

Biennial

Event

The Saint-Etienne International Design Biennial

A unique and pioneering event

In 1998, The Saint-Etienne Regional School of Fine Arts began organizing the Saint-Etienne International Design Biennial, which was to become the most eclectic of design events in France. Produced and directed by the Cité du design, with the support of private and public partners, the design biennials have since promoted the confrontation of innovations generated by schools, major design agencies, independent creators, distributors, enterprises and a wide variety of publics. The multiple exhibitions, conferences, symposiums and meetings make up a veritable laboratory of contemporary trends, providing a perspective on the thinking and questions of our time, in the light of design issues.

The Saint-Etienne International Design Biennial has never ceased to evolve and expand since its creation, concentrating on one central aim, that of democratizing design and making it accessible to the public at large, through a broad vision of the profession of design, and its multiple applications. In 2008, for its tenth anniversary, the Biennial welcomed 85,000 visitors over a period of fifteen days, including 15,000 students.

Also a media event, the Biennial welcomed 270 journalists (including 100 national and 80 international journalists) who came to comment on the exhibition stand points and to meet the designers, entrepreneurs and the representatives of public institutions.

14 years of history in posters....

"Very different from a trade show, the Biennial is built around exhibitions and assertive standpoints promoting contemporary creation, available to all, in a festive atmosphere punctuated by events, visits and workshops".

The next rendez-vous

Saint-Etienne International
Design Biennial 2013
from the 14th to the 31st March 2013

With this 8th edition being inaugurated in the spring, the *Saint-Etienne International Design Biennial 2013* will bring together all types of public around a series of exhibitions, symposiums, conferences and festive events. **Empathy, or experiencing the other**, will be the central theme.

The *Saint-Etienne International Design Biennial* will be relayed throughout the region with the participation

of different actors; the Museum of Modern Art, The Mining Museum, the Museum of Art and Industry, the Corbusier site in Firminy....

The *Saint-Etienne International Design Biennial* will open up beyond this territorial base with invitations to international curators, visitors, exhibitors and journalists, to participate in the exchanges. The cities of the **UNESCO creative design cities network** will have a special place of honour.

This 8th edition will be firmly directed towards innovation, prospective and research through design. Designers, enterprises, students (in particular those from the Saint-Etienne Higher School of Art and Design) and economic and institutional actors are invited to present their projects and productions; concrete proposals for lifestyles linked to our present day and future uses.

The theme for 2013

Empathy or experiencing the other

Empathy is the mechanism whereby an individual can feel, experience, understand and share the fellow feelings, emotions and even beliefs of others.

Design is a discipline which puts the user at the heart of its reflections in order to better understand his needs, and has therefore an intrinsic empathetic dimension. The aim of this activity is to succeed in putting oneself in the place of the user, or at least to understand his needs as much as possible, be they physical or psychological. This is illustrated by various creative approaches which accompany the user.

Subsequently it is a question of revealing the role of empathy in different design conception methodologies (design for all and co-conception)

Saint-Etienne International Design Biennial 2013 will also be the occasion to oppose the multiplication of links and never-ending solicitations to communicate (via. the ever more numerous social networks), with the need to be de-connected.

Finally another line of questioning will be proposed: that of identifying the role that design can play in a society which is looking to renew its rapport of trust between individuals and public, media, social and economic institutions. The question of the place of design in production systems will be considered, along with methods of intervention to optimize the appropriation of public space.

Previous editions

International Design Biennial 2010

20th November to 5th December

The Biennial of 2010 is built around the theme of teleportation. Around an extreme vision of our society, an ideal space (or not) to be attained to solve the different problems that face us today, be they related to pressing ecological issues, transport constraints or the continual lack of time which puts our daily life under such pressure. Or again the difficulties stemming from new modes of communication, which produce today a form of ubiquity: we work from home, we send information or documents to the office, everything is fine; but when something goes wrong it is not surprising that we want to be teleported. Teleportation seems to be a desirable dream, the pursuit of which, however, with all that is involved in terms of the acceleration of time and the de-materialization of movement, can also be double-edged: loss of roots, loss of bearings and identity....

The themes developed around this subject refer to ubiquity, mobility, the global shrinking in relation to the acceleration of transport, the possible conquest of new space, under the sea or in the air; new planets, the overtaking of reality by a virtual reality, the instant "T", the disruption of notions of time and space, or, on the contrary, the idea of perpetuity, being rooted to the ground, and by extension to the notion of comfort, for, as Virilio said, "to be, is in situ, and here and now, hic and nunc; whereas this is disrupted by cyberspace and by instantaneous globalized information"

If physical teleportation is not yet real, communication techniques enable us, in any case, to be mentally teleported towards any part of the planet, and digital techniques allow us the possibility of evolving in a parallel world, without limits, but fashioned by ourselves.

The Biennial proposes to open up paths of discovery which will, in its extreme vision, tend towards this possible teleportation, this de-materialization of movement which appears as an idea so incredibly revealing of our time.

Constance Rubini

General curator

Biennale International Design Biennial 2008

15th to 30th November

For the second time, the Biennial –organized by the Cité du design, a new public institution created in 2005 by the City of Saint-Etienne and Saint-Etienne Metropole – invited curators to expose their personal vision of design. The principal aims of this sixth edition were to open up new fields of application, explore new modes of practicing design, and to be an actor of innovation. To achieve this, to escape from the superficiality of things, the Biennial experimented, took risks, and sometimes surprised.

The Saint-Etienne International Design Biennial resolutely asserted itself as a prolific event, inspired by the success of the first editions produced by the Saint-Etienne School of Fine Arts. It celebrated its ten years of existence from the 15th to the 30th November 2008.

International Design Biennial 2006

22nd November to 3rd December

The Saint-Etienne International Design Biennial 2006 invited professionals and the general public to an opening out on the world. Many sites in the city and the region held exhibitions which became highlights of thematic circuits linked to their own centres of interest.

The proposition is an approach to design based on a diversity of points of view: non-exhaustive, strong standpoints, this Biennial talks above all about innovation, and attempts to provide multiple and complementary illustrations...technical, technological, scientific, cultural or social innovations. For the visitor, the enthusiast, the initiated, or just the curious, it represents a different way to become interested in design; a demonstration of the interaction of design with several other fields, such as research, science, art, sociology, philosophy...or even cuisine. Here are all kinds of different approach which link the professions and points of view, providing, in the end, the opportunity to conceive a new outlook on our daily lives, here and elsewhere, today and tomorrow.

This Biennial built on the success of the four previous editions, run by the Saint-Etienne School of Fine Arts, under the impetus of Jacques Bonnaval, its director in 1998. The Saint-Etienne International Design Biennial 2006 was designed and organized for the first time by the Cité du design team, under the direction of Elsa Francès, general curator of the Biennial. The 2006 Biennial team put together this programme of exhibitions by bringing together invited exhibition curators, both French and from abroad, the curators of the Cité du design team, French and foreign designers and creators, numerous regional, national, and international firms and students from the Saint-Etienne Higher School of Art and Design, and from some fifty other schools from around the world

International Design Biennial 2004

General Manager

Jacques Bonnaval

Director of the Saint-Etienne Regional School of Fine Arts

General exhibition curator

Vincent Lemarchands

Director of the design department of the Saint-Etienne Higher School of Art and Design

Biennale Internationale Design 2002

General Manager

Jacques Bonnaval

Director of the Saint-Etienne Regional School of Fine Arts

General curator

Céline Savoye

designer

For its third edition the The Saint-Etienne International Design Biennial sought to draw parallels between design over the ages and the state of contemporary design. "Domestic arts 1920-1970", "Pedal cars and their big sisters", "What was it like 50 years ago", Fashion design from the 80's to the present day". Another major exhibition, "From Military to Civil design" demonstrated the influence of military research on our daily lives. The international exhibition brought together propositions from designers of 70 countries.

Biennale International Design Biennial 2000

General Manager

Jacques Bonnaval

Director of the Saint-Etienne Regional School of Fine Arts

General curator

Eric Jourdan

Designer and professor at the Saint-Etienne Higher School of Art and Design.

The International Design Biennial of 2000 questioned « inventive energy ». The principal exhibition "Civilization of the object" offered a perspective on the diversity of design in the world, bringing together independent designers, agencies, publishers, enterprises, schools, design institutes, reviews...from 100 different countries.

International Design Biennial 1998

General Manager

Jacques Bonnaval

Director of the Saint-Etienne Regional School of Fine Arts

General exhibition curator

Vincent Lemarchands

Director of the design department of the Saint-Etienne Higher School of Art and Design

The first edition proposed a panorama of contemporary design (50 countries represented), and demonstrated the design approach by revealing to the public the ideas and processes of design which constitute the hidden reality of an object. The 1998 International Biennial also set out the issues confronting design in an economic world where for many globalization means banality.