

Get to know us :

What is the Cité du design ?

The Public Institution of Cultural Co-operation (EPCC) Cité du design – Higher School of Art and Design, brought together, in January 2010, the Cité du design and the Saint-Etienne Higher School of Art and Design, on the same site, the former Arms Manufacture of Saint-Etienne.

Supported by the City of Saint-Etienne, the Saint-Etienne Metropole, the Rhone-Alps Region, and the State (Ministry of Culture), it is a platform of higher education, research, economic development and promotion of art and design. The principal missions of the Cité du Design are:

- The raising of public awareness of design
- the development of innovation through design
- design research
- the organization of major events such as the International Biennial of Design of Saint-Etienne, or annual exhibitions both in Saint-Etienne and abroad.

The Cité du design raises public awareness of design

One of the primary missions of the Cité du design is to raise awareness of design among all types of public: professional and public authority actors, universities, the general public, etc.

The Cité du design has created various communication tools to address these different publics: guided visits for professionals and individuals, general public and professional awareness campaigns, workshops for young people, publications, seminars and conferences.

It provides specific facilities for school and university groups with numerous guided visits, and educational material created specifically for the teaching staff. The Cité du design also works closely with the National Education system: training courses for teachers with the PREAC (resource centre for artistic and cultural education), and projects led by the CDPP (Departmental centre for pedagogical documentation).

The architectural project

The architectural project of the Cité du design (approx. 16,000m²) was assigned to the architects **Finn Geipel and Giulia Andi of the LIN agency**.

Three renovated buildings co-habit with two contemporary constructions; the *Platine*, which hosts an auditorium, two exhibition halls (1200m² and 800m²), a mediatheque, a boutique and a designer's bureau, and the *Observation Tower*, 32 metres high, offering a unique 360° panoramic view of the town and the surrounding hills.

After a little more than three years of renovation work, a part of the former Arms Manufacture site came back to life with the opening of the Cité du design in 2009, and the installation of the Saint-Etienne Higher School of Art and Design (ESADSE 350 students).

A site of higher education, research and experimentation, of symposiums and exhibitions, the Cité du design is open to all types of public.

The missions of the Cité du design

Design focused on the person

The Cité du design structures its activities around the major transversal themes which contribute to the democratization of design. Design places the person at the core of its reflection, whether it be for the improvement of uses and lifestyles, for optimizing energy consumption, for accompanying changes in housing conditions, or for facilitating the development of health care and mobility.

A platform of reflection on practices, needs and uses, the Cité du design demonstrates how design can contribute to the emergence of new dynamics within contemporary domains; social, economic, touristic or cultural.

The principal aim of the Cité du design is to actively contribute to the development of the economic, touristic and cultural attractiveness of the region.

Raising public awareness

In the light of these aims, raising public awareness of the realities of design and its uses emerges as a prime mission. It functions by offering a large choice of actions in collaboration with a network of institutional, cultural and economic partners catering to all types of public: exhibitions for the general public (including the Saint-Etienne International Design Biennial), workshops for children, teacher training, publications and raising awareness in the business sector.

Developing higher education in design in the Rhone-Alps Region

The mission of development of higher education in design in the Rhone-Alps region is based on two complementary axes : on the one hand the ESADSE proposes two major training options; Art and Design, along with a sixth year post-graduate diploma in design based on research. On the other hand the Cité du design has created and developed the Consortium of Design Higher Education, which federates higher education institutions.

Develop the use of design by economic and social actors

The Cité du design organizes professional training workshops for designers and, with its new facilities, offers resources for all economic and social actors: the materials resource centre, the mediatheque, auditorium, seminar rooms and a shared work space, the designer's bureau.

To encourage the development of design among social and economic actors the Cite du design seeks initially to enhance a better integration of design in local authority structures, with calls for projects, and the communication of best use practices. The City of Saint-Etienne and the metropolitan region have used its expertise to introduce design when necessary by applying a transversal logic (from public transport to social housing, through to urban space design and the graphic image of the local authority). Positioned at the heart of the Rhone-Alps Grand Project, "Design in the City", the Cité du design becomes the vanguard of public actors.

It also organizes promotional events for design enterprises, backed up by networking and the development of professional training. In October 2007 it presented the Design Map exhibition: professions, applications, teaching, bringing together more than 80 designers associated with as many companies, proposing their objects, their design, their inventions - commercialized or not. Then in May 2008, the Cité published the Saint-Etienne Design Guide, where the best addresses (shops, hotels and restaurants), featured next to

portraits of designers and company presentations, or cultural actors: a broad vision of design in the city. The Cité du design practices an approach of diffusion to stimulate a growing demand from companies and businesses, and by means of its network, puts into place actions to highlight exemplary examples of the design approach. For example the exhibition "Design and Companies" highlights some forty companies committed to design in their strategy. With the new facilities available, the Cité du design will renew and consolidate this dynamic by encouraging meetings between professional sectors, and accompanying enterprises in their first steps in design research and development.

Developing research and innovation through design

The development of research and innovation through design requires a necessary identification of uses and new practices. The Cité du design responds to national and European calls for research projects, and directs research programmes for partner companies linked to the Consortium for design higher education.

In the context of its mission to develop innovation, the Cité du design, in synergy with professionals in design, human sciences, architecture and engineering, also puts into place programmes and methods leading to the creation of objects and services which correspond to uses and new needs.

Experimenting with new concepts in the Saint-Etienne region

With the aid of its Laboratory for emerging practices, the Cité du design experiments with new concepts in real life situations in order to assess their feasibility, and their subsequent diffusion. In this context the Cité has led a project with its partners in Rive-de-Gier, concerning extreme emergency accommodation, integrating the concepts of quality of use, sustainable development, and design for all. This approach has been listed by the Housing Ministry.

The Cité du design team

Administration

Ludovic Noël

General Director

Elsa Francès

Director of the Biennial and major events

Jean-Yves Gauchier

General Secretary

Brigitte Catalifaud

General Director's assistant

Christine Vérot

Human resources and General affairs officer

Hélène Ceysson

Accounts officer

Isabelle Bosland

Accounts assistant

Christophe Sabadel

Legal affairs officer

Economic Relations

Isabelle Vérilhac

Director of economic relations

Sandie Françon

Economic programmes officer

Alexandre Pennaneach

LUPI mission officer

Alexandre Peutin

Material resources centre officer

Production

Julien Géry

Production manager

Eric Bourbon et Noémie Bonnet Saint Georges

Scenography and production officers

Magali Vincent

Head of art works production and artistic coordination

Noémie Dorson

Art works production officer

Amphone Soulivong

Head of I.T. and telecommunications

Guillaume Baronnier

Computer, telecommunications and multi-media technician

Nicolas Abras

Head of building maintenance and safety

Hocine Abdelmoumen

Building maintenance and safety officer

Julien Solignac-Lecomte

Technical events manager

Communication

Marielle Gobron

Director of communication and public reception

Zohra Zeddoun

Assistant communications manager and space hiring officer

Aurélie Zimmermann

Head of communication and partnerships

Laure Laganier

Graphic designer

Magali Theoleyre

Public relations officer

Sylvie Sauvignet

Reservations and mediation officer

Eugénie Bardet

Press officer

Elodie Thiolier

Communication officer

Alexandre Dupont

Multi-media communication officer

Raphaël Pigeat

Web Development & applications, web-design

Damien Crabol

Romain Chacornac

Cécile Colomb

Lionel Radisson

Reception, ticket office and boutique officers

Design manager

Nathalie Arnould

Design manager for local authorities

Audrey Souvignet

Assistant design manager

Recherche et édition

Marie-Haude Caraës

Director of Research

Blandine Favier

Research centre officer

Émilie Chabert

Research centre coordinator

Lionel De Oliveira

Research centre and publishing assistant

Claire Lemarchand

Research officer

Caroline D'auria-Goux

Event organisation officer

International relations department

Josyane Franc

Director of international relations

Camille Vilain

International projects officer

Ludovic Noël

General Director

At the board meeting of the EPCC Cité du design – Higher School of Art and Design held on the 18th July 2011, Ludovic NOEL was nominated Director of the institution.

Holder of a post graduate diploma (DESS) in enterprise economics, from the IEP in Grenoble (Political science institute), Ludovic Noël, 41 years old, was, from 2006, Director of the Centre for Competitiveness, IMAGINOVE, which federates more than 200 companies in the Rhone-Alps region, specialized in image and movement (video games, audiovisual cinema, animation and multi-media).

He also directed the Novacité centre from 2000 to 2006, and was before this an officer in the department of Economic Affairs for the Rhone-Alps region, in contact in particular with young start-up enterprises.

Ludovic NOEL took up his post as Director on the 3rd October 2011.

La Cité is also :

Gift ideas

The boutique offers advice

The Cité du design boutique is situated in the middle of the Platine, in the Agora, a 50m² space devoted to the reception of the public. In addition to the ticket office, it proposes for sale a selection of books specialized in design, and a vast range of fun objects from Saint-Etienne shops who are partners of the Cité. The boutique is thus a reflection of the commercial dynamics of design, and those whose curiosity has been aroused, can pursue their shopping in town after visiting the Cité du design.

Practical Information | Contact details

See opening hours

Tel. 04 77 49 74 70

Fax. 04 77 49 74 71

Souvenir Code Catalogue

A project set up at the initiative of the City of Montreal, through the UNESCO creative design cities network, aiming to promote the know-how of the region through gift-objects destined for local institutions and enterprises.