2020 YEAR IN REVIEW
2020 was an unprecedented year. But creativity and design continued to thrive in the world.

Here are some of the projects that inspired us this year. They will be featured in the upcoming exhibition *Design and Epidemics: Innovation in the Face of Crisis*.

01. Danielle Elsener created an open-source design for zero-waste scrubs, eliminating textile waste and addressing the shortage of this crucial Personal Protective Equipment in the United Kingdom.

02. CRA-Carlo Ratti Associati developed CURA (Connected Units for Respiratory Ailments), a working prototype for intensive care units utilizing shipping containers.

03. Perkins&Will Architects, in collaboration with NYC Relief, prototyped mobile COVID-19 testing units that repurposed underutilized school buses to extend rapid testing into New York communities.

04. Italian engineering firm Isinnova designed a 3D-printed valve to retrofit commercially available snorkel masks for use in emergency assisted ventilation in hospitals around the world.
Now more than ever, we need to use the power of design to build a better future.
In 2020, Cooper Hewitt explored the importance of inclusivity in design and storytelling.

In February and March, we opened *Contemporary Muslim Fashions* and *Willi Smith: Street Couture*, highlighting design pioneers who have helped drive the fashion industry towards greater inclusivity.

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<th>26,000 PARTICIPANTS</th>
<th>1.2 M VISITORS</th>
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<td>Nearly 26,000 participants in virtual and in-person education programs in 2020</td>
<td>Nearly 1.2 million unique visitors to Cooper Hewitt’s website in 2020</td>
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How fitting that the man who wanted to be ‘the designer of the people’ should be celebrated with an exhibition with a ‘for and by the people’ component.”

– Vogue

The Willi Smith Community Archive, launched in conjunction with the exhibition, contributes to a greater understanding of the late designer’s life and work through the collective memory of friends, collaborators, and members of the public.
The 2020 National High School Design Competition challenged students around the country to design inclusive solutions to obstacles that currently exclude people. Out of 597 entries by 951 students, three finalists were selected to participate in virtual mentoring workshops with experts in the field.

“Cooper Hewitt taught us so much about how design works and the impact it has on all aspects of everyday life.”
– Priya Agarwal and Anika Agnihotri, winners of the 2020 National High School Design Competition
In May, Cooper Hewitt began co-hosting *Designing on the Front Lines*, a weekly series exploring the intersection of design and medical practice with doctors and designers at the forefront of the COVID-19 pandemic. We convened discussions about the role of design in creating a healthier and more equitable future.
Also in May, Cooper Hewitt’s Interaction Lab held its first Pandemic as Portal program, where participants from around the world collaborated in an interactive whiteboard session to explore what we want to leave behind in the pre-pandemic past and what we want to carry with us into the post-pandemic future.
From *Health Design Thinking: Creating Products and Services for Better Health* to the climate issue of *Design Journal*, our publications captured important conversations about the responsibility of design in facilitating lasting change for the world.
In February, the Smithsonian launched Smithsonian Open Access. More than 3 million 2D and 3D images have been released into the public domain so far—including 42,000 (and counting!) assets from Cooper Hewitt’s collection of historical and contemporary design—allowing users everywhere to download, share, and remix ideas.
In April, we launched the Digital Mansion, where visitors can experience Cooper Hewitt remotely—from online exhibition content and virtual programs to the history of the museum and design stories from our archives.
Our growing Smithsonian Learning Lab collection provides teaching tools for educators and caregivers, including design case studies that apply core areas of study to real-world problems.

23,000 USERS

Over 23,000 unique users of Cooper Hewitt lesson materials in 2020.
In June, we published the Design at Home Activity Book in both English and Spanish, partnering with various community organizations throughout the United States to distribute free education resources that do not require internet connection.

Over 38,000 free activity books distributed through November 2020
And we celebrated innovation and impact.

"[The 2020 winners] are democratizing creativity and design... and they are dedicated to designing a brighter, kinder, and more connected world for all of us."

– Arem Duplessis, Jury Chair, 2020 National Design Awards

Cooper Hewitt presented the 2020 National Design Awards at our first-ever virtual gala on October 1, bringing over two thousand people across the world together to celebrate the winners and the power of design.
We celebrated National Design Month throughout October, offering free virtual programs for all, including workshops, talks, studio tours, career fairs, and more with National Design Award winners and guest designers.

5,000 PARTICIPANTS

Over 5,000 participants from 38 countries throughout October

Design Salon: Social Impact
We couldn’t have done it without our frontline workers, who continued to care for the collection and its home, the landmark Carnegie Mansion.
And we couldn’t have done it without you.

Friends and supporters of Cooper Hewitt celebrate the 2020 National Design Awards
Thank you for supporting Cooper Hewitt and the power of design.

WHAT’S NEXT?

Upcoming programs will continue to champion the role of design in creating a healthier, more equitable and regenerative society.

We invite learners everywhere to explore the ways design is addressing today’s challenges and imagine how we can design a better tomorrow, together.

Learn more at COOPERHEWITT.ORG

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