

Call for projects

Banc d'essai 2017

Project

The previous version of **Banc d'Essai 2015** was a collection of twenty prototypes, which were installed in strategic locations spread around the Saint-Etienne district. Around ten of the projects presented that time have been permanently adopted in the city's public spaces, four of them were presented at Paris Design Week 2015 and one of them won the Shenzhen Design Award 2015.

Banc d'Essai 2015 benefited from a large amount of press coverage and also won the «Image online du cadre de vie» (online living environment image) trophy in the FIMB'ACTE 2015 competition.

Encouraged by that success, and as part of the 2017 Biennial, Saint-Étienne Métropole, Ville de Saint-Étienne, the EPASE and the Cité du Design have decided once again to give manufacturers, publishers, architects, artists and designers, French and foreign, the chance to use the public space to try out new uses and practices through prototype urban furniture items.

Theme

Banc d'Essai 2017 proposes to set up in public spaces prototypes and projects that are not yet commercially available or that are just coming onto the market, and to try them out with the general public in different strategic locations in Saint-Etienne and then to evaluate the new uses and practices.

The aim is to experiment with urban objects (in the wider sense of the term): services, information and displays, temporary installations or layouts, urban furniture, connected objects, plug-ins, urban interventions and materials, graphic design, sound design, street lighting, urban staging, micro-architecture.

The proposals will be installed around the city and freely available for the public to use.

The locations will be chosen according to their relevance to and connection with the urban projects of the city authority. Each candidate selected will have access to a «usage report» concerning its project, produced by a team of experts and designers.

Deadline for candidatures: Monday 04 July 2016 midnight

Incomplete applications will not be considered.

Contact: bancdessai2017@citedudesign.com

Exhibition regulations

Banc d'essai 2017

Important dates:

- Selection committee's response: October 2016.
- Deadline for submitting the information and visuals for the projects selected and sending in the technical data sheet* (a form to be completed): Monday 7 November 2016.
- Receipt, installation and setting up on the sites: from February 2017.
- Dismantling of the projects: from 9 April 2017.

**the technical data sheets will be completed online, on the website*

Application:

1. Each candidate may present one or more projects, which may or may not be related to the general theme of this tenth edition of the Biennial «Shifting work paradigms».
2. The selection committee will be made up, among others, by a panel of experts, elected representatives and professionals from the sector. **The selection will be finalised in September 2016.**

3. The projects proposed will be prototypes or products that are not yet commercially available or just coming onto the market at the time of the 2017 Biennial (single object or small series).

4. Output provided to participants

Feedback will be given by a team of experts and designers. The scientific study (*usage report*) produced will be provided to the participants, local authorities and the general public.

5. Transformation into long-term occupancy

A technical data sheet for completion and a set of participation rules to be signed will be made available to the project sponsors selected from October 2016.

7. Participation in the call for projects is free and will not give rise, under any circumstances, to any compensation of participants who have submitted a project that is not selected.

8. The members of the panel and the people with access to the applications submitted under this call for projects undertake to treat as confidential all the information relating to the projects of candidates not selected.

9. The selection committee reserves the right to accept or refuse projects that do not meet its selection criteria (relevance of the project to the **Shifting work paradigms** theme; relevance of the initiative to the Saint-Etienne district; feasibility of the project; process and approach involved in the concept) or by necessity in the event of numerous proposals being received which cannot all be accommodated in the spaces available.

10. The Cité du Design undertakes to assist project sponsors with the implementation of their initiatives. It will therefore liaise with the local actors involved, assist project organisers, with its partners, in finding premises and negotiating terms, help to adapt the concept to the theme of the 2017 Biennial, etc. The Cité du Design will also promote these initiatives as part of the 2017 Biennial.

11. The implementation of the project will be the responsibility of the project sponsor, who will be considered as the project owner.

12. Incomplete applications will not be admissible and will not be submitted to the selection committee for consideration.

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<http://www.biennale-design.com>