

PRESS RELEASE

DOUBLE COMPASSO D'ORO AWARDED TO IED

DESIGN FOR SOCIAL IMPACT CATEGORY

awarded to the project conceived and organised by IED: *The Glitch Camp*, the first free urban campsite for students from all over the world in Milan during Design Week

COMPASSO D'ORO YOUNG

certificate to the Product Design project *"A occhi chiusi"* (With closed eyes): a collection of inclusive games designed to be used without sight, as a sensory experiment in play and learning,

exploring sensory experimentation through play and learning.

The two projects are a tangible expression of a values-driven approach centred on the concept of the common good and on design as a tool to achieve it: *Design for Life*

Milan, 22 May 2026 - *"This is a creative response to the issue of accommodation capacity in large cities during major events; capable of fostering inclusive practices for young people while promoting sociability and the building of democratic communities"* – with this motivation, **IED has been awarded the Compasso d'Oro in the Design for Social Impact category for The Glitch Camp**. This is the first free urban campsite in Milan during Design Week for design students from all over the world.

The **Compasso d'Oro** awarded to the **Istituto Europeo di Design** comes in the year of the **60th anniversary of its foundation**. This award confirms the role of the IED Group as the largest European network of Art and Design schools, founded in Milan in 1966, as an institution that educates to design and recognises and promotes its value. Today IED is present with **11 campuses** in **3 countries** – **Italy, Spain and Brazil** – and with **1 cultural hub in New York**. The Istituto Europeo di Design – a Benefit Corporation – is owned by the Francesco Morelli Foundation: a non-profit entity that works to promote design as a driver of social and cultural development.

"The Glitch Camp originated from a reflection developed within IED several years ago, with the aim of creating an accessible 'meeting platform' for young people. This event is an opportunity to come to Milan, hear the voices of the design world, discover Design Week and truly meet one another in person. This is because meeting people has a value that goes beyond simple connection. The Compasso d'Oro awarded to us by ADI is proof that we succeeded in making the extraordinary creative and relational heritage that opens up to the world every year during Design Week more accessible", states Riccardo Balbo, Academic Director of the IED Group.

Conceived as a **creative response to the accommodation crisis**, **The Glitch Camp has turned a constraint into an opportunity for inclusion, socialisation and exchange**. Glitch is, in fact, the disturbance, the error, the bug from which an advantage can emerge, the anomaly that opens the way to unexpected opportunities. Now in its

third edition in 2026, *The Glitch Camp* has, over three years, helped to make the **creative and relational heritage** that opens up to the world during Design Week **more accessible** and has hosted **up to 1,000** students of **45 different nationalities**, coming from all over Italy or from universities abroad.

Since the first edition in 2024, **IKEA** has equipped each tent with a selection of products to ensure a comfortable night's sleep, while also creating a lounge area and furnishing the communal spaces. The Camp features **Ferrino** tents specially designed for outdoor activities such as trekking and camping. In addition, the campsite adopted solutions designed to ensure **hospitality with a reduced environmental impact** and a **circular approach to product use**. Ferrino tents from the ecodesign project Tent Set were used: a modular system developed to meet specific functional requirements while reducing material and product waste. The IKEA kits and furnishings were subsequently donated to organisations working in the social sector, while solar-powered lamps were used throughout the campsite. The *Glitch Camp* project was created together with **Piano B**: an agency actively committed to reducing the environmental impact of events through the development of creative concepts and sustainable production.

The Istituto Europeo di Design has also been awarded the **Compasso d'Oro Young** certificate, aimed at young students and designers, for the project **A occhi chiusi**. It is a collection of inclusive games designed to be used without sight, a journey that explores the educational power of the senses and imagines new forms of multisensory learning.

A occhi chiusi was developed within the Product Design course at IED Roma as a project dedicated to Design for Children and to sensory experimentation in play and learning. The students designed a **series of games to be used while blindfolded, intended to stimulate touch, hearing, movement and perceptual memory**. The project starts from a reflection on current educational models, often focused almost exclusively on sight. It instead proposes a playful approach capable of valuing different abilities and including children with diverse learning styles. Each prototype explores a specific sensory dimension: shapes, surfaces, weights, sounds, spatial relationships and rhythms become tools to broaden experience, foster autonomy and invite discovery. The process was developed through research activities, testing, physical models, and sessions with professionals from the educational and museum sectors, including MUSE – the Science Museum in Trento. The result is a collection of games that combines design experimentation with a pedagogical focus, inviting audiences to put themselves to the test in person: literally "*a occhi chiusi*" (with closed eyes).

The Glitch Camp and *A occhi chiusi* give tangible form to IED's *Design for Life* ethos: placing the common good at the heart of its mission and using design as a tool to achieve it.