

save the date

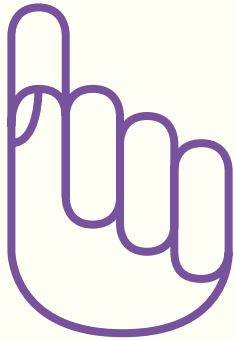


galerie nationale du design: coming soon in June 2026 in saint-étienne

In 2026, a new chapter is being written in the history of design with the opening on 10 June in Saint-Étienne of the Galerie nationale du design. This unique place in France, developed in partnership with a number of major cultural institutions, is dedicated to showcasing public design collections. Every year it will put on one major exhibition planned by a guest curator. Designed to appeal to every type of audience, its shows and events will complement the programming offered elsewhere at the Cité du design. It will bring an entirely new dimension to a cultural quarter in the midst of a major revamp, while confirming Saint-Étienne's standing as a capital of design.

A programme of events, educational and facilitation activities and regular publications will enrich the narrative around design, a discipline embedded in the heart of our society. The Galerie nationale du design will therefore reinforce the place of design in the French cultural landscape and heighten its visibility.

a unifying project



A unique place

The Galerie nationale du design brings together in one special place works representing the breadth and diversity of France's public design collections. It will offer the public a fresh perspective and a common narrative on an exceptional heritage. Designed to be an open, living place where design can be explored, shared and appreciated by all, and where everyone can discover the diversity of the forms and uses that shape our everyday lives over time, the Galerie nationale du design will be an ideal showcase for these collective assets, with its 1,000 sqm of exhibition, facilitation and experimentation spaces.



Galerie Nationale du Design, Cité du design quarter, Saint-Étienne © Kevin Dolmaire

A shared ambition

A joint initiative of the EPCC (public institution for cultural cooperation) Cité du design-Ésad Saint-Étienne and the Musée d'Art Moderne et Contemporain de Saint-Étienne Métropole (MAMC+), the Galerie nationale du design has been developed in close collaboration with several cultural institutions, including two main partners: the Centre National des Arts Plastiques (CNAP), a founding partner, and the Centre Pompidou-Musée National d'Art Moderne. It is financed by Saint-Étienne Métropole with the backing of the French State. Its expert steering committee consists of members representing the co-sponsors, the Ministry of Culture and the partner institutions.

Design as heritage

In Saint-Étienne, design is the city's trademark and has been since the Industrial Revolution. MAMC+ has helped perpetuate this industrial history with the design collection it began to put together back in 1987. This pioneering initiative has resulted in what is now France's largest collection of manufactured design objects. The management of the Galerie nationale du design has thus been entrusted to Aurélie Voltz, who is working with the teams at MAMC+ to design and produce both exhibitions and publications. The programme of events to tie in with the exhibitions, educational, facilitation and communication activities, on the other hand, is organised by the teams at the EPCC Cité du design-Ésad Saint-Étienne, which is run by designer Éric Jourdan.



Éric Jourdan and Aurélie Voltz © Hubert Genouilhac/PhotUpDesign

An entire quarter dedicated to culture

The Galerie nationale du design will be opening its doors at the Cité du design, currently in the midst of a major transformation driven by Saint-Étienne Métropole. This new cultural centre is an additional offering that will complement La Platine, which is dedicated to contemporary design, La Cabane, aimed at young audiences, and the Biennale Internationale Design Saint-Étienne. Its neighbours in an environment dedicated to teaching and research are the art and design school, Ésad Saint-Étienne, and the Manufacture campus of Jean Monnet University.



The opening of the Galerie nationale du design marks a decisive step in the recognition of design as a major form of cultural heritage. Along with the teams at MAMC+ and the EPCC Cité du design-Ésad Saint-Étienne, and in partnership with some great institutions, it is an honour for me to be leading this project, which is the continuation of a story highlighting design that began several decades ago in Saint-Étienne.

Aurélie Voltz

Director of the Galerie nationale du design and of the Musée d'Art Moderne et Contemporain de Saint-Étienne Métropole



The Galerie nationale du design is turning the Cité du design into an unmissable cultural destination, a lively quarter where there is something to appeal to everyone, where the city's industrial past, creative present and imagined future come together in a constant dialogue. Together we are putting across the message that design is a shared culture, and we are placing this discipline, which permeates all areas of society, under the spotlight it deserves.

Éric Jourdan

Director of the EPCC Cité du design-Ésad Saint-Étienne

the partner institutions

The Galerie nationale du design project has been built in a partnership-based approach involving a number of major cultural institutions, each of them the holder of a section of the nation's design heritage. Each exhibition will widen the circle, depending on the themes and collections drawn upon.



**Centre national
des arts plastiques**

Centre National des Arts Plastiques (CNAP)

The CNAP is a public institution that plays a central role in the visual arts field and contributes to the vitality of the French art scene. It enriches and conserves the national collection on behalf of the State and makes it available to the public through temporary and permanent loans in France and abroad. It has a design collection of almost 12,000 pieces created by over 2,200 French and foreign designers. Covering a wide range of periods, countries, production methods and practices, it reflects the vitality and plurality of contemporary design. The CNAP is a founder member of the Galerie Nationale du Design. As such, it makes its collection and its expertise available to curators and contributes to the strategic education and facilitation plan.



Studio Formafantasma, *Vase Botanica 12*, 2011
FNAC 2015-0066 (1 to 3)
Centre National des Arts Plastiques collection
© Studio Formafantasma/CNAP
Photo credit: Yves Chenot

Centre Pompidou

Centre Pompidou-Musée National d'Art Moderne / Centre de Création Industrielle

Since 1977, the Centre Pompidou has been a centre for vibrant, committed cultural activities, always open to the wider world. In 2025, it initiated a veritable metamorphosis that would enable it to remain active through the period of its renovation. During this time, it is running a programme named "Constellation" in Paris, in France and internationally in order to keep its spirit in alive.

The Centre Pompidou's design collection consists of some 10,000 works by almost 900 designers, dating from the beginning of the 20th century to the present day, which retrace the steps of the designers that made the history of modernity. It therefore went without saying that the Centre Pompidou would play a part in the opening of the Galerie nationale du design in Saint-Étienne as an exceptional partner, alongside other major cultural institutions.



Bruno Munari, *Forchette parlanti*, 1958
Purchase made thanks to the Friends of the Centre Pompidou, Groupe d'Acquisition pour le Design, 2016
Centre Pompidou, Paris
Musée National d'Art Moderne-Centre de Création Industrielle
© Bruno Munari. Courtesy Corraini Edizioni
© Centre Pompidou, MNAM-CCI/Georges Meguerditchian/
Dist. GrandPalaisRmn

Musée d'Art Moderne et Contemporain de Saint-Étienne Métropole (MAMC+)

The Musée d'Art Moderne et Contemporain de Saint-Étienne Métropole, also known as MAMC+ opened in 1987 and was France's first regional modern art museum. The design collection, begun when the museum was founded, now includes more than 2,000 objects as well as 600 drawings and models. Inspired by the city's history, its main focus is industrial design and objects intended for mass production. It has collections of the work of four designers: Michel Mortier, René-Jean Caillette, Studio Totem, Savinel & Rozé. The museum has put on 27 different design exhibitions since the end of the 1980s.



Richard Sapper, Marco Zanuso, *Radio TS 502*, 1964
Musée d'Art Moderne et Contemporain de Saint-Étienne
Métropole
© Richard Sapper © Marco Zanuso
Photo: Yves Bresson/MAMC+

Musée des Arts Décoratifs et du Design de Bordeaux (MADD Bordeaux)

The MADD will be reopening in April 2026 after undergoing major modernisation work. Situated in the heart of Bordeaux, it is housed in what was a private mansion and an old prison, both listed buildings. Its collections reflect decorative art and design product in the Western world, with examples of tableware, furniture, weapons and also items representative of new uses. The MADD's aim is to promote the art and craft trades, know-how and design in all its forms, but it also tackles the main contemporary issues with a particular focus on eco-responsibility, inclusion and community engagement.



Andrea Branzi, *Bar Milano*, édition Alchimia, 1979
MADD Bordeaux collection
© MADD Bordeaux - J.-C. Garcia

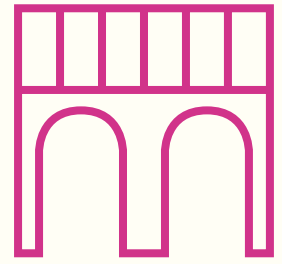
FRAC Grand Large-Hauts-de-France

The FRAC Grand Large-Hauts-de-France holds large collections of photographs and installation works, and is the only FRAC (Regional contemporary art collection) to have an active policy of acquiring design works. Its internationally recognised collection of icons of European design covering the period from the 1960s to the present day expresses an acute awareness of our social, economic and ecological context.



Marlène Huissoud, *The chair*, 2019,
Unfired clay, natural binders and wood
FRAC Grand Large-Hauts-de-France collection ©
Adagp, Paris. Photo: Paul Tahon

Spaces open to all



Modularity and sustainability

The Galerie nationale du design is housed in one of the buildings of the old Manufacture d'Armes, whose refurbishment was entrusted by Saint-Étienne Métropole to architecture firm SILT and scenography and museum design specialists dUCKS Scéno. Amplifying the original industrial architecture whilst adapting it to new uses, the project is designed around the creation of modular spaces and includes a large exhibition hall. This approach encompasses a clear commitment to OSR: selection of sustainable materials, reduced energy bills and scenography materials eco-designed by Eric Benqué (working with graphic artists Atelier Pentagon), 50% of which will be reused from one exhibition to another.



Scenographic items © Éric Benqué

All audiences welcome

The spaces are designed to facilitate accessibility, experimentation and active participation. "Le Seuil" (The threshold) is the free access lobby, which offers an immediate immersion into design with furniture that visitors can touch and handle. Overlooking this space, "La Mezzanine" hosts workshops, encounters, talks and cultural events designed to tie in with the exhibitions. The furniture specially designed for this space by designer duo Marie and Alexandre with manufacturer Alki, will also be available for other cultural institutions to acquire for their own needs. Taken as a whole this layout provides a coherent route where each space accompanies the visitor in their exploration of design through a process of exchange, observation and direct experience.



Furniture for La Mezzanine at the Galerie nationale du design © Marie and Alexandre

Cultural programming by Ruedi and Vera Baur

These spaces are also designed as places to meet and talk, where contemporary issues can be addressed. From 2026, as part of their residency entitled "Civic City à la Cité du design", designer Ruedi Baur and sociologist and anthropologist Vera Baur will be presenting standout events dedicated to the Galerie nationale du design. Working from an approach based

on critical research on design, these events will invite the public to explore from new angles the notion of a design collection and the themes of the three first annual exhibitions. This residency will cover the entire design quarter and aims in particular to get students at the art and design school, Ésad Saint-Étienne, actively involved.

telling the story of design

The curatorial approach

Every year, a prominent figure from the world of design will be invited to curate a major exhibition which will tell the story of design and examine its significance drawing on pieces from the four corners of France. The first exhibition in the programme is *Design en main. Du langage à l'objet*, curated by design historian **Laurence Mauderli**. In 2027, **Chantal Prod'Hom**, a former director of the Museum of Contemporary Design and Applied Arts (mudac) in Lausanne, will be presenting an exhibition on care design. In 2028, the theme of the sign will be addressed by **Marie Pok**, director of the Centre for Innovation and Design (CID) at Le Grand-Hornu in Belgium, which has also offered to host the 2027 and 2028 exhibitions on tour.



The inaugural exhibition: *Design en main. From Language to Object* (11 June 2026 - 7 March 2027)

With the hand as its central theme, the exhibition *Design en main. Du langage à l'objet* (Hands-on Design. From Language to Object) will show how language becomes a prism through which design objects and projects can be read, establishing a dialogue revealing multiple conceptual and material gestures. With examples from the 19th, 20th and 21st centuries linking the history of industrial production in Saint-Étienne with the international history of design, the exhibition will invite the public to (re)consider design as an essential, timeless human practice shaped by the challenges specific to each era.

To tell this untold story, Laurence Mauderli has selected works from the collections of the CNAP, the Centre Pompidou, MAMC+, MADD Bordeaux, FRAC Grand Large -Hauts-de-France, but also the Musée des Arts Décoratifs (Paris), the Mobilier National, the Manufacture Nationale de Sèvres, Saint-Quentin-en-Yvelines city museum and the Musée d'Art et d'Industrie de Saint-Étienne, among others.

Pedro Friedeberg, *Chair*, 1961
FNAC 1954 Centre National des Arts Plastiques collection
© all rights reserved/CNAP
Photo credit: Béatrice Hatala / Les Arts Décoratifs



Don E. Grove, Jackson Comstock
Hollywood Liquefier Model 48, c. 1948
Musée d'Art Moderne et Contemporain de
Saint-Étienne Métropole
Copyright: © all rights reserved



Ron Arad, *Anonymous Stool*, 1994. Donated
by Zeus in 2009
Centre Pompidou, Paris
Musée National d'Art Moderne-Centre de
Création Industrielle
© Ron Arad & Associates Ltd
© Centre Pompidou, MNAM-CCI/Georges
Meguerditchian/Dist. GrandPalaisRmn

Laurence Mauderli is a design historian with a PhD in art and art science and a graduate of the Royal College of Art/ Victoria & Albert Museum in London. She teaches at Ésad Saint-Étienne, is a former co-curator of the design collection of the Museum für Gestaltung in Zurich and has contributed to exhibitions at the Victoria & Albert Museum, the Centre Pompidou and the Centre culturel suisse. Her research work, publications and exhibition curation activities cover the fields of design and historical and contemporary material culture.

sharing design



Positioned at the junction between history, creation, practice and use, the Galerie nationale du design will be a space where know-how, societal issues, debates on art and industry and encounters with designers will blend to give life to a design that is entirely anchored in the present, open, accessible and inspiring. It will enrich the unique cultural and urban ecosystem formed by the Cité du design and, more widely, Saint-Étienne's Creative District, where design-lovers, professionals from all over the world, students, young creatives, researchers, local people and audiences from every background can come together.

The Galerie nationale du design, a major undertaking

1,000 sqm at the Cité du design

An €8.8m investment, with €6.8m financed by Saint-Étienne Métropole

and €2 financed by the State under the State-Region Planning Contract (National Planning and Territorial Development Fund (FNADT): €1.5m; Local investment support grant (DSIL): €0.5m)

Project owner: Saint-Étienne Métropole

Architect: SILT

Scenography: dUCKS Scéno

Fluids & thermal engineering/building EQ: GBA Energies

Structural engineering: Vessière & Cie

Construction economics: GBA&Co

Acoustical engineering: Peutz



About

EPCC Cité du design-Ésad Saint-Étienne

To train tomorrow's designers and engage with all kinds of audiences to anchor design at the heart of our society: that is the mission of the public institution for cultural cooperation (EPCC) Cité du design-Ésad Saint-Étienne. Situated at the heart of the Cité du design, it encompasses the training and research activities of the art and design school, Ésad Saint-Étienne, as well as dissemination activities (exhibitions, workshops, publishing, etc.) through La Platine, La Cabane and the Biennale Internationale Design Saint-Étienne.

A unique centre for discovering and experimenting with design, it is supported by the City of Saint-Étienne and Saint-Étienne Métropole, with the backing of the French State and the Auvergne-Rhône Alpes Region.

MAMC+

The Musée d'Art Moderne et Contemporain de Saint-Étienne Métropole, also known as MAMC+ opened in 1987 and was France's first regional modern art museum. It has 3,000 sqm of exhibition space where it showcases its collections and organises retrospectives of international figures, major art movements and young creatives. Its collection of almost 23,000 works consists mainly of 20th century pieces, but also collections of ancient art and photographs. Its design collection, begun when the museum was founded, is now estimated to include more than 2,000 objects as well as 600 drawings and models.



galerie
nationale
du design

cité du design
saint-étienne

Press contacts

Marie Camière

Communication manager

marie.camiere@citedudesign.com

Nathalie Colonge

Communication and
press relations officer

presse@citedudesign.com

+33 (0)7 64 06 70 93

galerienationaleduedesign.fr

