

## Press Release

***Design for Democracy. Atmospheres for a better life* is part of the celebrations for the 175th anniversary of the first German National Assembly in the Paulskirche in Frankfurt am Main.**

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The city of Frankfurt am Main will be celebrating a major historical event this May: the 175th anniversary of the first German National Assembly in the Paulskirche. During the upcoming celebrations, the *Design for Democracy workshop van* will also go on tour again with two selected stops. On 16 May, it will be a guest at the *Frankfurt Days of Democracy* at the Museum Angewandte Kunst, before it will subsequently stand on the Mainkai from 18 to 21 May as part of the *Paulskirchen Festival of the City of Frankfurt*.

At the invitation of the City of Frankfurt, the workshop van of the *Frankfurt RhineMain application as World Design Capital 2026*, which already stopped at more than 20 stations in the Frankfurt RhineMain region from 8 September to 23 October 2022, will be located on the northern bank of the Main, between the landing stage and the Historical Museum. During the Paulskirchen Festival, an open participatory workshop for everyone will be created around it, where visitors will be able to learn more about the contents of the application and take part in various participation formats. Among other things, they will have the opportunity to build a democracy stool, which can only be completed in a collaborative process.

The idea for the Democracy Stool, which is based on the guiding principle of the three pillars of democracy, arose in the winter semester 2022/23 in the seminar

"Design Curating and Criticism" at the Hochschule für Gestaltung (HfG) Offenbach by Prof. Matthias Wagner K, the director of the Museum Angewandte Kunst and head of the application. The course dealt with the claim of the application: *Design for Democracy. Atmospheres for a better life*. Starting with the question - "What does a stool look like that reflects and conveys the basic values of a democracy?" - the design of the Democracy Stool was developed. Based on the three pillars of democracy, the load of the stool is distributed over three legs. The legs interlock via connectors and support each other. The seat consists of three identical components that have to be connected to the three legs to form a triangular shape. Not only does the design reflect basic democratic values, the construction of the stool also ties in with this, as it takes at least two people to work together to create a stable stool from the prefabricated individual parts.

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The Democracy Stools have a limited edition of 500 pieces. Each stool is marked with the respective number as x of 500 and can be taken home by the builders. At the same time, the stool is an invitation to participate in the next *Design for Democracy* events. Everyone can bring along their democracy stool to sit down with other guests and develop design ideas for the future.

The stool was designed by Felix Adam, a trained carpenter and design student at the HfG Offenbach. The further development and elaboration for the participatory workshop took place together with the students of the seminar. The wooden moulded parts of the stool were manufactured by Messegrafik & Messebau Schreiber GmbH. Lothar Schreiber, the owner of the company, generously sponsors this special project.

In the run-up to the anniversary festival, the *Frankfurt Democracy Days* will take place from 12 to 17 May 2023, organised and implemented by the Paulskirche Network. As part of the days, the *Design for Democracy* workshop van will make a stop in front of the Historic Villa Metzler at the Museum of Applied Arts on 16 May from 4-6 pm. Here, for the first time, visitors will have the opportunity to build a democracy stool.

### Programme

(no registration necessary)

#### Thursday, May 18 2023

12-18 h Open offer with young designers from the *Design for Democracy* crew

12 - 6 p.m. Democracy Stool Workshop with students from HfG Offenbach

2-5 pm Building projects with children! - Workshop and exhibition with Stephanie Dietmann, sponsored by the Kulturstadt Frankfurt, as part of the Paulskirchen anniversary.

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### Friday, May 19 2023

11 a.m. - 6 p.m. Open offer with young designers from the *Design for Democracy* crew

12 - 6 p.m. Democracy Stool Workshop with students from HfG Offenbach

2-5 pm Building projects with children! - Workshop and exhibition with Stephanie Dietmann, sponsored by the Kulturamt Frankfurt, as part of the Paulskirchen anniversary.

### Saturday, May 20 2023

11 a.m. - 6 p.m. Open offer with young designers from the *Design for Democracy* crew

12 - 6 p.m. Democracy Stool Workshop with students from HfG Offenbach

11 am - 6 pm *Spaces of Memory*. Paulskirche - Workshop and pop-up guided tours of the Paulskirche (2 and 4 p.m.) with Sandra Engels, International Graduate Centre for the Study of Culture (GCSC) Justus Liebig University Gießen

### Sunday, May 21 2023

11 a.m. - 6 p.m. Open offer with young designers from the *Design for Democracy* Crew

12 - 6 p.m. Democracy Stool Workshop with students from HfG Offenbach

### Current status of the application *World Design Capital 2026* *Frankfurt RheinMain*

On 30 March 2023, the project company submitted the application for the Frankfurt RhineMain region to the World Design Organization™ (WDO). In June 2023, the short list with the final cities will be published, which will subsequently be visited by the international jury representing all continents. In October, the WDO will announce the final decision at its official annual general meeting in Tokyo, Japan.

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### The sponsors who launched the application are:

The city Frankfurt under the auspices of the Department of Culture and Science and the Kulturfonds Frankfurt RheinMain - including the cities of Wiesbaden, Darmstadt, Offenbach and Hanau as well as the districts of Offenbach, Hochtaunus, Main-Taunus, Rheingau-Taunus and municipalities in the region.

- and the State of Hesse, representing the Prime Minister Boris Rhein.

### Projektgesellschaft:

Design FRM gGmbH

im Museum Angewandte Kunst

Schaumainkai 17, 60594 Frankfurt am Main

Geschäftsführende Gesellschafter:

Roland Lambrette, Prof. Matthias Wagner K

### Projektleiter:

Olaf Ginter

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### Information

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