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## PORTO DESIGN BIENNALE POST MILLENNIUM TENSION

The 1st edition of *Porto Design Biennale* intends to think the new Millennium and the role of design in a framework of change. A unique event in Portugal, which is the result of a partnership between the Porto City Council and the Matosinhos City Council and organized by esad—idea, Research in Design and Art, *Porto Design Biennale* will take place by the end of 2019.

The mission of *Porto Design Biennale* is to promote, dynamize and internationalize thinking and practice in design. The 1st edition will take place between September and December 2019 in several locations in the cities of Matosinhos and Porto. *Porto Design Biennale* is promoted by the Porto City Council and the Matosinhos City Council and organized by the esad-idea, Research in Design and Art, the research center of ESAD/ College of Art and Design.

Facing the *Tensions of the New Millennium*, the 1st edition of *Porto Design Biennale* seeks to analyse the current disciplinary configuration of design, presenting a program that proposes a broad reflection on the emerging transformations that mark the new millennium and the place of design in a context of change.

This reflection considers, on the one hand, the historical perspective and relations of tension, remoteness and closeness between contemporary design and the model of modern design that was valid until the end of the millennium; on the other hand, it is important to identify and evaluate the forms and functions of the design produced in the first two decades of the new millennium, as well as to think about the social efficiency of design and the new connections that occur within the economic, technological, political, cultural and environmental dimensions.

*Design has emerged in recent years as a key discipline for thinking about the city and building its future. This international phenomenon is particularly important in Matosinhos and Porto, two cities that have brought design practice into the centre of their cultural strategy, not limiting its potential to the artistic field, but using it continuously as a catalyst for social, economic, technological and environmental change.*

*The two cities' various amenities and cultural institutions make up a unique territory that stands out in the country for its artistic diversity and vitality. It is important to emphasise the role of the two City Councils that, from early on, saw design as a fundamental partner in accessing culture, which enhances artistic thought and its languages, making an important contribution to the creation of a new generation of designers in the region.*

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*It is precisely in this context, and because of it, that Porto Design Biennale was born, a project based on the two cities but not limited to them and whose objectives are to develop an analysis of the current setting of design and to foster dialogue between structures and agents, both in Portugal and abroad, crossing practices and disciplines.*

*The first edition of Porto Design Biennale, therefore, consolidates the presence of this common cultural territory in the international design landscape.*

Rui Moreira

[President of the Porto City Council and  
Chairman of the Board of Porto Design Biennale]

*Particular relevance will be given to the tensions and specificities design is facing in the new millennium. By exploring different formats, contemporary design, national and international, will be widely shown in its various disciplinary strands – from industrial to digital design, from fashion design to graphic design – and in its multiple functional, conceptual and procedural approaches.*

*The contextual dimension of Portuguese design will also be considered and debated, analysing the countless links between design and societal contexts – technological, economic, cultural or political – as well as new forms of disciplinary relations with artistic practices, critical thinking and scientific research.*

*A program will be built around the guest country, Italy, that, while revisiting the history of Italian design, provides a perspective of the emergencies of Italian design culture.*

*Open to a wide range of specialized and non-specialized audiences, the Porto Design Biennale'19 program will also include a vast program of events, interactive installations, performances and concerts that will take place in dozens of locations in the cities of Porto and Matosinhos.*

José Bártolo

[chief curator PDB'19 Post Millennium Tension]

# PDB 19

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## Images

[portodesignbiennale.pt/pt/press](http://portodesignbiennale.pt/pt/press)

### + Info

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