



DESIGNERS

Design is a discipline that knows no fixed borders. It oscillates between the domains of art, technology and social challenges and is thus an ongoing reflection of the changing demands of our times. This exhibition of design work by teachers from the Department of Design at the Faculty of Arts in TUKE offers a cross-section of contemporary approaches and concepts which have shaped the educational and creative processes in the Department. The faculty staff are themselves active and established designers, and the exhibition grants them the opportunity to present the results of their research and professional work across four main fields – **Industrial, Innovation, Space** and **Visual Communication**.

Design as innovation and a vision of the future

The work of the **Industrial** design studio is focused on proposals for industrial products which integrate aesthetics, functionality and cutting-edge technology. These appliances, devices and everyday items with an emphasis on timelessness and ergonomics push the envelope of industrial design through their experimentation with new materials and production processes.

The **Innovation** design studio views design as a process of discovery and experimentation. Under the expert guidance of its teachers, products emerge which go beyond conventional perceptions of form and function. The creative activity is built on a foundation of design research which explores the relationship between materials, technology and the user experience. Innovation is not merely a question of aesthetic trends but rather a profound re-evaluation of the ways in which design responds to the needs of contemporary life.

Space and visual communication – the formation of identity and experience

Design is also an issue of generating atmosphere and space. Work in the **Space** design studio concentrates on internal and external environments, exploring both architectonic elements and the psychology of perception. The relationship between the object and its user is a further focus of research, as are the ways in which design influences our everyday lives. Designs form a sense of harmony between material, colour, light and functionality.

Visual communication is a key element of contemporary design, playing an important role in the formation of identity of brands, places and even individuals. The **Visual Communication** design studio explores graphic design across a broad spectrum – from visual identities and campaigns, typography and illustration, to poster design and experimental graphical forms. The featured works draw connections between historical allusions and modern trends, allowing their creators to seek out new means by which visual information can influence our perceptions and choices.

The exhibition titled “Designers” presents the works of a group of established designers who are linked through their teaching activities at the Department of Design at the Faculty of Arts of TUKE, including Tibor Uhrín, Marian Oslislo, Andrej Haščák, Samuel Čarnoký, Pavol Capik, Mária Bujňáková and others. The exhibits present a broad spectrum of design approaches ranging from artistic designs to industrially-produced items: works of spatial and graphic design which respond to the contemporary issues resonating in our society.

The exhibition features work by designers whose industrial designs encompass the full process, from initial concept to full production. Visitors can familiarise themselves with designs and finished examples of appliances and devices (for example, a gantry crane cabin and designs for a machine press and chairs by Peter Wohlfahrt or designs for a low-lift truck and pellet furnace by Eduard Weiss), techniques in design presentation (Eduard Weiss) or visionary conceptual plans with futuristic elements (Peter Kopkáš – MEH, Skyflower). Designs by Rastislav Jurčík incorporate new technologies which are gradually being introduced into the automotive industry; Dušan Šuch focuses on solutions to everyday demands in the household, the office and public spaces, but he also works in the fields of virtual design, digital modelling and virtual reality.

Also represented are works by designers who are primarily active in product design. Tibor Uhrín specialises in furniture, home accessories, wooden toys and experimental wooden bowls; Pavol Capik and Patrik Knoblich combine design, craftwork and new technologies with an emphasis on the sustainability, precision workmanship and elegance of the finished product. Narrative design and symbolism

are characteristic of the design work of Mária Bujňáková; Štefánia Suchodolinská produces original and attractive series of furniture sets, a field which is also the focus of Michaela Bujňáková, a designer whose spatial designs are inspired by house plants and traditional embroidery.

In addition to industrial, spatial and product design, the exhibition also presents works which fall into the category of visual communication, including poster design, typography, calligraphy and multimedia performances, book design and photography. Poster design is archetypal for the work of Andrej Haščák, but it also plays a part in the work of Marian Oslislo, who is also active in multimedia design. Samuel Čarnoký has devoted much of his creative work to typographical designs but also book design; several publications on which he collaborated are also presented in the exhibition. The topic of inclusive design is crucial to the work of Eva Jenčuráková, who is also involved in poster design. The group of exhibited designers concludes with the work of Martin Vysoký and its focus on promotional, reportage and product photography.

A dialogue between practice and teaching

The exhibition is more than just a showcase of unique objects of design; it is also a testimony to the dynamics at play in the teaching activities of the Department of Design at the Faculty of Arts of the Technical University of Košice. The faculty staff are not only mediators of expertise; they are also active practitioners, creatives who are constantly rewriting the rules of their own disciplines. Their work demonstrates that design is a living organism which thrives with changes in technological, ecological and social trends.

The exhibition offers an overview of the various approaches which are currently represented at the Department, including 3D visualisation, graphic design, product design, typographic design, conceptual design and innovation vs traditional crafts; it offers visitors an insight into creative processes which combine experience, experimentation and a vision of the future. It is a space for dialogue – not only between teachers and their students, but also between design and the society for which it is intended.

Andrej Haščák and Eva Jenčuráková,
exhibition curators