

Newcomer Award of the German Design Awards 2017: The five finalists have been chosen

Frankfurt, 10 October 2016

The finalists for the Newcomer Award of the German Design Awards 2017 have been selected: With their promising portfolios, the industrial designers Dirk Biotto, Janine Dasbeck, Peter Otto Vosding, Philippe Vossel and Benjamin Würkner have prevailed over 119 other nominees. They can be proud of their creative talent and extraordinary achievements, which the German Design Council wishes to honour and support with this prize for young designers.

The placements in the final round of selection for the Newcomer Award are not only symbolic honours, but carry prizes of € 2,500 each. The winner of the Newcomer Award, which will be presented in February 2017 at the awards ceremony of the German Design Awards, can look forward to a prize money of € 15,000. However, the renown of the competition and the international publicity arising from it is at least equally valuable for the young designers thus honoured. Moreover, the German Design Council offers all finalists the opportunity to become acquainted with its foundation members, who are leading figures in the design industry, at a series of exclusive events.

'With the Newcomer Award, we not only fulfil one of our core duties – supporting creative talents of the next generation – but every year we enter a sort of laboratory of the future, in which the possibilities of tomorrow appear to indicate the trends of the slightly more distant future', said Andrej Kupetz, chief executive of the German Design Council, in commenting on the role of the Newcomer Award, which is of equal interest to young designers and industry. *'It is important to us to incorporate these perspectives in the current discourse on design and to bring the young designers into networks that are crucial in this regard.'*

Deutsche Telekom is once again sponsoring the Newcomer Award. *'In the exciting environment of a world undergoing major transformation via digitalisation, it is imperative to take on responsibility for design. Young designers play a key role in this regard. We need outstanding designers with drive, expertise and flair who are ready to design the environment of tomorrow',* emphasised Philipp Thesen, Chief Designer at Deutsche Telekom AG and member of the jury for the German Design Awards, in describing Telekom's commitment to supporting young designers.

The finalists and their work:

Dirk Biotto studied industrial design at Berlin University of the Arts.

His product portfolio includes graphics concepts, an integrated kitchen concept and emergency housing for homeless people. All of these diverse designs share the influence of his thinking on the social dimension of design. Biotto explores the question of how the interaction of product and user can be given new interpretations both functionally and aesthetically. Dirk Biotto has received multiple awards for his work, including the Lucky Strike Junior Designer Award for his integrated kitchen concept *ChopChop – Easy Cooking*.

www.dirkbiotto.com

Janine Dasbeck studied industrial design in Osnabrück and will soon complete a master's degree in medical design at Muthesius University in Kiel. She works with medical themes in societal and social contexts. While the focus is on process design for ultrasound probes and interface design for a first aid app, she is exploring the emotional dimension of products in a support program for people with dementia, who produce their own handcrafted "memory pillows". Her work always revolves around the person and the structures in which his interaction is integrated.

www.janinedasbeck.de

Peter Otto Vosding studied industrial design in Darmstadt and is currently completing a master's degree in product design and process development. His interest in technological innovations is documented by conceptual works such as the vehicle for manned exploration of Mars. His work in classic product design has impressively clean lines and a design vocabulary reduced to the essentials, which has won him a number of awards.

www.vosding.de

Philippe Vossel completed his bachelor's degree in industrial design at the University of Wuppertal (Bergische Universität Wuppertal).

His often technically very complex works take a playful approach to design and are characterised by a unique lightness of their own. Digitalisation and emotionality play key roles, as does process simplification. As a finalist for this year's Newcomer Award, he continues to add to his existing list of awards.

www.philippe-vossel.com

Benjamin Wirkner is a structural thinker. In his works, he enjoys translating bionic models into either highly complex or minimalistically simple objects that move in a creative field of material, form and structure, thereby demonstrating great sensitivity to material properties. His affinity for architecture and interdisciplinary work is reflected in his holistic spatial concepts as well as in the product language of his product designs, in which he exploits innovative potentials with new material properties and technologies.

www.spacekitchen.de

You'll find further information about the newcomers at: www.german-design-award.com/newcomer

Photos of the portfolio works are available for download under the following link:

https://www.dropbox.com/sh/rpqcceaa5ke15id/AABgCCruCOtonD9_KpOfoXmZa?dl=0

The Newcomer Award

The German Design Council has presented this award since 2012. Young designers from all design disciplines who are nominated by German schools of design can take part. With the Newcomer Award, endowed awards are presented annually to outstanding young designers. The purpose of these awards is, within this competition, to support and foster young designers on a sustained basis in the period after completing their education. Five finalists will be selected from all the nominations by the expert jury. At the awards ceremony, a winner will be honoured with the Newcomer Award, which is endowed with € 15,000. The other finalists will each receive € 2,500.

The German Design Council

The German Design Council is an independent and internationally active institution that supports companies in efficiently communicating design expertise and also seeks to strengthen the broader general public's understanding of design. Its activities focus on the areas of brand and design assessment and strategic design consulting as well as design research and knowledge transfer. Originally established as a foundation in 1953 by a decree of the German Federal Parliament, the German Design Council advocates good design through its competitions, exhibitions, conferences, seminars and publications. Currently, over 260 German are sponsors and members of the German Design Council.

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