



Designer in Residency 2026: More than us

Center Rog Creative Hub is excited to announce the Designer in Residency Programme 2026, with this year's theme *More Than Us*.

We invite **designers, innovators, craftspeople, and makers** from diverse backgrounds to explore our relationships with non-human agents – from AI to animals, plants, and other living systems – and to translate these insights into products that respond to the needs of a wider living community. This **3.5-month residency** offers an opportunity to engage with critical global topics while fostering creative responses through design.

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. We offer fully funded residencies or partially funded residencies based on the preference of the designer in residency.

Residency theme:

User-centered design has shaped the way designers and engineers work for decades. It grew out of empathy, encouraging us to understand the needs, behaviours, and emotions of the people we design for. But even with its good intentions, this approach has stayed tightly focused on humans.

Meanwhile, the billions of animals, plants, and ecosystems that support our lives have been treated as background, as resources we can use without much thought. To make this possible, we learned to distance ourselves from the rest of nature. We told ourselves that non-human beings are separate from us, that their needs and emotional lives matter less. This quiet distancing has shaped entire industries, allowing extraction to feel normal and hiding how deeply connected we actually are.

Now, with the fast rise of AI, a new worry appears: the idea that the future may stop revolving around humans, that artificial general intelligence might grow beyond our control. This moment of uncertainty invites a deeper reflection. If we feel uneasy about becoming secondary to AI, maybe it's time to face how easily we have placed other living beings in that same position.

This moment gives us a chance to question human exceptionalism and rethink our relationship with the natural world. We invite you to open space for a different kind of design practice, one that recognises the full spectrum of life and sees humans not at the centre, but as participants in a much wider, beautifully interconnected living system.

Key Words:



More-than-human
Multispecies
Ecofeminism
Gender
Regeneration
Biomimicry
Biophilia
Posthumanism
Interdependence

Animal-centered design
Indigenous knowledge
Systems thinking
Planet-centered design
Non-human agency
Nature-based solutions
Animal-Computer Interaction
Biodiversity
Material Ecology

Application deadline:

2 March 2026, 24:00 CET

Residency Dates:

Between 17 August 2026 – 7 December 2026 (The latest starting date is 1 September 2026).

What We Offer:

For fully funded residencies:

Where the commissioned and completed work remains the property of Center Rog and is made for future use by the Center Rog community.

- Expert Mentorship: Up to **30 hours** of guidance and technical support from lab managers and other experts for the development and prototyping of your project.
- Fee for the Creative: €4,200 for the whole residency period (the fee is the same for an individual or a team).
- Production Costs: Center Rog will cover the production costs of your proposed project–based on the estimated budget and materials–the final amount will be confirmed during the last online meeting and must not exceed the maximum available budget of €4,000.

For partially funded residencies:

Where the commissioned and completed work remains the property of the author and is returned to the author at the end of the Rog Expo 2026 exhibition at the authors own expense.



- Expert Mentorship: Up to **10 hours** of guidance and technical support from lab managers and other experts for the development and prototyping of your project. Any additional mentorship hours can be additionally purchased by the resident.
- Fee for the Creative: €2.100 for the whole residency period (the fee is the same for an individual or a team).

For all:

- A 3.5-month long residency for up to 5 creatives from diverse backgrounds and nationalities.
- Accommodation: Free accommodation in one of our residential studios in Center Rog with a personal workspace. One of our studios is fully accessible for wheelchair users.
- Access to production facilities and 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.
- 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 means of travel are prioritized.
- Exhibition Opportunity: Showcase your product/prototype at the international festival of sustainable design, Rog Design Days 2026 taking place from 23 to 27 of November 2026. The exhibition Rog Expo as part of the festival is on show until 28 February 2027.
- 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.
- Proposals must focus on creating physical/functional 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 3.5-month residency period (between 17 August – 7 December 2026).

Terms and Conditions:

- 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, with the guidance of our lab managers and mentors.
- During the residency, each applicant is expected to implement one public hands-on workshop, course, or masterclass related to their work to share their knowledge with the Center Rog community.
- If the trip is cancelled by the applicant for other than confirmed medical reasons after signing the contract, they bear cancellation costs of 10% of the contract amount.
- Applicants must arrange personal health insurance for the duration of their stay in Slovenia at their own cost.
- Payment Terms: Payment is based on residents issuing an invoice at the beginning and upon completion of the residency. Half of the fee can be paid out 30 days after their arrival to Center Rog, and the remaining half 30 days after the completion of the residency.
- Applicant retains all moral rights to the work they produce. If selected, the final prototype/product will be exhibited at *RogExpo 2026* exhibition at Center Rog. Further conditions will be outlined in a memorandum and depend on the type of the residency they choose (fully or partially funded).
- If selected, the applicant agrees to stay in Center Rog for the entire duration of the residency period with a maximum absence of 1 week during the residential stay (excluding weekends).
- The product must be completed by 2 November 2026.

Selection Criteria:

- Quality of past work (portfolio).
- Relevance to the theme of *More than Us*.
- Originality/innovation of the product.
- Sustainability of the product.
- Feasibility of the proposed project within the residency timeline and its compatibility with Center Rog's production facilities.
- Quality of the visual presentation and design proposal submitted.



How to Apply:

To apply, please visit our website and fill out the online application form and upload the following attachments (in PDF format).

- CV
- Portfolio
- Project Proposal: A presentation of the product/prototype you wish to develop, that includes a visual presentation.
- Project timeline with key milestones in the production of the work.
- Estimated production budget

Selection process timeline:

Online presentation of the open call	Application deadline:	Interviews (online):	Final decision:	Memorandum agreement signing
2 February 2026, 17:00 CET	2 March 2026, 24:00	9 - 20 March 2026	4 April 2026	30 April 2026

About Center Rog:

The Rog factory, a symbol of the iconic 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 to both the way it was restored and 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, architecture, engineering, craft, and applied arts.

With its modern infrastructure, expertise, and international connections, Center Rog provides creatives, organisations, businesses, and the general public with a supportive environment to develop innovative projects that are environmentally and socially responsible.

The newly renovated Center Rog spans three floors and covers a total of 8,500 m². On the ground floor, there are nine production labs (workshops) equipped with both modern computer-aided technologies and traditional workshop equipment. Each lab has a lab manager and a team of qualified technologists who help users develop their projects. The list of all labs with their available equipment can be found here: <https://center-rog.si/en/space/labs/>.



Center Rog also has five residential apartments, measuring from 50 to 80 m². Each apartment is equipped with a living room/workspace, kitchen, bathroom, and a separate bedroom, and comes fully furnished. One of the apartments is larger and intended for families or collectives, while its bathroom wheelchair-accessible.

If you have additional questions regarding the open call, you can join us at the virtual session on **February 2nd 2026 at 17.00 CET** or contact Eva Kraljič: eva.kraljic@center-rog.si.