

Slovak Design Award 2023 Product Design

Terms & Conditions of the Competition

In compliance with the Slovak Design Award Regulations (no. MK-3040/2022-110/4032), the Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic and the Slovak Design Center (hereinafter the "Organiser") announce the 20th edition of the nationwide public Competition – the Slovak Design Award 2023 (hereinafter as the "Competition").

I. The Competition's Orientation

In 2023, the Slovak Design Award Competition is oriented towards product design.

II. The Competition's Aim and Objective

The Competition is a platform for getting to know, evaluating, and awarding quality in design. Its aim is to support the professional work of design creators in the Slovak Republic and motivate clients to establish continual collaboration with professional designers.

The Competition is designated for professional graphic designers, students of communication design and related professional disciplines, other experts working in the field of product design, and clients from the field of product design.

The Competition's objective is to evaluate product design in the form of

- works of serial production that were made by a professional designer for a particular client and/or were put into practice, regardless of the size and method of production,
- works – solitaires made by a professional designer, these do not have to be made for any particular client,
- for the Student Design category/field: models, prototypes, drafts of products and design concepts made within Slovak or foreign universities where design is taught (either during regular studies or an internship), made as part of a teacher's assignment (such as semestral works, bachelor's/master's thesis, or a dissertation),
- innovative, experimental designer concepts, models, prototypes, and research projects made on the initiative of professional designers or students themselves (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new tendencies in the field of design and/or projects with a broad boundary-crossing potential that were left unpublished or were never made.

III. Competitive Categories

FASHION & ACCESSORIES

Projects targeting the area of personal space of a human body as one of the building blocks of a person's identity. The category encompasses mostly clothing items but also clothing lines, clothing accessories, shoes, head coverings, handbags, bags, luggage, jewellery, watches, glasses, mobile phones or other wearable devices and related accessories.

SPORT & LEISURE TIME

Projects targeting the area of leisure activities as one of the ways of self-fulfilment and personal development, for instance, sports and sporting equipment, hobby products, wellness products, games and toys, and products with the purpose of entertainment and other leisure activities.

HOME & PUBLIC SPACE

Projects targeting the space inhabited by humans—private as well as public—where they perform their activities. The area does not look at complex architectural interior/exterior renditions. Instead, it focuses on the individual elements that create it such as furniture, lighting, interior decorations, sanitary ware, household appliances, cooking utensils, storage units, pet supplies, but also street furniture, public lighting, furnishings of restaurants/libraries/theatres/etc.

WORK & MOBILITY

Projects targeting a wide array of people's occupational activities and their work environment, which may encompass tools, machines, and devices, construction mechanisms, workshop equipment, but also administrative premises including furniture, lighting, and accessories specifically designed with the said field in mind. The category also includes transport, be it personal or public, aerial, waterway, or land transport, and driven by both engines as well as manpower.

SOCIETY & THE ENVIRONMENT

Projects with an undoubtedly identifiable positive impact on society and the environment, aimed at formulating and solving particular problems. The use of an environmentally-friendly material alone is insufficient to meet the criteria for this category. The category is reserved for relevant projects with a much more complex scope, aimed at, among others, social inclusion, education, healthcare, employment, tackling crime rate, extremism, and many forms of discrimination. The projects may, however, also offer meaningful solutions to a wide spectrum of environmental problems, including the effects of climate change.

ART & DESIGN & CRAFT

Projects that freely spill over the boundaries of art, design, and craft, bringing added quality and a recognisably individual style of the author (art design, applied art, ...), for instance, the use of methods, procedures, and media of visual art, or employing tradition and traditional crafting techniques in a contemporary context, discovering innovative crafting procedures employing analogue or digital tools, etc.

NEW HORIZONS

Drafts, concepts, scripts, or realisations that evade the ordinary definitions and limitations of the other categories (such as original, experimental, speculative, and critical projects or research and development in the field of design). These can be prototypes, concept designs, never-made projects, or documented research with broad boundary-crossing potential.

STUDENT DESIGN

Semestral, bachelor's, master's or PhD degree projects by students from universities teaching design, textiles, applied arts, or other related fields, made under pedagogical supervision. The category is open to Slovak students from Slovak and foreign universities as well as international students of Slovak universities. The freedom of the academic environment without the presence of the usual pressure from clients offers an opportunity for new, unique takes on both new and old topics.

Applicants may submit numerous works for the Competition, but each piece of work may only be submitted into one category/field. The expert Jury reserves the right to transfer a work into a category different from the one it was originally submitted for. The Jury also reserves the right to divide a submission into multiple categories or merge multiple submissions into one unit and evaluate it as such. The Organiser will inform the contact person stated in the application form of any such changes.

IV. Who Can Apply

1. The following entities **may apply** for the Competition:
 - a) **professional** designers, design 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: www.scd.sk.
4. Members of the Jury, the curator, and the statutory representative of the organiser (Slovak Design Center) cannot apply for the Competition.

5. Employees of the Organiser (Slovak Design Center) and members of the external organising team of the current edition of the Competition may apply for the Competition. Submitted works may be nominated and exhibited, but cannot receive any awards set out in Article VII. of the Terms and Conditions of the Competition.
6. Jury members, the organising team, and the applicants of the winning submissions are bound to keep the results of the Competition secret until they are officially published on the Organiser's website.

V. Application Fee

1. An application for the Competition is deemed complete and accepted once the application fee is paid. Student works are exempt from the application fee.
2. The application fee is a one-time payment of **€50** (professional designers/clients).
3. Once the fee is paid, the applicant can submit any number of works.
4. **Students** in the Student Design category are exempt from paying the application fee.
5. The fee has to be paid at the following bank account: **IBAN: SK50 8180 0000 0070 0007 0238 (variable symbol: 2023110, note: the name of the applicant as stated on the application), no later than three working days after registration.**
6. After the fee is received, an invoice will be issued and sent to the email address of the applicant stated in the online application.

VI. Time of Completion of the Works

The submitted works have to have been completed between **1.1. 2021 and the official deadline for applying for the Slovak Design Award 2023—Product Design Competition, which is 15.5. 2023.** In the case of professional designers, a product's market launch date is the determining factor. Works that have been already submitted to previous editions of the Competition cannot be submitted again.

VII. Awards

In every category (see Article III.), the Jury will nominate five of the submitted works. In every category, the Jury will choose a maximum of one nominated submission that will receive the main award in the respective category.

Additional awards for contribution to the field of design may be given out:

The Established Designer Award—awarded to individuals or groups 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.

The Emerging Talent Award—awarded to individuals or groups 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.

The Award for Long-term Cultural Contribution in Design—awarded in collaboration with the Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic. The award is designated for an individual or a group active in the field of design for their cultural and intellectual contribution in the following areas: exceptional creation or lifetime achievement, creative and innovative designer work, theoretical-critical publications and historiography, organising work and support of educational projects, etc.

The Award for Long-term Economic Contribution in Design—awarded in collaboration with the Ministry of Economy of the Slovak Republic to 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 award winner's company strategy, exceptional design solutions that contributed to improving the award winner's economic outturn and competitiveness, etc.

Repairability Award

Based on the cooperation between the Slovak Design Center and the non-profit organisation Repairably, Repairably will give out the Repairability Award in compliance with the conditions laid out in the "Manifesto": <https://repairably.com/manifesto/>. It will be awarded in compliance with the joint Cooperation Agreement, in the editions dedicated to product design.

In agreement with the organising team, the Jury may also decide to award special mentions. These will be published on the website of the Slovak Design Center before the announcement of the Competition results.

The award winners will receive diplomas and certificates granting them the right to associate the awarded product or project with the Slovak Design Award title and the title of the award.

The Organiser of the Competition (Slovak Design Center) may provide the winning works or projects with further financial or non-financial prizes. All of the nominees have the right to associate the nominated product or project with the Slovak Design Award title and the title of the nomination.

The Competition announcers reserve the right to not give out some of the awards.

VIII. The Jury

The Competition will be judged by an international expert Jury (hereinafter "the Jury") appointed by the Minister of Culture of the Slovak Republic, based on the proposition of the Slovak Design Center. The Jury consists of at least 5 members—designers and experts from related fields with at least one international member. The Slovak Design Center reserves the right to invite additional experts for evaluation, if needed. The additional experts' votes will be of advisory nature. Information about the Jury members will be published on the Slovak Design Center's website.

IX. The Competition's Course and Evaluation Criteria

In order to participate in the Competition, one must register via the online application form from 31.03. 2023 to 15.5. 2023. The address of the online application form for nominations will be published at the following website: <https://scd.sk/> or <https://scd.sk/ncd/narodna-cena-za-dizajn-2023/>

The Jury's evaluation and **the selection of the finalists whose works will be presented at the Slovak Design Award 2023 exhibition will take place in two rounds.**

1st Round

Every applicant that has digitally registered their work(s) into a chosen category via the online application form within the deadline and meets the Competition's conditions for qualification will enter the first round of selection. The Jury will assess the online applications and make a selection of works for the second round. **The online application assessment by the Jury will take place from 23.5. 2023 to 5.6. 2023.**

2nd Round

Based on the results of the first round, the selected authors will be asked to deliver the competing works (or their documentation) to the premises of the Slovak Design Center for evaluation. The Jury will evaluate the competing works and decide which will qualify for the finalists' exhibition and the awards.

Collection of the works: 15. – 16. 6. 2023 and 22. – 23. 6. 2023; the Competition winners are chosen: 10.7. 2023 at the latest.

Evaluation Criteria:

- relevance and impact on the selected field
- authenticity, originality, a high degree of innovation,
- technical and technological sophistication,
- a harmony of the aesthetic, functional, material, and ergonomic realisation,
- ethical, social, and environmental aspects, accountability
- aspects of communication, protection, and financial cost,
- comprehensibility and recognisability,
- professional-quality production.

X. The Competition's Conditions for Acceptance and Deadlines

Works will be admitted into the Competition if they meet the following conditions:

- a) the criteria mentioned in Articles II. and VI. of this document are met,
- b) they were registered via the online application form together with the requested documentation in the time limit set out by the Organisers of the Competition,
- c) the application fee has been paid, as outlined in Article V.,
- d) the works or their documentation were delivered for the Jury's evaluation before the deadline set out by the Organisers of the Competition,
- e) each work (or a collection of works) has to be submitted for the Competition separately,
- f) the applicant is obliged to determine the insurance value of their work and state it in the online application form (the Organiser will cover the insurance during the Jury meeting and storage of the works before and after the exhibition).

Formats and the number of attachments to the online application form: the maximum number of attachments is 20, the maximum size of a single file is 100 MB, and the size of all the attachments combined cannot exceed 500 MB. Supported formats: pictures, publications (JPG, PDF), and videos (MOV, AVI, WMV, MPG, MPEG, MPEG-4).

Digital photo documentation of the submitted works has to be attached to the application form for the purposes of publishing, presenting, and the online evaluation by the Jury. Providing the documentation constitutes the applicant's consent to the documentation's subsequent use for the Competition's presentation purposes, even if the applicant is not the author of the documentation—the applicant has to have the licensing rights for it. The applicant grants the Competition's Announcer the licence to use the provided documentation and proclaims that they are the owner of the licence which is free of rights of third parties.

Delivery of the works to the premises set out by the Organiser and their subsequent collection: applicants will deliver their submissions selected for the second round either in person or via a courier delivery service at their own expense (either to the address of the Organiser, or the premises of the exhibition in Bratislava). Upon notice by the Organiser, applicants will collect the works that were eliminated in the second round and were not shortlisted for the exhibition either in person, or the works will be sent to them via a courier delivery service at their own expense.

Deadlines:

The Competition is announced:	31.3.2023
Registration via the online application forms with related documentation:	until 15. 5. 2023
1st round of evaluation:	23. 5. – 5. 6. 2023
Collection of works for the 2nd round of evaluation:	15. – 16. 6. 2023, 22. – 23. 6. 2023
Results of the Competition:	until 10. 7. 2023
The Slovak Design Award 2023 exhibition:	October – December 2023
Announcement of the results of the Competition and the awarding ceremony:	October 2023

XI. Returns of the Competing Works

Participants will collect their competing works after the exhibition ends, on a date determined by the Organiser.

XII. Promotion of the Competition Results

The Organiser will provide the publishing and promotion of the Competition results:

- at the awarding ceremony of the Competition,
- by the exhibition of the selected and awarded works,
- in the Designum and e-designum magazines,
- at the website of the Organiser and social media accounts of the Organiser and the Competition,
- in print and electronic media,
- via short video films,
- at other local and international events such as seminars, conferences, and exhibitions.

XIII. Final Provisions

By submitting an application form, the applicant consents to the exhibiting, promoting, and free distribution of the photo documentation of the submitted work as well as making the work publicly available and the use of the applicant's personal data for the needs of the Competition and related activities.

Contacts:

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Bratislava 13. 2. 2023

Slovak Design Center

Mgr. art. Maroš Schmidt, director