THE FIRST ISTANBUL DESIGN BIENNIAL ENDED

The first Istanbul Design Biennial, realised after two and a half years of preparation, at the 40th anniversary of Istanbul Foundation for Culture and Arts, with the co-sponsorship of Eren Holding, Koray Group of Companies, Vestel and Vitra, ended on Wednesday, 12 December.

Curators Emre Arolat and Joseph Grima interpreted the theme “Imperfection” (Kusurluluk), determined by Deyan Sudjic, Director of Design Museum – London and a member of the Advisory Board of the Istanbul Design Biennial, from their own perspectives. Over 100 projects by nearly 300 designers and architects from 46 countries were hosted in curatorial exhibitions located in two different venues. “Musibet” exhibition, curated by Emre Arolat took place in Istanbul Modern, and “Adhocracy” exhibition curated by Joseph Grima was in Galata Greek Primary School.

In addition to two main exhibitions, Academy Programme, Workshop Exhibitions, Film Screenings, Design Walks, Seminar Programme and Parallel Participant Programme were realised during the past two months, in different neighbourhoods of Istanbul.

- Panels and colloquia, as well as the products and ideas emerged as a part of the Academy Programme, which was developed in collaboration with 76 departments from 26 universities in Istanbul, Ankara, İzmir, Eskişehir and Northern Cyprus, were organised. 82 projects, by various faculties and departments of the universities aiming to offer new perspectives to the “Imperfection” theme, were visited by 27,250 people for free in 17 university campuses and 5 different venues around the city.

- Products, projects, sketches and other materials designed by nearly 250 students and 30 international designers in 12 different workshops, as a part of pre-events that took place from 22 to 27 March 2012, were displayed in 21 different venues located in various neighbourhoods of Istanbul.

- As a part of the Film Screenings, documentaries and video works consisted of 19 films from 9 countries and a wide variety of themes ranging from architecture to fashion design, product design and graphic design, from gastronomy to urban design, were screened in a 19-day programme. The opening event of the Film Screenings was the panel titled “Cinema and Design: A Creative Relationship”, which hosted director Gary Hustwit, film critic Esin Küçüktepepinar, advertiser and academician at Istanbul Bilgi University Levent Erden and the Director of Istanbul Design Biennial Özlem Yalim Özkaraoğlu as speakers. Within the scope of the panel, urban transformation of Istanbul was discussed, as well.

- Design Walks, which provided the opportunity to visit design-focused offices, stores, workshops, manufacturers and architectural structures in different regions of Istanbul with exclusive guided tours, were performed on 8 different routes: Kuzguncuk, Beyoğlu-Cihangir-Galatasaray, Şişhane-Galata, Nişantaşı-Teşvikiye, Sultanahmet, Fener-Balat, Karaköy and Design Walk with TasapPlatform. Design Walks has attracted great attention to both visitors from Turkey and from other countries, additional walks were organised in the programme.

- As a part of Seminar Programme, different institutions organised a total of 16 seminars, panels and conferences related with the biennial theme. Among the participants of the Seminar Programme were: GSD-Public Space, Art and Design Programme Executive Krzysztof Wodiczko, the Dean of London Royal College of Art Ute Meta Bauer, the Dean of Columbia University Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation Mark Wigley, author, curator, historian of architecture Zeynep Çelik, architect Felicity D. Scott, the Director of New York Urban Planning Division Amanda M. Burden, the authorities from Rotterdam Architecture Biennial, the Mayor of Rotterdam Ahmed Aboutaleb, the Mayor of Arnavutköy Ahmed Hasım Baltacı, the President of TÜSİAD Ümit Boyner, the President of YANDEX Arkady Volozh, the General Director of Copyright Management Department in Turkish Ministry of Culture and Tourism, Abdurrahman Çelik and the Mayor of Beyoğlu Ahmet Misbah Demircan.

- Parallel Participant Programme, realized in collaboration with the architecture/design studios and firms active in creative fields such as +D Group, Arzum, BMS, Camhane, Camper, ÇEBİ, Doku, Dilek Hanif, Ersa, Koleksiyon, Meriç Akay, Milli Reasürans Art Gallery, Mozaik, NORDist. Tayfun Mumcu, Turkish Patent Institute, Zebra Design Factory, hosted important Turkish designers, thinkers and opinion leaders among which were Prof. Dr. İlhan Tekeli, Prof. Dr. Murat Güvenç, Ali Cindoruk, Ela Cindoruk, Ayşe Bırsel, Koray Özgen, Ece Yalım and internationally known designers such as Marcel Wanders, Giulio Cappellini, Filip Pagowski and Bibi Seck.

- Followed closely by the international press, Istanbul Design Biennial hosted over 300 design editors and critics from 25 countries during the time it stayed open and covered extensively by the prominent media institutions of the world.

Opened its doors on 13 October, the Istanbul Design Biennial exhibitions were visited by 44,600 people. With its parallel events, it reached an overall number of 115,000 viewers.
**Children and students met design in Istanbul Design Biennial:**
**Visitors enjoyed the exhibitions with free guided tours**

As a part of the Istanbul Design Biennial, an education programme titled “Design Time”, which was exclusively organised for the children of 9-12 age groups, was introduced. As a part of the BitamBiörgrenci (OneFullOneStudent) project, realised with the support of individual participants of İKSV and The Association for Supporting Contemporary Life (CYDD), Bilgi University Youth Studies Unit, Nesin Foundation, Tarlabaşı Social Center, Community Volunteers Foundation (TGV) and Educational Volunteers Foundation of Turkey (TEGV), around 3,500 students visited the Istanbul Design Biennial exhibitions.

35 guides worked for the tours organised as a part of the biennial. With the contributions by the biennial co-sponsor Vestel, ticketed visitors had a chance to go on free guided tours of the exhibitions. University Students, in collaboration with the İKSV Official Communications Sponsor Vodafone, received their second tickets for free.

**Exclusive publications of Istanbul Design Biennial**

Several publications were prepared for the Istanbul Design Biennial: Istanbul Design Biennial Creative City Map that includes all biennial events, Istanbul Design Biennial Programme Booklet that includes full details of exhibitions and events and three-volume Istanbul Design Biennial Catalogue that provides detailed information about the projects displayed by uniquely conceptualizing the context of design. The catalogue was designed by Marco Ferrari and Elisa Pasqual, the designers of Istanbul Design Biennial website and DOMUS Magazine, edited by Benan Kapucu, Tamar Shafrir, Vera Sacchetti and Avinash Rajagopal, and published by Ofset Yapımevi.

Published fortnightly since May as a part of the biennial, the “New City Reader” will stay on the walls around the city until the end of the year. “New City Reader” covering a variety of different subjects in every issue, features articles on the city, architecture and public space. You can visit the official website of the Biennial: istanbultasarimbiyeni.iksv.org for the detailed content of the New City Reader.

**Institutions which supported the Istanbul Design Biennial**

- First Istanbul Design Biennial was realised with the co-sponsorship of Eren Holding, Koray Group of Companies, Vestel and VitrA.
- Absolut Vodka, Coca-Cola, Roman, Matraş, and Nef supported the Istanbul Design Biennial workshops as well as co-sponsors Koray Group of Companies, Vestel and VitrA.
- Venue supporters of the workshops and film screenings were TMMOB Chamber of Architect Istanbul Branch, Material ConneXion Istanbul, Dükkan Steak House, Mimar Sinan University of Fine Arts Department of Ceramics and Glass Design, Pera Museum and French Cultural Center.
- Design Walks was sponsored by o.d.m. watches.
- Audi Urban Future Initiative was the seminar sponsor of Istanbul Design Biennial.
- TUSKON (Turkish Confederation of Businessman and Industrialists) was the sponsor of the creative city map. TÜSİAD (Turkish Industry and Business Association) was also among the supporters of the biennial.
- The official accommodation sponsor of the Biennial was Martı İstanbul Hotel and the official building materials sponsor was Jotun Boya. +90 ArtıDoksan, Koleksiyon, Hızlı İmalat Teknolojileri San. ve Tic. AŞ, CEVA Lojistik, UPM-Kymmene Kağıt Ürünleri San ve Tic. Ltd. Şti, Lumina Aydınlatma, Adahan İstanbul Hotel, and Kavaklığı were the other companies supporting the biennial.
- Promotion Fund of the Prime Ministry Ministry for EU Affairs, Ministry of Culture and Tourism, Istanbul Governorate, Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality, and Beyoğlu Municipality also supported the Istanbul Design Biennial.
- The leading sponsor of all festivals by Istanbul Foundation for Culture and Arts is Eczacıbaşı, the Official Airlines is Turkish Airlines, the Official Communications Sponsor is Vodafone, the Official Carrier is DHL Express, and the service sponsors are Ergo Insurance and GFK.
- TBWA prepared the corporate images of the biennial.
For further information:
istanbultasarimbiennial.iksv.org
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For high-resolution images from the Istanbul Design Biennial: www.iksvphoto.com

For video recordings related to the Istanbul Design Biennial, please contact İKSV Media Relations from medya@iksv.org