

Designblok Cosmos

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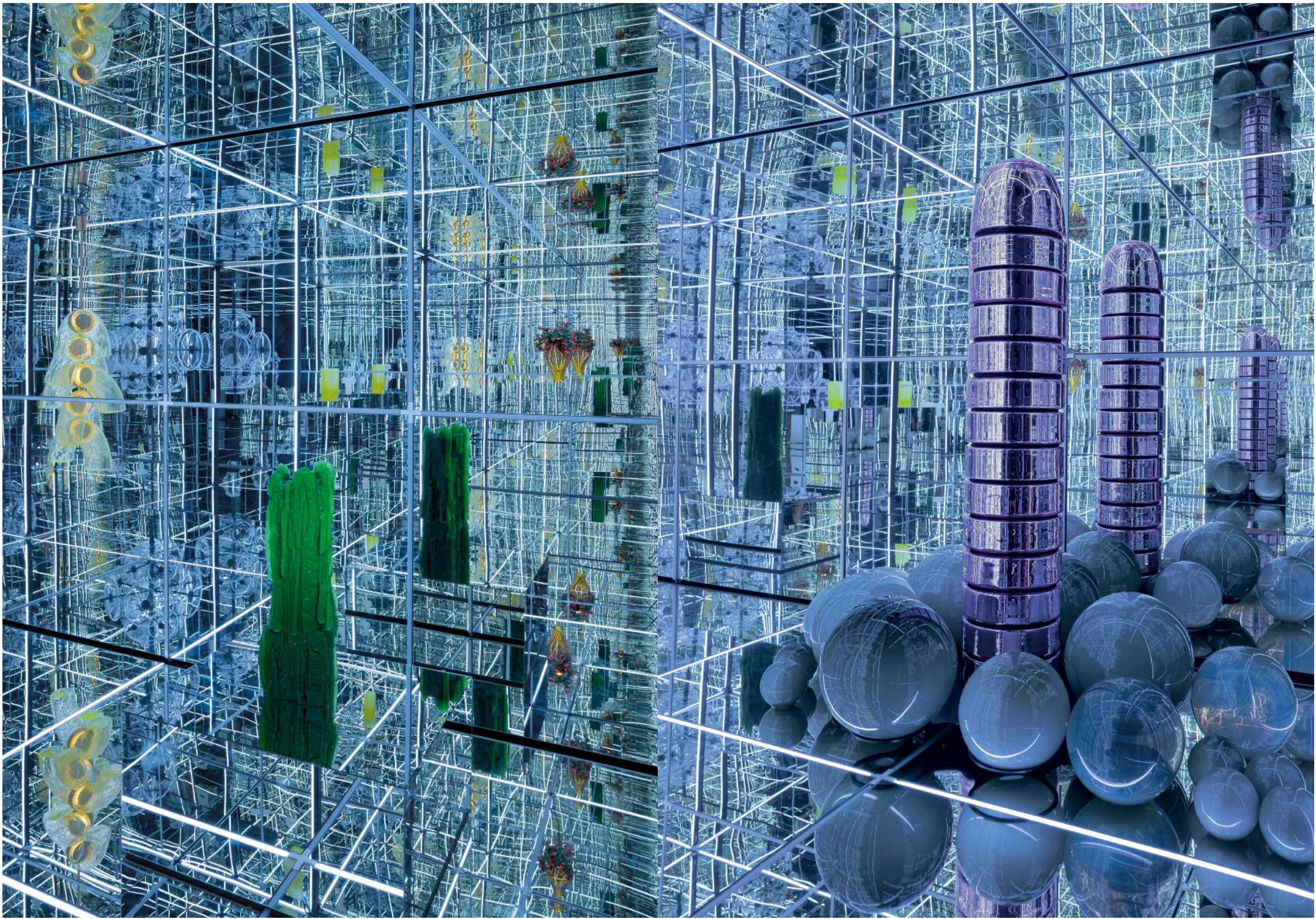


Designblok Cosmos: the intergalactic beauty of Czech design

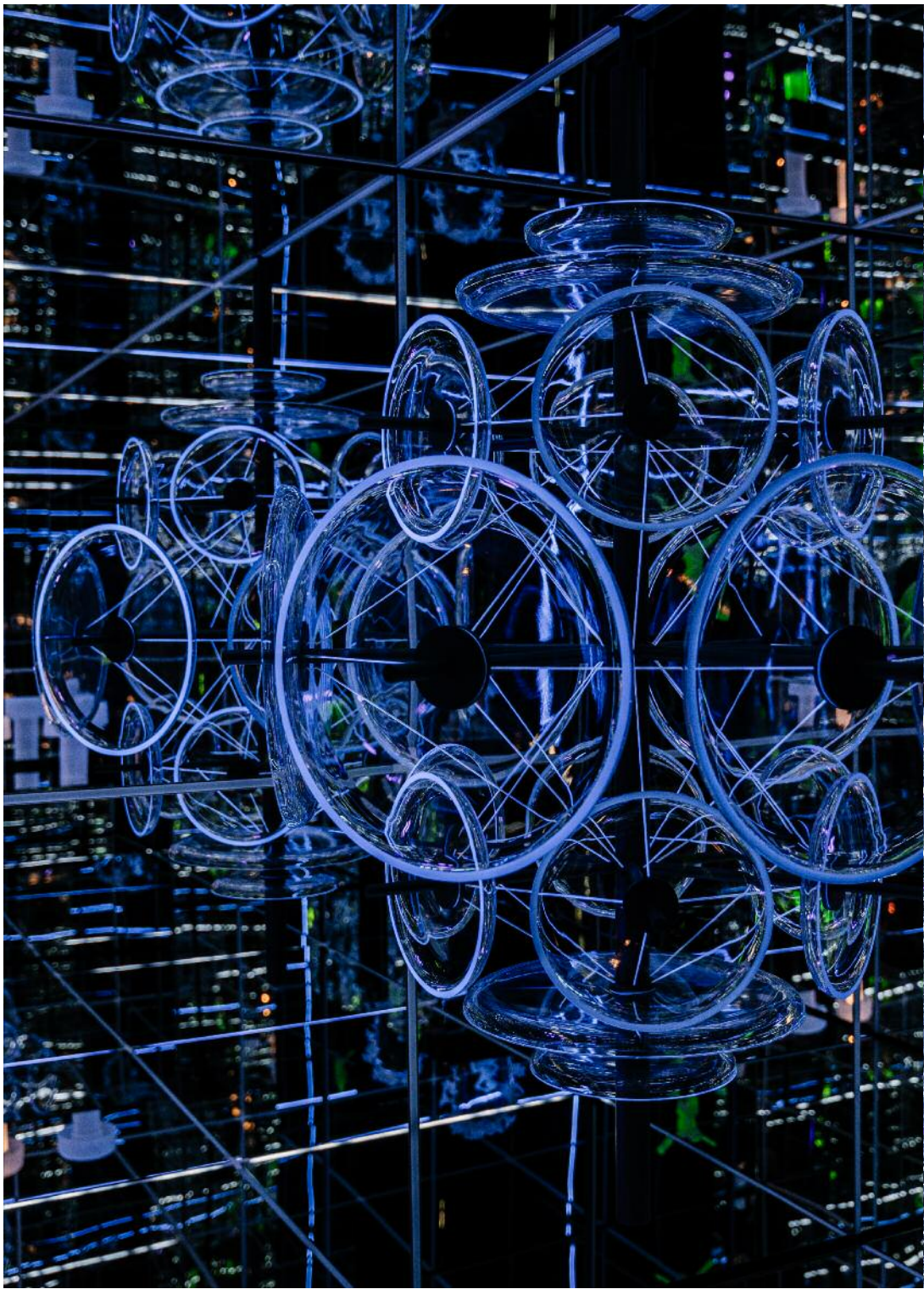
For twenty-five years, Designblok - Prague International Design Festival has been dedicated to the advancement of the Czech design scene, collaborating with renowned designers, supporting young authors, connecting creators and industry, spreading awareness among the general public and representing Czech design abroad. All of this is reflected in the outdoor exhibition - **a mobile gallery in the form of a space capsule hiding ten original glass works by ten leading Czech designers.**

The connecting link between the exhibited works is the material used: glass, so traditional for the Czech Republic. The original objects artfully work with luminescence and represent not only the authors' free approach to creation and material, but also very varied production technologies, traditions, know-how of Czech factories and manufactories, craftsmanship and the latest approaches and experiments.

- 65 m² of exhibition space on 6 wheels
- 10 unique glass objects
- 110 mirrors
- 10 minutes of original sound & light design
- infinite beauty







Designblok, held in the creative heart of Europe, is the largest exhibition of design and fashion in Central and Eastern Europe.

This five-day event annually showcases the latest products from **over two hundred independent creators, studios and established brands**. Responding to current social issues and international trends, it provides a creative, professional and business platform where designers and companies meet with professionals, suppliers and target customers. The showcase of new products is complemented by a rich supporting programme of lectures and discussions, industry meetings, fashion shows and other special events providing space for networking and mutual inspiration.

Over 40,000 people from among designers, curators, buyers, architects, interior designers, journalists and design lovers visit Designblok every year.



The curatorial selection by **Jana Zielinski** and **Jiří Macek** features artists who are firmly associated with the festival – **Jakub Berdych Karpelis**, **DECHEM Studio**, **Lucie Koldová**, **Václav Mlynář**, **Lukáš Novák**, **Jiří Pelcl**, **Rony Plesl**, **Tadeáš Podracký**, **Maxim Velčovský** and **Jan Plecháč**, who is also the author of the innovative architectural design.

A semi-trailer truck has been customized for the exhibition, which, after parking in the desired location, unfolds into an exhibition area of 65 m². The interior is covered with mirrors, while the exterior is wrapped in a silver reflective shell.

- proud representation of the best that Czech design has to offer
- an extraordinary immersive experience for the general public
- comprehensible story and entertaining educational character
- business platform for establishing partnerships with manufacturers and buyers
- easy to transport versatile architectural solution

The Designblok Cosmos exhibition is primarily intended for outdoor display. It is easily transportable and can also be set up indoors. A panel with a credits list and a dedicated website with additional information about the artists and their works add to the informative and educational character of the exhibition.

The exhibition is complemented by an extensive [Designblok Cosmos publication](#) containing original interviews with the authors and original photographs by leading Czech photographer Václav Jirásek.

[A travelling symbol of Czech intellectual and technological wealth.](#)



Designblok Cosmos team:

Curators: Jana Zielinski, Jiří Macek

Director and creative director of Designblok, Prague International Design Festival, initiators of the Czech Grand Design Awards and the Association of Czech Industrial Design, art directors of their own brand Křehký and curators of numerous exhibitions – e. g.: Emotional Landscape (Křehký, Designblok, 2007), Miracles Archive (EXPO, Shanghai, 2010), Atlas of the World (Designblok, 2011), Domus (Pilsen, 2015), Avantgarde (Re:publika festival, Brno, 2018), Terra Alba (Designblok and the Moravian Gallery in Brno, 2022). In 2023, they collaborated on the exhibition Made by Fire, which premiered at the Triennale Milano during Milano Design Week.

The extraordinary Designblok Cosmos exhibition was created thanks to the key support of the PPF Foundation.

Exhibition design: Jan Plecháč Studio

Jan Plecháč, studied at the Academy of Art, Architecture and Design in Prague. Jan exhibited his thesis work at Designblok 2010 and Salone Satellite 2011 and attracted much attention from gallerists and well-known manufacturers. He was awarded the title of Discovery of the Year at the Czech Grand Design Awards and ELLE Decoration International Awards. Studio transcends the barriers between art, architecture, and design. Plecháč now works for internationally renowned galleries and brands such as Rossana Orlandi Gallery, Mint shop, Luminaire, Lasvit, Cappellini and Menu.

Lunchmeat Studio participated in the creation of the audiovisual effects – creative digital media studio specializing in media design, interactivity, and visitor’s experience, delivering ideas and project solutions. The original sound design, which accompanies the entire exhibition, was created by composer Aid Kid.

“Designblok is celebrating its quarter-century anniversary, and this is the best opportunity to look back and look forward. The representative exhibition of contemporary design Designblok Cosmos can be such an ambassador of new visions. The Cosmos exhibition offers visitors the world of Czech designers and the mastery of Czech producers. I believe in the successful mission of Cosmos not only here at home, but also abroad, where it will soon be heading. I wish the Designblok Cosmos exhibition a successful journey!”

Martin Baxa, Czech Minister of Culture



Designers:

Jakub Berdych Karpelis

In 2002, together with Maxim Velčovský, he founded Qubus, one of the first design studios and shops in Prague that oscillates between art and design. In 2006 and 2008, Qubus won the Czech Grand Design award in the Shop of the Year category. Berdych is primarily a conceptual artist working with traditional Czech materials such as glass and porcelain, and is known for his extravagant forms. In addition to conceptual and product design, he also works in the fields of interior design, architecture and free art.

DECHEM

Michaela Tomišková and Jakub Jandourek, designers who tell stories through glass, founded their studio in 2012. Their work features distinct colour gradients and unique light fixtures made from mouth-blown glass and handcrafted brass. In 2014, DECHEM were awarded the Designer of the Year title at the Czech Grand Design Awards.

Lucie Koldová

Lucie set out on her successful path in France in 2010 with her extraordinary glass lighting collections Muffins and Balloons, which she created for Brokis, a traditional Czech manufacturer. She spent several years in Paris. Currently based in Prague, she continues working for international clients, designing furniture pieces, glass

sculptures, and timeless lights. In 2014, Lucie was appointed art director of Brokis and has since produced a range of successful designs for the company.

Václav Mlynář

Mlynář got his master's degrees in Product Design at the Royal College of Art in London and the Academy of Arts, Architecture and Design in Prague. Between the years 2011 and 2020, he and Jakub Pollág operated deFORM, an award-winning product design studio. In 2020, Václav launched his product studio VM, spatial/interior architecture studio MONUMENT Office. Since 2017, he worked as Creative Director for Bomma, a light and glass producer.

Lukáš Novák

Lukáš Novák was born in Nový Bor, Czech Republic, a global capital of glass. He is an artist, multidisciplinary designer, creative person and glass lover with a huge passion for arts, crafts and history. Novák sees glass as a medium capable of transmitting emotions and thoughts through forms and stories. His diverse portfolio includes vases, mirrors, lights, art objects and installations.

Jiří Pelcl

A renowned designer who specializes in designing public and private interiors, architecture, furniture, glass and porcelain. Until recently, he was also the head of the Studio of Furniture and Interior Design at the Academy of Art, Architecture and Design in Prague, where he also held the position of rector between the years 2002

and 2005. Besides designing, he is also a theoretician of design, he publishes texts and is a guest lecturer at Czech and international schools. He won the National Design Award and the Form Award in 2006 and the Design Plus Award, both in Germany, and the Czech Grand Design Award for the Designer of the Year in 2007. In 2020, he became part of the Czech Grand Design Awards Hall of Fame.

Rony Plesl

Rony Plesl is one of the top international artists in the field of glass sculpture. His unique oeuvre emerges from his deep knowledge of quality glassmaking and the technologies he uses in his original designs and his artistic work. In collaboration with glass professionals, he shifts the perspectives of the possible in the medium of glass both for contemporary art and for his own work. Since 2008, Plesl is the Head of the Studio of Glass at the Academy of Arts, Architecture and Design in Prague. In 2017, he was appointed Professor of Design and Architecture.

Tadeáš Podracký

Tadeáš Podracký is an experimental designer who seeks authenticity in his immediate surroundings. He researches materials, and questions craft heritage while keeping strong hands on the production. Podracký offers a new methodology, a reformulated approach to design, based on exploration of expression, destruction, and accentuated individuality. He graduated from Contextual Design at the Design Academy Eindhoven and also the Glass Studio at the Academy of Arts, Architecture and Design in Prague, where co-leads the K. O. V. studio from 2023.

Maxim Velčovský

After graduating from the Academy of Arts, Architecture and Design in Prague, he founded Qubus design studio with Jakub Berdych Karpelis in Prague in 2002. In 2007 he was awarded Designer of the Year award at the Czech Grand Design Award. Since 2011 he has been an art director of globally renowned Czech glass brand Lasvit, working with the best designers and architects worldwide. Velčovský mainly works with porcelain and glass. For ten years Maxim taught at the Academy of Applied Arts in Prague and was the head of the Atelier of Porcelain and Ceramics.



Jan Plecháč



Maxim Velčovský



Jakub Berdych
Karpelis



Jiří Pelcl



Lucie Koldová

DECHEM

Rony Plesl

Lukáš Novák

Václav Mlynář

Tadeáš Podracký



Purpose: To promote Czech design and support it on the international scene through an attractive exhibition, appropriately chosen locations and promotional activities. To increase international awareness of Designblok as a major, regularly held exhibition that showcases the latest developments in the Czech design scene.

Premiere
October 3-15, 2023
Designblok, Prague International
Design Festival
Royal Garden of Prague Castle

The Designblok Cosmos exhibition attracted 41,700 people from among designers, curators, buyers, architects, interior designers, journalists and design lovers.



Designblok Cosmos



The largest travelling exhibition in the history of Designblok.

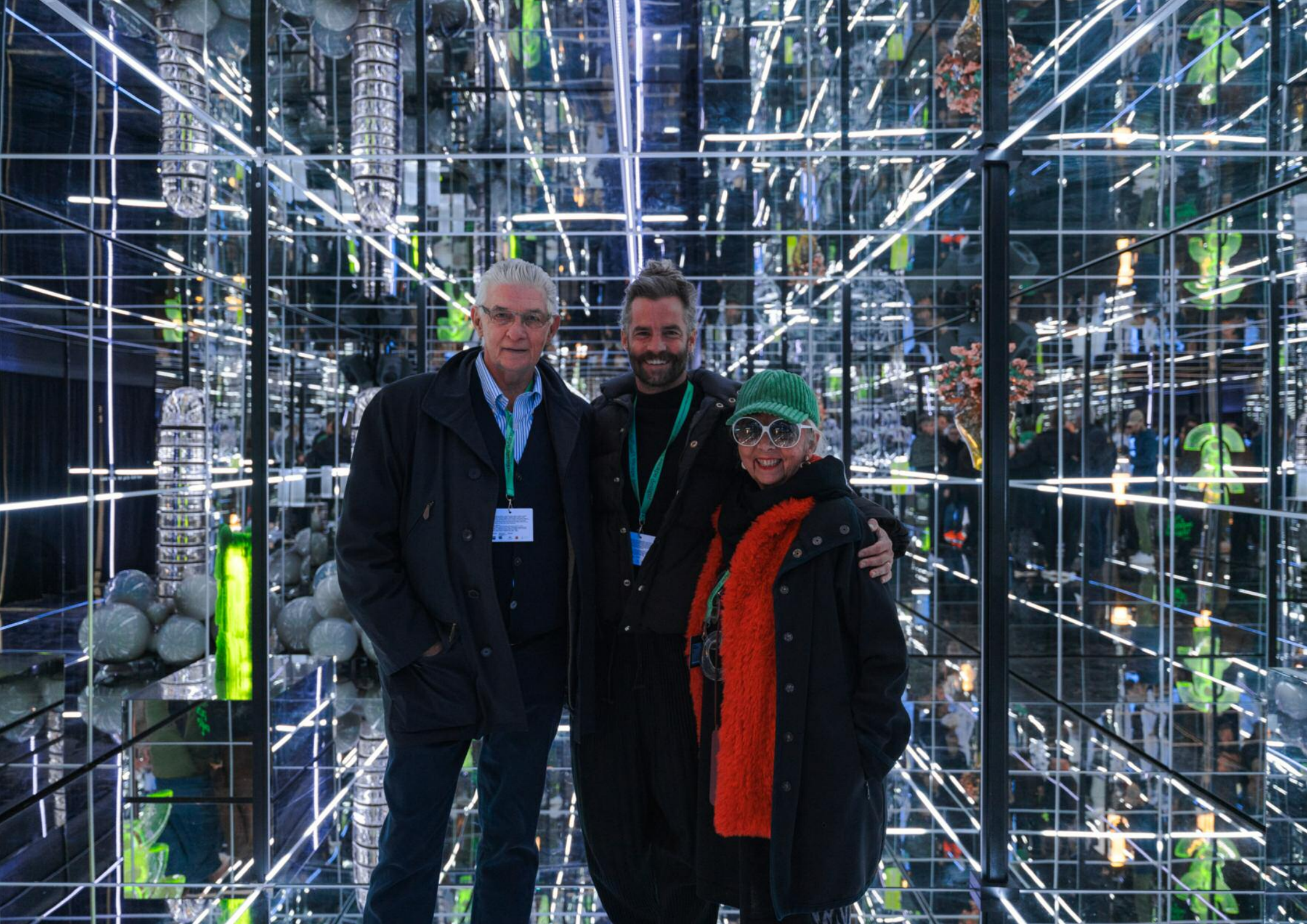
Designblok Cosmos caught the attention of Czech and foreign media. In the period from 1 February 2023 to 1 November 2023, the Newton Media agency recorded **144 media outputs** for the Designblok Cosmos exhibition across print media, online news, television and radio. The exhibition has also generated thousands of posts and tags on social media.

“The silver apex of the triangle. The intergalactic beauty of Czech design is an exceptional part of Designblok. Designblok Cosmos offers a stellar showcase of Czech design, and with it, fragile objects created by the fire of local glass and ceramic kilns.”

Danica Kovářová, Head of Editorial Content, Vogue CS

“This is what we are good at. What can Czechia be proud of and what does it offer to the world? Designblok has matured and Czech design, too... Designblok Cosmos presents the personal manifestos of ten of the most significant contemporary Czech designers in a curated selection by the Designblok directors themselves.”

Klára Číkarová, Deník N



“A unique experience awaits in the Cosmos exhibition, which is hidden in a silver foil-wrapped container standing in front of the Ball Game Hall in the Royal Garden of Prague Castle. Cosmos is a Matrix-like space journey. It's confusing to the senses. The author of the artistic solution and one of the exhibitors, Jan Plecháč, has succeeded masterfully in inventing a travelling exhibition on wheels, which gives the impression that ten trucks full of art have arrived at the site.”

Kateřina Farná, Novinky.cz

“Designblok Cosmos is a really very clever experience, prepared in a brilliant way. I was enchanted by the infinity I had discovered. Uranium glass has a long tradition and it expresses well the Bohemian spirit.”

Stephan Hamel, design consultant

„This installation? I have no words, it's amazing! I have followed Designblok from the beginning and I am super happy to see that every year it's better and better. Beautiful, strong presentation. Bravo! Happy to have it in Milan. It will be, as we say, “botto”!

Rossana Orlandi, gallerist, Rossana Orlandi Gallery, Milan, Italy

“Designblok Cosmos is a fantastic exhibition, blazing its trail with such high quality. I cannot wait to have it in Milan!”

Giulio Cappellini, designer and art director

The next stop
of Designblok Cosmos
is Milano Design Week
2024!

More at
www.designblok.cz