

The Slovak Design Award Regulations

In accordance with the instrument establishing the Slovak Design Center MK-3058/2014-110/20851 from 8 December 2014 and its Amendment 1 MK-2989/2018-110/4962 from 26 March 2018, the Slovak Design Center, in agreement with the Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic, publishes the Regulations of the Slovak Design Award competition.

Article 1

Main Provisions

1. The Competition is announced by the Slovak Design Award (hereinafter as the “Competition”), the Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic, and the Slovak Design Center national contributory organisation.
2. The Slovak Design Center (hereinafter as the “Organiser”) provides the expertise and organises the Competition via the Competition’s organising team appointed by the director of the Organiser.
3. The Competition is the most prestigious form of acknowledgement in Slovak design.
4. The Competition takes place every year – odd-year editions are focused on product design and even-year editions are focused on communication design.

Article 2

The Objective of the Competition

The Competition’s objective is to:

- a) Support the professional work of authors of Slovak design and subjects that collaborate with designers,
- b) Aid Slovak designers, subjects collaborating with designers, and other design professionals with establishing themselves on the international market, namely within the European Union,
- c) Present the widest scope of the contemporary works of designers to the general public,
- d) Motivate Slovak subjects to form continuous collaborations with professional designers,
- e) Support design that incorporates the ideas of sustainability and responsibility on part of the designers and their clients,

- f) Aid in the development of design theory and expert journalism focused on design,
- g) Map, document, and present the development of Slovak design.

Article 3

Applying for the Competition

1. The following subjects can apply for the Competition:
 - a. **Professional** designers, designer studios, and other subjects that are creatively active in the field of design; foreign designers and subjects, but only if the submitted work was made in collaboration with a subject from Slovakia,
 - b. Slovak clients with works that were made in collaboration with designers; foreign clients only if the submitted design was made in collaboration with Slovak designers,
 - c. The Student Design category is open to **university students** of Slovak universities where design is taught (regardless of the students' nationality, and including both classic studies and internships) as well as Slovak nationality students of foreign universities where design is taught (including both classic studies and internships).
2. The term professional designer is understood as a person with a completed bachelor's degree in design, with at least 1 year of relevant work experience, or a person without formal education in design but with at least two years of provable work experience as a design creator.
3. Applications for the Competition are filled out via an online form at the website of the Organiser.
4. **Paying the application fee** as specified in the Terms & Conditions of the Competition (published at the Organiser's website) is a prerequisite for entering the Competition.

Article 4

The Organising Team and the Jury

1. The Competition will be judged by an international expert jury (hereinafter as the "Jury") consisting of at least 5 members – designers and experts from related fields, with at least one international member or a member that has been operating abroad for a long time.
2. The Jury of the current edition of the Competition is appointed by the Minister of Culture of the Slovak Republic, based on the propositions of the director of the Organiser.
3. The Organiser reserves the right to invite additional experts for the Jury meetings, if needed. The additional experts' votes will be of advisory nature.

4. The director of the Organiser may invite an expert on design to be the curator of the Competition. The curator forms part of the organising team as well as the Jury.
5. There may be more members in the organising team (such as internal employees of the Organiser or external collaborators of the Organiser), if there is such a need for a particular edition of the Competition.

Article 5

The Competitive Categories

1. Applicants submit their works into the particular categories divided according to the current state of the field, reflecting contemporary trends, needs, and the situation of communication/product design in Slovakia. The categories are compiled by the organising team with the curator in the lead. The Organiser announces the categories in the Terms & Conditions of the said edition of the Competition.
2. **The odd-year editions focus on works of product design**, namely:
 - a) Works of serial production made by a professional designer for a particular client and/or were put into practice, regardless of the size and method of production,
 - b) Works – solitaires made by a professional designer, these do not have to be made for any particular client,
 - c) For the Student Design category: models, prototypes, drafts of products and design concepts made within Slovak universities where design is taught or foreign universities (either during regular studies or an internship), made for an assignment by a teacher (such as semestral works, bachelor's/master's thesis, or a dissertation),
 - d) Innovative, experimental designer concepts, models, prototypes, and research projects made on very the initiative of professional designers or students (without a commission from a client or a teacher's assignment and supervision), focusing on discovering new tendencies in the field of design and/or projects with the potential of broader crossovers, but were left unpublished or were never made.
3. **The even-year editions focus on communication design works**, namely:
 - a) Projects and works made to communicate information, the design of which was made by professional designers for a particular client, and/or were put into practice,
 - b) For the Student Design category: student projects made within Slovak universities where design is taught or foreign universities (either during regular studies or an internship), for instance semestral works, bachelor's/master's thesis, or a dissertation,

- c) Innovative, experimental designer concepts, models, prototypes, and research projects made on very the initiative of professional designers or students (without a commission from a client or a teacher's assignment and supervision), focusing on discovering new tendencies in the field of design and/or projects with the potential of broader crossovers, but were left unpublished or were never made.
4. The individual categories are specified in the Terms & Conditions of the current edition of Competition, available at the Organiser's website – www.scd.sk.
5. Applicants may submit a number of works, but each work can only be submitted under one category. A potential limitation of the number of works submitted is specified in the Terms & Conditions. Specifications of the recommended areas are part of the Terms & Conditions.
6. In case a particular work does not fall within the criteria of the category it was submitted under, the Organiser has the right to move it into a different category. The Organiser can also split a work into multiple categories if the individual parts of the work meet the criteria for more categories. These changes can only be done with the applicant's consent – the applicant will be informed of splitting/moving the work to a different category beforehand. If the applicant does not agree with the suggested changes, meaning the work would remain in the wrong category, such work/application will not progress further in the Competition.

Article 6

Nominations and Awards

From all the competing submissions, the Jury will nominate a maximum of 5 works in each category (see Terms & Conditions of the current edition of the Competition).

1. From the nominated works, the Jury **will choose a maximum of one main award** (in the individual categories of product design for an even-year edition, in the individual categories of communication design for an odd-year edition).
2. **Awards for personages of design** are also given out as part of the Competition:
 - a) The **Established Designer Award** – awarded to individuals or collectives for distinct activities in the designer practice during the last two years, on the basis of the works submitted under individual categories but also taking into account the broader context of their creations. It is awarded by the Jury in collaboration with the curator.
 - b) The **Emerging Talent Award** – awarded to individuals or collectives for distinct activities in the designer practice at the beginning of their career, for originality and a multitude of quality outputs made in the last two years, on the basis of the works submitted under individual categories but also taking into

account the broader context of their creations. It is awarded by the Jury in collaboration with the curator.

- c) The **Award for Long-term Cultural Contribution** in Design awarded on the basis of the organising team's proposition and the Jury's choice of an individual/a collective, awarded for the cultural and intellectual contribution in the following areas: an exceptional creation or lifetime achievement, creative and innovative designer work, theoretical-critical publications and historiography, organising work and support of educational project, etc. It is awarded in collaboration with the Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic.
 - d) The **Award for Long-term Economic Contribution** in Design awarded on the basis of the organising team's suggestion and the Jury's choice. The award is meant for individuals and companies either creating or making use of design, long-term and in above-standard quantity and quality, with special attention to its economic contribution: the systematic application of design in the awardwinner's company strategy, exceptional design solutions that contributed to improving the awardwinner's economic outturn and competitiveness, etc. It is awarded in collaboration with the Ministry of Economy of the Slovak Republic.
3. The organising team prepares the propositions of the long-term contribution awards for personages from paragraph 2 c) and d) before the Jury meets, and presents them to the Jury for their consideration during the meeting. The Jury then decides whether the long-term contribution awards will or will not be awarded and announce this decision to the corresponding Ministry via the Organiser. Regarding the Award for Long-term Cultural Contribution, the Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic will be informed. Regarding the Award for Long-term Economic Contribution, the Ministry of Economy of the Slovak Republic will be informed.
 4. After reaching agreement with the organising team, the Jury can also award special mentions.
 5. The announcers of the Competition reserve the right to not give out every award, either on the basis of the Jury's recommendation or one of the corresponding Ministries' decision.
 6. The award winners will receive diplomas granting them the right to associate the awarded product or project with the title Slovak Design Award and the title of the award. The Organiser may provide the winning works with further financial or non-financial prizes. These prizes are not covered by the funds from the state budget, but from other sources exclusively. They will be published at the Organiser's website before the results are announced. The nominees may associate the nominated product or project with the title Slovak Design Award and the title of the nomination.

Article 7

Evaluation Criteria

The basic evaluation criteria throughout all of the competitive categories are:

- a) authenticity, originality, a high degree of innovation,
- b) technical and technological sophistication,
- c) a harmony of the aesthetic, functional, material, and ergonomic realisation,
- d) ethical, social, and environmental aspects,
- e) aspects of communication, protection, and financial cost,
- f) comprehensibility and recognisability,
- g) professional-quality production.

Article 8 Final Provisions

1. Further conditions, such as the limitation of the time of creation of the competitive works, deadlines for delivering the competitive works and presenting the Competition's results, will be published by the Organiser in the Terms & Conditions of the edition.
2. The Slovak Design Award Regulations no. MK-3170/2017-110/7323 from 15 May 2017 is repealed.
3. Changes to the Slovak Design Award Regulations are also being made in the form of written numbered amendments where the effective day is stated. The amendments are issued by the Slovak Design Center after agreement with the Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic.
4. These Regulations enter into force on 15 March 2022.

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Director, Slovak Design Center

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Natália Milanová

Minister of Culture of the Slovak Republic