

ELITE 2025
DESIGN
AWARDS

AN ODE TO ARTISANRY

2025 Elite Design Awards finalists

Aubonne, February 2025

The 2025 Elite Design Awards winners are four women: Weronika Poręba from Poland (first prize), Clothilde Verdim from France (second prize) and British designer partners Rachel Forster and Ella Doran (third prize). Hailing from Mrocza, Paris and London respectively, the winners have come up with three outstanding bed designs, each offering their own take on this year's theme of Arts and Crafts, a style that emerged in the nineteenth century seeking to honour craftsmanship rather than industrialisation.

elitedesignawards.ch



For the eighth time, Elite sent out a call for projects from designers the world over as way of spotting the stylists of the future and identifying new ideas and concepts for beds. A jury consisting of design professionals chose the most outstanding bed designs from a total of 160 projects; the winning and runner-up designs will be produced in Aubonne, Vaud.

The first prize goes to Weronika Poręba for her ANDE bed – a contemporary, minimalist project that’s an **invitation to slow living**, with pride of place given to noble materials such as walnut wood and a luxurious woollen bouclé fabric. The jury loved its practical, everyday aspects as well as its timeless, luxurious appeal, with a curved headboard and built-in bedside tables. The bed’s subtle proportions of wood and upholstery make it a perfect addition to Elite’s high-end artisanal universe. Featuring a very contemporary low base, ANDE is a haven of peace whose comfort can be gauged simply by how thick the mattress is!

Our second prize goes to MAY, a **floral bed redolent with the promise of springtime**. Emerging Parisian stylist Clothilde Verdim offers her own interpretation of the theme featuring a stylish, ornamental headboard with a certain Art Deco touch. The restrained yet striking headboard unfurls like buds in spring, with the accompanying piping standing out like veins on a leaf – a delicate trimming detail embodying “the vitality instilled into the work by the upholsterer’s expert hand”. The overlaid bed base fades into the background – seen by the jury as a judicious design choice, as were the colour schemes available for this bed with a real upholsterer’s touch.

The A ROOM WITHIN A ROOM project from experienced British designer duo Rachel Forster and Ella Doran was placed third by the jury, who noted the **four-poster bed’s** well-balanced proportions and its many clever functionalities, such as the hanging light fitting and bedside tables built into the headboard. The two London-based designers envisaged the bed being made from English oak; it features openings covered with plant fibre weave providing comfortable padded support for the head. Assembled using mortise and tenon joints throughout, this entry showcases top-of-the-range cabinetmaking – with the result that in spite of its size, the bed can be dismantled and moved. The jury also praised this unusual bed’s slim, elegant styling.

In our jubilee year, **Elite** is once again reasserting its ability to design and produce beds – entirely hand-made near Lake Geneva, thanks to the unique and longstanding expertise of our artisans.

View the 2025 Elite Awards contest [here](#)

View pictures of the jury and the three award-winning projects [here](#)



1ST PLACE

Weronika Poręba



Weronika Poręba is a product designer from Poland who originally studied industrial design at Bydgoszcz University of Science and Technology. In 2019, she was awarded a Fine Arts Masters in furniture design from Poznań University of Arts. One year later, she set up her own business focusing on product design and graphic design. In addition to furniture, she is also interested in packaging design; her main source of inspiration is nature. In her design work, she attaches a great deal of importance to simple solutions, minimalist styles and the emotions experienced by users when interacting with the product.

www.weronikaporeba.wordpress.com



2ND PLACE

Clothilde Verdim



Having trained in design at Reims Higher School of Art and Design followed by a university course, **Clothilde Verdim** has devoted a large part of her professional career to Lunarsolar, a design firm that she cofounded. The crossdisciplinary activity of this Parisian studio includes interior design and object design, specialising in hospitality for clients across France and worldwide. The designer also does work with a more personal focus, drawing inspiration from nature and the poetic, imaginary world associated with certain everyday habits and artefacts. The cultural roots of particular styles and materials are as important to her as their aesthetic and technical properties. As a result, the objects she designs often include a narrative and symbolism that goes well beyond their usual purpose.

www.instagram.com/lunarsolar.design



3RD PLACE

Rachel Forster & Ella Doran





3RD PLACE

Rachel Forster & Ella Doran

Rachel Forster graduated from the Royal College of Art in 1997 and founded Forster Inc in Shoreditch the following year. Named 100% Design's Interior Designer of the Year, her work has been featured in The Guardian, The Times and The Saturday Times Magazine; she also lectures in design. Forster brings her deep personal commitment to sustainability and longevity to every project she works on, reusing and reimagining existing resources within spaces that are often being overlooked or undervalued. Her work focuses on longevity, programmed dismantling and care, with colour playing a central role in her vision of creating inspirational, long-lasting objects..

www.forsterinc.co.uk

Ella Doran is a designer acclaimed for her innovative approach to designing products and textiles, furniture and decors. Well-known for her keen eye, her lively use of colour and her commitment to sustainability, Ella adds dynamic energy to each project, harmoniously combining aesthetics and environmental responsibility. As an active designer and tutor at the Royal College of Art, she upholds the principles of the circular economy and "mindful manufacturing", reminding us that designers are the custodians of the materials used in the design process.

www.elladorandesign.co.uk/

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