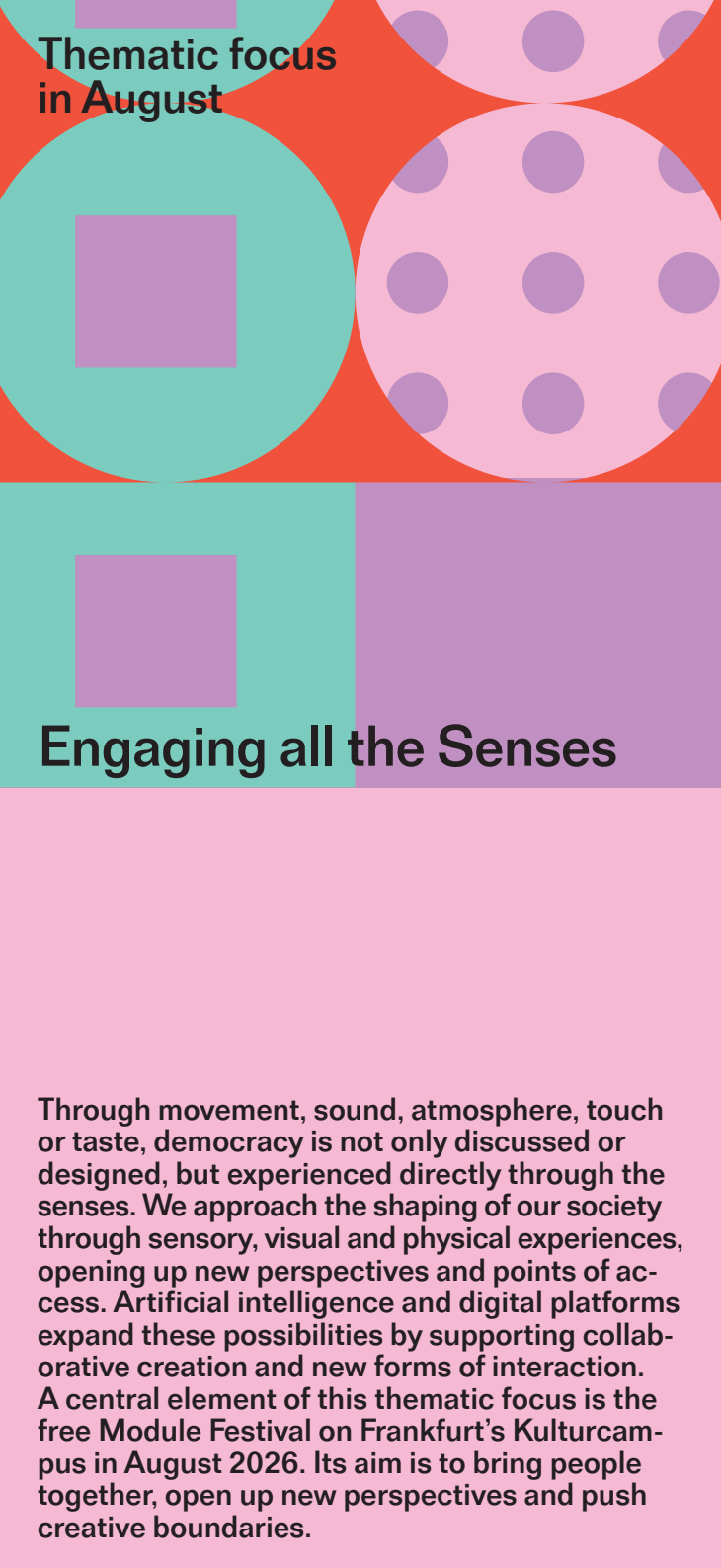




**Thematic focus
in August**

Engaging all the Senses

Through movement, sound, atmosphere, touch or taste, democracy is not only discussed or designed, but experienced directly through the senses. We approach the shaping of our society through sensory, visual and physical experiences, opening up new perspectives and points of access. Artificial intelligence and digital platforms expand these possibilities by supporting collaborative creation and new forms of interaction. A central element of this thematic focus is the free Module Festival on Frankfurt's Kulturcampus in August 2026. Its aim is to bring people together, open up new perspectives and push creative boundaries.

Our August highlights

A selection of particularly recommended events related to the WDC thematic focus in August can be explored here. Many more events are available at wdc2026.org.

A Sky Full of Hope – Earthtime 1.78 Frankfurt

With A Sky Full of Hope – Earthtime 1.78 Frankfurt, American artist Janet Echelman realises a monumental net sculpture above the Konstablerwache square. The installation becomes a new atmospheric and social point of reference in the centre of the city.

Konstablerwache, Frankfurt
Opening expected on 07.08.

Module Festival

This free open-air festival invites visitors to an extraordinary weekend featuring music by Suzanne Ciani, upsammy, Roza Terenzi, yungfya, Bambi, Grenzkontrolle and the online radio station Refuge Worldwide, which will broadcast live from the festival on all four days, alongside many more artists and contributors.

Visual contributions include works by Lucas Gutierrez, a Hockerbau workshop with FRAUEN*BAUEN, a print workshop with Lukas Marstaller, the Legobaustelle (Lego construction site) by the Deutsches Architektur-museum and a workshop hosted by the Schirn Kunsthalle.

Kulturcampus Frankfurt, 13.08. – 16.08.
by: WDC 2026

Module

Festival für Musik, Design und
popkulturellen Diskurs

August 2026

Radical Climate Action Bird

#Culture #Inclusion

The project explores how communication between humans and animals can become politically effective. At its centre is the song of native songbirds. Together with experts in ornithology, bioacoustics, audio design and AI, the artist develops sound installations that translate melodies of anti-fascist protest songs into artificial bird calls.

Metzler Park, Frankfurt

01.08. – 01.09.

by: Dennis Siering

Sound of Reading.Braille

#Culture #Exhibition

#Education / Mediation

How does a text sound when it is read with the fingertips? Is tactility a physical sensation, or a sensory and intellectual experience that we can truly

“grasp”? What can the eloquence of fingers reveal about meaning and content? This room-filling installation offers a visual and auditory experience that introduces visitors to the tactile nature of the Braille writing system.

Dialogmuseum Frankfurt

03.07. – 29.08.

02.07., 18:30 Opening

by: Dialogmuseum Frankfurt, Institut Designlabor Gutenberg / Mainz University of Applied Sciences

Künstler:innensymposium: Internationaler Waldkunstpfad

#Culture #Intervention / Action

As part of the 13th International Forest Art Trail *Democratic Forest*, 25 art projects in the forest, at the Messel Pit, the 3rd *Digital Forest* and a conference in cooperation with the Schader Stiftung are planned.

Klappacher Straße. 145, Darmstadt

03.08. – 21.08.

by: Internationaler Waldkunstpfad

Fritten für Frankfurt

#Participation #Workshop

Time to get hands-on! Together with initiatives from other neighbourhoods, participants will build two individual modular "Fries" urban furniture structures over the course of two days with Jonathan Radetz.

Carlo-Schmid-Platz Frankfurt

07.08. – 08.08.

by: Bockenheimer außer Haus

Aktiv werden gegen die Klimakrise – Waldgarten gegen Hitzestress

#Climate & Sustainability

#Guided Tour / Walk

Biologist Chris Kircher leads visitors along the enchanted paths leading through the partially overgrown allotment garden area of the Grüne Lunge in Frankfurt's Nordend district. Here, GemüseheldInnen have also created an urban forest garden offering numerous constructive responses to today's challenges: including shade and cooling during hot days, the connection between climate, biodiversity and environmental protection with regional food production, and even the preservation of an important fresh-air corridor as publicly accessible green space for Frankfurt residents.

Meeting point for the tour: car park of Abenteuerspielplatz Günthersburg at the end of Wetteraustraße, 14.08., 17:00

by: GemüseheldInnen Frankfurt e. V.

Festival: TEXT MATTERS. MATTERS OF TEXT 2026

#Culture #Festival

Talk: Sites of Printing

Klingspor Museum Offenbach

14.08., 19:00

► Further festival events online until 9 October

by: PRÄPOSITION

Town Hall Tours: Historic Town Hall Buildings in the South – Groß-Umstadt, Michelstadt and Miltenberg

#Culture #Guided Tour / Walk

The Town Hall Tours invite participants on a joint day excursion exploring historic town hall buildings from the Middle Ages to the Renaissance as places of municipal self-government and democratic history in the southern Rhein-Main region.

Meeting point: railway station 16.08., 10:00 – 17:30

by: An event by KulturRegion

Frankfurt RheinMain as part of the programme: Demokratie bauen!

On Display. Grafikdesign als soziale Praxis

#Culture #Media #Exhibition

The exhibition explores how graphic design shapes our perception, our thinking and processes of social negotiation – making design tangible as a political and social practice.

Schaumainkai 17, Frankfurt

21.08. – 08.11.

20.08., 19:00 Exhibition opening by: Museum Angewandte Kunst, Frankfurt

Stadtreparatur

#Public Space & Urban Development #Talk / Discussion

Third places are increasingly under pressure: the density of public spaces is being increased, places to spend time are being commercialised, and non-commercial meeting spaces are becoming ever rarer. This makes it all the more important to make visible where such places still exist in the city – and where they are missing. The project uses this question as the starting point for a public exploration of Frankfurt's social spaces.

Frankfurt City Library – Central Library, 20.08. – 03.09.

by: KSP ENGEL GmbH

Implantieren 2026

#Culture #Festival

The Implantieren Festival 2026 in Frankfurt creates connections between the independent performing arts scene and urban society. Through new venues, open selection processes and engagement with current political issues, artistic and discursive formats emerge. The focus lies on untold stories that open up new perspectives and generate social impulses through awareness, mindfulness and diversity.

Ehemalige Dondorf-Druckerei, Bockenheimer, 20.08. – 23.08.

by: ID_Frankfurt – Independent Dance und Performance e. V.

Re-Negotiating Space: After Growth | Was nach dem Wachstum?

#Culture #Design Discourse #Talk / Discussion

Rapid transformations driven by demographic change, technological progress and automation present cities with a fundamental challenge: how can urban spaces

be reimagined to respond not only to human needs, but also to the demands of the planet? *Re-Negotiating Space* addresses this question through a series of dialogues (in English), interactions and interventions.
Atelierhaus, Ludwig-Engel-Weg 1, Darmstadt, 22.08., 14:00
by: Kultur einer Digitalstadt e. V., hortopia.org

ada_kantine X studio formagora: Möbel bauen für ein solidarisches Miteinander

#Participation #Crafts

Together, ada_kantine and studio formagora want to design a reception area and a furniture series (tables, chairs, benches) that meet the needs of the guests and the location. In line with the concept of the venue, as much as possible will be produced from used materials. Participants will manufacture the furniture together in public building events.
Mertonstraße 30, Frankfurt 14.08., 14:00 – 19:00
by: studio formagora, ada_kantine

Gemeinsam wachsen uns Flügel! Projekt Dornbusch Straßenaktionstag & Einweihung im Dornbusch.

Participation #Climate & Sustainability #Intervention / Action
Dornbuschplatz becomes a summer street: the neighbourhood celebrates the inauguration of the collaboratively built furniture and shading structures. With music, games, food sharing and activities for children, a vibrant place for everyone emerges – a celebration of encounter and community!

Dornbuschplatz Frankfurt 23.08., 14:00
by: Projekt Dornbusch

Summerschool „Schlüsseltexte Moderner Ökonomie“

#Education #Mediation

As part of a summer school on the Schader Campus, students, doctoral researchers and young professionals work together with experts, in cooperation with the Canopus Foundation and the University of Societal Design, to develop innovative economic models for shaping economy and society more equitably in the spirit of *Design for Democracy*.
Goethestraße 2, Darmstadt 24.08. – 28.08.
by: Schader Stiftung

Treffpunkte für den Gravi

#Culture #Workshop

Gravensteiner Platz is a sparsely designed transit space with limited spatial quality. Through artistic and experimental methods, the project aims to collectively transform the site.

Gravensteiner Platz, Preungesheim

26.08. – 28.08., 16:00 – 18:00

open format (for everyone)

19:00 – 21:00 speculative workshop (ages 15+, registration via donata.koschel@gmail.com)

29.08., 14:00 – 18:00

Building Lab (for everyone),

30.08., 14:00 – 16:00

Building Lab, 16:00 – 18:00

joint presentation

by: Das Fliegende S mit Crespo Foundation

Adler, Orden, Wahlurne. Redesigning Democratic Representation

#Culture #Craft #Exhibition

Representative democracy is in crisis – how can design help restore trust in democratic institutions and processes? Under the direction of design theorist Friedrich von Borries and political scientist Sven T. Siefken, the research project *Redesigning Democratic Representation* questions supposedly self-evident assumptions: what might voting look like in the future? What connects Germany to the eagle? And with which medals do we honour exceptional civic engagement?
Museum Angewandte Kunst, Frankfurt 28.08.2026 – 07.02.2027 27.08., 19:00 Opening
by: HFBK Hamburg

Trip to Democracy – eine Bootstour

#Culture #Guided tour / walk

Trip to Democracy invites participants on a boat excursion from Eltville to Mainz, following in the footsteps of Johannes Gutenberg to discover how the printing press became a catalyst for democratic participation.

Meeting point: Tourist Information Eltville am Rhein, Burgstraße 1

29.08., 13:00

by: Stadt Eltville

#Subthemes in the August focus

→ Notes & Information

Do you have questions about accessibility, language or anything else? We want everyone to feel comfortable at WDC events. If you need information or support, please get in touch:

+49 69 928 82931
programm@wdc2026.org

→ Online calendar

Our online calendar lists all WDC events. You can filter by theme, format, date and location.



wdc2026.org @ wdc2026

Visualisation of the art installation *A Sky Full of Hope*
(Konstablerwache, Frankfurt) by Janet Eichelman
© Atelier Markgraph / Studio Eichelman



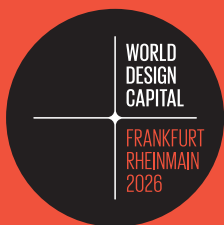
World
Frankfurt

Design
RheinMain

Capital
2026

Programme

WDC 2026
in July / August



Frankfurt RheinMain is World Design Capital 2026

Our region has been awarded the international title of World Design Capital for 2026. This means that for one year, we will demonstrate how good design can improve our lives.

WDC 2026 provides a platform for testing new ideas for a sustainable, equitable and liveable future.

What is a World Design Capital® (WDC)?

Every two years, World Design Organization (WDO)® awards the title World Design Capital® (WDC) to a city or region that uses design to drive economic, social, cultural, and progress. In addition to Frankfurt RheinMain (Germany) in 2026, WDO has recognised the following cities biennially: Torino (Italy); Seoul (South Korea); Helsinki (Finland); Cape Town (South Africa); Taipei (Taiwan, Chinese Taipei); Mexico City (Mexico); Lille Métropole (France); Valencia (Spain), San Diego (USA) and Tijuana (Mexico) as the first binational designation and most recently (South Korea) for 2028. Frankfurt RheinMain (Germany) holds the title for 2026 based on the guiding idea of *Design for Democracy. Atmospheres for a better life.*

What is the World Design Organization (WDO)®?

World Design Organization (WDO)® is a globally recognised non-governmental organisation with consultative status at the United Nations. It is committed to promoting and advancing industrial design as a driver of positive change. Since its founding in 1957, WDO has supported more than 215 member organisations worldwide and reaches hundreds of thousands of designers through innovative programmes and initiatives dedicated to “design for a better world”.

Thematic focus
in July

Rethinking Learning, Exploring Design

Education means more than simply conveying knowledge. It empowers us to shape our environment consciously, creatively and responsibly. Design plays a central role in this process: it transforms the way we learn – in schools, universities and beyond institutional settings. New learning spaces, methods and tools foster curiosity, collaboration and independent thinking – for children, young people and lifelong learners alike.

Designers and experts bring knowledge directly to people, while public squares, pavilions and excursions become places of learning. Independent formats such as the *WDC Pavilion* or the *WDC Campus* – involving around 40 universities from the region as well as national and international partner cities – create spaces that function simultaneously as laboratories, exhibitions, workshops and platforms for discourse, making education a driving force for a liveable present and future.

Our July highlights

A selection of particularly recommended events related to the WDC thematic focus in July can be explored here. Many more events are available at wdc2026.org.

WDC Campus Exhibition – dreams, ideas & prototypes: young talents at work

Under the title *dreams, ideas & prototypes: young talents at work*, the exhibition in summer 2026 brings together projects by students, lecturers and start-ups from design, artistic and scientific disciplines that provide answers to the pressing questions of our time. The focus is on themes that shape everyday life, including public space, health, education, mobility, new forms of coexistence and the responsible use of resources. The exhibition opens alongside the WDC Campus Festival – a three-day accompanying programme featuring workshops, keynotes, DJs and live acts.

Museum Angewandte Kunst, Frankfurt
and Metzlerpark, 03.07. – 09.08.
WDC-Campus-Festival 03.07. – 05.07.
by: WDC 2026

Women* & Type

The Museum Wiesbaden launches a new exhibition format: 20 internationally renowned female designers present typographically designed flags along Wiesbaden's promenade, the Rue. At the same time, the LUX Pavilion presents 20 typographic flags by young designers from the Communication Design degree programme. Through activist designs, they engage with feminist positions in typography.

Wilhelmstraße Wiesbaden, 10.07. – 03.10.
Vernissage: 09.07.
by: Museum Wiesbaden & LUX Mainz

LUX-Pavillon der Hochschule Mainz, 20.07. – 31.07.
by: Museum Wiesbaden, Institut Designlabor Gutenberg



Everybodies – the body in capitalism
© Lara Walter

July 2026

CARLO – Kühlende Pflanzen- segel am Bockenheimer Depot #Climate & Sustainability #Public Space & Urban Development

This summer, CARLO transforms one of Frankfurt's hottest squares into a shaded, green and blooming place. The expansive installation of climbing plants and hammocks is intended to become a green meeting place for EVERYONE – for events, discussions or simply spending enjoyable time together.

Carlo-Schmid-Platz, Frankfurt
From June, 13.08., 16:00 Opening
by: OMC°C / Just Architekten /
Optigrün International AG

WerkRaum Wiesbaden #Education #Public Space & Urban Development #Intervention / Action

The former vacant department store in the city centre serves as a central meeting point and platform for numerous WDC projects in Wiesbaden. During the summer holidays, the WerkRaum especially belongs to children, young people and their families. Play and activity areas with table tennis and table

football, reading-promotion workshops, creative formats such as urban art and open participatory activities create space for experimenting, learning and meeting others.

In addition, sam – Stadtmuseum am Markt transforms WerkRaum Wiesbaden into a Glass Museum, offering fascinating insights into museum work, the collection and the city's history:

What does ... Ms B. actually do in the museum?

01.07. + 15.07. + 29.07.
each 14:00 – 16:00

What does ... a museum director actually do?

06.07. + 13.07. + 20.07. + 27.07.
each 16:00 – 18:00

What does ... an archaeologist actually do in the museum?

08.07. + 22.07.
each 14:00 – 16:00

Exhibition: Stricheln und Sticheln. Satire in der Krise der Demokratie, 30.06. – 01.08.

► Further dates in August and on our website

Langgasse 5–9, Wiesbaden
by: Sandra Düsterhus & Sabine Philipp (sam – Stadtmuseum Wiesbaden)

Movement Workshop by Pihla Jaala & Laura Ahumada García: Moving Together

#Sport #Workshop

In this workshop format, participants explore – through contact improvisation and somatic practice – how movement, encounter and explicit consent in physical interaction can work together, enabling new forms of mindful, shared presence.

Hausprojekt Kolle, Schöffenstr. 9b, Frankfurt, 04.07., 14:00
by: BiBER* e. V.

HumanNature

Animal-Aided Design: Planung in der Stadt für Mensch und Tier

#Education #Talk / Discussion

Animal-Aided Design pursues an innovative approach by combining housing development and nature conservation. From the very beginning, wild animals are considered and integrated into planning as equal users of urban spaces. The lecture introduces the concept and demonstrates how the needs of selected target species can be systematically incorporated into planning and design processes.

Grüner Hörsaal, Robert-Mayer-Straße 2 + online 08.07., 19:30

by: Club Real, Frankfurt
University of Applied Sciences, Senckenberg Gesellschaft

Marktplatz Oberursel:

Lebendig, offen, mittendrin!

Sportlich lebendig mittendrin:

Vereine integrieren

#Culture #Intervention / Action

FC 04 Oberursel organises an inclusive holiday camp. On the final day, all participants come to the marketplace to meet the mayor, the Fountain Queen and local residents. Sporting activities connect community, integration and democracy.

Marktplatz Oberursel

03.07., 09:00

15.08., 15:00

by: Initiative „Marktplatz Oberursel: lebendig, offen, mittendrin!“

Thinking Design x

Christine Knoop

#Education #Science &

Research #Talk / Discussion

The Max Planck Institute for Empirical Aesthetics in Frankfurt investigates how and why people experience art, thereby following (to a considerable extent) an aesthetic “from below”, as coined by Gustav Theodor Fechner in

Vorschule der Ästhetik. This means that theoretical aesthetic concepts are derived from the actual aesthetic experiences of study participants. The lecture will be held in English.

Max-Planck-Institut für empirische Ästhetik, Frankfurt 09.07., 18:30

SCHAUKASTEN:STADT – HOCHHEIM:WEINFESTSELIG

#Culture #Exhibition

To mark the 75th anniversary of the Hochheim Wine Festival, the project creates a democratically designed space of remembrance in the heart of the city. Inside the vacant former citizens' office, an analogue exhibition emerges in which residents contribute their memories, objects and perspectives on wine festival culture.

Alte Malzfabrik 1, Hochheim am Main, 09.07. – 13.07.

by: Hochheimer Museen & Historisches Stadtarchiv

Opening: Hafen 26 – Zukünfte gestalten

#Science & Research #Culture #Exhibition

From June 2026 onwards, Hafen 26 temporarily transforms the future campus site of Offenbach University of Art and Design in Offenbach Harbour into an open experimental space. Here, students and researchers from HfG Offenbach explore the future of mobility, urban development and democratic uses of space through exhibitions, installations and discourse.

Site of the planned new university building, Hafenallee 13, Offenbach, 10.07., 17:30

by: Offenbach University of Art and Design

Augmented Reality:

Hier, wo wir sind: Flörsheim, Lucas LaRochelle

#Education #Digitalisation

Lucas LaRochelle transforms the space beneath the Opel Bridge with an AI-supported augmented reality installation into an experimental site connecting queer archives, digital art and new forms of collective remembrance.

Opelbrücke, Liebigstraße 1, Flörsheim, 10.07., 18:00

by: WAVA, initiated by Kulturfonds Frankfurt RheinMain together with Main-Taunus-Kreis and the municipalities of Bad Soden, Eppstein, Flörsheim, Hattersheim, Hochheim, Hofheim and Kelkheim.

WDC Pavillon in Wiesbaden and Rheingau

#Education #Participation

The *WDC Pavilion* becomes a temporary meeting point in public space. Its flexible design enables a tailored programme at each location, reflecting the diversity of the region and actively involving the local community. During the week, the focus is on workshops with schools and collaborative projects with clubs, cultural and educational institutions. At weekends, the pavilion transforms into an open gathering place with community workshops, performances, music and more.

Wiesbaden, 24.06. – 12.07.

Rheingau, 19.08. – 30.08.

by: WDC 2026

Städel Sunday Sessions

#Education #Culture #Festival

On two Sundays in July and August, the outdoor area of the Städel Museum transforms into a summery meeting place with live music, DJ sets, cool drinks and short guided tours on contemporary art.

Städel Museum

12.07. + 23.08., 16:00

DemokratieKioske

#Education #Workshop

What if a kiosk could be more than just a place of sale? What if it became a meeting point for ideas, conversations and questions about the future? This is precisely what the project makes possible.

Democracy Poetry Slam with Julia Zimmermann

Rushmoorpark Oberursel

16.07., from 19:30

Print Lab with Sandra Li

UZUMUMBA KIOSK

Offenbach, 18.07., from 15:00

Stricken mit Gefühl! with Karina

Liutaia, NOX Wasserhäuschen,

Frankfurt, 23.07., from 18:00

► Further dates in August and on our website

Pflücken erlaubt statt betreten verboten: Die essbare Stadt als multifunktionale Landschaft

#Education #Sustainability & Climate #Talk / Discussion

The edible city combines urban greenery, nutrition, education and community, making urban nature directly accessible – and usable for everyone. The lecture

introduces concepts and examples of edible cities and demonstrates how urban gardening, municipal initiatives and civic engagement can work together.

Grüner Hörsaal,

Robert-Mayer-Straße 2 + online

22.07., 19:30

by: Frankfurt University of Applied Sciences, Senckenberg Gesellschaft, Umweltforum Rhein-Main

Im Modus der Serie. Differenz, Variation und Wiederholung in Architektur und Design

#Design Theory #Exhibition

The exhibition explores how serial design shapes our built environment and examines both the potential and the limitations that seriality holds today for architecture, design and social coexistence.

Museum Angewandte Kunst, Frankfurt, 23.07. – 25.10.

Loebers Kulturcafé

#Education #Talk / Discussion #Culture

Many people in our society feel lonely. Particularly affected are vulnerable groups such as people with dementia, physical impairments or socially precarious living conditions. *Loebers Kulturcafé* offers a low-threshold place of encounter where people in need of support actively participate – not as recipients of help, but as shaping actors within the community.

Bansamühle in Neu-Isenburg

26.07. + 30.08. (monthly meetings)

by: Miruna Costa

Mishpocha –

The Art of Collaboration

Open-Air-Konzert. Sababa Nights

#Education #Culture

On 30 July, *Sababa Nights* starts the open-air concert series of the Jewish Museum Frankfurt with the psychedelic Middle Eastern grooves of Sababa 5, creating an outdoor musical space for encounter, diversity and exchange.

Bertha-Pappenheim-Platz 1, Frankfurt, 30.07., 19:00 – 22:00

by: Jüdisches Museum Frankfurt

#Subthemes in the July focus

World
Frankfurt

Design
RheinMain

Capital
2026

Let's design Frankfurt RheinMain together

WORLD
DESIGN
CAPITAL

FRANKFURT
RHEINMAIN
2026

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join us: wdc2026.org**

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Atmospheres for
a better life

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