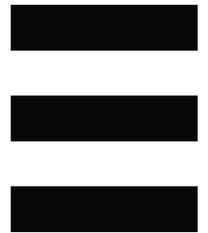




Helsinki Design Awards 2018: The winners of the Finnish design gala have been published



Helsinki Design Awards, established to recognize and promote Finnish design, has chosen its 2018 winners. The awarded designers include Yrjö Kukkapuro, Maria Korkeila, COM-PAN-NY and Oura ring.

Helsinki Design Awards annually rewards Finnish designers as well as companies and organizations investing in design. The Gala took place at Clarion Hotel Helsinki in Jätkäsaari on Wednesday 12 September.

Prizes are given in five different categories: Young Talent of the Year, Product of the Year, Lifetime, Internationalization and Jury's Choice.

Lifetime award was given to 85-year-old designer and interior architect **Yrjö Kukkapuro**. His breakthrough was the leather upholstered and glass-fibre reinforced Carousel polyester chair (1964).

“Yrjö Kukkapuro is an obvious choice for the award. The jury wanted to recognize a notable career in design as well as a person who is still active and still renewing his work, and most of all is an inspiration to others.”

Fashion designer **Maria Korkeila** has won the Young Talent of the Year award. This award is given to a young talented designer, collective or company staying or working in Finland. Maria Korkeila has gathered plenty of international experience and recognition from, for example, the prestigious Hyères competition in France.

“In my case, design has always been like a mirror reflection of the society and culture. It reflects the phenomena taking place in our society but also questions things,” Korkeila says.





The Product of the Year award is given to a sustainably produced item that is particularly functional and well-designed. The product needs to have entered the market in 2017–2018. The award was given to Oura ring designed by **Kari Kivelä** and **Mikko Latomäki**.

Since the beginning, it's been the principle of Oura to help people utilize their potential as well as possible. The Oura ring functions like an activity tracker wristband but is much more accurate and versatile.

“The Oura ring represents tested, functional and aesthetically appealing design. It is quality jewellery design as such and distinctive in the health-wellness landscape,” the jury said.

The Internationalization award was given to COM-PA-NY, the design agency of designers **Aamu Song** and **Johan Olin**. With their Secrets project, COM-PA-NY seeks local artisans and makers for whom to design new products.

“COM-PA-NY has advanced from traditional exports to interactive internationalization. Aamu Song and Johan Olin's Secrets project engages local makers in product design and fabrication: the products are multicultural the minute they are born,” says chairman of the jury **Kari Korkman**.

COM-PA-NY has worked in Korea, Belgium, Sweden, Estonia, Russia, the USA and Japan, among other places. Their exhilarating designs stand out and gain attention wherever they go.

The Jury's Choice award was given to Espoo Museum of Modern Art EMMAs Bryk & Wirkkala visible storage, which is the first concept to exhibit the vast collection and archive of the Tapio Wirkkala Rut Bryk Foundation.

It is a combination of storage, exhibition and work space. It opens up the collection in a completely new way, based on individual exploration and discovery. In this space, people can see the collection more extensively compared to exhibitions in general.

The collection is based on **Rut Bryk** (1916–1999) and **Tapio Wirkkala's** (1915–1985) personal work archives: sketches, drawings and photographs. It contains plenty of completed works as well as rare prototypes, some of which have never reached production.

The Helsinki Design Awards jury members are Director of the Architecture Information Centre Finland **Hanna Harris**, Information Designer **Juuso Koponen**, Design Forum Finland CEO **Petteri Kolinen**, Designer **Elina Aalto** and Director of Strategic Initiatives at the City of Helsinki **Sanna-Mari Jäntti**. The chairman of the jury is Helsinki Design Week Director Kari Korkman.

The Helsinki Design Awards gala was held at Clarion Hotel Helsinki. Known previously as Muoto Gala, Helsinki Design Awards has been organized since 2011. Starting from year 2016, the event has been owned by Helsinki Design Week.





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Established in 2005, Helsinki Design Week is the biggest design festival in the Nordic countries. This multi-sector event is organized yearly to present the different disciplines of design as well as fashion, architecture and urban culture.

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www.helsinkidesignweek.com

<https://www.helsinkidesignweek.com/fi/lasten-designviikko/>

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