Swiss Grand Award for Design 2016
14–19 June 2016

Messe Basel, Hall 3 (new venue)

An Exhibition by the Federal Office of Culture

Award Ceremony & Opening
14 June 2016, 6–10 pm

Swiss Grand Award for Design 2016 goes to Claudia Caviezel, Hans Eichenberger and Ralph Schraivogel

The Federal Office of Culture (FOC) presents this year's Swiss Grand Award for Design to textile designer Claudia Caviezel, furniture and interior designer Hans Eichenberger and graphic designer Ralph Schraivogel. The award winners will receive their honours on Tuesday 14 June 2016 at the opening of the Swiss Design Awards 2016 exhibition. The exhibition, which runs in parallel with Art Basel and DesignMiami between 14 and 19 June 2016, presents interviews and photographic portraits of the award winners. The publication accompanying the Swiss Grand Award for Design 2016 has been presented in Milan in parallel with the Salone del Mobile in April. Free copies will be available in the exhibition Swiss Design Awards 2016.

With its selection, the Federal Design Commission recognises the work of three outstanding designers who have played a defining role in cultural creativity in Switzerland, be it through the experimental design of Ralph Schraivogel's now legendary and visually unmistakeable posters; Claudia Caviezel's pioneering and innovative pattern and colour combinations in Swiss fashion, textile and product design practice; or the unparalleled contribution of Hans Eichenberger, with his precise yet playful development of new typologies in furniture and interior design as well as his universally admired one-offs such as the famous "Saffa" chair.

Launched in 2007 and endowed with CHF 40,000 in each case, the Swiss Grand Award for Design highlights the work of well-known designers that exemplifies the quality and relevance of Swiss design practice nationally and internationally.

The awarding ceremony and the opening of the Swiss Grand Award for Design 2016 and the Swiss Design Awards 2016 takes place on Tuesday 14 June 2016 from 6 pm to 10 pm in Hall 3 of the Messe Basel.

The laureates

Claudia Caviezel, b. 1977 in Zug
Textile designer, St. Gall

Textile designer Claudia Caviezel is known for her inquisitiveness and sharp eye for the potential of everyday objects. After training at the University of Applied Sciences and Arts in Lucerne she worked for the haute couture textile manufacturer Jakob Schlaepfer while also developing a wide range of other projects, from fabrics and lampshades to rugs and wall coverings. In all her work, Caviezel pursues an experimental and open approach, skilfully combining her unique instinct for patterns and colours with outstanding expertise in materials and techniques. She is currently responsible for fabric design and development at the St. Gall fashion company AKRIS.

With the Swiss Grand Award for Design 2016, the FOC honours Caviezel's talent and her profound influence on contemporary Swiss textile design. Claudia Caviezel has received a Swiss Design Award on three previous occasions, in 2003, 2007 and 2010.

Ralph Schraivogel, b. 1960 in Lucerne
Graphic designer, Zurich

Graphic designer Ralph Schraivogel is famed for his especially precise and meticulous working methods. After studying at the School of Art and Design Zurich he opened his own studio, also in Zurich. His preferred medium of expression is the poster. He has created works for many Swiss cultural institutions: in particular, his long-standing collaboration with Zurich's Filmpodium, the Museum für Gestaltung Zürich and the Cinemafrica film festival has given rise to powerful, eloquent graphic identities that have exerted a lasting influence on Swiss graphic design. His posters have received numerous international awards and are represented in major collections such as the Museum of Modern Art in New York. Schraivogel has been a member of the Alliance Graphique Internationale (AGI) since 1995.

With the Swiss Grand Award for Design 2016, the FOC recognises Schraivogel's unique position in Swiss graphic design, the expressive and consistent identity of his work, and the major influence of his posters on the image and communications of many Swiss cultural institutions. Schraivogel has received a Swiss Design Award on three previous occasions, in 1995, 1997 and 2000.

Hans Eichenberger, b. 1926 in Grosshöchstetten
Furniture and interior designer, Herrenschwanden, Bern

Hans Eichenberger is a leading Swiss furniture and interior designer from Herren-schwanden near Bern. After training as a carpenter he moved to Paris, where in the early 1950s he became part of the dynamic cultural and artistic scene that was to have a key influence on his life and work. Back in Switzerland, he systematically refined his inim-itably clear signature and is now considered one of the leading Swiss designers of the 20th century. Together with Trix and Robert Haussmann, Kurt Thut, Teo Jakob and Alfred Hablützel he founded the label Swiss Design; subsequently he also worked with Atelier 5 and executed projects for clients including the Swiss National Bank, the Kunstmuseum Bern and Swiss Federal Railways. Eichenberger's numerous works are thus inextricably woven into the development of modern Switzerland. They are exhibited at institutions including the Museum of Modern Art in New York, the Vitra Design Museum in Weil am Rhein and the Museum für Gestaltung Zürich.

With the Swiss Grand Award for Design 2016, the FOC honours Eichenberger's pioneer-ing role in the history of 20th-century Swiss furniture and interior design as well as his major influence on generations of national and international designers. Eichenberger has received a Swiss Design Award on three previous occasions, in 1954, 1957 and 1958. He acted as an expert for the Swiss Design Competition from 1977 to 1983.

Publication

Swiss Grand Award for Design 2016
60 pages (German/French/English)
With texts by Christian Jaquet, Claude Lichtenstein and Ariana
Pradal, and with interviews by Patrizia Crivelli, Christian Jaquet
and Vera Sacchetti.
Graphic Design: Jonathan Hares, Lausanne
Photos: Gina Folly, Basel

Exhibition

Exhibition opening and Swiss Design Awards presentation
ceremony (Swiss Design Awards & Swiss Grand Award for
Design):
Tuesday 14 June, Hall 3 (new exhibition location),
Messe Basel, 6 pm – 10 pm

The Swiss Design Awards 2016 exhibition is open from
14 – 19 June 2016 in Hall 3 (new exhibition location) of
Messe Basel from 11am to 7 pm. Admission is free.

More information on:
www.swissdesignawardsblog.ch

Visual materials on the award winners are available for
download on the website: http://www.bak.admin.ch/sgpd

The Swiss Design Awards on Instagram:
@swissdesignawards / #swissdesignawards

The Swiss Design Awards on Facebook:
www.facebook.com/sdaswissdesignawards

Contact and Information

On the Confederation's culture awards:
Danielle Nanchen, Head of Cultural Creativity Section, Federal
Office of Culture
tel. +41(0)58 464 98 23
danielle.nanchen@bak.admin.ch

On the Swiss Design Awards:
Patrizia Crivelli, Design Promotion, Cultural Creativity Section,
Federal Office of Culture
tel. +41 (0)58 462 92 77
patrizia.crivelli@bak.admin.ch

Press & Public Relations:
Julia Albani and Stefanie Lockwood, BUREAU N
tel. +41 (0)76 729 43 21
media@designpreise.ch

Swiss Grand Award for Design

In addition to the Swiss Design Awards, the Federal Office of Culture has for the last ten years presented the Swiss Grand Award for Design to individual designers or established design firms that contribute to the renown of Swiss design nationally and internationally. The Swiss Grand Award for Design originated as a means of encouraging, supporting and ultimately honouring the Swiss design scene. The prize communicates and indicates the traditions of Swiss design.

Laureates 2007 – 2015

2015
Luc Chessex (photographer)
Lora Lamm (graphic designer)
Team'77 (Erich Gschwind, André Gürtler, Christian Mengelt, typographers)

2014
Erich Biehle (textile designer)
Alfredo Häberli (product designer)
Wolfgang Weingart (typographer)

2013
Trix and Robert Haussmann (product designers)
Armin Hoffmann (graphic designer)
Martin Leuthold (textile designer)

2012
Franco Clivio (product designer)
Gavillet & Rust (Gilles Gavillet, David Rust, graphic designers)
Karl Gerstner (graphic designer)

2011
Jörg Boner (product designer)
NORM (Dimitri Bruni, Manuel Krebs, graphic designers)
Ernst Scheidegger (photographer)
Walter Steiger (footware designer)

2010
Susi und Ueli Berger (furniture designers)
Jean-Luc Godard (filmmaker)
Sonnhild Kestler (textile designer)
Otto Künzli (jewellery designer)

2009
Robert Frank (photographer)
Christoph Hefti (textile designer)
Ursula Rodel (fashion designer)
Thut Möbel (furniture design)

2008
Holzer Kobler Architekturen (Barbara Holzer, Tristan Kobler, exhibitions designers)
Albert Kriemler (AKRIS, fashion designer)
Alain Kupper (graphic designer, musician, artist, gallerist)
Walter Pfeiffer (photographer)

2007
Ruth Grüninger (fashion designer)
NOSE (communication design, service design)
Bernhard Schobinger (jewellery designer)
Cornel Windlin (graphic designer)

Federal Design Commission

2012 – 2015

Chair
Patrick Reymond
Architect, designer, Atelier Oï, La Neuveville

Members

Laurent Benner
Visual designer, London and Zurich

Lionel Bovier
Editor, Zurich and Paris

Christoph Hefti
Textile designer, Brussels

Renate Menzi
Curator, Design collection,
Museum für Gestaltung Zürich

Heidi Wegener
Design consultant, Meilen

2016 – 2019

Chair
Lionel Bovier
Director, Mamco (Musée d'art moderne et
contemporain), Geneva

Members

Laurent Benner
Visual designer, London and Zurich

Nicoletta Ossanna Cavadini
Director, m.a.x.museo, Chiasso

Christoph Hefti
Textile designer, Brussels

Aude Lehmann
Graphic designer, Zurich

Renate Menzi
Curator, Design collection,
Museum für Gestaltung Zürich

Heidi Wegener
Design consultant, Meilen

The laureates of the 2016 Swiss Grand Award for Design
were selected by the 2012 – 2015 Commission