



FESTIVAL LESA

7th International Industrial Design Contest (Primal)Chair

**Deadline
for entries:
1st September 2021**



So far 116 authors have participated at the international design contest (Primal) chair. They come from Slovenia, France, Serbia, Ukraine, Mexico, Italy, Croatia, Sweden, Ireland, Finland and Taiwan. Twenty-one prototypes are the result of the past six contests. In the year 2017 the three awarded prototypes were promoted within the 25th Bienale of design (BIO 25) in Ljubljana.



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About us

The green vastness of Kočevsko. Forests expand until the horizon and even further. The coexistence with the forest is over 80%. So it is quite unusual that wood, this precious natural material, has once been better used than in recent times. Global and local circumstances in the last decades have almost forgotten the wood and the importance of local forest wood chains. The situation has reflected in a substantial decline of wood processing industry in Slovenia and later resulted in lesser enrolment into vocational educational programmes for wood processing. Therefore we have found us in the situation when we could only bluntly observe how the unprocessed timber wood was leaving our forests across the state borders.

Climate changes and the crisis in globalisation have returned us to the threshold of thinking that wood is a perfect material. The only problem is to use it differently, enriched with new knowledge and design and produced with modern technology in connection with the precious skills of our ancestors. So it is no surprise that wood has lately become one of the key materials of the green breakthrough

In 2013 the Grammar and vocational secondary school in Kočevje was the first to give an incentive to establish the Festival of wood with a firm support of the local municipality as an echo of the described situation. We wished to create a space for rethinking the opportunities what our forest landscape has to offer us. We wanted to

remind the local inhabitants of the wood value as a natural resource that is not so self-evident as we the inhabitants mostly live it and hoped to become more and more aware of the high quality of the surroundings we live in. We wanted to connect the local entrepreneurs in the region, scientists in Slovenia and abroad. In short, we wished to raise our awareness and change our attitude towards the forest and wood as something that we can be very proud of. Naturally, new knowledge and skills come together with this new awareness, persuading us that we can process wood and last but not least sell it successfully with higher added value.

The purpose of the competition

The Festival of Wood invites open applications to the International Contest (Primal)Chair. The grand jury will select 3 authors or groups of authors who will be presented at the award ceremony during the Festival of Wood 2021.

Participation in the contest is open to all designers, students and authors worldwide and above 18 years.

When thinking about Kočevsko a picture of magnificent forest landscape with intact nature and diverse animal world with bears, wolves and lynxes emerges in one's mind. But Kočevsko has another special secret hiding in endless forests as a precious pearl. These are silent in secret remnants of primeval nature in Europe, in fact the few rare virgin forests in Europe. Slovenia has 14 virgin forests, 6 of them are in the region Kočevsko on the surface of almost 219 ha. The largest is the virgin forest Krokav that was put on the UNESCO world heritage list in 2017.

The Festival of Wood invites open applications to the 7th International Industrial Design Contest of a wooden chair as a tribute to the primeval forests of Kočevska region.



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By taking part in this design competition, you get a chance to materialise your design idea in the primeval forest – contemporary human relation. The aim is to create a simple, functional and ergonomically designed chair, which will, in addition to its primary function, raise awareness of the user (contemporary person) about the importance of coexistence between man and nature.

Awards

First award:

Money prize 1000 EUR (pre-tax),
prototype production
+ free board costs at the Bearlog hostel during the Festival of wood 2021 (4 nights) + guided tour to the brink of the virgin forest of Kočevsko + certificate

Second and Third award:

prototype production, certificate

Important dates

Call for entries: **7th April 2021**

Deadline for entries: **1st September 2021**

Selection of winners by the grand jury: **8th September 2021**

Award ceremony: Festival of Wood 2020,
7th October 2021, Kočevje

The Contest is invited by

Festival lesa, z.o.o., so.p.

Partners

Regional Institute for Tourism Kočevsko, Municipality of Kočevje, Kočevski les Timber Management of Municipality owned forests d.o.o., Gimnazija in Srednja šola Kočevje,
Business incubator Kočevje

Judging criteria

The entries will be evaluated according to the following 4 aspects:

1. design aspect; (innovativeness, functionality, aesthetics, feasibility)
2. material selection; taking into account the use of wood as a primary material
3. marketing stance; usefulness and market applicability
4. presentation; clear and high-quality presentation of entry presentation)

Every member of the grand jury will evaluate each entry according to one of the five aspects by the individual judging criteria.

The Grand Jury members

- **Prof. Janez Suhadolc**, architect, retired professor at the Faculty for Architecture in Ljubljana,
- **Doc. Mojca Perše**, professor at the Faculty for Design in Trzin (Ljubljana),
- **Natalija Lapajne**, museum counsellor, The Museum for Architecture and Design,
- **Rok Kuhar**, architect and industrial designer, assistant professor at the Academy for Arts and Design in Ljubljana,
- **Andrej Palman**, expert associate at the woodwork workshop at Business incubator Kočevje.
- **Albin Škalič, ing. les.**
CEO of the company Murales



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Participation and application of entries

- Participation in the contest is free of charge
- Applicants may be individuals or group of authors World Wide.
- Applicants must be older than 18 year.
- The number of entries for each author is limited to two solutions.
- The applications can only be registered via application form on competition website www.festival-of-wood.si.
- Applicants must fill in all fields of application form, otherwise application will not be valid.
- A visual representation of the product in the form of drawings, plans and visualization of the proposal in its usable capacity; (PDF file / minimum 225 dpi / A3 Landscape / color / up to 5 pages).
- The story of the designed chair; a written description/presentation of the product and the concept behind the designer's idea - up to 1500 characters (including spaces).
- CAD files compatible with AutoCAD, SketchUp, or Rhinoceros software (all files to be combined in a single ZIP file).
- No part of the attachments should be marked in a way that allows the identification of the author.
- Language of the competition application is English or Slovene.

important

The title of authors, their names or other recognizable signs should not be mentioned or seen anywhere in the written description or visual files. Noncompliance with these rules results in disqualification of the entry.



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Contest conditions

- By applying entries, authors agree to all the contest conditions, evident from the call for applications.
- Authors also agree to public presentation and promotion of their entries and prototypes for the purposes of Festival and contest.
- The winners of the competition, presented at the Festival, agree to actively cooperate with prototype production and the preparation of the contents for the brochure containing shortlisted entries in accordance with instructions, given by the organizers via e-mail.
- Prototype award-winning proposals will be manufactured in 2 copies – one for the exhibition at the Festival of Wood and the other for the author.
- The prize is not transferable. The Prize winner is not entitled to any money compensation.
- The winners who will not attend the public Award Ceremony without a justifiable reason will thus express the decision to renounce the prize.
- The winners may waive participation in the prototype production for justifiable reasons.
- In case one author applies more than two solutions, the organizer will include the last two applied entries from the author in the competition.
- Entries must be entirely produced in Slovenia, made predominantly from materials, present in Slovenia.
- To authors of entries who will not be awarded, organizer will not reimburse any costs, connected to participation in the contest.
- The Grand Jury will turn down all the incomplete or unsuitable applications. The Grand Jury will disqualify every applicant who will breach these conditions of application, send in false or misleading information or in any way violate the integrity of the contest.
- Participation in the contest is not permitted to Grand Jury members, their family members and close co-workers. A Jury member withdraws from assessing the work that he/she is personally involved in or in case of other personal reason the Jury member expresses.
- The organizer is not responsible for mistakes, connected to website, network or other communication malfunctions that could cause the applicants to miss the deadline.
- Copyright shall be guaranteed in accordance with the Law on Copyright and Related Rights. The participant guarantees to be the exclusive owner of the copyright (moral and material) to a work and that no third party has copyright or other intellectual property rights, which would result in challenges or asserts of a legal claim against organizer of the contest. The participant assumes responsibility for third-party claims that may derive from authorship and plagiarism.
- The organizer assumes the costs of postal services for sending the prototype. Other related costs (customs, etc.) are the expense of the participant.

additional information

All the questions, related to the content of the contest can be sent to festival.lesa@gmail.com by **31st August 2021** the latest. All the answers will be sent to applicants or will be published on the Festival's website.

The jury will conclude its judging and inform the winners by **15th September 2021** the latest, through our social networks.

The results will be presented at the award ceremony on **7th October 2021**.

The organizer retains the right to change the contest in case the change would be necessary to maintain the integrity of the competition. Possible changes will be published on the Festival's website.



Virgin forest in the heart

(Tomaž Hartman; Pragozd : pranařava Kočevske
= Virgin forest : Kočevje primeval nature (2014))

Virgin forest – a forest where no sound of the axe has ever resounded. Primeval nature as it once was, now so rare and precious.

Two centuries of youth in shade, three centuries of mighty growth and solar energy gathering, and yet another century of decaying trunk, which gradually merges with the soil: this is the life cycle of the virgin forest fir – an inconceivable time scale as far as we human are concerned.

The mighty trees, true giants that reach fifty metres into the sky, measure over a meter and a half in diameter, and live even longer than 5000 years, constitute the framework of the virgin forest.

The picture of the virgin forest becomes clearer with each rock, tuft or moss, worm, bear, raindrop, sunray and our experiencing of it all.

We shall, however, never understand it. Is it perhaps enough just to admire it? To look for the inner peace that is experienced by each of us differently, in one's own way? To stop the human clock and metre and to acknowledge the right of the virgin forest simply to be. To remain for itself, by itself.

Experiencing a world without humans, a world with no boundary between life and death, awakens memories that may be older than the child's world of magical beings. Memories of the primeval world.