

## **Designer Pierre Charpin wins the Tectona -sponsored design contest for new benches for the mudac and the Musée de l'Élysée in PLATEFORME 10**

### **A contest to design new benches for the mudac and the Musée de l'Élysée in PLATEFORME 10, the new arts district of Lausanne**

The mudac (museum of contemporary design and applied arts) and the Musée de l'Élysée (cantonal museum of photography) will move to a new building in PLATEFORME 10, the arts district in the heart of Lausanne, in November 2021 and will open to the public in June 2022.

While the furniture for the outdoor areas of PLATEFORME 10 just won an award for its design from Hochparterre magazine, PLATEFORME 10 selected the French furniture brand Tectona to organise and sponsor a design contest for the conception and development of a bespoke bench for the general public in the exhibition spaces of the Musée de l'Élysée and the mudac.

The jury, presided by Chantal Prod'Hom, director of the mudac, with assistance from Susanne Hilpert, curator of the mudac, was composed of Tatyana Franck, director of the Musée de l'Élysée, Alexis Georgacopoulos, director of ECAL, Béatrice Salmon, director of the Centre National des Arts Plastiques, Emmanuel Ventura, cantonal architect of the Directorate-General of Buildings and Heritage Sites of Vaud canton, Manuel Aires Mateus, architect, and Blanche Aloisi de Crépy, director of Tectona. The jury convened on 15 October 2020 and selected the proposal submitted by the French designer Pierre Charpin.

These benches will be installed in the spaces of the mudac and the Musée de l'Élysée by the fall of 2021, in anticipation of the handing over of the keys to the building, which will take place from November 4 to 7, 2021.

### **The bench by Pierre Charpin, winner of the PLATEFORME 10 contest**

The brief was to design a bench for the exhibition rooms of the new building housing the mudac and the Musée de l'Élysée that would meet the following criteria: has no backrest; uses few materials; technical equipment is not required to make it; can be moved around easily; uses a local, natural material. The overarching theme was durability.

*“On the basis of this brief, I designed right from the start a single-material object, a radical object. A bench in solid oak, a local tree, with sections of ample width so that the material is very present. A very simple design that can be easily adapted to different sizes, colours, etc. I wanted to make an object that has a presence and, at the same time, can make itself discreet”, explains Pierre Charpin.*

The bench is directly inspired by the history of the site that was chosen for PLATEFORME 10: a continuation of Lausanne station that until 2016 housed the hangars where locomotives of the Swiss Federal Railways network were repaired. Several elements recall the railway past of the site, for example the railway turntable, the railway lines integrated into the new esplanade and the conserved and renovated glazed wall of the building housing the Cantonal Museum of Fine Arts.

*“The bench adopts the visual language of railways: it is made of solid oak sections (225 x 75cm x variable length), assembled in a very simple manner. This is an object that will make its presence felt in the interior rooms of the museum but will make itself inconspicuous next to works of art. A deliberate nod to the site’s past. The bench is not dissimilar to certain minimalist works of Carl André, one of my favourite artists”, the designer continues.*

The use of a natural, local material is also of huge importance because it chimes with the ambition of the arts district to become a space where nature, biodiversity and durable development come together with one finality: durability.

### **A bench manufactured by Tectona**

The bench will be developed and manufactured by Tectona under the supervision of its workshop manager Jean-Yves Grandfils, a recipient of the prestigious Meilleur Ouvrier de France contest. The first prototype was ready last November; solidity and durability tests have been conducted until the end of January. Finally the finished product, or rather several copies of it, will join PLATEFORME 10 from 4 November 2021.

With this project, Tectona demonstrates once again its creative and production abilities for special projects. The brand is proud to have shared its expertise and know-how with leading cultural institutions such as Château de Versailles, Musée Picasso Paris and now the iconic PLATEFORME 10 project.

*“I am particularly delighted to once again collaborate with Tectona, specialists in high-end durable outdoor furniture. It’s the latest chapter in our story that began in 2005, when I created the Tennis collection. I like collaborations that develop over time. I also have strong ties with the city of Lausanne. I taught at ECAL for nearly 8 years and this is the city where I held my first solo exhibition after the mudac gave me a free hand in 2009. With*



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*this project, it is particularly heartwarming to reaffirm the strong ties I have with Lausanne and Tectona”, adds Pierre Charpin.*

### **About Pierre Charpin:**

Designer and visual artist born in 1962, Pierre Charpin graduated from the École des Beaux-Arts de Bourges in 1984. Since the early 1990s, he has devoted his talents to the design of objects and furniture, undertaking research projects, such as those with CIRVA (1998–2001) and CRAFT (2003–2005), as well as product design projects for world-renowned names such as Alessi, Arita 16/16, Cristallerie Saint-Louis, Hay, Hermès, Japan Creative, Ligne Roset / Cinna, Manufacture Nationale de Sèvres, Post Design, The Wrong Shop, Tectona, Venini and Zanotta. The designer’s exclusive collaboration with Galerie kreo in Paris started in 2005 with the creation of original pieces in limited edition. The gallery has hosted several solo exhibitions of his collections.

Pierre Charpin has won many awards for his work. In 2004, he won the contest held by Société Eaux de Paris for a water carafe in cast glass; 10,000 copies of the carafe were made. In 2005, his Triplo vase, made by Venini, featured in the official selection of the Compasso d’Oro award.

In 2017, he was named Créateur de l’Année by the Maison & Objet fair in Paris.

In 2012, Pierre Charpin was selected for an artistic residency by the Institut Français du Japon in the framework of the Villa Kujoyama programme in Kyoto.

Pierre Charpin is also a scenographer. In 2010, he was entrusted with the scenography of the exhibition *mobiboom* by the Musée des Arts Décoratifs and that of the Third Edition of the Triennale Design Museum, *Quali cose siamo*, by La Triennale di Milano. In 2017, he designed the scenography of the *Oh Couleurs!* exhibition at the Musée des Arts Décoratifs et du Design de Bordeaux.

Several monographic exhibitions have been dedicated to him: *Pierre Charpin, 20 années de travail* at the Grand-Hornu Image (Belgium), *Villégiature* at Villa Noailles as part of the Design Parade Festival, *La part du dessin* at ECAL (Switzerland), *Atmosfera* at SferaExhibitions Kyoto (Japan) and *From the studio* at Designart Tokyo (Japan).

His works are present in several cultural institutions and museums: the mudac, Fonds National d’Art Contemporain, Centre Pompidou and the Musée des Arts Décoratifs.

In 2014, the first monograph on him, *Pierre Charpin*, was published by JRP Ringier.

In parallel to his activities as a designer, Charpin taught design at the École Supérieure d'Art et de Design de Reims from 1998 to 2008 and at the École Cantonale d'Art de Lausanne (ECAL) from 2006 to 2015.

After several stays in Milan in the 1990s, he now works in Ivry-sur-Seine and lives in Paris.

[www.pierrecharpin.com](http://www.pierrecharpin.com)

## **About PLATEFORME 10:**

After the inauguration of the Cantonal Museum of Fine Arts in 2019, the mudac (museum of contemporary design and applied arts) and the Musée de l'Élysée (cantonal museum of photography) will join PLATEFORME 10 in 2021, creating a new arts district covering 25,000m<sup>2</sup> in the heart of Lausanne. The goal of PLATEFORME 10 is to ignite and expand the curiosity of all sections of the public by offering them a space for discovery, exchange, learning, experimentation, wonder, but also leisure and contemplation.

[www.plateforme10.ch](http://www.plateforme10.ch)

## **About mudac :**

The mudac is the only museum in French-speaking Switzerland exclusively dedicated to contemporary design and applied arts. Its expertise is focused on the last 15 to 20 years of creative endeavours, in Switzerland and internationally. Characteristic of its approach are a policy of openness and dynamic exchanges between the various disciplines of contemporary creation, and an inquisitive and incisive gaze on the things that shape our way of life. This unique and audacious approach is recognized throughout the world, with exhibitions staged from Paris to Seoul.

[www.mudac.ch](http://www.mudac.ch)

## **About the Musée de l'Élysée:**

One of the world's largest institutions dedicated to photography, the Musée de l'Élysée is recognized for its role in favour of the multiplicity of photographic practices, for the quality and diversity of its exhibitions and publications, and for the wealth of its collections. With unique collections of over a million phototypes, including several complete archives by artists such as Charlie Chaplin, Sabine Weiss, Jan Groover or René Burri. By supporting emerging photographers and artists—by offering new perspectives



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on well-known photographers and by confronting photography with other art forms—the museum constantly experiments for, on and with the image.

[www.elysee.ch](http://www.elysee.ch)

### About Tectona:

After its creation in 1977, Tectona rapidly established itself as the leading maker of outdoor furniture in France. The brand's guiding principles were laid down from the outset: a quest for obviousness and simplicity of forms; rigorous selection of materials; proficiency in traditional techniques and modern technology. Tectona was a trailblazer in opening its doors to designers in the 1990s. Inspiration by British chic of the early days gave way to new creations in sync with changing outdoor lifestyles. Since then, the repertoire of forms has been enriched by attending to qualities such as lightness, ease of use and optimisation of spaces; at all times, the overarching criterion has been durability. The iconic "contemporary classic" style of Tectona furniture has revitalised the art of outdoor living. Discreet and sober, it blends gracefully into natural spaces such as parks and gardens; elegant, it brings a human dimension to inorganic urban landscapes; welcoming, it lends itself to hours of idleness, at the seaside or poolside; generous, it reaffirms the joys of outdoor living, season after season.

[www.tectona.net](http://www.tectona.net)

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► Download the visuals at: [plateforme10.ch/en/press](http://plateforme10.ch/en/press)

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