

Jury Report DOEN | Materiaalprijs 2009

Presentation: 17 October 2009 during Dutch Design Week

Location: the Clock Building at Strijp-S in Eindhoven

Jury members: Ursula Tischner (founder of Econcept and lecturer in sustainable product development at the Design Academy Eindhoven), Ruud Koonstra (sustainable entrepreneur/founder and director of Tendris) and Arnout Visser (form-finder and designer).

General

The **DOEN | Materiaalprijs 2009**, launched by the Materiaalfonds voor Beeldende Kunst en Vormgeving and Stichting DOEN, challenged designers and artists to come up with a project or idea combining sustainability and innovative materials, beauty and functionality. The prize, awarded this year for the first time, seeks to promote the sustainable and innovative use of materials in the fine arts, design, fashion and architecture. A playground of discarded windmill sails, a chair of sugar-beet waste, wood made out of newspapers or a bird house of fallen autumn leaves: the organisers were astonished at the number and quality of the entries. The nomination commission selected seventeen designs from a total of seventy eight submissions.

The jury (which consisted of Ursula Tischner, Ruud Koonstra and Arnout Visser) was then faced with the difficult task of picking two winners from the seventeen nominated designs. They feel that the seventeen contending projects showed an extraordinary fusion of fine art, design, fashion and architecture and approached sustainable material use from different vantage points. The jury based its final decision on four criteria: sustainability, innovation, aesthetics and use. A number of the nominated projects met the aesthetics criterion but the jury found that they did not fully satisfy the new requirements that apply to sustainable design. In other projects, the materials were innovative but the application still needed improvement.

All of the nominated designs deserve to be exhibited. The knowledge and insights utilised can inspire crucial ground-breaking progress in sustainability and in the innovative use of materials in fine art, design, fashion and architecture.

The winners

'Technique bursting with potential'

The € 15,000 prize goes to **Chris Kabel** with **Seam Chair / Seam Bench**.

'Chris Kabel's project is original, ingenious and shows great potential. He used just one material for his product: polypropylene, which is cheap, non-toxic and fully recyclable. Using an innovative technique, Kabel is able to transform this material into a lightweight yet sturdy chair.

For sustainable innovation in the future, it is crucial that objects consist of a single material. This makes recycling simpler and means there's no loss of quality (which tends to be the case with multiple materials). The technique Kabel uses is energy-saving and produces a super-lightweight material that can replace extremely environmentally-damaging materials like glass and carbon fibre. Resourceful designers who are able to combine know-how and vision and who employ unorthodox methods are vital to innovation.

The jury was particularly impressed by the potential of the innovative technology. A low-tech approach produces high-tech possibilities. The jury firmly believes that this technique can be applied to numerous other processes and hopes the prize will encourage Chris Kabel to continue developing his technique and researching new applications.

'Effective, fun and simple'

The € 5,000 incentive prize goes to **Heleen Klopper** with **Wool Filler**.

'Her design is brilliant in its simplicity. By using the unique qualities of wool – it attaches itself automatically to a surface by means of minute scales – she developed a D-I-Y kit

that anyone can use. It's an easy and original way to repair the holes in woollen garments, rugs, curtains or other textile products. Even the clumsiest person will have no problem using it!

Repairing clothing and other fabric products is an incredibly sustainable activity because it extends the life of sweaters or rugs. You could see wool filler as '21st-century darning'. Granny would be proud! It's amusing, decorative and effective. And the results are unique. And on top of this, it's fun to do: the members of the jury played with the Wool Filler and enjoyed experimenting with it.'