

PROFESSOR JINDŘICH HALABALA AWARD

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT COMPETITION IN FURNITURE AND INTERIOR DESIGN

Report on the completion of the projects: MK SR-7923/2014/5.2; MK SR-2455/2014/4.3.2

Professor Halabala Award is awarded annually to the students of design study programmes from the European Union for the best semester and final projects in the field of furniture and interior design created within their university study.

The competition was created in honour of the life-long work of Professor Jindřich Halabala (1903–1978), who, during his creative and pedagogical activities in the former Czechoslovakia, made an incredible effort to raise the level of knowledge and development in the field of creation, construction and production of furniture, as well as to profile and support the creativity of students. His work activities at the former University of Forestry and Wood Technology in Zvolen in years 1954–1969 (today's Technical University in Zvolen) influenced indirectly the foundation of the present-day Department of Furniture Design and Wood Products. In 2004 the Department together with the Department of Furniture, Design and Habitat of the Mendel University in Brno initiated the beginning of the competition. Both universities are the guarantors and every other year the organisers of the competition.

Originally it was just a small exhibition of semester and final student's projects of the cooperating universities. Later on, two other competing schools from the Slovak and Czech Republic joined the competition and in 2013 the 9th year of the competition could be attended also by participants from other European countries for the first time. The selection of the best projects of the 9th year of competition, attended by 13 participating schools from 5 countries (Poland, Germany, Hungary, Belgium, Czech Republic and Slovak Republic), was introduced by the Technical University in Zvolen in the form of a travelling exhibition.

Reinstallations of the travelling exhibition in 2014:

5th February – 15th March / Gallery of the Slovak Design Centre Satelit, Bratislava, Slovakia
27th March – 28th March / Conference Huskwood in hotel Saliris, Egerszalók, Hungary
23rd April – 26th April / International Fair of Furniture and Interior Design Mobitex, Brno, Czech Republic
28th May – 1st June / DMY International Design Festival, Tempelhof, Berlin, Germany
29th September – 10th October / Gallery of the Slovak Institute in Vienna during the Vienna Design Week, Austria
29th October – 12th November / Gallery Multicentrum, Spišská Nová Ves, Slovakia

According to the statistics, the travelling exhibition was visited by almost 60,000 people. Competition projects offered the visitors an overview of semester and final projects of universities from the European Union as well as information about the possibilities of studying design at these schools.

Presentation of students' works at professional fora (Vienna Design Week, DMY International Design Festival in Berlin, Mobitex Brno) provided a space for confrontation

with current European tendencies in furniture and interior design. Moreover, professionals' responses represent a valuable feedback for further heading of the designer preparation within the individual study programmes of our universities. Establishing contacts with the producers and their engagement into the evaluation process of the next competition enhanced the communication between academic environment and professionals and created conditions for various forms of cooperation.

Stabilisation of the participant base from our country as well as from abroad is the expected contribution of the travelling exhibition. It creates conditions for enrichment of opinions, further increase in the event's quality and representativeness as well as further development of cooperation between our and foreign universities. Within exhibition openings and other meetings new contacts were established and already existing contacts with foreign schools of similar focus were deepened. The presentation of the best students' projects enabled also the possibility of forming a positive image about the level of our education and increasing the interest in cooperation at various levels. The aim of presenting the results of Slovak design students leads to support of their later potential work in international work teams.



Reinstallation of the exhibition in Berlin during DMY International Design Festival 2014 was seen by 15,000 visitors of Tempelhof.

Competition Terms and Conditions of the prepared 11th year of Professor Halabala Award 2015 will be published on 10th March on the event webpage: www.tuzvo.sk/halabala/

In the long term the event is financially supported by the Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic and the Technical University in Zvolen.

Text and photo: Mgr. Elena Farkašová