

MORE SUSTAINABLE LEATHER PRODUCTS 2022

Design Competition & Mentoring Program



- ▶ International Jury & Mentor Panel from Industry and Academia
- ▶ Exclusive Mentoring Phase for Finalists
- ▶ High Visibility Across Disciplines and Borders

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HOCHSCHULE DARMSTADT
UNIVERSITY OF APPLIED SCIENCES

s:ne

SYSTEM INNOVATION FOR
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

**JOIN
COMPETITION
NOW**

open until
20.04.2022

MORE SUSTAINABLE LEATHER PRODUCTS 2022

Design Competition & Mentoring Program

Leather as an ancient material features characteristics and properties that in many cases relate to sustainability by default (e.g. durability, reparability and aesthetically pleasing ageing). At the same time, in contrast, increasing functional and aesthetic demands lead to problematic conditions regarding, for instance, the leather chemistry. This is even amplified by highly complex and non-transparent supply chains.

In many cases, the design of leather products foster these conditions. It may create unwanted incentives for manufacturers to use of harmful substances. Due to the use of less sustainable or appropriate materials and construction techniques, these products last only for a short while. They are difficult to be reused, repaired or even recycled and eventually end up in landfills.

This is where you come into play! In a participatory process, we have created an open-access design-canvas and related design guidelines that comprise a range of aspects to help create more

sustainable leather products. Now we are looking for creative minds (individuals or groups) to utilize these tools to design the most sustainable leather product.

Besides the opportunity to develop your product alongside our industry and academic experts, you will be offered a unique mentoring programme to enhance your skills in product design, leather, sustainable and business development.

HOW TO JOIN

- 1. Submit a quick design concept**
use poster-template & Leather Product Design Canvas
- 2. Finalists join mentoring program**
- 3. Submit final design**
based on Leather Design Guidelines & created during mentoring program

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HOSTS OF THE COMPETITION



Dr. Jonas Rehn-Groenendijk
Senior Design Researcher at Darmstadt University of Applied Sciences. Head of project „Design Guidelines for More Sustainable Leather Products“



Karl Borgschulze
Founder and Managing Director of CSI Ltd. and expert advisor in the project “Leather-Design-Guidelines” at Darmstadt University of Applied Sciences.



Karen Lehmann
Research officer at the Schader Foundation



Massimo Cipolloni
Design and leather goods expert and International Relation Manager for COSMO Foundation, the head organization of Accademia Della Moda, ITS COSMO and ACOF.



Nina Conrad
CEO of sustainability consultancy bttr GmbH and co-founder of accessory brand LEIT & HELD.



Ann-Cathrin Jöst
Researcher at Darmstadt University of Applied Sciences



Rofiatun Nafiah
Assistant professor of the Leather Product Design and Technology department at Polytechnic ATK Yogyakarta



Dr. Gerhard Nickolaus
Former director of PFI Hong Kong Ltd. and PFI Fareast Ltd., he founded the International Shoe Competence Center in Pirmasens (ISC) and Asia



Dr. Julian Schenten
Researcher at Darmstadt University of Applied Sciences & Head of project „More Sustainable Chemistry in the Leather Supply Chains“



Dr. Charis Stoica
Researcher at Darmstadt University of Applied Sciences



Uwe Thamm
Global Production Head at Josef Seibel and former CEO of the International Shoe Competence Center (ISC) in Pirmasens

Foto: Jürgen Mai

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PHASE 1

Entry Level

Rules & Prerequisites for Attending

Everybody interested or involved in designing and developing leather products can join the competition. This includes - but is not limited to - professional and early career designers, design agencies, students of design and related disciplines, leather brands and start-ups. The participant(s) or the participating team take full responsibility for submitting only original creations.

Task

All participants are asked to create a design concept for a leather product based on the „Leather Product Design Canvas for Sustainable Development“ by using the poster template provided.



Criteria for Success

Submissions will be evaluated by a transdisciplinary jury of experts from industry and science based on the following criteria:

- ▶ Consideration of Leather Product Design Canvas
- ▶ Systemic perspective on sustainable development
- ▶ Overall aesthetic and conceptual quality of design
- ▶ Degree of innovation
- ▶ Market opportunities
- ▶ Feasibility

[Download](#)

[Leather Product Design Canvas \(PDF\)](#)

[Download](#)

[Design Template for Entry Level \(PDF\)](#)

[Download](#)

[Submission form \(interactive PDF\)](#)

Mentoring Level

All participants who pass the entry level will be selected for the mentoring programme and will be given the chance to participate in an in-depth teaching phase led by a trans-disciplinary team of experts from industry and academia. The participants will be able to gain (more) knowledge and skills in leather as a material and related topics such as sustainable development, taught by leading experts in this field.

The mentoring program will be held in three online sessions comprising a mix of input speeches, project clinics and personal consultations focusing on the final design task.

Topics and content of the mentoring program will be relevant both to early career and professional leather product designers.

Mentoring Dates

SESSION #1: 12.05.2022 | 10:00 am CET

SESSION #2: 09.06.2022 | 10:00 am CET

SESSION #3: 14.07.2022 | 10:00 am CET

Final Task

Throughout the mentoring program, participants will elaborate their design concept for a leather product based on the "Design Guidelines for More Sustainable Products" (provided during the program).



1. Award and High Visibility

The winner will be granted the **Sustainable Leather Product Award** from Darmstadt UAS and will be featured in several media outlets.

2. Possibility to Earn Royalties

The winner will get to pitch the final design to an industry partner and might be offered a royalty-based licence contract or create a new business collaboration.

3. Featured in the Guidelines' Appendix

All mentoring participants will get the chance to be featured in the guidelines' appendix with their concept and personal profile.

for more information & downloads visit
sne.h-da.de/leather-design-competition

Intellectual Property

All participants will retain ownership of their design concepts at all stages. The winner(s) might sell this intellectual property to an industry partner.

Participating parties grant the Darmstadt University of Applied Sciences the rights to exhibit, publish, publicize, collect and display submissions in the context of this competition as well as the design guidelines on TV, Internet, print or broadcasting media in any format, material, and virtual medium.

The data will be saved and processed [according to Article 6(1)(f) GDPR] for the purpose of planning, conducting and advertising the design competition and mentoring program. In addition, processing according to Article 6(1)(a) GDPR is possible with your consent for the purposes covered by this.

Any questions?

Contact the organiser Jonas Rehn-Groenendijk by mail:
leather-competition@h-da.de

JOIN THE COMPETITION NOW
until 20.04.2022

create a design concept poster
(download template here)



fill-out submission form
(download here)



leather-competition@h-da.de