

10TH WOOD FESTIVAL 2022 CONTENT REPORT

General

The Wood Festival took place from 6 to 10 October 2022. All events and workshops were free of charge, except for the adult workshop – Cutting into Wood, where participants contributed €15 for material costs.

Festival organisation: Meta Kamšek

Participants:

- Kočevski les d.o.o.,
- Kočevje Business Incubator,
- Kočevje Grammar and Secondary School,
- Exhibition of prize-winning chairs - entry to the Enchantment of Wood exhibition, Cankarjev dom
- Exhibition of Primechairs: Mateja Dekleva - exhibition set-up; Luna Hočevar-coworker
- Prototyping of chairs: Andrej Palman,
- Mentors of Festival workshops: Tina Žele Kovačič, Monika Plemen, Andrej Palman, Gal Žvab, Drago Brinšek, Gal Hočevar, Zalka Kužnik,

Participants in the Expert Forum:

State Secretary, Mag. Dejan Židan - MGRT, Assoc. prof. Rok Kuhar – Academy of Fine Arts and Design, Prof. Primož Jeza - Academy of Fine Arts and Design, Ms. Eva Prelovšek Niemelä - InnoRenew CoE, Mr. Peter Ličen – Lushna, Assoc. Prof. Miha Klinar and Mrs. Mojca Mihailovič Škrinjar - Competence Centre for Design Management, prof. Salih Teskeredžić, Prof. Salih Teskeredžić – architect, designer, Creative leader of the Sarajevo, brand Gazzda, professor at the Sarajevo Academy of Fine Arts Sarajevo, Nikola Radeljčević – founder of the Numen/ForUse Group, artistic director of the brand Nun, Participants: Mr. Jože Prah, Mr. Simon Tekavec – Association of Charcoal Makers of Slovenia, Kočevski Les, Zavod Kočevsko, Craft brewery Matt, Big Bear Bistro, Association of Kočevje Musicians Patina band.



1. PRIMAL CHAIR COMPETITION

23. May – 29. August

This year's competition was the eighth in a row.

It was the 8th edition of the competition, which was published on the Festival of Wood website and on the international platforms Designboom, Competitions Archi and Architecture Diary. We received 110 entries from 37 different countries: Slovenia, UK, USA, Brazil, Ukraine, China, India, Italy, Georgia, Belarus, Portugal, North Macedonia, Russia, France, Estonia, Mexico, Korea, Germany, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Chile, Spain, Iran, Croatia, Serbia, Malaysia, Canada, Romania, Belgium, Lithuania, Philippines, Colombia, Japan, Israel, Turkey, Pakistan, Nigeria, Australia. The jury nominated three chairs for the prize and awarded all three the first place prize, which they share:

- Gašper Fabijan, name of the chair: ANIMA RELINQUES CORPUS, Slovenia,
- Hamza Bavčić, chair name: KERF-FOLDING STOOL CHAIR, Bosnia and Herzegovina,
- by Aldo Deli and Paride Stella, chair name: EVELYN, Italy

The jury was international for the first time and consisted of 10 expert members: prof. Janez Suhadolc - architect, Assoc. prof. Rok Kuhar - architect and industrial designer, Ms Natalija Lapajne - Museum of Architecture and Design, Assoc. professor Primož Jeza, Mr. Andrej Palman - Ing. Woodworking Festival of wood, Assoc. prof. Miha Klinar - designer and head of Gigodesign studio, doc. Mojca Perše - professor at the Faculty of Design, Mr. Albin Škalič - director of Murales, prof. Salih Teskeredžić - architect, designer, creative director of the Sarajevo brand Gazzda, professor at the Sarajevo Academy and Nikola Radeljković - founder of the Numen/ForUse group, artistic director of the Nunc brand.

Last year's winner of the competition, Anshul Prajapati from India, the author of the Hope chair, also attended the festival as our guest. As he was unable to attend last year's event due to an unforeseen situation of Covid pandemic, this year he took part in the opening ceremony, took part in a guided tour of the Krokar Rainforest, and tried his hand at the Carve into Wood workshop.

During the festival, all the winners of the eight Primechair competition, which have won prizes in each of the past eight years, were presented to the general public in the premises of the former Modiana shop in the centre of Kočevje.



2. OPENING THE FESTIVAL OF WOOD

6. October, Kočevje Cultural Centre

The 10th anniversary Wood Festival was opened by the opening speeches of Mag. Meta Kamšek, coordinator of the Wood Festival, and Dr Vladimir Prebilič, Mayor of the Municipality of Kočevje.

At the opening of the festival, the winners of the 8th International Design Competition (Prime)chair were announced and prototypes of the winning chairs were presented. Doc. Primož Jeza, associate professor at the Academy of Fine Arts and Design and chairman of the jury of the (Pra)chair 2022 competition, justified the jury's decision to select the three winning chairs in his speech.

During the event, certificates were also awarded to the gold and silver sponsors who, through their contribution and support to the festival, have acquired the status of Guardian of the Primechair, which they have chosen to permanently protect and use at their business premises. Kočevje Municipality, Melamin d.d., SiDG d.o.o., Virant d.o.o., Elektronček d.o.o., Ars Pharmae d.o.o., Abelium d.o.o. became the Guardians of the Chair, Bureau Veritas d.o.o., Snežnik d.o.o., Intersocks d.o.o., Riko hiše d.o.o. and Kobe inženiring d.o.o.

The opening of the Festival of Wood was enlivened by a musical performance on the marimba by the renowned musician Tajana Novak.

The number of visitors was 53.



3. EXPERT FORUM WOOD TECH TALK

7. October, Kočevje Cultural Centre

The Festival of Wood, in cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development – Directorate for Wood and SPIRIT Slovenia, organised the international Wood Tech Talk forum entitled “Wood and design as a driver of new added value”.

The event was aimed at drawing public attention to the importance of contemporary design in increasing the added value of wood as a premium and sustainable material, which is characteristic of the Kočevje-Ribnica region and Slovenia as one of the most forested countries in Europe.

It also aimed to promote the processing of domestic wood by showcasing good practices and exchanging views between the speakers, the participants, the professionals, economic and the general public. In addition to its professional and business character, the event was also a promotional event for the whole industry and all those involved.

After the welcoming address by the State Secretary of the Ministry of Regional Development and Trade, Mr. Dejan Židan, the first panel of the Forum hosted guests from Slovenia who discussed the role of the State and other stakeholders in making design of wood as a driver of new added value and a key support for the economy. The participants were Primož Jeza, both from the Academy of Fine Arts and Design, University of Ljubljana, Eva Prelovšek Niemelä from the InnoRenew Institute CoE, Peter Ličen from Lushna, doc.

The second panel featured two eminent foreign guests, prof. Salih Teskeredžić, professor at the Academy of Fine Arts in Sarajevo, co-founder of the and creative strategist of the Sarajevo-based brand Gazzda and winner of many design awards, and Nikola Radeljković, founder of the Numen/ForUse Group, who shared their experience and advice on designing and managing successful brands with the forum participants.

The number of attendees was 40.



4. CHARCOAL PILE AND CHARCOALFEST

CHARCOAL FARMING

30. September, cottage at Črni vrh

On Friday, 30 September, we lit the charcoal pile at the Cottage at Črni vrh. At the lighting of the charcoal pile, we paid tribute to the memory of a long-time collaborator of the charcoal community in Slovenia, Mr Janez Levstek. The memorial ceremony was led by Mr Jože Prah from the Association of Charcoal Producers of Slovenia.

The number of participants was 40.

CHARCOALFEST

8. October, cottage at Črni vrh

On Saturday 8 October, a gathering was held at the first OgljeFest at the cottage at Črni vrh, where participants had the opportunity to take a closer look at the charcoal pile and learn about the traditional method of cooking charcoal with a presentation by an experienced charcoal maker, Mr Simon Tekavec. This was followed by tasting of charcoal gin or whiskey from the Matt craft family brewery and a venison or beef charcoal burger from Big Bear Bistro. Participants finished the interesting culinary experience with a scoop of chestnuts, accompanied by music from local band Patina.



The number of participants was 52.

5. CREATIVE WORKSHOPS

7.-10. October, Kindergarten Kočevje, Grammar and Secondary School Kočevje

Friday, 7. October

Workshop for children of the Kindergarten Kočevje: I'll make my own wooden button;
Kindergarten Kočevje mentor: Tina Žele Kovačič.

Workshop: Making a speaker and a phone pendant of wood – Part 1; GSŠK
Woodworking Workshop mentors.

Number of participants: 3

Tišlar, Saturday 8 October

Swords and shields for brave warriors; GSŠK Woodworking Workshop mentor: Gal Žvab
Number of participants: 10

Workshop Making a speaker and a phone pendant of wood - Part 2; GSŠK Woodworking
Workshop Mentors: Gal Žvab, Andrej Palman

Number of participants: 3

Sunday, 9. October

Konstrukta Masters: competition for two-person teams to assemble the Konstrukta toy,
GSŠK mentors: Gal Hočevar, Zalka Kužnik

Number of participants: 16

Workshop for adults: Cutting into Wood; Kočevje Art Salon, GSŠK mentors: Tina Žele
Kovačič, Monika Plemen, Drago Brinšek

Number of participants: 10

Total number of visitors: 42.



6. CONCLUSION

Date: 4.11.2022

Prepared by: Manca Gorjanc

Approved by: Aleš Marolt President of Festival of Wood z.o.o., Soc.p.