

UT*PICS

Raising Our Glasses to Four Years of DESIGN CAMPUS!

As we bid farewell to 2023, we not only celebrate the end of an inspiring year but also the successful conclusion of a transformative funding cycle at DESIGN CAMPUS.

Reflecting on the DESIGN CAMPUS journey over the past four years fills us with joy and gratitude. Originating as a research and development platform, the DESIGN CAMPUS has evolved into a vibrant academy for utopian thinking, learning, and cross-disciplinary exchange, shaped by the unique character of our locale. The rich collections of the Museum of Decorative Arts and the State Art Collections have been invaluable in realizing this vision.

Our mission is twofold. Firstly, we are committed to nurturing creativity, empowering minds, and fostering a collaborative design community. With three consecutive Summer Schools, numerous Lab projects, and an expansive Network, we take pride in our accomplishments.

Secondly, we challenge traditional museum roles and processes. Circular strategies guide our curatorial process, inspired by the principles of the circular economy. The transformative approach, fueled by projects across our pillars—MUSEUM, LAB, SCHOOL, NETWORK—ensures longer project life terms and that the knowledge produced becomes a dynamic entity, utilized and reused in various ways. This marks a paradigm shift from linear production-consumption norms in cultural institutions globally. Below, we have highlighted a few projects that have hit the “circularity jackpot,” reaching all four pillars of the DESIGN CAMPUS. Check them out!

The DESIGN CAMPUS extends beyond its boundaries, showcasing projects at notable cultural events like the London Design Biennale, Ljubljana Design Biennale, Vienna Design Week, and more. It is our goal and pride to become a fluid cultural platform, that goes beyond the museum’s walls.

Our groundbreaking endeavors are made possible by the generous support of the project “Acquisition, Digitization, and Public Reflection of the State Ethnographic Collections of Saxony,” funded by the Federal Government Commissioner for the Arts and Media. Heartfelt thanks go to the General Directorate of the State Art Collections, colleagues, partners, and our dedicated team at the Museum of Decorative Arts for their trust and collaboration.

Closing this chapter of the year and funding cycle, we express gratitude for milestones reached, lives impacted, and the collective spirit defining our design community. The end of this funding cycle signals not a conclusion but a transition to exciting new opportunities ahead. Stay tuned as we are just about to organize the DESIGN CAMPUS program of 2024!

As we enter the holiday season, warm wishes go out to every member of our design community. May your days be filled with joy, warmth, and creative moments.

Stay inspired!

Thomas, Aline & Team Design Campus

--- Thomas A. Geisler
Design Campus and Kunstgewerbemuseum Director
--- Aline Lara Recendes, Editor and
Design Campus Chief Knowledge and Impact Officer

DESIGN ↗ CAMPUS



OPEN STUDIO, Workshop ERBA: Weaving Nettles Tales, © KGM/Felix Meutznar

[MUSEUM | LAB | SCHOOL | NETWORK] Plant Fever: Towards Phyto-centered Design

The Circularity Jackpot goes to Laura Drouet and Olivier Lacroux from [studio d-o-t-s](#) for their multi-layered project at DESIGN CAMPUS. Building on years of research and guided by *The Manifesto of Phyto-centered Design*, they've connected with our NETWORK, gathered local knowledge through the LAB, and curated the Summer SCHOOL program this year, informed by their exhibition *Plant Fever*, showcased at the MUSEUM in 2023. This project touches all four pillars of the DESIGN CAMPUS – NETWORK, LAB, SCHOOL, MUSEUM.

Excitingly, *Plant Fever* will continue its journey next year, undergoing a transformative renewal, seamlessly integrating brilliant outcomes from this year's Summer SCHOOL.

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[MUSEUM | LAB | SCHOOL | NETWORK] BROT: Baking the Future

From geopolitical contexts to microbiological processes to multi-sensory experiences, bread and bread making can open up a whole new universe and pathway for transformative design practices. Together with the curator and DESIGN CAMPUS director, Thomas A. Geisler, the design duo [Chmara.Rosinke](#) addresses and explores the complexity of bread in this project, that started as a DESIGN CAMPUS LAB, tapping into our NETWORK the project went on to be this year's Austrian pavilion at the London Design Biennale 2023, was presented at Vienna Design Week, and won the 2023 Saxon State Prize for Design / Vision. Now, as part of our MUSEUM pillar, it is being showcased at the Japanisches Palais in Dresden.

[Brot: Baking the Future: Das Kunstgewerbemuseum auf der London Design Biennale 2023](#)



CITIZEN'S ASSEMBLY, KUNSTGEWERBEMUSEUM, HTW DRESDEN, © KGM

[MUSEUM | LAB | SCHOOL | NETWORK] Design and Democracy

The DESIGN CAMPUS's inaugural Summer SCHOOL in 2021 acted as the catalyst for a comprehensive project exploring the intersections between Design and Democracy. Over the course of the six-week program, it delved into the role of design in democratic processes, shedding light on the social and political dimensions of the discipline.

What began as a Summer SCHOOL has evolved into a collaborative effort across multiple institutions through our NETWORK. Leveraging our LAB structure, we experimented with citizen participation in museums, setting the stage for the project's return to the MUSEUM as a full-fledged traveling exhibition in 2025.

In May 2024, the culmination of this three-year research project will materialize with the debut of the exhibition “All In! Re-Designing Democracy” at the Bundeskunsthalle in Bonn. Subsequently, in 2025, the exhibition will find its way to the Japanische Palais in Dresden.

[CHECK IT OUT!](#)

[Assembly School of the Transcultural Academy: "Futurities"](#)
[Class 2021 Design & Democracy](#)



Utopics Magazine – Ground Zero

The launch of UTOPICS, the official magazine of the DESIGN CAMPUS, takes readers on a journey through the Campus's ambitious beginning and its whereabouts now. Get ready to be inspired by the groundbreaking work of designers and visionaries who are shaping our future.

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