

# UTOPICS

## Earth Day, Every Day!

Earth Day is a yearly event that started in 1970 to celebrate protecting the Earth's natural resources and raise awareness towards environmentalism. On the 22nd of April every year, people from different backgrounds come together to promote sustainability and climate action. Throughout April, the [Earth Day Organization](#) celebrates Earth Month with marches, rallies, volunteer events, and more.

At the Design Campus, we join the movement and celebrate Earth Day every-single-day! We stand with old and new generations of climate activists and pledge to do our best to support the design community with educational opportunities, raising awareness of the role and power of design and designers against this pervasive environmental crisis. There is, indeed, no Planet B!

This season, in particular, plants are centre-staged at the Design Campus. We invited design researchers and curators Laura Drouet and Olivier Lacroux, known as studio d-o-t-s, to help us reframe our relationship with plants. Based on their [Manifesto of Phyto-Centred Design](#), they curated this season's exhibition [Plant Fever](#) at the museum and are the appointed [Heads of the Summer School Class 2023](#), "[The School of Phyto-Centred Design](#)".

The Manifesto, which consists of seven points, serves as a moral compass to guide us towards a more respectful,

responsible, and empathic relationship with our environment.

“In its traditional understanding and execution, design is a discipline focused on the satisfaction of human needs and wishes. The ongoing Climate Emergency, however, reminds us that caring only for our species’ desires has had – and keeps having – unfortunate repercussions on the planet and the other beings that co-inhabit it with us. Changing direction is essential. Deconstructing the principles of design and supporting instead multi-specific relationships and pluricultural narratives is an urgency.” Laura Drouet and Olivier Lacrouts

The School of Phyto-Centred Design proposes an innovative approach to design that considers the needs and health of not only humans but also the vegetal world. It aims to create a more sustainable future by encouraging a new approach that values multi-specific relationships and pluricultural narratives. The participants of the SCHOOL will be led by a selection of experimental thinkers and practitioners, who will be further nourished by accompanying lectures from specialists and visits to pertinent sites surrounding the Design Campus at Pillnitz Palace & Park.

The programme values multidisciplinary, multiculturalism, collaboration, and critical thinking, sowing seeds of disobedience and inclusiveness.

Join the School of Phyto-Centred Design and adopt a green filter to design! Discover and get inspired by the vegetal world and imagine new design approaches that could benefit all beings without distinction.

When you unite with millions of others around the world, we can create an inclusive and impactful movement for a sustainable and equitable future. For all!

Join us!

-- Thomas, Aline and Team Design Campus

-- Thomas A. Geisler

Design Campus and Kunstgewerbemuseum Director  
-- Aline Lara Rezende, Editor and  
Design Campus Chief Knowledge and Impact Officer

# DESIGN ↗ CAMPUS

CLASS 2023  
APPLICATIONS OPEN IN MARCH

## THE SCHOOL OF PHYTO- CENTRED DESIGN

CURATED BY  
STUDIO D-O-T-S

20/07  
- 25/08  
2023

FIND OUT MORE  
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[DESIGNCAMPUS@SKD.MUSEUM](mailto:DESIGNCAMPUS@SKD.MUSEUM)



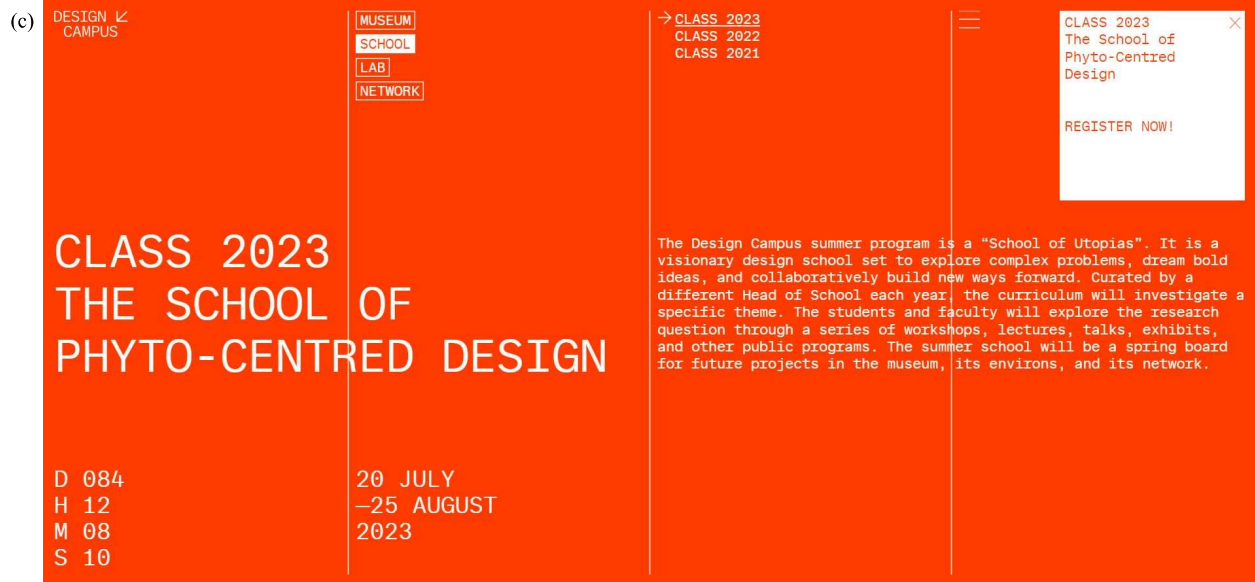
(c) Flyer by Bueronardine

## School of Phyto-centered Design

Design has traditionally been focused on human needs and desires, but the ongoing Climate Emergency necessitates a shift in perspective. The School of Phyto-Centred Design is a new approach to design that considers the needs and health of not only humans but also the vegetal world.

Follow the links to learn more about the [Heads of School 2023](#) - Laura Drouet and Olivier Lacrouts from Studio d-o-t-s and their curatorial statement for the Summer School CLASS 2023 - [School of Phyto-centered Design](#).

[READ MORE](#)



designcampus.org

## Workshops – REGISTRATION OPEN

We walk and talk innovation at the Design Campus. We listened to you, and decided to change the format of our workshops to allow more time at the Summer School! Now, instead of 1-week long, the workshops will be 9-days long. We kept the features you liked: accommodation and food are still included in your tuition fee for the duration of the program. The lineup of tutors and talks is as stellar as always: [Fernando Laposse](#), [Emma Bruschi](#), [Simone Kenyon](#), [Passepartout Duo](#), [ERBA](#), and [d-o-t-s](#) themselves!

There are no hidden or extra fees here. Just come!

[Register now](#) to be part of this innovative initiative and sow seeds of disobedience and inclusiveness towards a more sustainable future!

MORE INFO



(c) Matthieu Visentin

Plant Fever. Towards a Phyto-Centred Design

The way people interact with nature needs to change! PLANT FEVER, curated by Laura Drouets and Olivier Lacrouts of studio d-o-t-s, is a multi-layered project that aims to explore how design can help us to reshape our relationship with plants and see them as allies, addressing issues like climate justice and human consumer behavior.

The exhibition, PLANT FEVER, has been produced by the Centre d'Innovation et de Design (CID) in Grand-Hornu, was shown in Belgium and Switzerland and is now coming to Pillnitz Palace & Park from April 29 to October 31, 2023, adapted by the Kunstgewerbemuseum, Staatliche Kunstsammlungen Dresden and the Staatliche Schlösser, Burgen und Gärten Sachsen.

Don't miss this opportunity to explore the potential of plants and rethink our relationship with them.

PLANT FEVER



(c) mischer'traxler

## THEMIS REAL TIME

### - When Rights of Nature (RoN) meets AI

What if our views on democracy evolved further and developed into an ecocracy, where next to humans, ecosystems and non-human species would have (equal) rights and be included in decision-making processes?

Themis is a digital real-time avatar project that gives a voice and appearance to ecosystems and non-human species, allowing them to be heard and seen in courtrooms, societies, and social media. This LAB project, by studio mischer'traxler, is a step towards developing ecocracy, where ecosystems and non-human species have equal rights as humans. Using AI,

Themis ensures that nature is understood and included in society. The Rights of Nature movement enables Nature to have inherent rights, similar to fundamental human rights.

FIND MORE



(c) TU Dresden at Design Campus

## TU Circular Design Challenge 2023

The Circular Design Challenge, an international summer workshop under the umbrella of the New European Bauhaus, is a 9-day program that provides the latest insights, tools, and methods for circular design in construction and product design. Organized by a multi-disciplinary team of researchers from TU Dresden and hosted by the DESIGN CAMPUS, this program is supported by experts from our partners Fraunhofer IWU, DesignLab for Applied Research, TU Delft and ICN Creative Business School.

The Circular Design Challenge targets Master students and early PhD students from architecture, civil engineering, human-centred and engineering design as well as cognate disciplines who are eager to learn about and engage in sustainable circular design.

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Die Beauftragte der Bundesregierung  
für Kultur und Medien

Staatliche  
Kunstsammlungen  
Dresden

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