



SLOVAK DESIGN AWARD 2023 ANNOUNCED WINNING WORKS AND CELEBRATED INNOVATION AND CREATIVITY IN PRODUCT DESIGN

NCD23
Press Release
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Extraordinary design, sustainable materials, innovative solutions, and modern technological procedures; all of this defines the awarded works of the best production design from the past two years. The awarded works and a selection of registered works are available for the public to view at the Slovak Design Award 2023 exhibition in Pradiareň 1900 open until 3 November 2023.

The most awaited moment of the jubilee 20th NCD – the award ceremony – was held on 9 November 2023 at the Nová scéna theatre, where the creators received a total of 6 main awards, 4 awards for design luminaries, and 4 special awards. The recording of the award ceremony will be made public within the week.

“Every year, I get a bit worried about how Slovak design will fare in the eyes of an international jury. The people, who come, are always new, from different countries, and they are always experts in their fields. Every year, I ask myself: Do they know our particularities? Can they tell quality from superficiality? Will they look for original shapes or new materials? In those moments, I feel co-responsible for all the projects registered to compete in NCD. Afterwards, I am even more excited when a passionate lengthy discussion reveals the first nominations, from which the final winners of individual categories emerge. Once again, the exhibition did not disappoint and my initial fear turned into pride. I have come to realize that in the past two years, Slovakia has seen the creation of interesting quality projects in many product design areas, which passed the rigorous evaluation of the strict jury. Afterwards, the award ceremony celebrates Slovak design, which looks for solutions, helps, innovates, makes money, creates jobs, and last but not least, is great at representing Slovakia. I extend my heartfelt congratulations to all the award winners!” **stated Maroš Schmidt, director of the Slovak Design Centre.**

Different than ever before! The NCD23 award ceremony was extraordinary also in relation to scenic design. For the first time in the 30 years of the NCD, it was possible to introduce two of the awarded works directly on stage at the ceremony. Housing Society from Damián Cehlárik and a fashionable, handmade garment from bioplastic materials from Maťa Ďurikovič – worn by Babsy Heriban, host of the award ceremony. Designer Maťa Ďurikovič is

also the winner of the Best Fashion Talent 2022 competition, which is regularly organized by Slovak Fashion Council, a partner of NCD23.

“Slovak Fashion Council is proud of Maťa Ďurikovič and I believe that the NCD award confirms that the jury of Best Fashion Talent made the right decision. It is of the utmost importance to highlight and award personalities of Slovak fashion design like Maťa. It helps to make a good name for Slovak fashion, and what is more, Maťa also offers the dysfunctional fashion industry solutions,” said Zuzana Bobíková, director of Slovak Fashion Council.

At the award ceremony, each laureate received a unique award, a glass – a symbol of celebration. It was designed in a collaborative fusion between the author of the glass design, **Mária Račeková**, who was a member of the jury, and graphic designers **Aurélia Garová, Tereza Maco and Jozef Sklenka**, authors of the NCD23 campaign. It was complemented by the confectionery art of the aunt of the awarded Damián Cehlárik, author of the cult “punčák” cabinet, who transformed the idea of PUR foam into a sweet celebratory meringue.

The authors of the NCD23 visual and communication campaign (**Aurélia Garová, Tereza Maco and Jozef Sklenka**) graduated from the department of Visual Communication at the Academy of Fine Art and Design in Bratislava and their design was selected at the beginning of the year by an expert committee. The graphic designers approached the communication concept as a birthday party as NCD celebrates its 30th anniversary. The central element of the identity is an industrial connecting material – PUR foam – which serves as a parallel to whipped cream decoration.

“I consider the jubilee 20th year of the Slovak Design Award as a celebration of Slovak design. It brought tens of product design works of extraordinary quality, which we can admire at the Slovak Design Award exhibition in the new Pradiareň 1900 space. It is encouraging that it included works of established designers, as well as students, who are at the beginning. I am delighted that as a long-term general partner of the Slovak Design Center, this competition enables us to support and promote designers, who attain world quality,” stated Anna Macaláková, director of J&T BANKA in Slovakia, who is a long-term general partner of the Slovak Design Center.

The Slovak Design Award is an annual event that recognizes and celebrates the best of Slovak design. It awards designers who created innovative and creative works with a significant impact on individual areas of human life, the whole of society, and the environment. Based on these criteria and more, the international jury of seven members comprised of **Michal Staško (SK), Mária Račeková (SK), Stefan Moritsch (AT), Valerio Lupi Cherubini (IT), Václav Mlynář (CZ), Pavel Masopust (CZ), Jakub Berdych (CZ)** together with external advisor **Tomáš Šetaffy (SK)** selected 67 works to be exhibited, out of which 25 received nominations, and 14 were awarded. However, if an insufficient number of quality projects was entered, the jury was not obliged to grant any awards in the given category.

“Product design is an inseparable mirror of our lives. I don’t doubt that the winning products will soon become everyday parts of our lives. That makes me look forward to the new student talent and their future even more. I believe that this award does not only recognize the quality of Slovak design but is also an impulse and a tool for the future of designers and their products. The NCD23 award celebrating its jubilee anniversary is aimed to support designers and producers of design. That is why I would like to wish the awarded and the

NCD competition a lot of strength, innovation and creativity for the future,” said Michal Staško, curator of NCD23.

This year, the jury decided that no works will be nominated nor exhibited in the **Sport & Leisure** category. No nominations were awarded in the **Society & Environment** category, however, some works will be presented at the ongoing exhibition.

One of the special awards presented at the ceremony was the Award for Repairable Design by Repairably:

“When selecting the winner of the Award for Repairable Design, suitable products were reviewed in several stages. The product was selected based on the criterion of meeting or approximating in the best possible way the Repairably manifesto – 10 points of practical reparability.

SHARVAN electric 3 speed was selected from the short-listed products as the 2023 winner. This product already manifests reparability in its appearance. The “reassembly” aspect is supported by its folding feature, the possibility of size adjustments, and the detailed summary of parts and their prices provided by the designer,” said Daniela Lalahová, director of Repairably.

SLOVAK DESIGN AWARD 2023 – PRODUCT DESIGN MAIN AWARDS IN INDIVIDUAL AREAS

Fashion & Fashion Accessories

Pink Matrix Collection

Author: Maťa Ďurikovič

Mata Durikovic focuses on sustainable luxury fashion at her bio-luxury brand MADbyMAD. Her motto “be MAD! be Bioluxury!” translates into her work using bioplastic as a leather replacement, bioplastic crystal leather with 3D embroidery in combination with recycled Swarovski crystal waste, and zero waste techniques such as knitwear and crochet. In her collection “Pink Matrix”, she aims for fully sustainable luxury pieces made to be degradable into separate materials and easily recyclable. The inspiration comes from her childhood memories and the relationship with her grandmother.

Home & Public Space

Bolt Chair

Authors: Jakub Pollág, Filip Krampla

The Bolt Chair, designed by the small independent Prague-based studio zeitgeist.limited led by Jakub Pollag, features an aesthetic component – a unique bolt that mechanically connects its four individual parts. Solid ash wood’s shock resistance, flexibility, and staining potential make it a suitable material for everyday use in a variety of environments. The chair combines hand craftsmanship and consciously selected materials with contemporary technologies and traditional practices that uphold the studio’s principles, while also featuring a flatpack design. The project embodies the studio’s ethos of responsible design and local manufacturing that can be passed down to future generations.

Special award in the Home & Public Space category

IKONA dining table

Author: Alojz Karpiš

The IKONA dining table was born from the desire to create a mass-produced folding table with unique, organic design without compromises, which would stand out from ordinary items and significantly enhance the living space. Thanks to state-of-the-art technologies and experienced CNC programmers, we managed to develop a massive wooden solitaire with impressive graceful curves and rounded corners, which are safe for the user. The table is available in 3 types of wood (beech, oak, and American walnut) and in 10 dimensional modifications. The unfolding function is designed using a front-slide extension with a hidden butterfly leaf.

Work & Mobility

SHARVAN electric 3 speed

Authors: Dušan Mandulák, Štefan Dzurenda

Folding. Growing. Colourful. Sharvan is the first bike of its kind. A unique type that combines 3 functions never seen together before. It grows, it folds, it changes colours. The versatility comes from its modular design. The 2022 basic version of this ecological and sustainable product was certified by Repairably. The 3-speed electric drive allows for energy recuperation. Designed and manufactured in Slovakia.

Special award in the Work & Mobility category

PatakRodster

Authors: Andrej Hulala / Patak Motors

Patak Motors is a Slovak electric vehicle manufacturer offering innovative, sustainable, and affordable mobility solutions for the needs of citizens in semi-urban areas. Patak Motors' world-class designers & engineers have created a working prototype of a small urban electric vehicle named Patak Rodster, which is ready for mass production. The Patak Rodster responds to the growing demand for environmentally friendly, economical and technologically advanced microcars. It stands out from other players in the market thanks to its distinctive 30's retro design, which brings the feeling of freedom and joy of driving. Patak Motors continues in the strong tradition of the automotive industry in Slovakia, the largest per capita car producer in the world.

Art & Design & Craft

Si moja skala

Author: Ján Jánoš

Hora Studio specialises in the experimental process of designing and creating solitary jewellery. It enriches classical goldsmithing techniques with contemporary technologies, such as casting and shaping metal with air. The outputs often transcend the boundaries of applied arts and design. Artist Ján Jánoš incorporates sound, text, and spoken word into his

jewellery installations, creating a balance between different media and ideas. The author himself describes Hora as “a metaphor that connects our experience in the wilderness with our everyday life in the city. The search for safety and refuge or leaving your comfort zone in the pursuit of adventure. All the processes collectively contribute to achieving a holistic experience.”

New Horizons

Housing Society

Author: Damián Cehlárik

How is the material legacy of communism perceived in post-socialist Slovakia? The general public considers it a symbol of the regime. Architecture built during this period is disregarded, destroyed and replaced with lower-quality buildings; furniture is dumped in trash bins at Slovak panel housing estates. Damian Cehlárik uses in-depth interviews, archival documents, and material ethnographies of domestic interiors to explore communist nostalgia, heritage, and erasure. In *Housing Society*, a standard cabinet model found in almost every living room of every panel housing estate apartment, is redesigned to represent ordinary things in a broader context, separating the discord for the regime from the rejection of its materiality.

Student Design

Originalita – autorial technology

Author: Viktor Tabiš

Is mass individualisation a sufficient response to the rising demand for originality? The *Original* offers an insight into the author's technology of ceramic casting arranged as an analogy for a factory line. While the 3D printer constantly produces semi-finished products for plaster casting, the hydraulic press in the following stage breaks the mould elements randomly. The customer participates by individualizing the sequence of elements for the original porcelain mould.

Special award in the Student Design category

Softshell

Author: Juraj Olejár

This project deals with the research on and the practical application of foamed aluminium – a material developed by the Slovak Academy of Sciences for the design practice. It consists of initial tests and the development of possible techniques for joining the material using its foaming feature, followed by the specific application of these procedures into forms of interior or jewellery design. The work consists of a series of chairs and various types of jewellery, brooches, and rings. In order to preserve the designer's autonomy and in an effort to gain the deepest possible understanding of the material and its possibilities, I avoid using any external technologies and processes in the project. All objects were created using a hand torch or other hand tools. Tests and trials, as well as the final objects, are equal parts of the project.

AWARDS FOR DESIGN LUMINARIES

Award for Design Luminaries – Emerging Talent

Maťa Ďurikovič

Emerging talent of the Slovak design scene is an accurate label for the works of designer Maťa Ďurikovič. The jury awarded the author the Emerging Talent Award for experimentation and her innovative and zero waste approaches, which she transforms into unbound creativity.

Award for Design Luminaries – Established Designer

Juraj Straka

Design is not a sprint. Design is a gruelling and long journey. The jury proposed to award the Established Designer Award in the jubilee year to textile designer Juraj Straka, whose professional journey and successes are indisputable at home and abroad.

Award for Long-term Economic Contribution in Design

CTM

Slovak bicycle brand was established almost 30 years ago in Stará Turá. CTM opened their first retail store in Stará Turá in 1994. It was founded by Miroslav Lukáč and Kamil Vrábel and gradually grew into a large and dynamic bicycle brand. The CTM brand is under the umbrella of BELVE. In 2023, the company sold more than 50,000 bicycles and extended its spaces and manufacturing facilities. It does not matter if it's a racing Enduro bike or an urban commuter, the brand's approach to creating a new product is always the same. CTM makes bikes that are visually appealing and also technically and functionally developed – bicycles are designed and tested in Slovakia and the company also has the internationally successful CTM Racing Team.

Award for Long-term Cultural Contribution in Design

Ferdinand Chrenka

Ferdinand is one of our most important and most productive industrial designers with a plethora of prestigious awards. In 1971, he graduated SUPŠ in Brno. Before attending VŠVU, he had worked for 5 years as a designer in Technické sklo in Dúbravka, a company designing thermometers, Christmas decorations, and technical glass. This experience had made him a disciplined designer. In 1976, he started studying at VŠVU in Bratislava at the studio of shaping machinery and tools – industrial design.

He had been active as a teacher since 1990. At the Academy of Fine Art and Design, he led an introductory design course and in 1993 founded the Studio of Industrial Design, which he led until June of this year. The studio focuses on people and their work activities. The range of products stemming from this relationship reacts to the past as an inspiring genetic bond, perceives the present through the real development of the design practice, and views the future with a feeling of design's co-responsibility for morality and ecological awareness.

He divides his work into pedagogical activities (at the Academy of Fine Art and Design until June 2023), own design projects, and work at his farm by Nová Baňa. Here, he also organizes various cultural events, which contributed to him being awarded the prestigious Krišťálové krídlo award in 2011. His works and the works of his students are anchored in reality, despite not fitting the narrow modernist creed: "form after function". They reflect the identity of our past, relate to current problems of the present, and predict the future design tasks. They perceptibly respond to the needs of a sustainable life, utilizing the potential of current production technologies and materials. They accept the importance of economic and technical conditions impacting design, while also perceive it as an important element of cultural and awareness-building activities. They search for balance between the commercial and humanitarian dimensions of design.

Ferdinand Chrenka had received several Slovak Design Awards – for dentist chairs manufactured by Chirana Stará Turá. From 1999 to 2015, around 16 thousand SMILE dentist units with a modular selection system and colour selection possibilities were sold to customers in 40 countries of the world. Related to this success, the legacy continues with the second generation CHEESE series. The SMILE collection enabled Chirana Medical to return to the global markets, received the Slovak Design Award 1999, 2001, 2009, Design Prestige ČR 1999, and the Ján Bahýľ Award 2010. He has been involved in the long-term project of solar-wind power plants, is in the process of designing an e-car battery charger to be produced by Tesla Liptovský Hrádok, and a new dental set.

Special Award for Repairability

SHARVAN bike

Authors: Dušan Mandulák, Štefan Dzurenda

Folding. Growing. Colourful. Sharvan is the first bike of its kind. A unique type that combines 3 functions never seen together before. It grows, it folds, it changes colours. The versatility comes from its modular design. The 2022 basic version of this ecological and sustainable product was certified by Repairably. The 3-speed electric drive allows for energy recuperation. Designed and manufactured in Slovakia.

The NCD23 exhibition is presented at Pradiareň 1900 until 3 November 2023. Opening hours: Tuesday – Wednesday 10 a.m. – 6 p.m., Thursday – Sunday 1 p.m. – 6 p.m. Free entry Visitors can see many interesting works, that reflect the current design trends and are worth a look. Besides the exhibition, they can enjoy various accompanying events like the Design Club, which will introduce the authors selected by the international jury, who are presented at the NCD23 exhibition, in 10 interviews, or the exhibition of Mária Račková, jury member of the NCD23, which is already open at Satelit Design Gallery and will last until 16 November 2023. Visitors can learn more about the exhibited works at a guided tour with this year's curator Michal Staško on 17 October 2023 at 10 a.m. for schools and at 5 p.m. for general public. On 21 October 2023, in cooperation with the Fashion Map Weekend there will be a NCD discussion entitled "*The Best Slovak Product Design: A chat with the finalists of the Slovak Design Award 2023*" and all the events will culminate with the première of the "*Dizajn za každú cenu*" documentary on 31 October at 6 p.m. at Lumière cinema (SNG).

We cordially invite you and are looking forward to your visit!

For more information about NCD23 visit <https://scd.sk/ncd> or our social media – Slovak Design Award's [IG](#) and [FB](#), Slovak Design Center's [IG](#) and [FB](#).

#scd #ncd #ncd2023 #dizajn #design #slovakdesignaward #narodnacenazadizajn

Competition announcers:

Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic, Slovak Design Center

Organizer:

Slovak Design Center

SCD's general advertising partner:

J&T Banka

SCD's main partner:

Antalis

SCD's main media partner:

Designum

NCD's general media partner:

RTVS

NCD's main partners:

Nová scéna theatre, Repairably, Slovak Fashion Council

NCD's product partners:

Budiš

Ultra Premium Brands, exclusive distributor of Campari premium brand in Slovakia

Exhibition's main partner:

Pradiareň 1900

Partner for accompanying events:

Hemisféra ľavá o. z., Kino Lumière, Slovenská národná galéria

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