborations that begin as dinner conversations and become real projects within months
- Partnerships between practitioners from industries that rarely share a room
- A peer group across hospitality, brand, architecture, live events, and cultural curation that speaks the same language and holds the same standards
- Relationships that shape the direction of careers, not just individual projects

Benefit 3: access to twelve of the most interesting minds in the field

The faculty at the Experience Design Summit 2026 are in the room for all five days. Not to present. To work alongside you.

Here is who is at EDS this October:

- **Barnet Bain** – Oscar-winning filmmaker, Academy Award winner for What Dreams May Come, Cinematic Philosopher
- **Colin Nightingale** – Creator of Immersions, former Creative Producer at Punchdrunk
- **Koert Vermeulen** – Designer of Sensory Transformation, Founder of ACT LIVE DESIGN
- **James Wallman** – Cultural Commentator and Trend Forecaster, Founder of World Experience Organisation
- **Monica Dogra** – Actor, Musician and Sacred Experience Creator, Co-Curator of