

DESIGN MUSEUM

DESIGN MUSEUM, SHAD THAMES, LONDON SE1 2YD

TICKETS: Adults £7; Students + Concessions £4; Free to Under 12s

OPENING: 10.00-17.45 Daily. Last Admission: 17.15

INFORMATION: 0870 833 9955. ONLINE: www.designmuseum.org

DESIGNER OF THE YEAR - £25,000 national design prize 4 March to 18 June 2006

Who will be the **Designer of the Year**? The public can vote for the winner of the £25,000 design prize from the nominees – furniture designer Tom Dixon, the design team of The Guardian newspaper, Jamie Hewlett, creative director of the virtual band Gorillaz and the humanitarian designer Cameron Sinclair – in an exhibition at the Design Museum from **4 March to 18 June 2006**.

The UK's most prestigious design prize, Designer of the Year is awarded annually to the UK designer or design team who made the biggest contribution to design in the preceding year. Past winners have included Jonathan Ive, head of design at Apple, and multimedia designer Daniel Brown. This year's nominees were chosen for their work during 2005. **Tom Dixon** was selected for his furniture and lighting design, and **The Guardian** design team for the radical redesign of the newspaper. Also shortlisted were **Jamie Hewlett** for conceiving the graphics, website, promos, animations and simulated 'live' performances of the virtual band Gorillaz, and **Cameron Sinclair** for his work with the humanitarian design group Architecture for Humanity after disasters including the South East Asian tsunami, Kashmir earthquake and Hurricane Katrina.

The public can vote for their favourite to win the prize at the Design Museum exhibition and on the Designer of the Year website at www.designmuseum.org. The outcome of the public vote will count towards the choice of the winner together with the votes of the four jurors: Christopher Bailey, creative director of Burberry; Emily Campbell, head of design at the British Council; Hilary Cottam, the public sector design reformer and last year's Designer of the Year; and the television presenter Kevin McCloud. The jury is chaired by Christopher Frayling, rector of the Royal College of Art. The winner of Designer of the Year will be announced at a prize giving event at the Design Museum in late May.

"The Designer of the Year shortlist is a true indication of the breadth, depth and creativity of design in the UK today," said Christopher Bailey, creative director of Burberry. "Though often not immediately apparent, design affects everything we do. The shortlist reflects this, and the strength of the UK's design talent."

For media enquiries contact media@designmuseum.org, for education enquiries education@designmuseum.org and general enquiries info@designmuseum.org

DESIGNER OF THE YEAR - THE NOMINEES

TOM DIXON

One of the UK's most influential product designers, Tom Dixon is shortlisted for Designer of the Year after an exceptionally prolific year in 2005 and for his championship of emerging designers. During 2005 Dixon developed new furniture and lighting designs for Tom Dixon Ltd and Artek, the Finnish furniture maker, as well as products for other companies such as Cappellini, Habitat, Magis, Swarovski and Thonet. Born in Sfax, Tunisia in 1959, Dixon was brought up in London. After quitting art school in 1980 he taught himself how to weld metal furniture and emerged as a force in London's post-punk design scene before working across Europe to build an international reputation.

THE GUARDIAN

One of the most ambitious design projects of 2005, The Guardian's redesign has already led to increased sales in the declining newspaper market. Having decided to shrink its traditional broadsheet format, The Guardian redesigned every aspect of the newspaper. Its design team, led by creative director Mark Porter, chose the Berliner format with five columns on each page. They devised rigorous grids to ensure legibility and coherence, and developed new ways of using colour to enhance photography, illustration and infographics. The Guardian also commissioned a new typeface – Guardian Egyptian – with over 200 different fonts, designed by Christian Schwartz and Paul Barnes.

JAMIE HEWLETT

Since the release of its first single in 1999, Gorillaz has become the world's most successful virtual band. The band members – 2D, Murdoc, Russel and Noodle – are brought to life in artwork, promos, Gorillaz website and animated performances conceived and designed by Jamie Hewlett. Born in 1968, Hewlett designed the comic book anti-heroine Tank Girl before creating Gorillaz with musician Damon Albarn. In 2005, they took the visualisation of the band to a new level by working with the animation company Passion Pictures to stage a groundbreaking digital performance at the MTV Europe Awards. Jamie Hewlett works from his West London-based design company Zombie Flesh Eaters.

CAMERON SINCLAIR

In the year since the tsunami devastated the South East Asian coastline, Architecture for Humanity has constructed schools, medical clinics and community centres. It is now developing sustainable design solutions to the crises caused by Hurricane Katrina and the Kashmir earthquake. Based in Minneapolis, Architecture for Humanity was co-founded in 1999 by Cameron Sinclair, who was born in London in 1973 and studied architecture at University of Westminster and the Bartlett. Through its design, education and advocacy projects, Architecture for Humanity – slogan 'Design like you give a damn' – has established a global network of humanitarian designers and architects.

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DESIGNER OF THE YEAR – THE JURY

CHRISTOPHER BAILEY

One of the most admired British fashion designers of our time, Christopher Bailey is creative director of Burberry with responsibility for the design of all of its fashion collections and other product ranges, as well as its visual identity and advertising. Born in Halifax, Yorkshire in 1971, Christopher studied fashion design at Harrow College of Art and then the Royal College of Art before working for Donna Karan and Tom Ford at Gucci. He joined Burberry in 2001.

EMILY CAMPBELL

As head of design and architecture at the British Council, Emily Campbell runs an international programme of exhibitions and collaborative projects to enhance the understanding of design and to champion British design. Born in Liverpool in 1966, Emily graduated in English from Cambridge University and graphic design from Yale School of Art. She was a graphic designer at the Pentagram design group in New York before joining the British Council in 1996.

HILARY COTTAM

The winner of Designer of the Year in 2005 was public sector design reformer Hilary Cottam. Born in London in 1965, she studied at Oxford, Sussex and the Open University then worked for the World Bank. As a founder of School Works and the Do Tank, she pioneered new approaches to school and prison design. Now head of the Design Council's experimental RED unit, Hilary is working to redefine the role of design in our daily lives, starting with health and citizenship.

KEVIN McCLOUD

Describing himself as “a jack of all trades”, Kevin McCloud is best known as the presenter of Channel 4 design and architecture television series such as Grand Designs and Demolition. He has also designed lighting for historic buildings including Ely Cathedral, Edinburgh Castle and the Savoy hotel, as well as furniture and home products. Born in 1959, Kevin McCloud studied art and architectural history at Cambridge University before training as a designer.

CHRISTOPHER FRAYLING

The chair of the jury is Christopher Frayling, rector and professor of cultural history of the Royal College of Art and chairman of Arts Council England. Born in London in 1946, Christopher is an historian, critic and award-winning broadcaster and is a trustee of the Victoria and Albert Museum. He has published numerous books and articles on the arts, design and the history of ideas and was knighted for “services to art and design education” in 2001.

ABOUT THE DESIGN MUSEUM

One of the world's leading museums of design, the Design Museum attracts over 250,000 annual visitors, an increase of 40% in the last three years, to exhibitions of modern design history and contemporary design. The Design Museum is the UK's largest museum provider of design education resources and its award-winning website – at www.designmuseum.org – attracts more than 2 million visitors a year as the world's most popular design website.