Communication Award

a prize for the innovative development and design of letters, packaging and printed media, and for new media or new applications of existing media that have improved and/or altered communications directed at the consumer in an original manner.

**Souvenirs for the Plantin-Moretus Museum (Antwerp)**

After renovations by the Voet en De Brabandere architecture firm, the Plantin-Moretus Museum reopened its doors in September 2016. This UNESCO world heritage-listed mansion in Antwerp houses and exhibits a magnificent collection of the oldest printing presses in the world, lead type and centuries-old books. The reopening also makes it the perfect moment for the museum to present a new series of souvenirs. The party commissioned to develop the series was Kastaar, along with An Eisendrath and Stoffel Van den Bergh, both graphic designers and printers (just as Plantin was in his day). They dove into the archives and discovered handcrafted woodcut printing blocks of botanical and zoological drawings and other illustrations, along with age-old typeface. Using these ingredients, they designed the trendy postcards, coasters, packets of plant seeds, notebooks and bookmarks that are for sale in the museum shop. During the month that marked the reopening, Kastaar set up two mobile printing presses - on bicycles! - in the city centre, that people could use to make their own print work. Clearly, print will be alive and kicking for some time to come. In the meantime, the collection has received the first Flemish Museum Product Award and a Silver European Design Award.

**Football magazine *Puskás***

***Puskás***, a new Flemish magazine about football published by Uitgeverij Cascade and the Heren Vertrekt cooperative seeks to share in-depth coverage of newsworthy items related to football. The editors-in-chief opted for longreads by passionate writers, for high-impact visual stories by accomplished photographers and for amusing facts. What’s more, it covers every possible aspect of the sport: not just items on well-known and lesser-known players and trainers, but also about attendants, maintenance people and fans, among others. The graphic designers working on this magazine are Pieter Willems of the Pjotr graphic design agency and his colleague Brecht Van Stappen. The layout, featuring the lines of the pitch or team logos, is clearly inspired by the game. In terms of form as well as content, *Puskás* succeeds in prompting readers to look the incredibly popular sport football is in a new, fresh light. For those of you who don’t know it: Ferenc Puskás was a Hungarian 20th century striker whose heyday was in the 1950s.

**Vollebak Vennestraat** neighbourhood project

Bringing together a neighbourhood in an attractive street: that has been the *Vollebak Vennestraat* project’s goal for a few years now for Genk’s multi-cultural Vennestraat where high vacancy rates have been a struggle for some time already. A broad range of initiatives was organised for this purpose: from meals at a shared community table to a farmer’s market, posters, shop decorations and temporary as well as permanent street furniture. VZW Het Labo designed the house style, fonts and colours to bring a sense of unity to the various small projects. They chose a simple symbol: the crate. The typical blue vegetable crates were arranged throughout the street, stacked several metres high; occasionally these were also planted with vegetables and flowers. The same shade of blue is a recurring motif on the posters, brochures, programme leaflet and the street paper. This paper introduces the neighbourhood’s shopkeepers, restaurant owners and merchants with an up-beat and contemporary feel, using an open and easy-to-read lay-out and an eye for good photography. A ‘dinner box’ was put together in preserving jars using ingredients grown on the street, coupled with designed matching placemats and tablecloths: all in line with the street’s house style.

Design-led Crafts Award

a prize for a unique object or one produced in limited series with an exceptional design and aesthetically combined with excellent craftsmanship and innovative use of materials, intended for consumers to whom sustainability, originality, exclusiveness, aesthetics and a high-quality finish are of paramount importance.

**A+A bowls**

It’s only logical that the name for this collection of three bowls contains a plus sign. The two ‘A’s refer to ceramic artist Ann Van Hoey and to Den Ateljee, a social workplace for the disabled. Van Hoey designed an object that could be created in a small series, and above all at the pace of each employee, in a ‘*jigger & jolley’* machine installed in the workplace. The employee fills a mould with clay, and next uses a profiled cutter to scrape the clay during rotation (jiggering), so that excess clay is removed and the inside is uniform and smooth. The next step is to glaze the inside. Ann Van Hoey approached 3D draughtsman Peter Donders with her idea; they took the designs resulting from their collaboration to 3-D printing company Materialise where they commissioned moulds that would fit the machines is use at Den Ateljee. Finally, design label Serax distributes these 1,000 unique bowls: hand-made, professional and socially responsible.

**Monsieur Tricot**

A collection of knitted lamps: that’s Monsieur Tricot. Or better yet: a collection of knitted sleeves fitted over transparent polycarbonate lanterns. Ilia Sigi Eckhardt personally knits each sleeve, not with knitting needles, but with his fingers and - oddly enough - a crochet hook. He grew up in his mother Hilde Frunt’s Antwerp knitting studio (prototype supplier for the knitwear of Raf Simons, Ann Demeulemeester and Dries Van Noten), which is how he came to learn the tricks of the trade. What is remarkable is that there is also an outdoor version of knitted lamps, with rope and special cables and connections (rigging). It is available in black and white versions. It is clear that Ilia has thought of everything: his website contains an extensive manual that explains precisely how the sleeve can be removed for cleaning or for replacing lamps. And yes, a no. 5 Allen wrench will definitely do the trick; there’s no need to dig up your knitting needles!

**Tableskin tablecloth and napkins**

A tablecloth made of a roe’s hide: that was the image that Limburg-based designer Lore Langendries had in mind. She approached linen manufacturer Verilin in Heule with her idea, and together they went in search of the perfect manifestation of that image. The solution was found in a jacquard weave of the finest quality, in which the linen is not woven and then printed, but the photograph is incorporated directly into the fabric. This is remarkable, because the basic design of this tablecloth doesn’t actually stem from a traditional textile design then, but rather from the pixels of a digital photograph that have been converted into a weaving program. The choice of binding, the raw material and the configuration of the loom were essential for transferring the photograph in the greatest possible detail. The hairs visible on the napkins are not the soft ones on a roe’s back as on the tablecloth, but are more like the raised edges found in a cowlick. You can’t wipe your mouth more efficiently than this!

Ecodesign by OVAM

a prize for products or services which are created in accordance with the principles of eco design or have a positive effect on the environment.

**H-bench, outdoor furniture**

All those yoghurt containers, butter dishes, and plastic bags that you throw into the pink rubbish bag can be put to good use: as a public bench, for example. Eco-Oh, a recycling company from Limburg, processed the mixed plastic waste into pellets that can be transformed into new objects by a moulding machine. This material is sustainable, colour-fast, weather and wind resistant, free of splinters, extremely low-maintenance and available in various colours: dark grey, medium grey, light grey, pastel green, pastel blue and beige. The designers at Eco-oh figured it should be perfect for outdoor use then. Koen Vanmechelen wasn’t the only one to use this material for his birdcage at the Venice Biennial this summer. Designers Wim and Bob Segers also took up the challenge and came up with the H-bench: simply put, it’s just two different modules that can be connected to form an infinitely long bench, with or without a backrest. Any landscape architect find a use for that.

**Post-couture Antwerp, fashion collection**

Fast fashion, major fashion chains and busy shopping streets, bursting at the seams with overly cheap clothing lead to problems such as low-wage production and a surplus of textiles that are thrown away. Dutch entrepreneur Martijn Van Strien, who developed an open source platform for ordering tailor-made clothing, felt there had to be a solution to this. You can also buy patterns to sew your own clothing at home. Launched in Rotterdam, there is now also a Post-couture version in Antwerp. Van Strien sought and found five young designers: Kjell de Meersman, Sofie Nieuwborg, Emmanuel Ryngaert, Sofie Gaudaen and Marie-Sophie Beinke, responsible for designing a collection of complementary clothing. The clothing can be ordered online, but needs to be put together at home through a special assembly technique that does not require any sewing. The materials were collectively chosen: a blend of French wool and Belgian recycled polyester. The patterns are also for sale. These downloadable patterns cost between 10 and 25 euros, while the ‘assembly kits’ for the clothing vary between 120 and 900 euros.

**Xant M, wind turbine**

Over the past decade or so, we’ve gotten used to wind turbines along our motorways, at industrial parks or dotting the middle of the Flemish landscape somewhere. Generating energy from the wind is an age-old principle that has once again gained relevance in our endeavour to reduce our dependency on fossil fuels and nuclear energy. However, at Xant their opinion is that there’s still more brainstorming needed when it comes to the design of the wind turbine in terms of sustainability. Not only in technical terms through the use of basic recyclable materials and giving the blades a more efficient shape, but also by making it possible to transport an entire wind turbine on a single truck and install it with a tilting system that precludes any need for a crane. What’s more, these wind turbines make far less noise and don’t need to be connected to the traditional electricity grid. Customers can even order them in their own brand colours: now that’s something worth seeing!

Efficiency Award

this award recognises the innovation or improvement thanks to which a product or service can be used or produced more efficiently, or thanks to which entirely new products, methods or services can be developed.

**Dubio, brick**

The brick designed by Roel Vandebeek for Nelissen Steenfabrieken brick factories is a ‘trompe l’oeil’. The optical illusion is created by using shadow lines on a brick that make it appear as if each brick is composed of two thinner bricks. There is a version with a line down the centre, and one with a line at the side. Every façade can be composed in a unique fashion of what appears to be multiple thinner bricks, without any need to effectively lay these brick-by-brick. The bricks themselves are also thinner than standard brick, which reduces the raw materials required and the cost of transport. Now, that’s two for the price of one!

**Dynamx, transition piece for heating**

A switch at the railway station that makes sure trains are on the right track at the hub where several tracks converge: that’s how you should see the patented Dynamx by Belparts. This transition piece for water pipes, combining a controller and sensors in one, measures the flow and temperature of warm water and cold water and directs it instantly to the right rooms and floors of high-rise buildings. Without a regulator like this, it is difficult to control the temperature in just one room. Heating and cooling takes more time, and requires more energy. It goes without saying that these regulators are invisible to people walking around the building; however, the Achilles design agency designed the unique housing for them. They used the image of an expanding drop of water on a water surface. A click system facilitates the installation and any later adjustments. Dynamx is being put to large-scale use in its present form for the first time in the new EU building in Luxembourg.

**June**

June is a circular disc-shaped energy meter. Intended for home use, it provides clear, real-time and close-up perspective on your energy consumption. It tells you which appliance is responsible for guzzling the most energy, and as a result gives you an indication of what might need to be replaced or that could be used with a little more attention to use. The information isn’t just meant for you, but is also for the company installing the device. They check and see whether your current energy supplier is giving you the best possible deal. If this is not the case, they will automatically conclude a new energy contract for you with a cheaper supplier. June was designed by Bagaar, an agency based in Antwerp. The monthly costs associated with June amount to six euros a month.

Everyday Life award

a prize for digital or non-digital products, services and systems intended for private use or use in public spaces, and which improve our everyday lives or make them easier.

**Stubs**

The Stubs collection designed by Frank Ternier for Labt in Ghent is a tower of four coloured stools. The colours through which the wood grain is still visible, have been created by layering various wood stains (a transparent type of paint for wood) on top of one another. An inconspicuous detail gives the stools a pure look: the crease down the middle of each leg. Each leg is composed of two small vertical planks, glued together at a wide angle (in professional jargon this is called ‘gluing in facet’). This allows the legs to follow the curve of the round seat, while making them extra strong and sturdy. You can even rock back and forth on two legs, assures the designer. Fun as well as free abdominal muscle training, if you like.

**Tam Tam, fire basket**

Having a real camp fire in your own garden or on the terrace is only possible for the lucky few given the possibility of fire hazard, or simply due to lack of space. The Tam Tam fire basket, designed by studio Achoo for Copain, is made in Belgium from steel and aluminium. It is available in two versions: one for wood, and one for bio-ethanol. If someone accidentally bumps into the basket it will quickly recover its equilibrium and return to a stable position. It’s small enough to fit in an average car boot, but be sure to let it cool down before loading it into your car after use!

**Virus**

Virus is a picnic table that comes in various guises. Dirk Wynants has designed different versions of this garden picnic table based on an identical seating frame for two to five people. This is a fun way of filling a space with a mixture of small to medium-sized seating sets without losing uniformity. Furthermore, the compact design responds to the trend for smaller living spaces and offers a solution that enables you to use our tools on balconies and in urban gardens. There is a Virus picnic table that is ideal for any kind of gathering. Expect nothing less than togetherness everywhere!

Healthcare Award

a prize for products and services that promote the physical or mental wellbeing of individual persons.

**Aperi**

In an ageing population, optimising home care for the elderly is a significant challenge. Aperi Home was developed specially for this. It is a platform where current systems can easily be linked: care registration systems maintained by hospitals, for example, or memos, reminders and alarms. Home automation systems and social media can also be hooked up. Because the platform makes use of open technology standards, it can also link functions that will be added later in future. The elderly person in question receives a sort of tablet at home, or in his or her room, into which everything is conveniently integrated. Wall-mounted and table-top versions are also available, all of which were designed by design agency Pilipili and marketed by Aperi.

**Colli-Pee, urine sample collector**

Some viruses (such as chlamydia, gonorrhoea, HPV or prostate cancer) can be detected only in the first drops of urine produced. Directing your flow into a plastic cup is not always a piece of cake; anyone who has ever tried this in a toilet right next to the overcrowded waiting room of his or her GP can testify to that. Colli-pee by Novosanis developed a compact device that can be used by men as well as women. It can be used standing up, by peeing into a sort of funnel. The first 20 mm is collected in a plastic tube, while the rest drains off into the toilet along the funnel. Easy … uh… Pee-sy.

**Theom@tic**

Healthy people hardly ever think about how many actions actually require the use of two hands. Eating and drinking, for example, are especially difficult with just one hand. Frederic Boonen was approached by the Jessa Hospital in Hasselt to come up with a solution for this. He designed this raised tray, in which drinking glasses, yoghurt containers, sugar cubes, butter tubs or just some sandwiches can conveniently and securely be arranged in anti-skid compartments. That makes spreading, opening and pouring a whole lot easier. Thanks to the understated design, the tray is not conspicuous and looks almost the same as an ordinary plate. The Theom@tic was named after Theo Willem, the volunteer at the rehabilitation centre of the Jessa Hospital who originally came up with the idea.