



The Circular Design Challenge (CDC) is a global beacon of sustainable innovation in fashion. This year, this pioneering competition expanded its reach internationally, inviting designers from the UK, EU, and APAC regions to champion circular fashion. With esteemed partners – Redress for APAC, British Council for the UK, and Instituto Marangoni for the EU – we were able to shortlist one finalist from each of the regions, who competed with the three Indian shortlists at the main event. With a shortlist of visionary finalists and a prestigious jury, CDC's mission to redefine the fashion industry with sustainable, circular innovation was embodied at the grand event, culminating in a successful season.





WINNER
(ONE OF THE INDIA FINALIST)

The winner of Circular Design Challenge season 5, this year was announced after the stellar showcase by the six finalists. The event was held at the UN headquarters in Delhi, India for the very first time. Founder of Without, Anish Malpani, was declared the winner, winning a grand prize of Rs. 15 lakhs and the opportunity to showcase his collection at the next edition of Lakme Fashion Week. Felipe Fiallo was declared the runner-up for his innovative sustainable collection, winning a prize of Rs. 5 lakhs.



RUNNER-UP
(EU FINALIST)



CIRCULAR DESIGN CHALLENGE
RUNNER UP
FELIPE FIALLO
RS. FIVE LAKH ONLY
12TH OCTOBER, 2023
₹ 5,00,000/-

GLIMPSE THROUGH OUR TOP 6 FINALISTS THAT COMPETED TO WIN THE GRAND PRIZE

Finalist 1



PEI-WEN JIN FROM ASIA-PACIFIC

Pei-Wen is working on perfecting the art of zero-waste design towards a circular future. She holds patents for modular zero-waste techniques in Taiwan. Her collection "Tangram Club" has won the renowned sustainable fashion design competition – Redress Design Awards 2021 runner-up. Keeping in mind that over 80% of the environmental impact of a product is determined in the design phase, she believes that as a designer, the only way to help the industry coexist with nature is to consider sustainability as a necessary priority in every decision.



Finalist 2



FELIPE FIALLO FROM EU

Felipe is transforming the landscape of the luxury footwear industry by combining digital fabrication, sustainability, and style. His design process works around the biomimicry of nature, where technology and craftsmanship are combined to create highly innovative footwear. With a focus on Regenerative design, Felipe is deeply respectful of the environment and promotes cradle-to-cradle practices for a more sustainable fashion industry.



Finalist 3



AMESH WIJESEKERA FROM UK

Based in London, Amesh Wijsekera is a Sri Lankan designer who works alongside skilled craftspeople across the island, including artisan communities of knitwear, crochet, and handloom. A semi-finalist for the LVMH prize, he works with factory surplus fibres to close the loop on clothing waste that exists in Sri Lanka and provide support to an industry that is often rooted in unethical behaviour and mistreatment of craftspeople.



Finalist 4



AMISH MALPANI, WITHOUT FROM INDIA

Armed with their revolutionary patent-pending technology, 'Without' recycled discarded Multi-Layered Plastic packaging (MLP) to create high-quality materials that can be transformed into a diverse range of products.

Their sunglasses made of recycled packets of chips are rooted in functionality, being UV-polarised, durable, and comfortable. Without is an impact-first start-up that promotes guilt-free consumption through their circular products while simultaneously empowering the lives of waste-pickers that are integral to their process.



Finalist 5



RIDDHI JAIN, STUDIO MEDIUM FROM INDIA

For Studio Medium, Bandhani is an integral part of their brand DNA. However, the technique produces a tremendous amount of thread waste and textile offcuts. Through a templatised solution, Studio Medium turns large quantities of these silk offcuts and discarded cotton yarns into textiles and garments for use ahead. The resulting compositions are delightful apparel and home textile pieces that narrate the story of how inventive design is the key to a future with zero waste.



Finalist 6



JINALI MODY & ARUNDHATI KUMAR, BANOFI & STUDIO BEEJ FROM INDIA

Banofi, a plant-based leather created from banana crop waste, integrates itself seamlessly with the DNA of Studio Beej specialising in plant-based accessories. Their collection – Biparita, combines new-age bioresearch, Indian craftsmanship, and climate awareness to create a collection that is deeply rooted in Bengal, their home state. In addition to collaborating with local craft communities to develop its range, Biparita is vegan, cruelty-free, and circular.





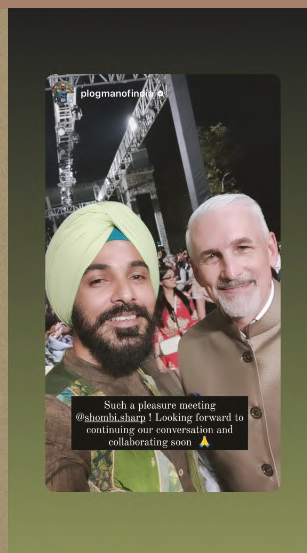
GLOBAL ICONS GATHER AT CDC FINALE FOR SUSTAINABLE FASHION SPOTLIGHT

The CDC finale was a significant event in the world of sustainable fashion and design.

The event was honoured by the presence of Meenakshi Lekhi, Minister of State for External Affairs and Culture of India, who served as the Honorary Chief Guest.

Other Government officials that attended the show included:

- Head Textile Division - BIS,
- Member projects - Indian Roads Congress,
- Director New Material & Technologies - National Highway Authorities of India,
- Sr. Principal Scientist & Fr. HOD - Flexible Pavements Division CSIR.



Some other notable attendees included:

Shombi Sharp, the UN Resident Coordinator in India
 Sevrá Davis, the Director of Architecture, Design, and Fashion at the British Council
 Manjari Nirula, a past President of the World Crafts Council and Advisor
 Shruti Singh, the Country Head of India for Fashion Revolution
 Dr. Vanita Sharma, Advisor on Strategic Initiatives for the Reliance Foundation
 Ripudaman Bevlí, renowned as the Plogging Ambassador of India

The presence of these distinguished individuals emphasised the global significance of the Circular Design Challenge in the fashion and sustainability industry.

CDC FINALE JURY



Atul Bagai
Country Head,
United Nations Environment
Programme's (UNEP) India Office



Aditi Mayer
Sustainability Activist & Photojournalist



Christine Goulay
Founder, Sustainabelle Advisory Services,
Ex-Head of Sustainable Innovation
Kering group



Rahul Mishra
Fashion Designer

CDC

OUR ESTEEMED JURY

We are deeply privileged to have hosted a distinguished panel of Jury Members at the grand finale of the Circular Design Challenge (CDC), presented by R|Elan™ in collaboration with the United Nations in India. Their priceless knowledge and expertise in circular design motivated our finalists, encouraging them to persist in their efforts to shape a more sustainable fashion industry.

Presenting our esteemed Jury members:

Mr. Atul Bagai, Country Head, UNEP India Office

Ms. Aditi Mayer, Sustainability Activist & Photojournalist

Christine Goulay, Founder, Sustainabelle Advisory Services, Ex-Head of Sustainable Innovation Kering Group

Rahul Mishra, Fashion Designer, Winner of International Woolmark Prize in 2014 at Milan Fashion Week & MTV Youth Icon of the Year 2008

The Circular Design Challenge

Circular Design Challenge (CDC) is proudly presented by R|Elan™, the next-generation fabric brand of India's largest conglomerate, Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) in association with the United Nations in India. The EU segment of CDC is in collaboration with Istituto Marangoni, an international leader in private higher education. CDC aims towards a greener and more sustainable future globally by promoting the eco-conscious creatives of the fashion industry.

Curating the international platform for fashion design talents across the world, the Circular Design Challenge (CDC) global expansion EU edition jury meet in Milan was an immense success. This expansion will reach its culmination at the upcoming edition of Lakmé Fashion Week x FDCI in India.

britishshirts This month we were thrilled to see the UK Finalist of the R|Elan™ Circular Design Challenge, @am...

THE WORLD PRAISES CDC

Can India's Circular Design Challenge go global?

A leading sustainability initiative from India aims to become a global platform for young fashion design talent rooted in circularity from...

1. Circular Design Challenge, ecco il vincitore - Vanity Fair

Amesh Wijesekera Wins Circular Design Challenge's U.K. Prize


The Circular Design Challenge has become a beacon of innovation and sustainability in fashion, reaching audiences far and wide. It has made waves globally, gaining substantial coverage from esteemed media outlets like Vogue Business, Vanity Fair, Fashion United, and Malaysia Sun, to name a few.

Beyond traditional media, the Circular Design Challenge sparked conversations on social media platforms worldwide, where influencers, designers, and eco-conscious individuals shared their experiences about the event.



INDIA TALKS ABOUT CDC


The Circular Design Challenge captivated audiences nationwide, earning extensive coverage in India as well. Print media like IANS Life, Livemint, and Fashion Network featured the event prominently, emphasizing its role in promoting sustainable practices and creative eco-friendly solutions. The invitees shared their experiences on Instagram, which we reshared on our stories.

 Mint Lounge

Meet the global finalists of India's Circular Design Challenge

From plastic, textile and banana waste to upcycling discarded garments, designers share their moodboard and inspiration behind green...



 The Voice of Fashion

Rewiring Fashion's Materials With Circular Design Challenge | The Voice Of Fashion

As India's only sustainability-focused fashion award turns five, and goes global, finalists make a case for new materiality.




 News18

Sustainable Fashion Day: Meet The Six Finalists Of The Circular Design Challenge

Organised by R|ELAN in association with the United Nations in India, this year the Circular Design Challenge (CDC) features finalists from...



 Moneycontrol

Designer Anish Malpani's 'Without' label wins 2023 Circular Design Challenge award

Anish Malpani, the designer behind the 'Without' label in India, emerged as the winner of the 5th Circular Design Challenge (CDC).



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