

PRESS RELEASE

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DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE, YOUTH, SPORT AND MEDIA

VINCENT VAN DUYSSEN

honoured with the

Flemish Culture Prize for Design 2015

Today the Flemish Minister of Culture Sven Gatz awarded the Flemish Culture Prize for Design 2015 to Vincent Van Duysen. The prize consists of a sum of €10,000 and a bronze work of art. The prize was awarded during the opening of the Biennale Interieur design fair.

Vincent Van Duysen (born in 1962, Lokeren), studied architecture at Sint-Lucas in Ghent and in 1990 he set up his own studio in Antwerp. From here he has worked his way up to become one of the most respected and well-known Belgian architect/designers.

'The vision I have worked with since the start of my career, 30 years ago now, was very decisive in this. Ever since my architecture studies I have intuitively felt that design is not limited to architecture, and should be viewed as broadly as possible without making a distinction between interior design, furniture design and architecture,' Van Duysen explains.

The jury commended the **focus on the essence and the classic aesthetics** that Van Duysen strives for. His designs are sober, yet still warm and full of life. This means that his designs are invariably timeless and his work is also sustainable, given that many of his designs remain in production for a very long time. Vincent Van Duysen runs his own firm. According to the jury, his multifaceted practice and his vision, in which he brings together architecture, interior and object, bring added value to his design language. By looking at how furniture and objects function in the spatial context, Van Duysen is able to reconcile the technical and the functional in an outstanding way with his own artistic signature.

Sven Gatz: *'Van Duysen is one of the most famous and acclaimed designers in Europe. Van Duysen's oeuvre embodies the best of Belgian design. He combines precision and purity with an elegant interplay of light and lines and attention to the material. In this sense the work of Vincent Van Duysen is linked to our rich tradition of the Flemish masters and craftsmanship.'*

'What makes Vincent Van Duysen's work so powerful is the emotional connection between the space created and the people who occupy the space', added the jury.

As the **brand new creative director** of the Italian furniture group Molteni&C, Van Duysen proves that his overall vision is both **modern and timeless**. He designs for both the Belgian brands Tribu, When Objects Work and Bulo as well as internationally for manufacturers like B&B Italia, Flos and Herman Miller.

The presentation of the Flemish Culture Prize for Design 2015 took place at the [25th edition of the International Biennale Interieur design fair](#) in Kortrijk. This Biennale recently named him 'Designer of the Year'.

Flanders Culture Prizes 2015

On the recommendation of a jury of experts, the Flemish Minister of Culture honours a person or organisation that has made a significant contribution to the cultural landscape in Flanders during the previous season. Flanders Culture Prizes announce the winner at an important event in the sector, putting both the sector and the winner in the spotlight and recognising the achievements of both. The prize money consists of a sum of €10,000. For the Flemish Community Prize for General Cultural Merit, the Flemish government sets aside a sum of €20,000. Each winner also receives the small bronze sculpture 'La ultima isla' by [Philip Aguirre](#).

The Culture Prize for Design is awarded every two years, alternating with the Culture Prize for Architecture.

www.cultuurprijzen.be

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Background information

[Vincent Van Duysen Architects](#)

[25th edition of the International Biennale Interieur design fair](#)

[You Tube clip](#) and [press server](#)

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