

The City as a Stage for Design

Discover 11 outdoor installations during Dutch Design Week Eindhoven, 7 August 2025 – During Dutch Design Week 2025 (18–26 October 2025), Eindhoven once again transforms into an open-air gallery. Across the city's most prominent squares and locations, eleven large-scale installations by international designers will take shape. From new ways of generating energy to alternatives for emergency shelters – experience how design contributes to social imagination and radical future scenarios.

"The large installations emerged from an open call. We tap into what lives within the design community and let the field speak for itself. In every sense of the word, we create space for experimentation," says Miriam van der Lubbe, Creative Head of DDW. "These public installations bridge the design world and the wider public. We bring design to where people already are and invite passers-by to wander, discover, and pause."

The eleven works are spread across prominent locations in the city and are freely accessible to everyone. A selection includes:

Econario by Thijs Biersteker

How political choices ripple through nature

Political decisions that shape the future are often abstract. Econario makes this abstraction tangible. This striking, data-driven installation shows how today's political choices affect the living environment of tomorrow.

The Umbra Pavilion by Pauline van Dongen

Textiles as solar generators

Not panels on the roof, but a flowing pavilion made from solar textile (Heliotex) that generates energy while offering shade. A vision of the future in which energy production is not hidden away, but woven seamlessly into daily life.

Factory 5.0 by Aditya Mandlik

Worms that dismantle buildings

In Factory 5.0, 10,000 mealworms eat their way through polystyrene, a radical rethinking of architecture: not as something permanent but as something designed to decay. The installation raises questions about the future of construction, circularity, and the role of design in ecological restoration.

City At Sea Level by Bahar Orçun

A submerged future

What if we soon find ourselves underwater? Step into a sunken city and experience the consequences of climate denial. This installation confronts visitors with the stark reality of rising sea levels.

The Waiting Room by Nanne Brouwer and Anneloes de Koff

Dignity in emergency accommodation

In Dutch asylum shelters, privacy is often absent: residents almost always share a bedroom. This leads to psychological strain and tension. The Waiting Room proposes an alternative design for temporary housing, with privacy as its starting point. The project poses urgent questions about how we treat vulnerable groups.

Explore all eleven installations at DDW ?