

Press Release  
May 2026



## The programme has been confirmed: OPEN – Design Week begins on 5 June with 150 events taking place across the region.

Ten days, four cities, more than one-hundred and fifty venues: *Open – Design Week Frankfurt RheinMain*, the flagship festival of World Design Capital 2026, will take place from 5 to 14 June 2026. As the main part of the WDC programme, this new format offers far more than traditional exhibitions: talks, film programmes, architectural tours, workshops, conferences, city walks and community events will provide fresh inspiration and foster connections. *Open* demonstrates first-hand how design shapes our cities, our everyday lives and societal developments.

### Programme highlights:

- On four focus days (9 - 12 June) in Frankfurt, Offenbach, Darmstadt and Wiesbaden, visitors can experience design and design processes in more than 150 studios, companies, universities, workshops and cultural venues – right where design is created.
- Numerous further events will take place in curated themed spaces. Here, diverse perspectives on design are brought together – from the circular economy in the Circle Cube in Offenbach and the networking of international creative culture in Massif E to the theme of shared resources at Danzig am Platz (Frankfurt).
- High-profile specialist events such as Creative Industries Day (5 June), World Industrial Design Day (10 June) and the Forward Festival (11 and 12 June) will round off the programme.
- The World Heritage Festival at Mathildenhöhe in Darmstadt and the opening of the exhibition *A step ahead* to mark the 125th anniversary of the famous artists' colony will take place on the first weekend of *Open – Design Week*.
- On 6 June, the WDC invites visitors to experience the city from new perspectives during the Rooftop Day Frankfurt – featuring a presentation on

World Design Capital  
Frankfurt RheinMain 2026  
c/o Museum Angewandte Kunst  
Schaumainkai 17  
60594 Frankfurt am Main  
Germany

Presse / Press WDC 2026:  
Christina Sweeney  
Caroline Mohler  
Mobile +49 151 55620038  
Office +49 69 928 82933  
press@wdc2026.org

Pressebüro / Press Office:  
neumann communication  
wdc@neumann-communication.de  
+49 221 91 39 49 0

Umgesetzt durch /  
Organised by:  
Design FRM gGmbH

Geschäftsführerin /  
Chief Executive Officer:  
Carolina Romahn

Amtsgericht Frankfurt am Main,  
HRB 130442

Gefördert durch /  
Funded by



STADT FRANKFURT AM MAIN



Auf Grundlage der Leitidee von /  
Based on the core idea of

Design for Democracy.  
Atmospheres for  
a better life

World Design Capital® ist eine Initiative der /  
World Design Capital® is an initiative of



the Cultural Mile at the Jewish Museum, as well as guided tours through selected high-rise buildings and rooftops.

- Gary Hustwit's new film *What Are People For: Design Philosophy* by Patrick Whitney will celebrate its world premiere on 6 June at Massif E.
- The complete programme can be found at: [wdc2026.org/de/constellations/open](http://wdc2026.org/de/constellations/open)

Open - Design Week Frankfurt RheinMain is designed to be a long-term catalyst and set to become an integral part of the regional annual calendar beyond 2026. As part of the New European Bauhaus Festival 2026, *Open* is also integrated into a Europe-wide network for sustainability and social innovation.

'*Open* showcases the enormous creative energy of the Frankfurt Rhine-Main region and highlights the role that design plays in social cohesion, innovation and democratic participation,' says Carolina Romahn, managing director of World Design Capital Frankfurt Rhine-Main 2026. 'Here, design will not only be exhibited, but can be experienced as part of our daily lives.'

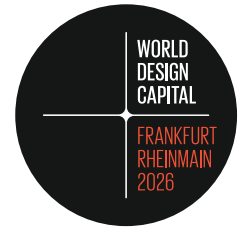
#### Four cities, four focal points: Open Week and its focus days

*Open* connects the region across city boundaries. In Frankfurt, Offenbach, Darmstadt and Wiesbaden, studios, agencies, workshops and companies offer insights into their work on specific focus days. What goes on behind the scenes at international design agencies? How do innovations emerge in industrial research? And how does design shape our everyday urban lives? The *Open* focus days are an invitation to the neighbourhood and all residents of the region to discover the places they walk past every day without knowing what is created there - whether it's a backyard studio in Offenbach, a high-tech laboratory in Darmstadt or a Frankfurt advertising agency.

- 9 June | Frankfurt: Urban Design, Communication and Brands (featuring, among others, *MESO Digital Interiors*, *hauser lacour*, *LAX CYCLES*)
- 10 June | Offenbach: Diversity in Creative Production and the Design Industry (featuring, among others, *madhat*, *Büro Schramm für Gestaltung*)
- 11 June | Darmstadt: Industrial Design, Technology and Research (featuring, among others, *Riese & Müller*, *Merck*, *SCHUMACHER Brand + Interaction Design*)
- 12 June | Wiesbaden: "Design Walk" through the city exploring subjects of social change (featuring, among others, *3Deluxe*, *Scholz & Volkmer*)

#### International appeal and highlights

Alongside the open days and the *Spaces* programme, a series of high-calibre specialist events will complement *Open - Design Week*. The programme kicks off with Creative Industries Day (05 June) and the World Heritage Festival at Mathildenhöhe (06 - 07 June), which celebrates 125 years of design history with the exhibition *A Step Ahead / Einen Schritt voraus*. World Industrial Design Day FRM (WIDD) on 10 June will underscore the societal significance of industrial design.



World Design Capital  
Frankfurt RheinMain 2026  
c/o Museum Angewandte Kunst  
Schaumainkai 17  
60594 Frankfurt am Main  
Germany

Presse / Press WDC 2026:  
Christina Sweeney  
Caroline Mohler  
Mobile +49 151 55620038  
Office +49 69 928 82933  
[press@wdc2026.org](mailto:press@wdc2026.org)

Pressebüro / Press Office:  
neumann communication  
[wdc@neumann-communication.de](mailto:wdc@neumann-communication.de)  
+49 221 91 39 49 0

Umgesetzt durch /  
Organised by:  
Design FRM gGmbH

Geschäftsführerin /  
Chief Executive Officer:  
Carolina Romahn

Amtsgericht Frankfurt am Main,  
HRB 130442

Gefördert durch /  
Funded by



STADT FRANKFURT AM MAIN



Auf Grundlage der Leitidee von /  
Based on the core idea of

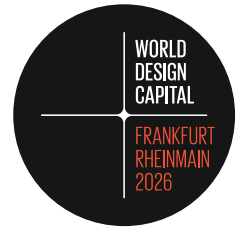
Design for Democracy.  
Atmospheres for  
a better life

World Design Capital® ist eine Initiative der /  
World Design Capital® is an initiative of



Further highlights include a *Social Ride* and the presentation of the WDC x Brompton Special Edition – the outcome of a nationwide competition for the folding bike specialists’ ultra-light P Line. The *Form Follows Friendship* exchange programme will bring together young designers from Germany and the Netherlands to collaborate on topics ranging from AI to the circular economy. The brand eins talk *Echt jetzt. Ein Abend für das Analoge* on 13 June will focus on face-to-face encounters and public debates beyond the digital realm. On 6 June, as part of Rooftop Day Frankfurt, Open Design Week invites visitors to experience the city from new perspectives. On the terrace of the Jewish Museum, plans for the future *Kulturmeile* will be presented, and guided tours of selected high-rise buildings will offer insights into the architecture of the skyline. Furthermore, on 6 June, the new film by renowned filmmaker Gary Hustwit, *What Are People For: Design Philosophy* by Patrick Whitney, will celebrate its world premiere at Massif E. The documentary about design pioneer Patrick Whitney explores how design can shape social and democratic processes. Director Gary Hustwit, producer Ashley Lukasik and Patrick Whitney himself will be in attendance.

Towards the end of the week, larger public events will take centre stage, including the renowned European conference and event series focusing on creativity, design and communication, the Forward Festival, and the TOKONOMA Open Air Craft Fair.



## Thematic hubs: the seven “Spaces” as hotspots of the local creative community

During *Open*, seven overarching themed spaces – the Spaces – will serve as hubs for discourse and networking between experts and the public:

### Museum Angewandte Kunst, Frankfurt: Next Generation Space

Dedicated to design education, cultural production and sustainable consumption, the Next Generation Space highlights how emerging designers are addressing key future challenges. The WDC-Hub brings together emerging talent and initiatives, including the Hessen Design Competition, the International Gender Design Network and the Form Follows Friendship exchange programme.

Address: Schaumainkai 17, Frankfurt

### Massif E, Frankfurt: Worldwide Creative Space

The former E-Kinos (cinemas) in the centre of Frankfurt will become a vibrant meeting place for international design culture. Exhibitions, talks and film screenings will bring designers, creatives and the public together at events such as the *Forward Festival*, one of the leading conference and festival platforms for creativity, design, communication and digital art.

Address: Zeil 125, Frankfurt

World Design Capital  
Frankfurt RheinMain 2026  
c/o Museum Angewandte Kunst  
Schaumainkai 17  
60594 Frankfurt am Main  
Germany

Presse / Press WDC 2026:  
Christina Sweeney  
Caroline Mohler  
Mobile +49 151 55620038  
Office +49 69 928 82933  
press@wdc2026.org

Pressebüro / Press Office:  
neumann communication  
wdc@neumann-communication.de  
+49 221 91 39 49 0

Umgesetzt durch /  
Organised by:  
Design FRM gGmbH

Geschäftsführerin /  
Chief Executive Officer:  
Carolina Romahn

Amtsgericht Frankfurt am Main,  
HRB 130442

Gefördert durch /  
Funded by



STADT FRANKFURT AM MAIN



Auf Grundlage der Leitidee von /  
Based on the core idea of

Design for Democracy.  
Atmospheres for  
a better life

World Design Capital® ist eine Initiative der /  
World Design Capital® is an initiative of



## Neue Kaiser, Frankfurt: Creative Value Space

At the Neue Kaiser space, the focus is on the role of design as an economic factor: how does design drive new business models, entrepreneurship and innovation? The venue is, amongst other things, the setting for the *9th Creative Industries Day*, with the programme complemented by the exhibition *Ausgezeichnet – Design from Hesse* as well as works by the British photographer Rankin.

Address: Kaiserstraße 30, Frankfurt

## Danzig am Platz, Frankfurt: Shared Resources Space

The Shared Resources Space at Danziger Platz provides 500 m<sup>2</sup> of floor space for temporary use as a central hub of *Open*. It brings together the young design talents from the RAFT Collective with key players from architecture and business. The exhibition *Constructive Alps* illustrates how sustainable architecture and shared resource models can foster new forms of urban coexistence.

Address: Henschelstrasse 18, Frankfurt

## Designhaus Darmstadt – Innovative Industries Space

From 11 to 13 June, Designhaus Darmstadt will present an accompanying exhibition showcasing the city's design scene. As an open meeting place, it provides a platform for exchange, networking and dialogue within Darmstadt's creative community.

Address: Eugen-Bracht-Weg 6, Darmstadt

## WerkRaum Wiesbaden – Future Community Space

With WerkRaum Wiesbaden, a vacant department store is being transformed into an open venue for culture, exchange and democratic participation. In the former SportScheck branch, new perspectives for the city centre will be developed.

Address: Langgasse 5-9, Wiesbaden

## Circle Cube Offenbach – Circular Construction Space

The Circle Cube in Offenbach's harbour area showcases projects, material innovations and system solutions that illustrate the practical application of circular principles in architecture and construction. The focus is on modular construction methods, recycled materials, adaptive reuse and digital tools for resource conservation.

Address: Hafenallee 61, Offenbach



World Design Capital  
Frankfurt RheinMain 2026  
c/o Museum Angewandte Kunst  
Schaumaikai 17  
60594 Frankfurt am Main  
Germany

Presse / Press WDC 2026:  
Christina Sweeney  
Caroline Mohler  
Mobile +49 151 55620038  
Office +49 69 928 82933  
press@wdc2026.org

Pressebüro / Press Office:  
neumann communication  
wdc@neumann-communication.de  
+49 221 91 39 49 0

Umgesetzt durch /  
Organised by:  
Design FRM gGmbH

Geschäftsführerin /  
Chief Executive Officer:  
Carolina Romahn

Amtsgericht Frankfurt am Main,  
HRB 130442

Gefördert durch /  
Funded by



STADT FRANKFURT AM MAIN



Auf Grundlage der Leitidee von /  
Based on the core idea of

Design for Democracy.  
Atmospheres for  
a better life

World Design Capital® ist eine Initiative der /  
World Design Capital® is an initiative of



## What is WDC 2026?

The World Design Capital® (WDC) is an initiative of the globally recognised, non-governmental World Design Organization (WDO)® that honours cities using design as a driver for economic, social, cultural and environmental progress. Frankfurt RheinMain (Germany) has been awarded the title for the year 2026 under the theme Design for Democracy. Atmospheres for a Better Life. In previous years, the title has been awarded every two years to the following cities: Turin (Italy), Seoul (South Korea), Helsinki (Finland), Cape Town (South Africa), Taipei (Chinese Taipei), Mexico City (Mexico), Lille Métropole (France) and Valencia (Spain), as well as most recently San Diego (USA) and Tijuana (Mexico) as the first binational designation, and Busan (South Korea), selected as World Design Capital® 2028.

More information at [WDO.org](http://WDO.org).



World Design Capital  
Frankfurt RheinMain 2026  
c/o Museum Angewandte Kunst  
Schaumainkai 17  
60594 Frankfurt am Main  
Germany

Presse / Press WDC 2026:  
Christina Sweeney  
Caroline Mohler  
Mobile +49 151 55620038  
Office +49 69 928 82933  
[press@wdc2026.org](mailto:press@wdc2026.org)

Pressebüro / Press Office:  
neumann communication  
[wdc@neumann-communication.de](mailto:wdc@neumann-communication.de)  
+49 221 91 39 49 0

Umgesetzt durch /  
Organised by:  
Design FRM gGmbH

Geschäftsführerin /  
Chief Executive Officer:  
Carolina Romahn

Amtsgericht Frankfurt am Main,  
HRB 130442

Gefördert durch /  
Funded by



STADT FRANKFURT AM MAIN



Auf Grundlage der Leitidee von /  
Based on the core idea of

Design for Democracy.  
Atmospheres for  
a better life

World Design Capital® ist eine Initiative der /  
World Design Capital® is an initiative of

