BIESSE INTERNATIONAL DESIGN AWARD 2026

I Edition

1. SUBJECT OF THE COMPETITION

BIESSE, in collaboration with POLI.design, a Consortium Company founded by the Politecnico di Milano, has launched an international competition to identify new ideas for innovative concepts related to furniture and products capable of transforming private and commercial spaces. These outcomes should be characterised by a multi-material approach, involving the combined use of at least two materials chosen from those processed by BIESSE technologies (i.e., wood, glass, stone, plastic and composite materials, metal).

The solutions presented must be original and unpublished, they must be inspired by the corporate values of Biesse (details in point 7 of the regulation) and must highlight the use of advanced production technologies and processing methods enabled by the company's machinery, showcasing the potential for innovation and experimentation that Biesse is able to offer. (Please refer to the content at this link).

Each project will also have to respect the maximum dimension compatible with a platform of size 105 x 250 cm, to ensure the feasibility in the prototyping phase and manageability in logistic terms for the realization of a representative exhibition.
In addition to ensuring functional responsiveness, proposals should consider full compliance with existing safety legislation, paying particular attention to ergonomic requirements and enhancing the environmental sustainability of both the materials and the manufacturing processes adopted.

Guide to the use of the concept design matrix:
The proposed matrix provides a guidance tool for the development of design concepts, inviting participants to explore intersections between functional categories and application areas.
Each cell represents a possible project direction, obtained from the intersection between a reference sector (Private or Commercial) and a function of use (Support the body, Support things, Protect, Contain, Display).
At each crossing, participants are invited to select and use at least two different materials, reflecting on their functional, aesthetic and sustainable characteristics.

This scheme is designed to stimulate:

- Material testing;
- coherence between function, context and language;
- a reflection on concrete applications in the different areas of use.

Each concept must therefore be the result of a design dialogue between function, sector and subject, in order to propose innovative solutions that are aware of their relevance.

		Function of use				
		Support the body	**Support things**	**Protect**	**Contain**	**Display**
Reference Sector	**Private**	+/= 2 Materials	+/= 2 Materials	+/= 2 Materials	+/= 2 Materials	+/= 2 Materials
	Commercial	+/= 2 Materials	+/= 2 Materials	+/= 2 Materials	+/= 2 Materials	+/= 2 Materials

Example:

- Choose a reference sector: "private".
- Select a function to use: "Support the body".
- Define two or more materials which should be present in your project by selecting them from the list provided in point 1 of the regulation.
- Combine your elements, e.g. "A product intended for the domestic environment designed to support the body, made of wood, stone and metal."
- Start designing!

2. PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS

Participation is open to students and recent graduates, Italian and international, enrolled or graduated in undergraduate or master's degree programs in Design, Architecture or related disciplines.
The participation of alumni who have obtained their bachelor's or master's degree within a maximum period of three years from the opening date of the contest is also allowed.
It is possible to participate individually or in groups.
In case of participation by a group of designers, a group leader must be identified, who will be the only responsible and official contact for POLI.design for all communications related to the competition.
Groups of up to 4 participants are allowed (1 leader + 3 members).

By registering, each participant (or group) fully accepts the contents and conditions of these rules. Failure to comply, even partially, with the established rules may result in exclusion of the project from the competition.
The Participation is not permitted for:

- members of the Jury;
- immediate family members of the Jury;
- employees of BIESSE and POLI.design.

The projects submitted must be new and original, developed specifically for this competition.
Each participant, whether individual or group, may submit only one project.

3. APPLICATION FOR PARTICIPATION

The competition application process consists of two phases and must be completed exclusively through the dedicated online platform available at: Form Biesse International Design Award

PHASE 1 – REGISTRATION

Applicants must complete the ***Registration Form*** by providing the required personal and academic information and accepting the terms and conditions of the competition.

Upon successful registration, each participant (or group leader, in the case of team participation) will receive a unique Participant ID generated automatically by the platform. This code must be retained and used for the final submission process and any communication related to the competition.

The application must contain:

- the full personal details of the participant and, in the case of groups, also of each member;
- the address of residence
- a telephone number (fixed and/or mobile);
- a valid e-mail address;
- details of the current course or qualification
- an explicit declaration of knowledge and unconditional acceptance of this call;

Attention: The name/s of the participant/s must be indicated *only in the application for participation*. It is not allowed to insert any name on the submitted papers, under penalty of exclusion from the competition.

PHASE 2 – PROJECT SUBMISSION

Only registered participants are eligible to submit their projects. They receive the submission form via email after successfull registration for the contest.

All project materials indicated in Section 4 "Required Submissions" must be uploaded through the dedicated Project Submission Form by the deadline indicated in Section 5 "Calendar".

The submission of all required project documents constitutes the formal application to the competition.

Biesse International Design Award

4. REQUIRED SUBMISSIONS

Submissions must be sent in digital format only via the telematic platform, as described in point 3. The official language of the competition is English, therefore all textual documents must be written in English. Each participant (or group) must upload **one single PDF file** containing all required submission materials in the following order:

- **Preview image:** A summary image of the project highlighting its key features (rendering or other representative image). This image will be the first element viewed by the Jury during the evaluation process.
- **Descriptive report:** a short report, up to 3000 characters (about one page), without pictures, explaining:
  - the reasons, the general concept, the characteristics of the project and the materials envisaged and why it is an emblematic solution to highlight the potentialities of BIESSE technologies.
  - The report must be presented on one ISO A4 page (21 × 29.7 cm), vertical orientation, and should only display the project title in the header;
- **Graphics:** three tables in ISO-A3 format (42 x 29.7 cm) horizontal, in format. pdf, created following the layout downloadable here. The tables should contain:
  - Board 1: overview, reference scenarios and usage patterns, mood boards, general concept of the object in the context of use and sources of inspiration;
  - Board 2: Technical drawings, including plans, outlines, sections, axonometric views, exploded views, dimensional construction drawings in appropriate scales, detail details and significant material choices;
  - Board 3: representation of the object, such as rendering or photo of the model.

All five pages listed above must be merged into **one single PDF document**. The PDF must:

- contain exactly **5 pages**;
- be named **"Biesse International Design Award_[Participant ID]"**;
- have a maximum file size of **10 MB**.

Separate files will not be accepted.

All files must be uploaded exclusively via the telematics platform. Links to external servers will not be accepted or sent via regular or certified email.
All uploaded materials will be associated with the Participant ID assigned during Phase 1 (Registration).
Participants are responsible for preserving their Participant ID and for ensuring that the code provided during submission matches their registration data.

The Jury will evaluate all entries in anonymous form. It is strictly forbidden to include names, universities, logos, email addresses, or any other identifying information within the submitted PDF. Failure to comply with this requirement may result in exclusion from the competition.

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5. CALENDAR

The deadline for registration and project submission has been extended to 2 December 2026.

All required documents must be uploaded in digital format through the online platform no later than 23:59 CET on 2 December 2026.

Registration Deadline:
2 December 2026 at 23:59 CET

Project Submission Deadline:
2 December 2026 at 23:59 CET

No further extension will be granted beyond the stated deadlines.
Applications submitted before the introduction of the two-phase procedure shall remain valid and fully compliant with the competition regulations.
Participants who have already completed the submission process before the implementation of the new procedure will not be required to register again.

6. JURY

The Jury is composed of the following members with voting rights:

- Two representatives of the BIESSE company;
- A representative from the industrial design field, such as associations, media, or other relevant organizations;
- A representative of POLI.design or the Design System of the Politecnico di Milano;
- Three members selected from institutions and companies related to the world of culture and design.

The work of the jury will be confidential, while the final report, containing the ranking of the winners and, if necessary, those mentioned and/ or selected, will be made public. The jury shall act by a majority vote and its judgment shall be final.

7. EVALUATION CRITERIA

The jury will evaluate the applications in an anonymized way: POLI.design will guarantee that the works do not contain elements attributable to the identity of the authors, under penalty of exclusion from the competition. Project selection and evaluation will take into account the following criteria:

- **Originality and innovation:** The degree of originality of the project, the search for innovative design solutions, experimentation with materials and surface finishes.
- Adequacy of the project to the potential of Biesse 's machine tools, their capacity to work on several materials, the efficiency of the production processes and the type of solution provided for the result of the project.
- **Dimensions**: the object must be contained within a modular platform, for the realization of an itinerant exhibition, equal to 105 x 250 cm.

- **Multimateriality**: The combined use of at least two materials among those that can be processed with Biesse technologies (i.e., wood, glass, stone, plastic and composite materials, metal).
- **Alligment to BIESSEs values:** Each project will have to interpret the core values of the BIESSE brand, which include**:**
    - **Curiosity & Intuition:** The desire for discovery and the ability to develop cutting-edge solutions to anticipate market needs.
    - **Maestria & Innovation:** The fusion of Italian manufacturing tradition with a continuous drive towards technological innovation.
    - **Sustainability**: Respect for the environment, society and people, with a strong focus on sustainability in all stages of production.
    - **Human-centered Approach**: As a guiding principle, valuing talent, well-being, and collaboration to create solutions that place the human being at the center of the creative and productive process.

The work of the jury will be confidential, while the final report, containing the ranking of the winners and, if necessary, those mentioned and/ or selected, will be made public. The jury decides by majority and its judgment is final. The work of the jury must be concluded no later than 15/02/2027.

8. AWARDS AND MENTIONS

The total Award money of €18,000 will be distributed as follows:

1° prize *€10.000,00*
2° prize *€5.000,00*
3° prize *€3.000,00*

The prizes will be paid directly by Biesse S.p.A. to the winners, according to the modalities and timing communicated at the end of the competition. The above amounts are before any applicable tax deductions, which will be calculated according to the tax situation of the recipient (for example, student, young professional, with or without VAT).
In the case of participation in a group, the prize will be divided equally among the team members indicated in the official application, unless otherwise agreed by all members of the group and communicated in writing to the organisers before payment.
Payment is subject to verification of eligibility requirements and submission of required tax documentation (for example: income tax return, Italian tax code or equivalent documents for foreign participants).

9. RIGHTS OF AUTHORISATION AND OWNERSHIP OF WORKS

Participants in the competition retain copyright* on their works, including authorship and integrity rights. However, in the event that a work is selected as the winner of one of the prize money, the designers assign to Biesse the exclusive rights of economic exploitation** of the winning works. These rights include, but are not limited to, the rights of reproduction, distribution, publication and commercial use.
The economic relationship between Biesse and the winning designer will be regulated by a separate agreement, aimed at defining the terms of payment of the prize pool and the conditions relating to the commercial exploitation of the works.
This assignment of rights does not apply to works selected for a commendation, which do not involve the award of a prize money.
Biesse also reserves the right to transfer to third parties the exploitation rights of the winning works without further approval by the designers.
In addition, Biesse may also express an interest in the purchase of economic exploitation rights for unawarded works. In this case, the participants undertake to evaluate any purchase proposals, which will be settled by separate agreements between the parties.
To this end, Biesse reserves a non-renewable option period of 60 days from the official communication of the results of the competition, during which participants undertake not to transfer to third parties, either directly or indirectly, nor to enter into negotiations with other parties for the purpose of transferring, in whole or in part, the rights to the economic exploitation of the unawarded works.

Definitions:
*"Copyright of the author"
"Copyright" means the author ’s moral right to be recognized as the creator of the Work or the Materials, as well as the right to oppose modifications, deformations or alterations that may harm his honor or reputation.
The copyright is inalienable, non-transferable and may not be assigned, waived or limited by the author, remaining under him even in case of assignment of the rights of economic exploitation.

**"Right of economic exploitation"
"Right of economic exploitation" means the right to economically use the Work or the Materials (including, but not limited to, text, images, designs, graphics, multimedia content and any other element provided or made under the Agreement) both in the industrial sector, or in the context of production or manufacturing processes, and in the commercial sector, or for sales, promotion, distribution or communication to the public. This right includes, but is not limited to, the reproduction, publication, transformation, adaptation, processing and distribution of the Work or the Materials, on any medium and in any format, physical or digital. The right of economic exploitation is transferred without territorial or temporal limitations.

10. INFORMATION AND DISSEMINATION OF RESULTS

The results of the jury evaluation will be communicated to the winners within the established deadlines via e-mail.
Biesse will present the initiative through its own and third-party communication channels, including specialized media, with no restrictions on the type of publication.
All participants already authorize Biesse to exhibit their projects in public, in exhibitions and events of various kinds, as well as to publish them on catalogues or specialized magazines. On such occasions, the author will always be quoted, without any other compensation being due.

11. INFORMATION EX ART. 13 REG. UE 2016/679 (GDPR)

For information regarding the processing of personal data, in accordance with articles 15 and following of the GDPR, and to exercise the rights provided, please refer to the privacy policy ex Art. 13 GDPR attached to the application form.

Competition rules updated on 2 November 2026

Contact:
Email: competitions@polidesign.net