

Poznań Design Festiwal on Biodiversity

The fifth edition of Poznań Design Festiwal will start on Friday, May 11. This year's focus is on Biodiversity. The first events will be the launches of exhibitions held in Arsenal Municipal Gallery and Pasaż Różowy in Święty Marcin Street, which will change into "Pasaż Zielony", or the Green Passage.

At 6:30 pm on May 11, the Poznań Arsenal will launch the exhibition New Scenarios for the City, curated by Paweł Grobelny. His design of a small square in Chwaliszewo District has recently been selected the best public space in Poland in the Polish XXL Architecture contest. The co-authors are Ewa Dulcet and Martyna Świerczyńska.

The second exhibition will be Urban Farming, dedicated to urban agriculture and prepared by INDEX: Design to Improve Live. This Danish organisation promotes innovativeness and sustainable solutions and confers INDEX: Awards with a total value of half a million euro. This is one of the highest prizes of this kind in the world.

The third show, What is Biodiversity?, is linked directly to the subject of the festival. The curators are Agata Kulczyk and Lucyna Talejko-Kwiatkowska.

That very day at 8pm you simply must visit Pasaż Różowy at 47 Święty Marcin Street to see two other shows: Bel Air by Marianna Czwojdrak and Jan Ankiersztajn as well as Biodiversity by Mirosław Pawłowski.

However, exhibitions are only a fraction of the agenda of this year's Poznań Design Festiwal. It is furthermore composed of lectures and debates with international guests. The former include e.g. Contemporary Trends in Sustainable Design by Johanna Ljunggren, who focuses on sustainable development in Kinnarps, a Swedish company. The lecture will be delivered in English and will provide an excellent opportunity to visit the seventh floor of one of the Alfa high-rises at 58/64 Święty Marcin Street.

Furthermore, the festival calendar will include various workshops dedicated to nature in the city, furniture restoration or design with the use of 3D print. The target audience of the workshops are both children and adults.

Poznań Design Festiwal is moreover film screenings, concerts and meetings in a host of urban venues, both in the city centre and in residential districts. Walks will be held along routes frequented by lesser-known Poznań residents – beavers. The agenda will include surprises and tours of usually inaccessible places.

Thanks to the financial support of the Poznań Municipality and of the Marshal Office of Wielkopolska Region, participation in most of the festival events is free of charge. The complete program and workshop registration form can be found at www.poznandesignfestiwal.pl.

Poznań Design Festiwal is an event that promotes design as a way of thinking and creative solving of socially and ecologically important problems. This year's program is part of a broader formula, presenting solutions related to the elements, each indispensable for our life and yet dangerous. Last year's theme was water (and the festival was held under the motto "River-bound"). This year

the organisers wish to draw the interest of the participants to the earth element and its related problems and challenges.

– This year we want to reflect on how, in the era of overpopulation, rapid urbanisation and attendant problems, the roles of the designer, architect, entrepreneur, and producer change and what their relations with the world of science look like – observes Andżelika Jabłońska, Director of Poznań Design Festiwal.

According to UN statistics, more than half of the world's population live in cities. By the year 2050, as many as 66 percent of the population will be city dwellers. Therefore, the authors of Poznań Design Festiwal want to help understand the meaning of biodiversity and to think about how to design and protect nature in order to secure living conditions for ourselves and future generations. In 2018, the meetings and festival events will be held e.g. in Arsenał Municipal Gallery, Zamek Culture Centre, Pasaż Różowy, Zakład, social gardens across Poznań and in other city venues. More info at www.poznandesignfestiwal.pl and on Facebook www.facebook.com/PoznanDesignFestiwal.

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