



## **Press Release**

Design competition / Invitation to submit projects

# **The 3<sup>rd</sup> "Copper and the home" design competition is now up and away!**

**Closing date for submissions: 30 November 2010**

### **The competition in brief**

- A design competition promoted by the Italian Copper Institute and the European Copper Institute.
- Theme: "Copper and the home".
- Deadline: Projects must be received by November 30, 2010.
- The competition is divided in two categories:
  - Interior designers and architects (not older than 40 years of age).
  - Individual students or groups of students enrolled in higher education schools of graphics, interior decorating, interior design, faculties of architecture and interior design, doctorates, masters or equivalent courses. Entries must be coordinated by at least one course teacher.
- Design criteria:
  - The design of a home décor object whose realisation incorporates significant and exciting use of copper or its alloys (brass, bronze, cupronickel, etc.).
  - Categories: complementary furniture (such as coat hangers, magazine racks, book shelves, vases), coverings and decorations (wall coverings, dividing walls, doors) or functional elements (radiators, lamps, lights).
- Project format: Electronic (CD, e-mail, etc.) that can be read by the most common software in a Windows® or Mac® environment.
- Prizes:
  - Designers and Architects category: First prize €4,000. Second prize €2,500.
  - Students category: Prize €1,500.
- Requests to participate in the competition must be sent to: [info@agenziacopyright.it](mailto:info@agenziacopyright.it)
- Award ceremony: Early 2011.

**Brussels, 4 March 2010** - The European Copper Institute (ECI) and the Italian Copper Institute (IIR) are launching the third "Copper and the home" design competition. It uses a format similar to the previous competition, whereby competitors have to design an object for the home based on the use of copper or its alloys (such as bronze or brass), and exploiting the superb aesthetic or technical qualities of these metals. The best student and professional projects will receive prizes ranging from €1,500 to €4,000.

### **A competition highlighting the aesthetic and technical qualities of copper**

Omnipresent in our homes but often invisible, copper plays many roles behind the scenes in our houses. The purpose of the "Copper and the home" design competition is to bring the red metal into the spotlight and nurture its decorative potential.

For this third competition, the ECI and IIR invite designers from across the world to make copper the star of our interiors!

As in previous years, the event is open to two categories of participants. Firstly: Fine Arts, Graphic Arts, Design and Architecture students, and secondly: young professionals, designers and interior architects (under 40).

The participants have to **design a decorative object for the home using copper or copper alloys that exploit the intrinsic qualities of these metals.**

There are innumerable ways of exploring the material, given its wide range of colours, the way it naturally oxidises, its malleability, durability, ductility, antimicrobial properties, and the fact that it can be endlessly recycled. The possibilities for creativity are just as varied: chairs, tables, lamps, vases, murals and radiators, to name but a few.

The jury will award prizes to designers who respond to this question: how can copper help us to reinvent objects, improve their functionality and transform our uses of them?

Projects need to be submitted by **30 November 2010**, and the results will be announced in early 2011 (date to be announced later). The winner of the Student category will be awarded a prize of €1,500, and the winners of the Professional category prizes will receive €4,000 and €2,500 for first and second place respectively.

### Copper inspires designers more than ever

An ancestral material with a powerful visual identity, copper has achieved an eye-catching position in the contemporary design scene over the past years. More and more designers, including Susan Bradley, Tom Dixon with his celebrated *Copper Shade* lamps, Tord Boontje and Bassam & Fellows are rediscovering the aesthetic potential of the "red metal", the way it plays with light, and the manufacturing possibilities it offers. Its malleability and ductility vastly increase choices in terms of aesthetics and form and, as it is extremely durable and 100% recyclable, it appeals to a growing number of creators in this age of eco-design. The previous competition attracted more than 130 applicants from all over the world, and the ECI and IIR are looking forward to a further increase this year.



Tom Dixon  
*Copper Shade*  
Lamps



Philip Mainzer  
*Habibi Tables*  
Side tables



Ben Blanc  
*Rocking swell*  
Vessel



Alfredo Haberli  
*Mesa Kitchen*  
Kitchen



Vincenzo De Cotiis  
*Golden Cage*  
Bookcase

→ For further information on copper in contemporary design, log onto [www.copperindesign.org](http://www.copperindesign.org)!

#### About the ECI (European Copper Institute)

The European Copper Institute (ECI) is a joint venture between the world's mining companies (represented by the International Copper Association, Ltd) and the European copper industry. Its mission is to promote copper's benefits to modern society across Europe through its headquarters in Brussels and its network of eleven national Copper Development Associations.

ECI's website: [www.eurocopper.org](http://www.eurocopper.org)

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