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5 OCT – 3 DEC 2026

Earthrise 26

Design for a
Living Planet

● Call for Residency

3rd edition

Circolo del Design

Circolo del Design is a cultural production centre based in Turin that, through multiple activities, promotes design culture and interdisciplinary dialogue on urgent contemporary issues in which design methods and tools can play an important role.

Earthrise - Design for a Living Planet

***Earthrise - Design for a Living Planet* is an annual cultural event by Circolo del Design aimed at disseminating visions, research and projects from the world of design that affect the sustainability of life on our planet.**

How can design participate in the construction of new possibilities to redesign our way of life at a time of great climate, environmental, demographic and social crisis that constantly calls into question our collective and individual ways of acting?

In the field of design, the ongoing progress of research prefigures models that help define new possible balances. Projects of different scales help experiment with new human-human and human-non-human relationships and the elaboration of future scenarios pushes imagination beyond the boundaries of what is possible today.

Earthrise Residency 26

The 2026 edition of *Earthrise Residency* will explore clay-based materials – ceramics, earthenware and their derivatives – as cultural, environmental and design resources for the present.

Building on the *Earthrise* platform and Circolo's commitment to design as a driver of ecological transition, the project aims to connect european-based designers with local companies, artisans, researchers and transdisciplinary experts across Turin and the wider Piedmont area.

With mentorship sessions by Designregio Kortrijk, BASE Milano and others, the residency combines site visits, exchanges and hands-on experimentation. Expected outcomes include prototypes, material tests, process documentation and a final public exhibition engaging professionals, students and wider audiences. The project reflects Circolo's profile as a platform linking design, research, production and public engagement.

Earthrise 26

The project explores clay and earthenware beyond the functional object, approaching them instead as narrative, spatial, and critical matter.

Attention shifts from products to states of transformation, from outcomes to processes, and from innovative or traditional forms to the imaginaries they activate.

Working with these materials today cannot simply mean repeating established typologies. The question is no longer how to make a plate, a cup, or a bowl, but why, and what might exist beyond these familiar forms.

What can clay still communicate when freed from function and returned to a space of inquiry? The exhibition unfolds around this open question.

Materials are not understood as passive support, but as active matter: they record gesture, retain time, and render transformation visible. For this reason, they can be rethought as critical devices, capable of generating new languages and challenging conventional design intentions.

To rediscover clay today means engaging with a material that resists the speed and abstraction of contemporary production. It demands time, contact and, material transformation. In doing so, it opens a radical space for design, in which we may reconsider not only what we produce, but also how and why we produce it.

The Residency

The projects featured in the exhibition will be developed through a residency hosted at Circolo del Design. Under the mentorship of Designregio Kortrijk, BASE Milano and others, the designer in residence will collaborate with local design and artisan communities, as well as interdisciplinary experts and mentors.

The designer will be selected based on their affinity with this year's exhibition theme, alongside the strength and feasibility of their project proposal.

The residency is aimed at producing an outcome that does not need to conform to traditional formats. The final output may take the form of an object, an installation, or other experimental formats. Throughout the residency, the designer will also keep a logbook, offering a personal behind-the-scenes account of the creative process as it unfolds.

Both the logbook and the final output of the residency will be presented as part of the exhibition and showcased during international design events.

Practical Info

THE RESIDENCY

The residency activities (including visits, workshops, mentorship sessions, hands-on practices and production) will culminate in a final exhibition.

During the exhibition, the designer will present the brand new, original work produced throughout the residency, alongside documentation of the entire process.

The project output will remain on display as part of the collective exhibition until its finissage in February 2027.

● CIRCOLO DEL DESIGN SHALL PROVIDE: DESIGNER'S FEE

- 1,500 € VAT included (one thousand five hundred euros);

INCLUDED SERVICES

- Round-trip travel costs
- Accommodation
- Public transportation pass
- Production of the residency output, for which Circolo del Design shall be responsible, up to a maximum amount of 3,000 € VAT included (three thousand euros)

● CIRCOLO DEL DESIGN SHALL PROVIDE TO THE RESIDENT:

- A dedicated workspace of 30 sqm within the Circolo del Design
- Collaboration opportunities: Circolo del Design shall actively promote a collaborative atmosphere, supporting interaction between the resident designer and interdisciplinary experts, artisans and local institutions, with, for example, networking events, collaborative workshops or interdisciplinary discussions
- Technical, logistical and organisational support for the development of the project covered by the residency

HOW TO APPLY

Fill in this form by 3 July 2026 to participate:

- A motivation letter in English (max. 500 words / 2'500 characters without spaces) explaining how your work connects to the themes of this year's exhibition
- PDF file (max. 2 MB) with a project proposal in English (max. 500 words / 2.500 characters), detailing the project you would like to make during your residency, including 3 images / sketches. By sending this material, the designer that will be selected for the residency authorizes Circolo Del Design to use and share these materials with third parties, such as the press office, for the online and offline promotion of the project
- Curriculum Vitae in English
- Website or Portfolio in English (max. 5 MB)

● REQUIRED OUTPUT:

- Physical output (to be displayed in the exhibition following the residency period)
- Project logbook / diary (to be displayed in the exhibition following the residency period)

● ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA:

- Under 35
- Applicants must demonstrate an international dimension within their practice through research, professional experience, collaborations, cultural exchange, mobility, or engagement with transnational networks and contexts in Europe.
- Well-structured project planning, clear goals
- Thematic relevance, aligned with the objectives of *Earthrise 2026*
- Experimental and/or innovative approach

SELECTION

The designer in residence will be selected by the Circolo del Design team in collaboration with Designregio Kortrijk and BASE Milano.

APPLICATION TIMELINE

Applications close on: 3 July 2026

Results will be communicated by: 20 July 2026

CONTACT

For any further information please contact: programma@circolodeldesign.it

**Residency:
from 05 October
to 03 December 2026**

**Exhibition:
from 14 October 2026
to February 2027**

CIRCOLO DEL DESIGN

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DESIGNREGIO KORTRIJK

Designregio Kortrijk is an organisation that has been active since 2005, bringing together designers, businesses, educational institutions and the public sphere through projects focused on creativity, innovation and entrepreneurship. It operates within the context of the Kortrijk UNESCO Design Region and develops programmes to raise public awareness and support emerging design. Among the most significant initiatives in relation to the proposal are the Metamorphosis residency programme and the WONDER Festival, a platform for the public presentation of design, art, technology and innovation.

BASE MILANO

BASE Milano is a boundary-pushing cultural center located in the regenerated spaces of the former Ansaldo. An internationally oriented creative hub, BASE serves as an analog prompter of meaningful questions: an ecosystem that does not offer immediate answers but slows down processes to set thought in motion.

Through the cross-pollination of art, enterprise, and the social sphere, BASE builds contexts in which autonomous reflection can flourish. With a public program active 365 days a year — including artistic residencies, festivals, and research — the institution enables new forms of coexistence and collaboration, operating as fertile ground for open exchange and cultural innovation in service of the city.

Beyond the walls of the Ansaldo, BASE takes shape as an open platform where experimentation becomes a daily practice, transforming the uncertainty of the present into a construction site of shared possibilities.

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