



UIA/RI International Accessibility Symbol Design Competition

UIA Headquarters | Paris | Monday, 11 April 2022 | 11:00 – 14:30 Paris Time

Jury Report

The international jury for the UIA-Rehabilitation International Accessibility Symbol Design Competition Jury comprised of: Allen Kong (Australia) Anna Crider (USA), Barry Gray (UK), Mikhail Terentiev (Russia) and Madam Zhang Haidi (RI).

There were 355 entries submitted. These members all voted online in the first round where each jury member giving each entry a ranking out of 10, 1 being the lowest.

Madam Zhang Haidi was not available to attend the virtual meeting and sent her representatives Ms. Xu Ling and Ms. Guo Anna. Since Madam Zhang was not available under the rules of the competition, Ms. Safaa Issa Abdou was elevated to voting status. Emily Bonin from the UIA Secretariat provided administrative support.

The jury met virtually at 11:00 (CET) on 11 April and was convened by Joseph Kwan (Hong Kong), Region IV Director of the UIA Architecture for All (AfA) Work Programme. UIA Secretary General Pei Ing Tan made a short introduction. AfA Co-Director Allen Kong was Jury Chair.

The meeting began with Ms. Xu Ling making an address on behalf of RI indicating that RI was extremely proud of the wheelchair symbol RI had given to the community and that had served the community very well over time.

The examination of the entries commenced with those received the highest number of votes, during the first round of voting. The jury's instructions were to "evaluate the entry according to the symbolic and communicative capacity of the symbol(s); and the graphic quality of the symbols. Does it effectively identify facilities as being accessible and welcoming for everyone? Is it appropriate and coherent? Does it express inclusion, equity, independence, and physical and virtual accessibility? Does it take into account of the diversity of its users?"

Overall the jury was impressed with the serious and sensitive consideration all the entries brought to their design thinking processes and engagement with people living with disabilities. There seemed to be a great consensus amongst the entries for a new more inclusive symbol. However, Mikhail Terentiev wished it noted that his view and that of the ARSPD is "the symbol should reflect the image of a person in a wheelchair, active and looking to the future" and that years of use had transferred meaning to include all. Anna Crider also raised the point that a new symbol will need to be user tested to ensure it is understandable to diverse audiences.

The jury examination was conducted based on the initial scores which the jury members had submitted which resulted in 32 entries being shortlisted. However, a couple of the jury members, notably Anna Crider, Professor Safaa and Mikhail Terentiev brought the attention of the jury to some entries which they had found noteworthy but which ended up not being among the highest voted, notably 3212 on the part of Mikahil Teretiev and 3618 on the part of Anna Crider. 3212 was critiqued by the jury as too complicated and it was unanimously decided not to include it among the final selection. However, an argument was made by Anna Crider for 3618 and the jury unanimously decided to include 3618 among the final selection.

After discussion, the jury reduced the 32 entries to 8: 3614, 3541, 3350, 3260 3300, 3264, 3337 and 3618.

Numbers 3541 and 3300 were eliminated after discussion.

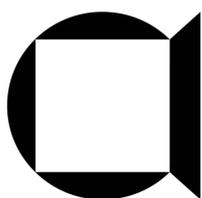
The jury now retained 6 top designs 3614, 3350, 3260, 3264 and 3337 and 3618.

Paris, 5 May 2022

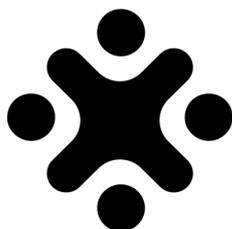
The jury members each then ranked the 6 entries from 1-6 and discussed their choices. The number of points accrued by each of the 6 entries was tallied with the entries with the least number of points being frontrunners for First, Second and Third Place. 3618 and 3260 emerged as clear frontrunners with 10 and 12 points respectively, while 3337 came in Third at 17, 3614 and 3350 both received 18 and 3264 was 6th place (a clear Honourable Mention at 21 points).

Overall, abstract, simple, easily replicable and recognisable designs were favoured over those which were more complex. The jury selected the designs on the basis how powerfully the values of openness and inclusiveness were conveyed. Entries including roman letters and gender specific iconography were eliminated as well as globally familiar symbols such as hearts, fists and crosses. The jury searched for designs that suggested fullness, not absence.

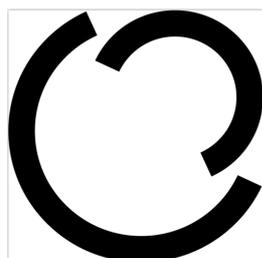
The winning entry 3618, known as the “open door”, is easily recognisable, demonstrating originality of form while indicating an openness, simply and powerfully conveyed using basic shapes and principles. According to jury member Mikhail Terentiev, “the new symbol of a person with disabilities should indeed reflect everyone, and the world should open its doors for all people with disabilities.”



The Second Prize, 3260, for its four-way design, indicative of equality and inclusivity.

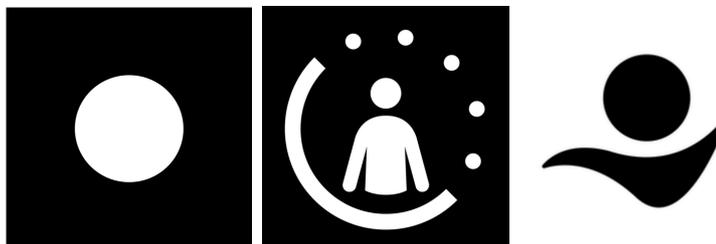


The jury admired the Third Prize, 3337 for an enveloping and simple design with some reflection of the original wheelchair symbol.



The three Honourable Mentions were, 3264, an abstract design with unexpected impact conveyed by a simple shape with proportions, the circle indicating the 15% of the population living with a disability ; 3614, a figural design with a pleasing, asymmetrical graphic rhythm and abstract reference to the

wheelchair, braille, and inclusion, etc.; and 3541, highly thought of for its friendly and supportive image, elevated to honorable mention as the highest scored entry in the stage one online voting.



Entry 3350, an equal sign, in two parts, was admired for its simple, graphic message in black and white, which while symmetrical, was also welcoming of difference. This entry had originally been awarded a higher placing. However, subsequent to the meeting it was discovered that “equals” symbol was very similar to that used as the Human Rights symbol. We understand the similarity is completely coincidental however felt the submission needed to be excluded from consideration for the new symbol and to elevate the next highest placed entry.

The jury discussions were far-ranging and respectful, essential to determining the best designs to convey accessibility, inclusion and openness. The results were very different from those expected at the start of the meeting, but all were content with the end result.

SIGNATURES OF JURY MEMBERS PRESENT

Allen Kong (Australia), Jury Chair

Anna Crider (USA)

Barry Gray (UK)

Mikhail Terentiev (Russia)

Safaa Issa Abdou (Egypt)