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LIVING WITH COPPER DESIGN COMPETITION

Design a copper item for the home

The European Copper Institute and the Italian Copper Centre are holding the 2nd “Living with Copper” design competition from May 1st to September 30th. The winners will receive prizes of €1,500 to €4,000.

After the success of the first competition, the European Copper Institute and the Italian Copper Centre are launching the second design contest focusing on copper and its alloys. As last year, the competition is open to two categories of participants: fine arts, graphic arts, design and interior architecture students, and young professionals, designers and interior architects (under 40 years old).

The candidates must design a household item based on copper or one of its alloys (bronze, brass, etc.) that makes the most of the material's aesthetic or technical qualities. The choice is boundless: chairs, tables, lamps, bookcases, vases, wall decorations, etc. Copper is malleable, ductile and naturally antibacterial, offering precious advantages when it comes to shaping or reinventing the uses and functions of the most familiar items.

The entries must be received by September 30th 2008 at the latest and the results will be announced in late 2008 (date to be announced). The winner of the “student” category will receive €1,500, and those of the “professional” category €4,000 and €2,500.

Copper's big comeback in design

Copper, traditionally used for cookware, is trendy today and catching on with designers and architects. More and more designers are rediscovering its aesthetic potential, play of light and versatility. The last copper design biennial, which took place in Milan at the end of 2007, revealed an inventive, elegant collection attesting to designers' new fondness for this material with a strong identity. Based on the theme “Living with Copper”, Nendo, Eli Guttierrez, Susan Bradley and Satyendra Pakhalè designed highly contemporary works combining avant-garde shapes with reflections of a millennia-old tradition.

The competition in brief

- From May 1st to September 30th 2008 (all entries must be in by the end of September)
- Design competition organised by the European Copper Institute and the Italian Copper Centre
- Theme: “copper in the home”
- Entry requirements:
 - Provide a decorative design concept using copper or its alloys (bronze, brass, etc.)
 - All items are possible: furniture, household utensils, wall decorations, household equipment (radiators, lamps, etc.), in fact, any item intended for indoor use
- Delivery format: digital file
- Eligible entrants and prizes: 2 categories
 - Students in graphic arts, interior decoration, product design or interior architecture: €1,500
 - Professionals, designers and interior architects under 40 years old: €4,000 for 1st prize, €2,500 for 2nd prize
- Send entry requests to info@agenziacopyright.it
- Prizes will be awarded in late December

Close-up on the first competition



Francesca Cuicchio won first prize for “Zzz”, an ingenious decorative item for potted plants that takes advantage of copper’s antibacterial properties in the fight against mosquito larvae. In 2007 the competition attracted nearly 70 entries from seven countries, including Italy, Holland and France.

For further information or hi res images contact:

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