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## Preview of imm Cologne, Passagen and Designers Fair 2012 - More than 4711 ...

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### Previews

By Ania Dardas

The design scene in Cologne comes out of hibernation every year with a week-long celebration of all things lifestyle, interiors and design. In the week of January 16, residents and visitors alike take to the streets and enjoy all that is offered by Passagen and imm.

As Germany's biggest international design event, [Passagen](#) attracts well over 150,000 visitors each year with its range of exhibitions, installations, happenings and events. A diverse range of venues centered around the Belgisches Viertel, Ehrenfeld, the furniture mile on the Ring boulevard and the Rheinauhafen harbor area add up to design heaven, with the emphasis on interior design.



The former working class neighborhood of Ehrenfeld, referred to as DQE – Design Quartier Ehrenfeld – forms a platform for young design from interior and fashion design through jewelry, street art, photography, arts and crafts, to architecture and alternative urban planning. Almost 70 projects are on show in DQE and among them is the second [Designers Fair](#), which gives young designers the chance to showcase their work in interior design and furniture. This year, a small range of products from other disciplines such as fashion and accessories are also being shown. Among the invitees with guest projects are kaschkasch from Cologne and halloessen from Essen, while design labels include Sebastian Dürr, Typ-N, Co-Labor, David Olschewski, Moritz Wenz, Holz Total, Ilot Ilov and Malte Grieb. Designers Fair also features a lecture program and events. Come and listen to Christine Lacroix from Plagiarius Consultancy GmbH, Uta Brandes and Michael Erlhoff from the Köln International School of Design and many others, or just come and listen to the music that starts at around 18:00 every day except Tuesday.



Passagen now has 190 shows featuring national and international designers and manufacturers showing their work through exhibitions and wonderful presentations. Among this year's highlights are the Swiss Design Ensemble, lighting products from BOCCI and furniture from young Dutch design label QUODES, Wohnkultur66 lighting design presentation, the Prouvé RAW collection from [Vitra](#), and the work of the next generation of designers as part of the new University Forum at artrmx.

Running concurrently and complementing Passagen is [imm cologne](#). Billed as the biggest furniture store in the world, imm has extended its range even further thanks to providers from the bathroom, flooring, wall coverings and lighting segments who are exhibiting at the new parallel event, LivingInteriors. The imm offering shows everything from international basics in living room and bedroom furniture to young lifestyles and self assembly, mattresses and sleeping, upholstered furniture, modern living room, solid wood furniture and so much more.



Ensuring the widest possible international offering, this year's exhibitors are from more than 54 countries. Italy, for example, has doubled its presence since last year, while countries like the Ukraine, Philippines, Luxembourg and Latvia are attending for the first time.

For totally new perspectives and new furniture concepts, the D<sup>3</sup> contest exhibition – part of Pure Village – is a must. For the most part, the designers here have not yet made a name for themselves and follow their desire to experiment with form and materials freely while fulfilling the dictates laid down by function. Among the exhibits is the recycled plastic range of furniture from Julien Renault that actually looks as if it's made of wood and can be melted down and reprocessed any number of times. The gravity stool is Jolan van der Weil's baby and he has taken the decision to take a step back and let gravity decide the final shape of the stool. He simply sets the parameters for the magnetic field in which very soft plastic particles with a metal core arrange themselves into an object that you can sit on. The final object is random and often bizarre, but you can sit on it.



Complementing D<sup>3</sup> and also among the less conventional approaches is Das Haus that shows a structure created entirely following the guest designer's ideas. The London design team Nipa Doshi and Jonathan Levien have 180 m<sup>2</sup> at their disposal in the center of Pure Village with which to create a world of their own.

There is also plenty on offer for more classic tastes that answer to adjectives ranging from smart, comfortable, and modern to sleek, eclectic, and functional.



## More Information

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- [Official website of Passagen](#)
- [Official website of imm Cologne](#)
- [Official website of Designers Fair](#)
- [Vitra website](#)

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