

RULES

CETEM DESIGN AWARD

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The Furniture and Wood Technology Centre (CETEM) invites companies from the international home furnishings sector to take part in the **30th edition of the CETEM DESIGN AWARD**, an international industrial furniture design award.

The competition recognises products or as-yet-unrealised projects from companies that develop innovative projects in collaboration with professional designers, whether in-house or external, promoting the integration of design into business strategy and establishing it as a key factor for competitiveness and differentiation in the global market. The CETEM DESIGN AWARD aims to foster a culture of design within the furniture and home furnishings sector, rewarding proposals that stand out for their innovative potential in any of the following areas:

- New concepts and creative approaches.
- Use of innovative and sustainable materials.
- Alternative, digital and efficient production processes, incorporating technologies such as additive manufacturing, parametric design or augmented/virtual reality.
- Adaptation to new lifestyles and consumption patterns.
- Technological, social and cultural innovation
- User experience and usability, promoting products that enhance interaction and comfort.
- Accessibility and inclusion, integrating solutions that cater for user diversity.
- Circular economy and full life cycle, from design for disassembly through to reuse and recycling.

OBJECTIVE

To promote a culture of design in the home and furniture sector, highlighting the importance of integrating design into innovation processes and its contribution to business success, sustainability and international competitiveness. To recognise the development of furniture and homeware design products (for domestic use or contract installations) that represent innovation at any level:

new conceptual approaches, the use of innovative, sustainable and circular materials, advanced and digital production processes, design focused on the user experience, usability, accessibility and inclusion, adaptation to new lifestyles and consumption patterns, as well as technological, social, cultural and eco-sustainable innovation.

PARTICIPANTS

Any company in the home furnishings sector that develops innovative products in collaboration with professional designers, whether internal or external to the organisation, may submit an application.

Each company may submit as many projects as it sees fit, with no limit on the number of entries per participant.

The authorship of the projects must be attributed to design professionals. This requirement must be substantiated by an official qualification in Design, Architecture or other related

disciplines during the second phase of the competition.

Where no such qualification is held, proof of sufficient professional experience in design projects with companies in the sector will be accepted; this will be assessed by the jury.

Members of the jury, their immediate family members and professional collaborators are not eligible to take part.



PROCESS/PHASES

Entries may be::

- Products or collections that have already been developed, produced or even marketed.
- Proposals not yet realised, which could be incorporated into the company's catalogue and marketed through it.

Phase 1 Submission of entries and projects

Following the official launch of the 30th edition on 9 September 2026, interested companies may register their product or project **until 31 December 2026** using the form available on the CETEM DESIGN AWARD website

En el formulario deberán incluirse:

- Company details.
- Name of the designer or design team responsible for the project.
- An online link where the product can be viewed (website or similar) or, failing that, a project report including images, a general description and the information necessary to demonstrate its innovative features.
- Selection, on the online form, of the project's main innovative contribution. Only one contribution may be selected for evaluation purposes in this section.

A CETEM technical committee, comprising specialists in design and innovation, will assess the applications in accordance with the evaluation criteria set out in these terms and conditions and will select a maximum of ten finalist projects. The shortlisting process will verify that the main innovative contribution has been clearly identified and justified, as well as the overall quality of the design and the feasibility of the project.

The shortlisting process will end on 15 January 2027. The results will be communicated to the selected companies, which must submit the relevant prototype or product in the next phase.

The shortlisted projects will be published on cetemdesignaward.com

Phase 2 Presentation of prototypes or products

The finalist companies will have **until 8 March 2027** to submit the prototype or product corresponding to their project at CETEM's

JURY MEETING. SELECTION OF WINNERS

The professional judging panel will meet at CETEM's premises by 31 March 2027 to analyse and evaluate the prototypes or products submitted by the shortlisted companies and select the winners of the 30th edition.

In accordance with the evaluation criteria set out in these rules, each member of the jury will carry out an individual weighted assessment prior to the deliberative session. The resulting scores will be pooled and will form the objective basis for decision-making and the jury's final verdict.

The jury for the 30th edition will be composed of internationally renowned designers, professionals from the fields of design and the home, as well as businesspeople and manufacturers from the furniture sector. The Director of CETEM will chair the jury.



EVALUATION CRITERIA

Each entry will be assessed on a scale of up to 100 points, divided between the main innovative contribution stated in the entry form (40 points) and the common evaluation criteria applicable to all projects (60 points). The selection of a particular contribution does not imply the creation of separate categories: all finalist projects will compete jointly for the prizes set out in these rules.

1 Main innovative contribution – 40 points

When completing the online entry form, each company must identify the single contribution through which the project primarily aims to demonstrate its innovative nature. The available options are:

- New concepts, uses, ways of living and patterns of consumption.
- Innovative materials, eco-design, sustainability and circularity.
- Production processes, technological integration and advanced or digital manufacturing.
- User experience, usability, ergonomics, accessibility and inclusion.
- Social or cultural innovation linked to the furniture and home furnishings sector.

2 Common assessment criteria – 60 points

All shortlisted projects will also be assessed according to the following common criteria, regardless of the main innovative contribution selected:

- **Overall quality of the design and formal-functional coherence.** Integration of form, function, materials and intended use; formal resolution, identity and consistency of the design proposal.
- **Functionality, usability and ergonomics.** Suitability for the intended use, comfort, safety, ease of interaction and, where applicable, accessibility and inclusion.
- **Technical, manufacturing and economic feasibility.** Technical execution, manufacturability, suitability of materials and processes, and realistic prospects for production and inclusion in the company's catalogue.
- **Environmental responsibility, durability and life cycle.** Efficient use of resources, durability, maintenance, reparability and appropriate management of the product at the end of its useful life.
- **Market relevance and competitive differentiation.** Suitability for the market or target users and the ability to add value and differentiation to the participating company.
- **Quality of the prototype and/or product.** Degree of realisation, build quality and finish, and clarity of the information provided.

During the shortlisting stage, assessment will be based on the documentation submitted. In the final phase, the jury will confirm or revise this assessment upon viewing the prototype or product. In the event of a tie in the total score, priority will be given to the project that has obtained a higher score for its main innovative contribution; if the tie persists, the higher score for overall design quality and formal-functional coherence will prevail.



JURY'S DECISION AND AWARDS CEREMONY

The jury's decision will remain confidential until its official announcement during the CETEM DESIGN AWARD awards ceremony in April 2027. At this event, all finalist projects will be presented and exhibited, and the winners will be publicly announced.

The ceremony will receive extensive media coverage and will be streamed live, allowing it to be followed in real time from anywhere in the world, thereby ensuring the international visibility of the finalist and winning projects.

PREMIOS

The CETEM DESIGN AWARD recognises companies and designers whose collaboration sets the standard for innovation in the home furnishings sector. To this end, three main prizes will be awarded:

- A First Prize, worth €6,000 and accompanied by a certificate, which will recognise the most outstanding project of this year's competition.
- A Second Prize, worth €2,000 and a certificate.
- A Third Prize, worth €1,000 and a certificate.

In addition, the jury may award special mentions to those proposals which, due to their innovative value or uniqueness,

deserve further recognition. These special mentions will receive a certificate and be highlighted in official press releases, although they will not carry a cash prize.

In addition to the financial reward, the CETEM DESIGN AWARD guarantees the finalist and winning projects prominent publicity through the competition's communication channels, including coverage in specialist design and furniture sector media, thereby strengthening their professional and business profile.

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

The winning prototypes or products will become the property of CETEM, which may use them in exhibitions, publications, events or other promotional activities related to the award. Finalist prototypes or products that do not win a prize will be returned to the participating companies, provided they expressly request this.

The jury may decide not to award any of the prizes if it considers that the entries submitted do not meet the required standard.

The statutory withholding tax will be applied to the prize money. Projects or products that have already won prizes in other similar competitions or contests will not be accepted.



LEGAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS

- Clause 1 Originality and authorship: Participants declare that the works submitted are original, unpublished and unique, and guarantee that they do not infringe the rights of third parties. Should this not be the case, they shall assume all liability arising therefrom, indemnifying CETEM against any claims for plagiarism or infringement of intellectual or industrial property rights that may be brought by third parties.
- Clause 2. Jury review: The jury may revoke the award of a prize if, within one year of its decision, well-founded claims are made questioning the originality or authorship of the winning design. In such a case, the entrant must return the prize in full within a maximum of one month from the final decision, following a hearing with the party concerned.
- Clause 3 Information and accuracy: CETEM accepts no responsibility for the accuracy of the information provided in the entry. Participation in the CETEM DESIGN AWARD implies full acceptance of these rules and of the jury's decision, which shall be final and not subject to appeal.
- Clause 4 Exhibition of entries: Submitted entries may be exhibited or publicised at CETEM's sole discretion; CETEM reserves the right not to display those it considers inappropriate or which do not conform to the spirit and objectives of the competition.
- Clause 5 Image and communication rights: Participants expressly authorise CETEM to use their name, biography, image, photographs, videos and materials related to the project in interviews, publications, publicity campaigns and promotional activities linked to the award, without entitlement to any additional financial compensation.
- Clause 6 Disqualification and return of prizes: Failure to comply with these rules will result in automatic disqualification. Should a prize have been awarded, the participant shall be obliged to return it, either in cash or in kind, upon request by CETEM.
- Clause 7 Receipt of entries: Entries submitted after the deadline, or those that are incomplete, illegible or defective, will not be accepted. CETEM reserves the right to reject any entry it deems unsuitable and not to exhibit or publicise it.
- Clause 8 Conduct of participants: Participants undertake not to make any statements or take any actions that may damage the reputation of CETEM, the jury or other entrants, regardless of whether or not they remain in the competition.
- Clause 9 Exhibition and reproduction of projects: CETEM may reproduce, exhibit and publicise the projects submitted in publications, catalogues, exhibitions and the media, always crediting the designer and/or the manufacturing company.
- Clause 10 Liability for prototypes or products: CETEM shall not be liable for any damage, loss, theft or incidents affecting the prototypes or products arising from causes beyond the organisation's control.
- Clause 11 Applicable law and jurisdiction: The awards shall be governed by Spanish law. Any dispute arising from this call for entries shall be subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of the Spanish courts and tribunals.