



## Designer in Residency: Boundaries and Frictions

Center Rog Creative Hub is excited to announce the Designer in Residency Programme 2025 with this year's topic of *Boundaries and Frictions*. We are inviting designers, innovators, craftspeople and makers from diverse backgrounds to explore the complex and interconnected issues of boundaries– whether they are imaginary, physical, political, cultural or technological – and the frictions that arise within and around them. This 3,5-month residency offers an opportunity to engage with critical global topics while fostering creative responses through design.

We are interested in projects that explore boundaries and frictions in contemporary society. We are looking for innovative project ideas that foster dialogue around the questions bellow (non-exhaustive list):

- How might the use of living materials in design blur the distinction between creating and cultivating?
- Can biodegradable materials redefine the aesthetics of luxury design while addressing environmental challenges?
- What responsibilities do designers have in ensuring AI-generated outputs align with human values and cultural sensitivities?
- How can inclusive design challenge traditional gender binaries in fashion and product design?
- What role can design play in amplifying the voices of communities affected by political conflicts, ensuring their stories are seen and heard?
- How can designers respond to a world where cultural identities are increasingly hybrid and fluid?

Proposed projects must focus on creating a physical/tangible object, material or prototype that can be produced “in situ” in one or more of our [9 production labs](#) in Center Rog in the time of the residency stay.

Residency Dates (non-adjustable!):

1st August 2025 – 15th November 2025<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> In case the selected resident needs a visa for their stay in Slovenia, the residency can take place from 15th of August until 15th of November 2025



### What We Offer:

1. A 3,5-month long residency for up to 5 creatives from diverse backgrounds and nationalities.
2. Accommodation: Free accommodation in one of our residential studios in Center Rog with a personal workspace.
3. Access to Resources: Free access to all 9 production labs and shared workspaces at Center Rog, including tools, repositories, and resources, as well as free training courses for any equipment or labs you wish to utilize.
4. Expert Mentorship: Guidance and technical support from Lab Managers and other experts for the development and prototyping of your project.
5. Creative's Fee: €4,200 for the whole residency period (the fee is the same for an individual or a team).
6. Travel Costs: Up to €350 for creatives from European countries and up to €1,200 for those from non-European countries, plus reimbursement of visa costs if applicable. Sustainable travel means are prioritized.<sup>2</sup>
7. Production Costs: Center Rog will cover the production cost of the proposed project, based on the estimated cost of your proposal and material. The production costs will be fixed during the last online meeting and can't exceed the maximum amount available (up to €4,000)
8. Exhibition Opportunity: Showcase your product/prototype at the international festival of sustainable design, RogDesignDays 2025 taking place from 10th to 14th of November 2025.
9. Cultural Exchange: Engage with the local community and other residents, share ideas and gain insights into the rich cultural traditions of Ljubljana.

### Eligibility:

- Applicants must be 18+ years old and professionals in product design, fashion design, architecture, engineering, urban crafts, culinary arts, or other related fields.

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<sup>2</sup> Double funding for the same activity is not allowed. For example, if your travel costs are funded from another source, Center Rog will not pay for the same travel expenses.



- Proposals must focus on creating physical/tangible objects or prototypes that can be produced in one or more of our 9 production labs.
- Applicants must live and work outside Slovenia.
- Applicants must be able to issue an invoice and have the legal status to do so.
- Fluency in English is required.
- Applicants must be fully available for the residency period (1st August - 15th November 2025).

#### Terms and Conditions:

- The applicant is expected to be a **practitioner** in product design and production, experienced and capable of conducting hands-on work. We expect the project to be developed and produced in an independent manner, taking into account that Center Rog is offering technical mentorship support and guidance from our Lab managers and mentors.
- During the residency, each applicant must implement one public hands-on workshop, course, or masterclass related to their work in order to share their knowledge with the local population.
- If the trip is cancelled by the applicant for other than medical reasons after signing the contract, he/she bears the cancellation costs.
- The applicant must arrange personal health insurance for the duration of their stay in Slovenia.
- Payment Terms: Half of the fee will be paid upon arrival, and the remaining half upon completion of the residency.
- The applicant retains all moral rights to the work he/she produces, all other rights remain property of Center Rog unless otherwise arranged in the memorandum of agreement. If selected, the final prototype/product will be exhibited at Center Rog.
- If selected the applicant agrees to stay in Center Rog for the entire duration of the residency with a maximum absence of 1 week during the residential stay (excluding weekends).
- The product must be completed until October 31<sup>st</sup> 2025.

#### Selection Criteria:

All applications will be evaluated by a five-member in-house selection committee. The maximum number of points is 30, the applicant must obtain at least 20 points to be considered for the online interview and residency.

- Quality of past work (0-5 points)



- Relevance to the theme of boundaries and frictions (0-5 points)
- Originality/innovation of the product (0-5 points)
- Sustainability of the product (0-5 points)
- Feasibility of the proposed project within the residency timeline (0-5 points)
- Quality of the visual presentation and design proposal (0-5 points)

### **How to Apply:**

To apply, please visit our website and fill out the application form, where you will be required to:

- Upload your CV
- Submit references of previous projects
- Present the product/prototype you wish to develop, including a visual presentation and estimated costs of the project
- Demonstrate the relevance, innovation, and sustainability of your project
- Provide a timeline with key milestones
- Propose a public hands-on programme

### **Foreseen selection process timeline:**

Deadline:	Interviews (online):	Final decision:
3 <sup>rd</sup> of March 2025	10 <sup>th</sup> - 20 <sup>th</sup> of March 2025	1 <sup>st</sup> of April 2025

If selected, the agreement must be signed by 30 April 2025.

### **About Center Rog:**

The Rog factory, symbol of the cult Rog bicycles, is the most important piece of 20th century industrial heritage in Ljubljana's city centre. Ljubljana is the lively capital of Slovenia, located in central Europe. Thanks both to the way it was restored and to the plans for its future use, the building retains its original function, updated for the 21st century: serving as a public production space for the cultural and creative industries, with an emphasis on design and architecture.

With its modern infrastructure, expertise and international connections, the Center Rog provides creators, organisations, businesses, and the general public with a supportive environment for innovative projects for sustainable, socially responsible development in the areas of fabrication, urban handicraft, applied arts, design and architecture.



The newly-renovated Center Rog spreads across four floors and covers a total of 8500 m<sup>2</sup>. On the ground floor there are production facilities and shared workshops, including various manufacturing units. The nine production labs (workshops) use both modern computer-aided technologies and more traditional techniques. Each has a lab manager, who is a qualified technologist helping users develop their projects. Production labs in Center Rog are dedicated to cookery, textiles, 3D, electronics, woodworking, metalworking, environmental issues, jewellery, glass & ceramics. The list of all labs with their available equipment can be found here: <https://center-rog.si/en/space/labs/>

Center Rog has 5 residential apartments, measuring from 50 to 80 m<sup>2</sup>. Each apartment is equipped with a living room / workspace, kitchen, bathroom, and a separate bedroom and comes fully furnished. One of the apartments is bigger in size and thus intended for families, collectives, and the bathroom is adapted for people with disabilities.

If you have additional questions regarding the open call, you can join us at the virtual session on the **6<sup>th</sup> of February 2025 at 15.00 CET** or contact Maja Towndrow: [maja.towndrow@center-rog.si](mailto:maja.towndrow@center-rog.si).