01/10—20/10

URBAN OCTOBER

World Habitat Days

FACULTY OF DESIGN
INDEPENDENT HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTION

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SPIRIT Slovenia
Business Development Agency

REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA
MINISTRY OF THE ECONOMY, LABOUR AND SPORT

SLOVENE ENTERPRISE FUND

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Design talks
Lectures
Workshops
Exhibitions

URBAN OCTOBER, World Habitat Days

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URBAN OCTOBER

World Habitat

World Habitat Day is held on the first Monday of October each year and launches Urban October. The day centers around the global observance, which is held in a different country each year with keynote speakers and roundtable discussions focused on a specific theme. World Habitat Day was first celebrated in 1986 in Nairobi, Kenya, with the theme ‘Shelter is my right’.

On 5 October 2026, the Global Observance of World Habitat Day will be related to:

Adequate Housing for All

The global housing crisis whereby an estimated 2.8 billion people face various forms of housing inadequacy, in which close to 1.1 billion reside in slums and informal settlements, calls for urgent and concerted action. World Habitat Day will consider how to realize the ambition of ensuring access to adequate housing for all as a cornerstone for achieving the SDGs and the New Urban Agenda.

Design talks
Lectures
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Exhibitions



Monday
5/10

Opening Ceremony of World Habitat Day:

Adequate Housing for All

Host: **Asst. Prof. Blažka Muller, PhD**

Opening speech:
Prof. Nada Matičič, univ. dipl. ing. arh., Acting Dean Faculty of Design, Ljubljana Slovenia

MSc. Karin Žvokelj
Director of the Slovenian Intellectual Property Office, Republic Of Slovenia Ministry Of The Economy, Tourism And Sport, Slovenian Intellectual Property Office, Ljubljana, Slovenia

Jan Krmelj, Vice dean for International Affairs, Faculty of Design, Ljubljana, Slovenia

Jan Jagodič
President of Designers Society of Slovenia, Ljubljana, Slovenia

MSc. Liljana Vogrinec, SLOWOODLIFE d.o.o.
International Day of Living with Wood

Prof. Severin Filek, M.A.,
University lecturer & certified expert of court for design copyrights and license calculation


1/10 — 31/10/2026
URBAN OCTOBER
World






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Monday

5/10

Conference:

Celebration of World Habitat Day

Prof. Jasna Hrovatin, PhD., Vice Dean for Science and research, Culture of Living, Faculty of Design, Ljubljana, Slovenia
Culture of Living with Wood

Asst. Prof. Mojca Perše, univ. dipl. ing. arh. Vice dean for Artistic Activities, Faculty of Design, Ljubljana Slovenia
Conceptual design of sustainable corporate and personal gifts from wood remnants

Sr. Lect. Petra Kocjančič, MA., Faculty of Design, Ljubljana, Slovenia
Cooperative housing for youth: minimalism with added value and "Tiny Houses"

Miguel Martinez Perallón, Chair of the Landscape Architects Group at the Official College of Architects of the Valencian Community (COACV) and as Coordinator of Proyecto Terra, Spain
Introduction: Roots

Prof. Dragan Ćalović PhD, Dean of the Faculty of Contemporary Arts, Belgrade, Serbia
Design and community

Marta Pastor Estébanez, MArch, PhD, Escuela Superior de Diseño, Madrid, Spain
Materials with memory, cities with future: earth, timber and upcycled waste for equitable housing (Presentation)



Monday

5/10

Design Talk:

The role of wood in resolving the housing crisis and ensuring a sustainable living culture

Moderator:
Asst. Prof. Dr. Arbresha Ibrahimi, PhD., International Balkan University (IBU), Skopje, North Macedonia

Participating:
Sr. Lect. Petra Kocjančič, MA., Faculty of Design, Ljubljana, Slovenia

Asst. Prof. Mojca Perše, univ. dipl. ing. arh., Vice dean for Artistic Activities, Faculty of Design, Ljubljana Slovenia

Belen Huertas Alos, Interior Design Professor (Escuela de Arte y Superior de Diseño de Alicante, Alicante, Spain

Marta Pastor Estébanez Architect, MArch, PhD. (Escuela Superior de Diseño de Madrid, Spain)

Prof. Severin Filek, M.A., (University lecturer & certified expert of court for design copyrights and license calculation, designaustria, Austria)


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FACULTY OF DESIGN
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Tuesday
6/10



Design Talk:

The EU at a Crossroad: Urban Design for Green Oases of Tranquility and a Culture of Living for All

Prof. Nada Matičič, univ. dipl. ing. arh.
Acting Dean of the Faculty of Design, Ljubljana, Slovenia

Asst. Prof. Inge Kalan Lipar, univ. dipl. ing. arh.
Faculty of Design, Ljubljana, Slovenia

Asst. Prof. Dr. Arbresha Ibrahimi, PhD., International Balkan University (IBU), Skopje, North Macedonia

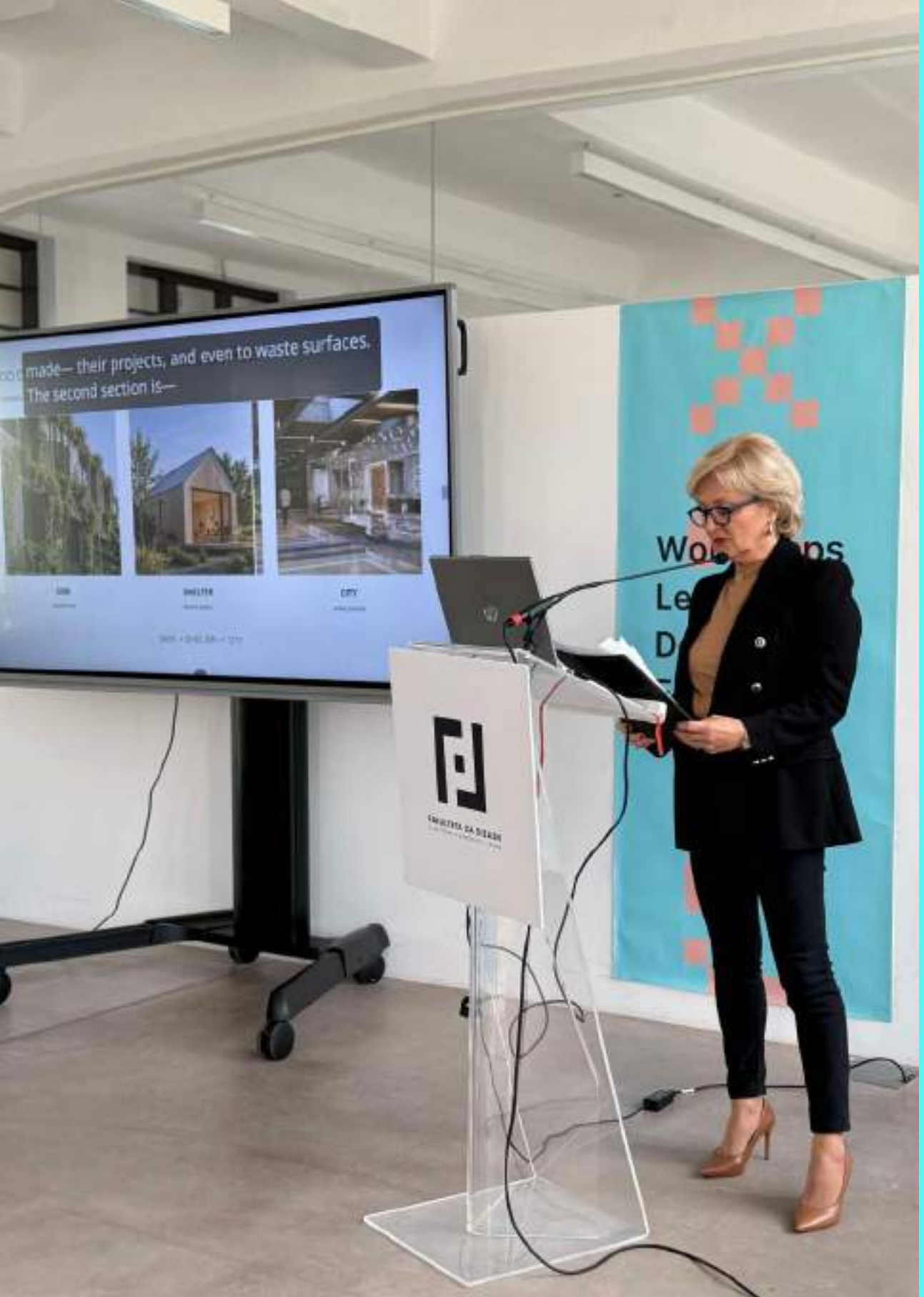
Habitat
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FAKULTETA ZA DIZAJN
SAMOSTOJNI VISOKOŠOLSKI ZAVOD

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VIZUALNE KOMUNIKACIJE
MODA IN TEKSTILIJE
DIZAJN MANAGEMENT
NAKIT

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THE EUROPEAN
OPPORTUNITY
It can lead by creating
BETTER CITIES.



Wednesday
7/10

Design Talk:

Asst. Prof. Inge Kalan Lipar, univ. dipl. ing. arh., Faculty of Design, Ljubljana, Slovenia
Dressing Facades

PhD. Candidate Veronika Gruden Bole, MsC., Vice Dean for Quality Assurance and Social Responsibility, Faculty of Design, Ljubljana, Slovenia
Presentation of Projects for KOCles – Project Exhibition

Maja Towndrow (ROG Center, Ljubljana, Slovenia)
Presentation of ROG Labs and Discussion Regarding the Market Opportunities of Slovenian Wood Products

Prof. Dr. Dušanka Komnenić, PhD.
Faculty of Contemporary Art, Serbia

URBAN OCTOBER

World Habitat Days

FAKULTETA ZA DIZAJN

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večnamenska soba
Meeting Room

FAKULTETA ZA DIZAJN

CTI

KOCles

2026

Inkluzivno pohištvo

FAKULTETA ZA DIZAJN

mebloJOGL

2026

Projekt: Oblikovanje in zasnova postelj

TIMOTEJ ČERČEK

ANA ŽAGAR

PAVLINA STROPNIK



Wednesday
7/10

Design Talk:

Sustainable Management in Practice: Between Strategy and Communication

Host:
PhD. Candidate Veronika Gruden Bole, MSc., Vice Dean for Quality Assurance and Social Responsibility, Faculty of Design, Ljubljana, Slovenia

Guest speakers:
Prof. Maja Zalaznik PhD. and **Meta Pezdir, M.Sc**


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UNIVERSITY OF LJUBLJANA
DOBRODOŠLI.
WELCOME.
Transition to a Regenerative Economy.
prof. dr. Maja Zalaznik


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FACULTY OF DESIGN
World Habitat Days
THE REGENU PROJECT
"regenerative economy is currently an emergent theme which aims to move beyond circularity, sustainability, and green"
regen-u
Beta
NAKED
UIA
Worksho



Wednesday
7/10

Design Talk:

Desihn Adequate Housing for All: Graphic Design for Sustainable and Inclusive Futures

Prod. Dr. Dušanka Komnenić, PhD.
Faculty of Contemporary Art, Serbia

Design talks

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Tuesday

6/10

Housing Beyond Shelter: The Regenerative Potential of Living Spaces

Asst. Prof. Dr. Arbresha Ibrahimi, PhD., International Balkan University (IBU), Skopje, North Macedonia

Arbresha Ibrahimi holds a PhD in architecture and works as an architect and teaching assistant. She earned her PhD degree from the Faculty of Architecture at the University of Ljubljana in 2024. Prior to this, she completed her master's degree at the Faculty of Architecture, University of "St. Cyril and Methodius" in Skopje in 2014, and her bachelor's degree in architecture from the State University in Tetovo in 2012. Arbresha's research is centered on the role of social buildings, particularly cultural structures, in architectural functionality and their impact on urban identity renewal. Her work delves into the intersection of architecture and social dynamics, examining how built environments can foster community cohesion and preserve cultural heritage. With extensive experience in academia and architectural practice, Arbresha currently serves as a teaching assistant at the Department of Architecture, Faculty of Engineering, International Balkan University in Skopje. She has previously worked at the State University in Tetovo, North Macedonia, and AUE Fon Skopje. Arbresha is actively involved in architectural projects, specializing in residential and social buildings, as well as proposals for urban site regeneration. Additionally, she collaborates with the World Design Cycle, a part of the World Design Organization, for the period 2023–2025.



Seestadt Aspern Housing – Vienna

The lecture explored the concept of housing beyond its traditional function as a physical shelter, focusing on its broader role in supporting individual well-being, community development and social sustainability. It examined how living environments could contribute to physical, emotional and psychological well-being while responding to contemporary challenges related to housing accessibility, environmental responsibility and sustainable urban development.

A central theme of the lecture was the regenerative potential of residential spaces and their ability to create meaningful connections between people, their surroundings and the wider community. Drawing on the philosophical perspectives of Gaston Bachelard and other scholars, the lecture addressed the emotional and symbolic significance of home, highlighting how personal experiences, memories and a sense of belonging influence the relationship between individuals and the spaces they inhabit. Housing was presented not only as a functional necessity but also as an environment that shapes identity, security and everyday experiences.

Particular attention was given to the relationship between regeneration, functionality, emotion and materiality in contemporary housing design. The lecture explored how thoughtful spatial organisation, material choices and sustainable design strategies could contribute to healthier, more adaptable and environmentally responsible living environments. It also considered the importance of designing homes that respond to changing human needs while encouraging social interaction, community connections and long-term environmental resilience.

The lecture further highlighted the responsibility of architects and designers in addressing current housing challenges through approaches that balance human needs with ecological and social considerations. By connecting theoretical perspectives with contemporary design challenges, it encouraged a broader understanding of housing as an integral part of sustainable communities. The central message emphasised that the future of housing should extend beyond providing shelter and focus on creating regenerative living spaces that support human well-being, strengthen social relationships and contribute positively to the

Wednesday
7/10





Lecture:

The important role of DM and the Design Manager in design-driven organisation

Steinar Valade-Amlandn
Three Point Zero, Denmark

Asst. Prof. Mateja Š. Dimic, MSc.
Faculty of Design, Ljubljana, Slovenija

Design talks
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Thursday
1/10

OFFICE3000 – Rethinking the Future of Workspaces

Prof. Nada Matičič, univ. dipl. ing. arh., Acting Dean Faculty of Design, Ljubljana Slovenia

Wood, Stone and Sustainable Design LAB – Office 3000

Sr. Lect. Petra Kocjančič, MA., Faculty of Design, Ljubljana, Slovenia

How modular systems can redefine flexibility



The OFFICE3000 workshop explored the future of work environments and the role of design in responding to changing working habits, technologies and human needs. Rather than predicting what offices might look like in the distant future, the workshop encouraged students to question conventional concepts of workplaces and furniture, focusing on flexibility, functionality, collaboration and the relationship between people and space.

A central theme of the workshop was the innovative use of Slovenian wood and stone as natural materials with significant potential for contemporary furniture and spatial design. Participants were encouraged to explore their physical properties, structural possibilities and the ways in which these two materials could complement one another. The workshop emphasised the importance of local resources, material knowledge and sustainable production in developing innovative design solutions.

Particular attention was given to rethinking traditional furniture typologies and developing adaptable, multifunctional systems rather than individual objects. The workshop addressed how furniture could respond to different activities, users and spatial requirements while supporting concentration, communication, collaboration and well-being. It also explored the relationship between furniture, interior design and architecture, highlighting how individual design elements could shape the experience and functionality of entire work environments.

The workshop introduced a design process based on research, experimentation, material exploration and prototyping. Students were encouraged to investigate real user needs, challenge established design solutions and develop concepts with practical applications. Collaboration between students, mentors and industry partners formed an important part of the project, connecting creative experimentation with production technologies and real-world challenges. OFFICE3000 highlighted the potential of combining local materials, contemporary design thinking and interdisciplinary collaboration to develop sustainable, innovative and adaptable solutions for future workspaces. The project also emphasised the importance of transforming experimental student concepts into viable products that could contribute to the future development of workplace design.


Dobrodošli v naprovi HP


World
Habitat
Days





Thursday
1/10

Biophilic and Nature-Inspired Interventions for Sustainable Urban (Re)development

PhD Candidate Lucija Erjavec Primožič, MA Design
(Veduta Design, Ljubljana, Slovenia)

Lucija Erjavec Primožič is a workplace designer, researcher, and PhD candidate in Architecture at the University of Ljubljana, specializing in biophilic design approaches in work environments. With over eight years of experience, she has led interdisciplinary projects across Europe for EU institutions, healthcare facilities, and premium brands through her practice Veduta Dizajn. Recognized with the Rozman's Award for Best Student of her Generation at the Faculty of Design Ljubljana, she combines her MA in Interior Design with advanced certifications in digital marketing and UX/UI design.

Lucija creates human-centered environments that integrate natural elements with organizational culture while bridging physical and digital experiences through her communications and UX/UI projects. Her doctoral research employs mixed-method approaches to demonstrate how biophilic design enhances employee well-being, creativity, and collaboration, incorporating insights from psychology, ergonomics, and public health to advocate for regenerative, people-first workplace environments.



The workshop explored the role of biophilic and nature-inspired design in creating more sustainable, resilient and human-centred urban environments. It focused on how natural elements, organic forms, greenery and sustainable materials could improve public spaces, workplaces and healthcare environments while contributing to human well-being and climate adaptation.

Through examples of urban transformations in Ljubljana, Slovenian healthcare facilities and workplace renovations, the workshop addressed the environmental, social and psychological benefits of reconnecting built environments with nature. Particular attention was given to sensory experiences, natural materials and adaptive reuse as strategies for transforming existing urban spaces into healthier and more welcoming environments.

The workshop also highlighted experimental student projects developed at the Faculty of Design, including Dimenzija, Mycelia and Urban Expressions in Wood. These projects explored the transformation of underused urban spaces, the potential of natural systems as models for interconnected urban environments, and the use of wood as a sustainable material for urban furniture and small-scale structures. Together, they demonstrated innovative approaches to integrating nature-inspired principles into urban design.

An important aspect of the workshop was the relationship between urban design, environmental sustainability and human experience. The discussion highlighted how natural light, vegetation, water, organic shapes and tactile materials could reduce stress, improve well-being and encourage social interaction. The examples also demonstrated how biophilic interventions could address urban challenges such as heat islands, air pollution and stormwater management. The workshop emphasised the importance of interdisciplinary collaboration and presented biophilic design as an approach to creating more inclusive, adaptable and environmentally responsible urban environments.



Monday

5/10

Materials with memory, cities with future: earth, timber, and upcycled waste for equitable housing. On-site field experiences with local communities

Marta Pastor Estebanez. Architect, MArch, Ph.D.,
Fátima Ferreiro Galguera &
Guadalupe Martín Hernández
(Escuela Superior de Diseño de Madrid, Spain)

With a PhD in Architecture from the UPM (Polytechnic University of Madrid), Marta is Senior Lecturer in Interior Design and Coordinates the Master's Degree in Commercial Space Design at the Escuela Superior de Diseño de Madrid. For more than two decades, she has taught in the Master's in Interior Architecture and Design at the UPM and has been senior lecturer of Architectural Design at Nottingham Trent University, Alfonso X El Sabio University, and Camilo José Cela University serving as the Director of the Architecture Department at the latter, as well as a visiting professor at various Universities abroad.

She has collaborated on research projects in social architecture and organized the Official Archive of Julio Lafuente in Rome, in collaboration with the Ministero dei Beni e delle Attività Culturali. Alongside her time at the University, she has maintained an active professional practice in architecture and design, participating in projects for the Carlos III Health Institute or the Teatro Real, in Madrid, and UNESCO, in Paris, among others. The author of various academic and cultural publications, she has also curated and exhibited her work in exhibitions across Stockholm, Madrid, Montpellier, Paris, and Valencia.

She has served on the Editorial Board of the academic journal EGA (Expresión Gráfica Arquitectónica) and is currently a member of the Editorial Committee for the non-profit research organization Architecture_Media_Politics_Society (AMPS).



The workshop explored the role of sustainable materials, community participation and innovative design approaches in addressing contemporary housing challenges. Organised as part of World Habitat Days, it focused on how locally available resources, including earth, timber and recycled urban waste, could contribute to the development of affordable, inclusive and environmentally responsible housing solutions.

A central theme of the workshop was the relationship between material accessibility, cultural identity and social sustainability. Students were encouraged to investigate the availability and affordability of local resources while examining the architectural heritage, building traditions and spatial practices of different communities. Through resource mapping and contextual research, they explored how overlooked or discarded materials could be transformed into valuable construction resources while respecting local identity and cultural traditions.

The workshop emphasised collaborative design processes and practical experimentation through material exploration, conceptual development and hands-on prototyping. Students worked in multidisciplinary teams to develop modular architectural components and construction solutions that could be assembled through collective effort without relying on complex machinery. Using clay, timber and reused materials, they investigated structural connections, construction techniques and the potential of cooperative building methods to support affordable housing development.

An important aspect of the workshop was the connection between architectural design, social responsibility and the principles of Sustainable Development Goal 11 – Sustainable Cities and Communities. Students were tasked with developing and presenting design proposals that considered material lifecycles, economic accessibility, cultural identity and community involvement. Through teamwork, prototype development, peer reviews and critical discussions, they examined the environmental and social implications of their design decisions. The workshop highlighted the potential of combining traditional materials, circular design principles and community-based approaches to create more equitable, sustainable and resilient housing solutions.



Monday
5/10

Connecting Design and Business

Lynne Elvins
Design Rally, UK

Lynne Elvins is a British design strategist, consultant and facilitator, and the founder of Design Rally, a UK-based consultancy. With over 20 years of professional experience, she specialises in design management, innovation, creative collaboration and sustainable design. Her work focuses on connecting design thinking with business strategy, helping organisations develop meaningful, innovative and socially responsible solutions.

Through consultancy, workshops and educational initiatives, she supports designers, businesses and creative professionals in exploring new approaches to problem-solving and collaboration. Her interests include regenerative design, environmental sustainability and the role of creativity in addressing contemporary social and ecological challenges. She advocates for responsible design practices that place people, communities and the environment at the centre of the creative process.



The workshop explored the relationship between design and business, focusing on how design thinking and strategic design management could contribute to business development, innovation and organisational success. It introduced students to the different ways design could create value for businesses and highlighted the importance of integrating design into broader business strategies and decision-making processes.

A central theme of the workshop was understanding how design could support business objectives while responding to the needs of users, society and the environment. Particular attention was given to user-centred approaches and the importance of incorporating environmental and social responsibility into design strategies. Students explored how creative thinking could contribute to developing meaningful solutions that balanced business interests with user expectations and sustainability considerations.

The workshop also addressed the practical aspects of managing and communicating the design process. Students were introduced to approaches for organising design activities, presenting creative ideas and communicating design decisions within a business context. The importance of collaboration, clear communication and strategic thinking was emphasised as an essential part of connecting designers with businesses and other stakeholders.

Overall, the workshop highlighted the role of design management in bridging creativity and business strategy, encouraging students to consider design not only as a creative discipline but also as a strategic tool for innovation, responsible decision-making and long-term value creation.



Tuesday

6/10

From Idea to Prototype: “Suitable Housing for All”

Mentor: **Jaka Lipar, B.A.**, Institute LILA (Primary School)

Asst. Prof. Tamara Hajdu, Faculty of Design, Ljubljana, Slovenia

Asst. Prof. Mojca Perše, univ. dipl. ing. arh., Vice dean for Artistic Activities, Faculty of Design, Ljubljana, Slovenia

Assist. Brina A. Lukić, M.A., Faculty of Design, Ljubljana, Slovenia

Practical exploration, planning, and creation of small-scale wooden shelters. Students will learn the basic principles of construction, woodworking, and the importance of functionality, stability, and weather protection. The workshop will conclude with an exhibition of conceptual designs and the awarding of certificates.





Tuesday
6/10

Design and community

prof. Dragan Čalović, PhD.
Dean of the Faculty of Contemporary Arts, Belgrade, Serbia

Prof. Dragan Ćalović is a Serbian academic, researcher and art theorist, serving as Dean of the Faculty of Contemporary Arts in Belgrade. He holds a PhD in Art Theory from the University of Arts in Belgrade, obtained in 2008. His academic and research work focuses on contemporary art, new media theory, aesthetics, design theory and digital culture.

He has authored several academic monographs and more than 100 scientific papers published in national and international publications. Throughout his career, he has participated in numerous international conferences, research projects, guest lectures and academic workshops across Europe. He is also a co-founder and organiser of the international scientific conference Philosophy of Media. His work contributes to interdisciplinary discussions on contemporary artistic practices, media, culture and the evolving relationship between art, technology and society.



The workshop explored the concept of community-based participatory design as an emerging approach within the broader field of participatory design. Particular attention was given to the distinction between traditional participatory design, which focuses on involving users in the design process, and community design, which places communities, their shared values, identities and social relationships at the centre of design activities. Community design was presented as an approach that emerges from the community and responds to its specific needs, experiences and aspirations.

A central theme of the workshop was understanding the role of design within a wider social context and recognising its potential to influence relationships between individuals and communities. Students explored the principles of community design, the importance of understanding community structures and the relationship between community design and community art. The workshop highlighted how design could contribute to strengthening collective identity, encouraging participation and supporting meaningful social interaction.

Through theoretical discussions and a practical assignment, students were introduced to community-oriented design methods and encouraged to apply these principles to a specific design challenge. The practical component provided an opportunity to explore how design decisions could respond to shared community values rather than focusing exclusively on individual user needs. Particular emphasis was placed on the importance of collaboration, social awareness and understanding the cultural and interpersonal dimensions of design.

The workshop also addressed the responsibility of designers in shaping social environments and influencing the ways people interact within communities. It emphasised that design does not exist independently of society but actively contributes to the development of social relationships, shared experiences and collective identities. By connecting theoretical perspectives with practical exploration, the workshop encouraged students to critically reflect on the social impact of their work and recognise community engagement as an essential aspect of responsible, inclusive and socially conscious design practice.



Tuesday

6/10

Roots

Belen Huertas Alos, Interior Design Professor,

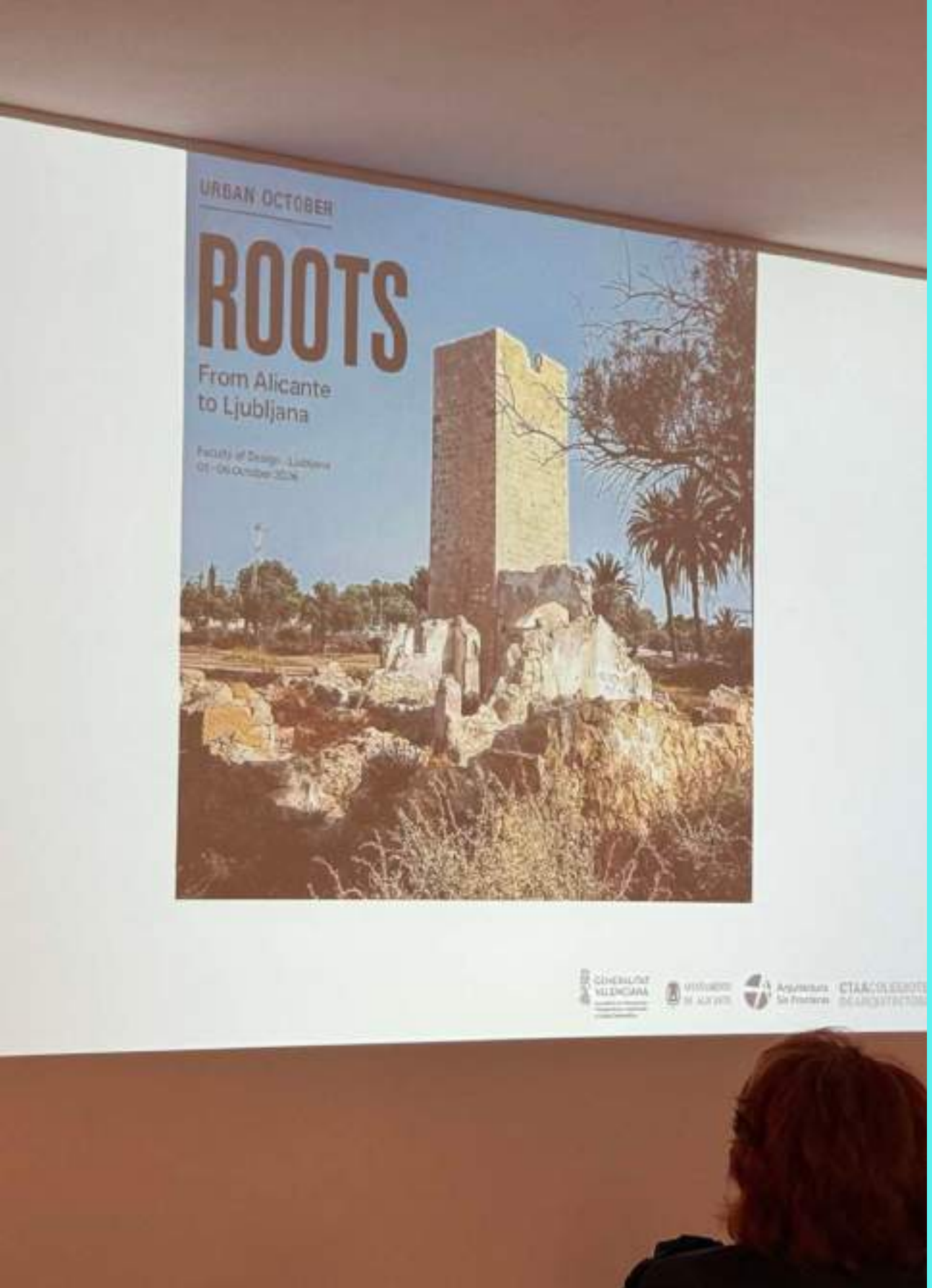
Esther de las Heras, Interior Design Professor Escuela de Arte y Superior de Diseño de Alicante, Spain

Miguel Martínez Perallón (Chair of the Landscape Architects Group at the Official College of Architects of the Valencian Community (COACV) and as Coordinator of Proyecto Terra)

Belén Huertas Alós is an Interior Design Professor whose educational work focuses on spatial design and creative exploration. She participates in international academic collaborations addressing sustainable design, natural materials and the relationship between spaces and local identity.

Esther de las Heras is an Interior Design Professor involved in design education and creative development. Her teaching activities include exploring spatial concepts, material experimentation and sustainable approaches to interior design.

Miguel Martínez Perallón is a landscape architecture professional serving as Chair of the Landscape Architects Group at the Official College of Architects of the Valencian Community (COACV) and Coordinator of Proyecto Terra. His professional activities involve landscape architecture, interdisciplinary collaboration and initiatives connecting design with the natural environment.



The workshop explored the relationship between interior design, natural environments and local identity, focusing on how spaces could be designed in harmony with the territories, resources and communities that shape them. Developed within the Erasmus project Roots, it connected perspectives from Alicante and Ljubljana, encouraging students to consider how local traditions, natural materials and environmental awareness could contribute to more sustainable and meaningful spatial design.

A central theme of the workshop was the connection between natural landscapes and inhabited spaces, particularly through Ljubljana's tradition of urban community gardens. Students explored how the transition from agricultural and green spaces to built environments could inspire interior design solutions that respected natural cycles while responding to human needs. Particular attention was given to locally available materials such as clay, earth and wood, highlighting their physical, sensory and cultural qualities.

The workshop combined preparatory research with creative experimentation and collaborative activities. Before the workshop, students were introduced to the topic through an online discussion and were tasked with collecting photographs, textures and examples of local materials that reflected the character of their surroundings. These observations and collected references formed the basis for creating haptic moodboards, allowing participants to explore the relationship between materials, sensory experiences and spatial identity through visual and tactile compositions.

An important aspect of the workshop was the exchange of ideas and perspectives between students from different European contexts. Through discussions, material exploration and hands-on collage-making, participants investigated how design could strengthen connections between people, places and natural resources. The workshop highlighted the importance of environmental responsibility, cultural identity and community-oriented design, encouraging students to approach the earth not simply as a source of materials but as a foundation for creating sustainable, inclusive and context-sensitive living environments.

Thursday
8/10

The Role of Housing in Rural Depopulation

Ernesto Fenollosa
Dean of the HTS of Architecture, Universitat Politècnica de València, Spain

Ivan Cabrera i Fausto, Ph.D. Arch.
Professor at the Department of Continuum Mechanics and Theory of Structures, Universitat Politècnica de València, Spain

Ernesto Fenollosa is an academic and architectural education professional serving as Dean of the Higher Technical School of Architecture at the Universitat Politècnica de València, Spain. His professional role combines academic leadership with a commitment to architectural education and the development of future generations of architects. Through his work within the university, he contributes to discussions on the relationship between architectural knowledge, the built environment and contemporary social and environmental challenges. His academic perspective highlights the importance of connecting theoretical understanding with practical approaches to architecture, sustainable development and the transformation of existing built environments.

Ivan Cabrera i Fausto is an architect and professor at the Universitat Politècnica de València, Spain, where he is affiliated with the Department of Continuum Mechanics and Theory of Structures. His academic field brings together architectural design, structural mechanics and the technical principles underlying the construction and performance of buildings. His teaching and academic activities contribute to the understanding of structural systems and their integration into architectural practice. His professional perspective emphasises the relationship between technical knowledge, design decisions and the long-term performance of the built environment, highlighting the importance of interdisciplinary thinking in contemporary architectural education.



Sarnago, Spain — A village between abandonment and renewal

The workshop explored the relationship between housing availability and rural depopulation, focusing on the challenges faced by villages where many residential properties remained vacant, were used only occasionally or had become unsuitable for contemporary living. Students examined how the limited availability of habitable housing contributed to population decline and considered the potential of existing buildings to support rural revitalisation.

Particular attention was given to the reuse and adaptation of traditional rural housing. Students explored how existing buildings could be renovated to meet contemporary needs while preserving local architectural identity and reducing the need for new construction. The discussion highlighted the importance of recognising existing housing stock as a valuable resource for the future development of rural communities.

Through a practical case study, students used maps and information about traditional housing typologies to conduct a rapid assessment of a selected rural settlement. They examined its spatial characteristics, identified potential opportunities for intervention and developed preliminary proposals for the rehabilitation and reuse of existing buildings.

The workshop also considered the social and economic dimensions of rural housing, including the challenges associated with property ownership, building maintenance and changing residential needs. Students reflected on how thoughtful design strategies could improve living conditions, encourage permanent settlement and contribute to the preservation of local identity and cultural heritage.

Finally, the workshop highlighted the importance of collaboration between designers, property owners, economic stakeholders and public administrations. Students considered how to present and defend their proposals, recognising the role of architecture and interior design in improving housing opportunities, preserving rural heritage and supporting sustainable rural communities.

Thursday
8/10

Design in a Changing World

Lynne Elvins
Design Rally, UK

Lynne Elvins is a British design strategist, consultant and facilitator, and the founder of Design Rally, a UK-based consultancy. With over 20 years of professional experience, she specialises in design management, innovation, creative collaboration and sustainable design. Her work focuses on connecting design thinking with business strategy, helping organisations develop meaningful, innovative and socially responsible solutions.

Through consultancy, workshops and educational initiatives, she supports designers, businesses and creative professionals in exploring new approaches to problem-solving and collaboration. Her interests include regenerative design, environmental sustainability and the role of creativity in addressing contemporary social and ecological challenges. She advocates for responsible design practices that place people, communities and the environment at the centre of the creative process.



The workshop Design in a Changing World, led by Lynne Elvins, explored the evolving role of design in responding to contemporary social, environmental and economic challenges. Particular attention was given to the changing expectations placed on designers and the need to adapt design approaches to increasingly complex circumstances. The workshop encouraged students to consider how design could move beyond creating individual products and services towards developing solutions that address broader societal needs and contribute to a more sustainable future.

A central theme was understanding how changing global conditions influence the development of design solutions. Students examined the importance of adaptability, responsible decision-making and recognising the wider consequences of design choices. The discussion highlighted how designers could respond to emerging challenges by reconsidering established practices, identifying new opportunities for innovation and integrating sustainability into the design process from its earliest stages.

The workshop also introduced a structured approach to thinking systematically about design impact. Students were encouraged to consider the relationships between design decisions, stakeholders, resources and long-term outcomes. This perspective emphasised the importance of evaluating design solutions not only in terms of functionality and user experience but also through their environmental, social and economic implications. By adopting a broader understanding of impact, students explored how design management could support more informed and responsible decisions.

Another important aspect of the workshop was learning how to communicate the value of sustainable design innovation. Students considered how designers could present convincing arguments for sustainability-oriented solutions and demonstrate their relevance to organisations, communities and other stakeholders. Through discussion and reflection, the workshop highlighted the importance of connecting creative thinking with strategic reasoning, adaptability and a systematic understanding of impact. It emphasised the role of design management in supporting responsible innovation and enabling designers to contribute to meaningful, sustainable change.

Thursday

8/10

Designing Adequate Housing for All: Graphic Design for Sustainable and Inclusive Futures

Prof. Dr. Dušanka Komnenić, PhD.
Faculty of Contemporary Art, Serbia

Prof. Dr. Dušanka Komnenić is a visual artist, designer and professor at the Faculty of Contemporary Arts in Belgrade, Serbia. She graduated from the Academy of Applied Arts in Belgrade and continued her postgraduate studies at the University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee, USA. She later earned a doctorate in art in Belgrade, researching beauty and anti-aesthetics. Her academic and artistic work focuses on graphic design, photography, visual communications, aesthetics and contemporary artistic expression. With extensive teaching experience in Serbia and the United States, she has participated in numerous solo and group exhibitions internationally. Her work combines artistic experimentation with interdisciplinary approaches to design and visual culture.



The workshop explored the role of graphic design and visual communication in addressing housing as a fundamental human right. Particular attention was given to the social and environmental challenges associated with access to adequate housing, including affordability, equality and the development of sustainable communities. Students examined how visual communication could raise awareness of these issues and encourage a broader understanding of housing as an essential element of human well-being and social inclusion.

A central theme was the relationship between sustainable housing, natural materials and healthier living environments. The workshop highlighted the potential of wood and other renewable materials to contribute to environmentally responsible construction and more resilient communities. Students considered how the relationship between people, nature and cities could be communicated through visual narratives that connected environmental responsibility with social equality and quality of life.

Through design thinking, systems thinking, research and storytelling, students explored methods for translating complex social issues into accessible and meaningful visual messages. The workshop encouraged them to identify key communication objectives, consider different audiences and develop concepts that combined creativity with social awareness. Particular emphasis was placed on the responsibility of graphic designers to communicate sustainability-related challenges clearly and effectively.

The practical assignment focused on developing a visual micro campaign titled Adequate Housing for All. Students selected a central message addressing affordable housing, equality, sustainable communities, renewable materials or well-being through design. They translated their chosen theme into a campaign concept and prototype, applying principles of visual communication and environmentally responsible design. By connecting research, creative expression and social responsibility, the workshop highlighted how graphic design could contribute to public awareness and encourage more inclusive and sustainable approaches to housing.

Design talks
Lectures
Workshops
Exhibitions



Saturday

10/10

FD at LJFW:

From First Appearances To Graduation Collections—And Applause To Remember

The participating students were Lucija Katavič, Eva Dormiš, Tjaša Grandovec, Laila Mustafa, Neja Brodar, Maruša Kroflič, Núria Galarza Requena, Natalija Likar, Álvaro Hernando Castillo, Maša Borštnar, Patricia Zore, Minea Lipovšek, Erisa Šabanaj, Ana Ficko, Enja Eržen, Karolina Cecilija Krstaš, Una Loštrek, Maja Krebelj, Julij Mlakar, Kaja Pevec, Teja Lampe, Lana Bedenik, Lia Nikolić Dobec, Hana Krnc, Klara Gimpelj Domjanič, Nika Pišljar, Ema Novak, Ela Pušnik, Klara Boban, Anja Krmelj, Liza Julija Gerželj and Nina Justin.



Some days stay with us a little longer. For our Fashion and Textiles students, Saturday, 10 October, was certainly one of them. At Ljubljana Fashion Week, they presented their creations, filled the runway with ideas and energy, and experienced that special moment when work developed in classrooms and studios comes to life in front of an audience.

For some, this was their first appearance at LJFW. And their first applause of this kind for something they had created themselves. For an idea that, not so long ago, existed only as a sketch. For a garment they had assembled, taken apart and adjusted more than once. For all those hours of research, learning and perseverance that remain unseen on the runway, yet are woven into every creation.

And as we watched, we could not help thinking: yes, those are our students.

The show brought together different stages of their creative development, from first-year projects and mini collections to final-year and graduation collections. Recycled denim took on new forms, architecture found expression in garments and headpieces, personal memories came to life in knitwear, and Lexus automotive design inspired new fashion interpretations. Alongside them unfolded stories about identity, desire, individuality and our relationship with the world.

So many different perspectives, united by the courage to share them.

Our graduates Špela Perc, with BOUND IN BLUE, and Ulla Podnar, with Fragmenti, also held a special place in the show, presenting their distinctive creative visions through their graduation collections.

Throughout the process, the students were guided by their mentors: Professor Matea Benedetti, Associate Professor dr. Tanja Devetak, Assistant Professor Almina Duraković Korošec, Senior Lecturer dr. Tea Hegeduš, Senior Lecturer Martina Šušteršič and Teaching Assistant Nika Ravnik, with technical support from Lidija



Rotar. Associate Professor Metod Črešnar and Teaching Assistant Anja Medle also contributed styling for selected presentations, while Urša and Tomaž Draž mentored Lana Bedenik's knitwear work at Center Rog.

And, of course, we had a little fashion week of our own backstage. A moment of panic here, a little drama there, a last-minute adjustment and the occasional need for a quick solution when something did not quite go to plan. A few deep breaths, plenty of teamwork and a timely "come on, we can do this" made all the difference. Then came the runway, the music, the audience and the applause. Everything came together. And it was a lovely moment.

Our sincere thanks go to the entire team at Zavod LJFW—every single person involved—for organising and bringing the event to life, and for all the work that makes an occasion like this possible. Thank you to everyone in the audience and behind the scenes who helped create a day filled with energy, encouragement and a shared love of fashion.

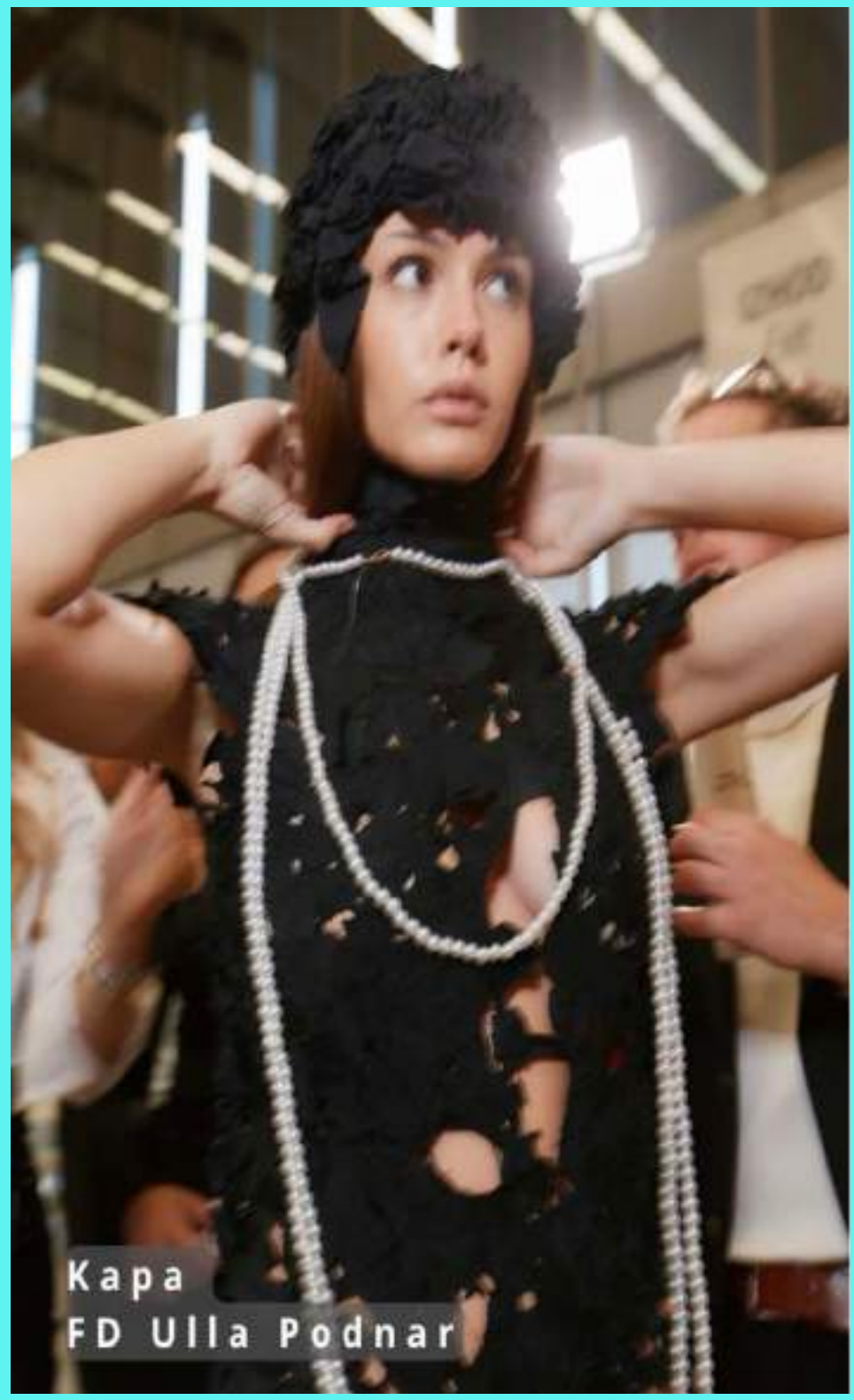
Special congratulations also go to our teaching staff who presented their own brands and collections at LJFW: Professor Matea Benedetti with Benedetti Life, Teaching Assistant Anja Medle with medle, and Teaching Assistant Nika Ravnik with Nika Ravnik. It is wonderful to see their creative practice and mentorship come together at the same event, each contributing in its own way to Slovenia's vibrant fashion scene.

To every single person who presented their work at LJFW: our heartfelt congratulations. We are delighted to see so many members of our faculty community actively contributing to the Slovenian fashion scene, bringing such a variety of ideas and approaches—and, above all, we celebrate the people behind it all.

To our students and mentors, thank you for such an energetic fashion show, for the wonderful atmosphere and for all the moments that sent us home smiling. We are so proud of you. May that applause echo a little longer.

Photos: LJFW/ Jure Makovec




Kapa
FD Ulla Podnar





Tuesday
20/10



Exhibition Opening Of Students Work:

Creative Interweavings 25/26 at DLUL Gallery

On 20 October 2026, the Faculty of Design opened its annual exhibition of selected student works, Creative Interweavings 2025/2026, at the Ljubljana Fine Artists Society Gallery (DLUL). The exhibition showcased creative projects from various study programmes, highlighting diverse approaches to design, research and the development of innovative solutions.

The exhibition featured works in interior design, visual communications, textile and fashion design, and strategic design. Among the exhibited projects were fashion creations previously presented by students at Ljubljana Fashion Week on 10 October. The exhibition highlighted the importance of interdisciplinary collaboration, creative experimentation and cooperation between students and their mentors.

The opening ceremony included a welcome address by Vice Dean for Artistic Activities, Assistant Professor Mojca Perše, followed by the presentation of certificates to students who participated in the KOCLes 5.0 projects, through which they gained practical experience and developed new design ideas and solutions.

The exhibition contributed to the visibility of student creativity within Ljubljana’s urban and cultural environment, providing the wider public with an insight into contemporary design processes and the outcomes of student work. It remained on display until 1 November 2026.




LUL
Gallery




BASNI
IZ GUZDA
Aa





01/10—20/10