



Designer in Residency: *What can we learn from our ancestors?*

Center Rog Creative Hub is delighted to announce the **Designer in Residency Programme 2024**. We call for designers from diverse backgrounds to embark on a transformative **three-month**-long journey exploring ancestral knowledge that offers lessons in resilience which can inform contemporary design responses to environmental, social, and cultural challenges. Located in the heart of Ljubljana, the capital of Slovenia, one of the prettiest EU countries, Center Rog, the biggest creative hub in the EU, is dedicated to fostering creativity, innovation, and collaborative creativity. The residential programme is partially supported by the Culture Moves Europe programme.

The challenge

We are facing burning environmental and societal problems that don't look like they are going to disappear anytime soon in the future. Acknowledging the solutions brought by important technological advancement of our time, we are also observing the rich cultural heritage of our ancestors, providing environmentally conscious philosophies and values that could inform contemporary approaches to **product design, fashion design, urban craftsmanship, engineering, architecture, and food production**. In a world marked by rapid changes, we believe there is a moment to slow down and look to our roots for inspiration and wisdom.

Our residency theme challenges designers to explore the question: ***What can we learn from our ancestors?*** Applicants should investigate ancestral knowledge systems that offer lessons in resilience which can inform contemporary design responses to environmental, social, and cultural challenges. The values, knowledge, use of materials, resources, and circular way of living of our ancestors should serve as a starting point for the research and should present the foundation of sustainable design. We are searching for a fresh reinterpretation without regressing to traditionalism. We wish to showcase how designers adapt traditional concepts, materials, and values to create relevant contemporary solutions that respect natural ecosystems and promote regenerative practices.

Application categories:

- **Zero Waste:** designs and products founded on principles of circular economy by reducing waste, reusing materials and recycling products to minimise environmental impact.
- **Biophilic Design:** designs that incorporate nature into the built-up environment to improve well-being.
- **Innovative Materials:** designs that incorporate renewable resources and have minimal environmental impact.
- **Resilient Architecture:** designs that prioritise resilience to climate change, extreme weather conditions, and natural disasters.



- **Social Equity:** designs that address inclusion by providing accessible infrastructure, community-oriented spaces, inclusive design products.
- **Urban Food Production:** designs that tackle community-supported agriculture, promote innovative and local food production, and reduce food mileage.
- **Minimalist Wardrobe:** designs that tackle capsule wardrobe and promotes a sustainable approach to personal style with timeless pieces.

Residency dates

19 August 2024 - 20 November 2024

What we offer?

1. **A 3-month programme** that will bring together 5 creatives from diverse backgrounds and nationalities
2. **Accommodation:** Free accommodation in one of our residential studios with a personal workspace.
3. **Access to Resources:** Access to all [9 production labs](#) and shared workspaces, access to all the tools, repositories, and resources developed by Center Rog, free of charge training courses for equipment or labs you wish to utilize.
4. **Expert Mentorship:** Mentorship by our Lab managers and technical support for development and prototyping of the selected projects, providing valuable feedback and support throughout your residency for up to 10 hours.
5. **Creative's fee:** 4,200 EUR for 3 months.
6. **Travel costs:** up to 350 EUR for creatives from European countries¹ and up to 1,200 EUR for creatives from non-European countries and reimbursement of visa costs if applicable.
7. **Production costs:** up to 4,000 EUR for materials needed for development of the product.
8. **Exhibition Opportunity:** If selected, the product/prototype developed during the residency will be exhibited during the Center Rog Sustainability Festival in November 2024.
9. **Cultural Exchange:** Engage with the local community, other residents, cultural institutions to gain an insight into the unique history and traditions of Ljubljana.

¹ European countries for the purpose of this call are: EU member states and [non-EU Participating Countries in the Creative Europe Programme](#).



Eligibility

- Applicants should be professionals (18+ years old at date of application) in the field of product or fashion design, architecture, engineering, urban craftsmanship, culinary world...
- Applicants must apply with a project that can be produced in one or more of our nine production labs.
- The outcome should be a physical/tangible object/product or prototype.
- Applicants must be foreign professionals that live and work outside Slovenia.
- Applicants must be able to issue an invoice (have a suitable legal status).
- Applicants must be fluent in English, and available for the selected residency dates.

Terms and conditions

- During the residency the creatives are expected to implement one public hands-on workshop, course or masterclass connected to their work and to share the knowledge with local population.
- In the event of cancellation of the trip by the applicant, the applicant agrees to bear the cancellation costs.
- Before arriving in Slovenia, the applicant will have to certify that they have taken out suitable personal health insurance for the duration of their stay.
- Half of the fee will be paid upon arrival, the other half upon completion of the residency.
- The applicant will keep all the moral rights for the work produced during the residency. If selected, the prototype or product will be exhibited in Center Rog. All other conditions will be agreed upon in the signed memorandum.

Selection criteria

- Quality of past work.
- Relevancy to the theme of the call.
- Originality/innovativeness of the product.
- Sustainability of the product.
- Feasible timeline.
- Quality of the visual presentation of the project.

How to apply?

You can apply by filling out the form on our website where you will:

- upload your CV
- upload references of previous projects
- present the product you would like to develop (visual presentation is obligatory)
- showcase the relevancy, innovation and sustainability of the proposed product
- present a timeline with key milestones
- propose a public hands-on programme



Selection process timeline:

DEADLINE	INTERVIEWS (online)	FINAL DECISION
30 April 2024	13 - 15 May 2024	20 May 2024

About Center Rog



The Rog factory, symbol of the cult Rog bicycles, is the most important piece of 20th century industrial heritage in Ljubljana's city centre. Ljubljana is the lively capital of Slovenia, located in central Europe. Thanks both to the way it was restored and to the plans for its future use, the building retains its original function, updated for the 21st century: serving as a public production space for the cultural and creative industries, with an emphasis on design and architecture.

With its modern infrastructure, expertise and international connections, the Center Rog provides creators, organisations, businesses, and the general public with a supportive



environment for innovative projects for sustainable, socially responsible development in the areas of fabrication, urban handicraft, applied arts, design and architecture.

The newly-renovated Center Rog spreads across four floors and covers a total of 8500 m². On the ground floor there are production facilities and shared workshops, including various manufacturing units. The nine production labs (workshops) use both modern computer-aided technologies and more traditional techniques. Each has a lab manager, who is a qualified technologist helping users develop their projects. Production labs in Center Rog are dedicated to cookery, textiles, 3D, electronics, woodworking, metalworking, environmental issues, jewellery, glass & ceramics. The list of all labs with their available equipment can be found here: <https://center-rog.si/en/space/labs/>

Center Rog has 5 residential apartments, measuring from 50 to 80 m². Each apartment is equipped with a living room / workspace, kitchen, bathroom, and a separate bedroom and comes fully furnished. One of the apartments is bigger in size and thus intended for families, collectives, and the bathroom is adapted for people with disabilities.

If you have additional questions regarding the open call, you can join us at the virtual session on the 23 April 2024 at 15.00 CET or contact Maja Towndrow: maja.towndrow@center-rog.si.

The programme is supported by Culture Moves Europe - residency host.