

# DISTRIBUTED DESIGN AWARDS 2023



Entry Guide  
& Rules

Image: Dodola by Pjorkkala Collective

A project by



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Design



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# Eligible projects

## 1. Eligible Projects

2. Calendar
3. Submission
4. Judging Process
5. The Winners
6. Rules & Rights

Participation is open to all creative projects at the intersection of the maker movement and digital design under the following restrictions:

- The work must have been designed no longer than 5 years ago.
- Participation is limited to projects designed within Europe by designers based in any country of the European Union or countries that participate in the Creative Europe Programme.
- The design project must reflect some of the aspects of at least two of the four principles of distributed design: valuable, distributable, reproducible and design sensitive.
- Projects should be at least in the production stage but ideally are already tested and finalised projects.
- Projects submitted for previous editions of the Distributed Design Awards are not eligible.





# Calendar

1. Eligible Projects

**2. Calendar**

3. Submission

4. Judging Process

5. The Winners

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Open for entries period will be closed on June 30th at 23:59 h CET.

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**Open for entries → Thursday, May 25th**

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**Submission deadline → Friday, June 30th**

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**Judging process → Three phases settled in July**

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**Finalist announcement → Friday, July 28th**

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**Winners announcement → Friday, September 1st**

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**Award acceptance → Two weeks after notice**

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**Prize receipt → Project Excellence (by the end of November 2023), Responsible Design, Future Thinking, Open & Adaptable Design, People's Choice by the end of 2023.**

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\*Please note that the Distributed Design Awards organization reserves the right to modify or change the dates without previous notice.



# Submission

1. Eligible Projects

2. Calendar

**3. Submission**

4. Judging Process

5. The Winners

6. Rules & Rights

All projects should be submitted by completing the entry form at [distributeddesign.eu](http://distributeddesign.eu) taking into account the following points:

- Explain and defend your project as best as possible. This is your chance to convince the jury.
- Take into account the 'Selection Criteria' section to choose the right words and highlight what makes your project an award winner.
- Submitted texts will be used for communication purposes, so check your writing and text composition before submitting.
- Make sure to fill in each question. Do not leave any boxes empty.
- The images should be a good representation of your project. Sketches or working documents are not allowed. High-quality images are desired. High-quality renders will be considered.
- Submitted projects don't need to be addressed to any specific award category. All works compete in all categories.
- By filling out the entry form, you are accepting the Distributed Design Awards terms and conditions (please see the 'Rules & Terms' section for further details).



# Judging Process

1. Eligible Projects

2. Calendar

3. Submission

**4. Judging Process**

5. The Winners

6. Rules & Rights

## Rounds and voting system

The Distributed Design Awards 2023 establishes three judging phases to ensure both process optimisation and fairness.

First Round: 36 pre-selected → Each juror (a representative of each of the 16 Distributed Design partners members) will select two projects and assign them to one category resulting in 9 projects per category (36 in total).

Second Round: 12 finalists → The best among the 36 pre-selected projects. The Distributed Design coordination team at Fab Lab Barcelona at IAAC makes a shortlist of 12 projects for the final round. Each juror (seven in total) has 3 votes per category. The 3 most voted projects per category (12 in total) are shortlisted for the final round.

Final Round: 3 winners & 1 winner of the winners → Each Advisory Board member (six in total) of the Distributed Design Platform should select 1 project from the 3 of each award category, and propose 1 of those 4 projects as the winner among the winners. The most voted project of each category will receive the award.

People's Choice: 1 winner → The public will have the chance to vote for their favorite project online in May. The voting system will be announced on our social media channels **@distributeddesign**.

## Selection Criteria

The jury will assess the projects individually during each of the phases using the following criteria:

Distributable → The design can travel globally to be manufactured locally.

- Is the design accessible through digital platforms? Eg. through an online repository or online archive where files can be downloaded.
- How is the project already distributed in the world? How many times it has been downloaded, made, bought, assembled, forked.
- What is the distribution strategy? Is it produced in a central factory and shipped to the world?



## Entry Guide & Rules

1. Eligible Projects
2. Calendar
3. Submission
- 4. Judging Process**
5. The Winners
6. Rules & Rights



Reproducible → The design takes local availability into account and is based on globally available materials and hardware.

- Does the product allow for customization?
- What is the strategy for supply chain and manufacture of the product? Is the production of the product close to its final consumption?

Valuable → The design creates value for people, companies, and/or society.

- Are there principles of circular economy in the product?
- Is it designed or developed by the use of extended intelligent tools?. E.g. machine learning or parametric design tools.
- What is the impact expected of the project? Is it trying to solve a specific issue?

Design Sensitive → A sensitivity is brought to the aesthetics and application of the design.

- Does the designer consider an aesthetic dimension in the work?
- Are materials, finishings and components chosen to ensure the design is pleasing to potential users?
- Does the design show innovation in terms of materiality, aesthetics or use?
- Does the designer consider the presentation of the project?

We promote diversity, equity and inclusion. Inviting everyone, with Europe based projects, independent of their origin, ethnicity, creed, culture, gender identification or religious background to join!

The Distributed Design Awards aims to ensure gender-equal participation and benefits. We will work to minimize gender disparities across all the awards stages.

## Entry Guide & Rules

1. Eligible Projects

2. Calendar

3. Submission

### 4. Judging Process

5. The Winners

6. Rules & Rights

## The Jury

The jury is formed by professionals and distributed design experts on each assessing round. They will act and decide according to the evaluation criteria ensuring partiality and fairness.

The jury decision is final and will be kept secret until the official announcement of the finalists and winners projects.

Project Members → 18 cultural institutions representatives:



re:publica



PAKHUIS DE ZWIJGER\*

espacio  
open

POLIFACTORY  
POLITECNICO MILANO 1863



DDC

maker



DCI Design & Crafts  
Council Ireland



FabLab  
Budapest



gig

laac

Project Coordinator →

Distributed Design Platform team members at Fab Lab Barcelona at IAAC with Jessica Guy as project manager and Olga Trevisan as programme coordinator.

Project Advisory Board → 7 international prestigious experts:



**Indy Johar**  
Dark  
Matter Labs



**Daniel Charny**  
Fixperts



**Guillaume  
Charny-Brunet**  
Space10



**Nadya Peek**  
HCDE



**Liza Chong**  
The INDEX  
Project



**Primavera De  
Filippi**  
Berkman Klein  
Center, Harvard



**Kate  
Armstrong**  
Distributed Design  
Platform strategic  
advisor

# The Winners

1. Eligible Projects
2. Calendar
3. Submission
4. Judging Process
- 5. The Winners**
6. Rules & Rights

## Categories

The Distributed Design Awards fifth edition establishes four different award categories. Designers shouldn't address their application to any specific category. All projects will compete in each of the categories.

Future Thinking → Design for a better future, considering social and cultural challenges and human wellbeing.

Responsible Design → Design that engages circular design principles such as responsible materials. It draws on the capacity of local materials and or knowledge, including craft or specialist processes.

Adaptable & Open Design → Design that is made open source, is transparent and/or allows for adaptation and/or customization.

People's Choice → Design recognized by people and the distributed design network online. The most voted entry during May.

We will also choose the best among all the projects awarded and recognise it with the:

Project Excellence Award → that should tackle the fourth principles of distributed design: Open, Collaborative, Regenerative and Ecosystemic.



## Prizes

1. Eligible Projects
2. Calendar
3. Submission
4. Judging Process
- 5. The Winners**
6. Rules & Rights



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Project Excellence winner will receive → 2.000 € project funding from the Distributed Design Platform. Additional mentoring or a visit to one of the Distributed Design Platform members are available at request.

## Categories



Future Thinking winner → Synthesizing Futures mentorship



Responsible Design winner → Regenerative materials insights and mentorships

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Open & Adaptable Design winner → Distributed Design Support mentorship

People's Choice winner → Dutch Design Week (DDW) pro ticket. Include access to all locations and exclusive extras.

*\*Designers awarded must submit a report in a Blog Post format on the insights and experiences gained from the prize received within one month after the prize is delivered.*

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1. Eligible Projects
2. Calendar
3. Submission
4. Judging Process
5. The Winners
- 6. Rules & Rights**

## Rules & Rights

- Submitted projects must be original and may not infringe on the rights of a third party.
- Distributed Design organisation is not responsible for the authenticity of the information included by the designers in the open call form.
- Distributed Design organisation is not responsible for claims of plagiarism.
- Distributed Design organisation reserves the right without any compensation to use submitted texts and visual materials for communication purposes of the Platform activities; including, but not limited to, press material, brochures, websites and third-party marketing materials.
- Designers awarded must accept the prize within a two-week period after receiving notice from the organisation.
- Designers awarded must submit a one-page report one month after the prize is executed.
- By entering, you agree to these rules and warrant that you are eligible to enter the contest.
- The data will not be transferred unless they are strictly indispensable for the fulfilment of the aforementioned purposes or legal obligations.

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