

10 THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT ISTANBUL CITY OF DESIGN

1. The Historical and Cultural Richness of Istanbul

Istanbul has been the center of many civilizations and cultures for many years, with its rich history and home to the decisions and works of the greatest empires in the world.

Having a history of 400,000 years, Istanbul has been the capital of the Roman, Byzantine and Ottoman Empires for more than 1500 years.

It is possible to witness the traces of different cultures in Istanbul in daily life because of having a long history and having different civilizations. With the bridge between the two continents, Istanbul brings together the world with international art, cinema, theatre and music festivals, art and design biennials.

Istanbul has been declared the European Capital of Culture in 2010 and its four historic districts are on the UNESCO World Heritage list.

2. Life in Istanbul

Istanbul is Turkey's cultural and financial center and is the only metropolis built on two continents. Today, it is one of the largest cities in the world with a population of over 15 million people.

Istanbul has 39 districts, 25 of which are on the European side and 14 are on the Anatolian side.

The city has a various and integrated transportation network. Istanbul has 3 major bridges connecting the main roads, Marmaray Line and Eurasia Tunnel connecting the two submarines, subway network, metrobus and tramlines, ferry services and various alternatives in city transportation.

It also contributes to accessibility worldwide with 3 international airports. Istanbul is a multicultural creativity and sharing ecosystem where new experiences and knowledge are transferred to new generations.

3. Demographic Structure and Contribution to Economy of Istanbul

The estimated population of Istanbul is 15,029,231. This number is composed of 50,10% male and 49,90% female.

The contribution of Istanbul to the national economy is known to be about 40%.

4. The Historical Peninsula: Istanbul

Historical peninsula; The Golden Horn, the region where Istanbul was first established and developed, is the name given to the area surrounded by the Bosphorus and the Sea of Marmara. The reason why the region is named as the historical peninsula is that it is the oldest settlement of Istanbul and it is home to countless historical monuments.

Tens of palaces, mosques, churches, fountains, obelisks and houses dating from Byzantine and Ottoman times are the symbols of the historical peninsula.

The Historical Peninsula also has a design richness of craftsmen or multi-manufacturing industries in design scale.

5. Design Potential of Istanbul

Istanbul has qualified design areas created by using traditional and contemporary techniques under the guidance of many artists' knowledge and skills. 21 of the design work and art areas in Istanbul are below.

•Fashion Design	•Architectural Design	•Furniture Design	•Wood Carving	•Coppersmith
•Glass Processing	•Bookbinding	•Weaving	•The Turkish Art of Marbling	•Folk Dolls Made
•Traditional Felt Art	Puppet Construction	Calligraphy	•Chiselled	Kat'ı Art
•Jewelry- Jewellery Art	•Miniature	•Mother of Pearl Engraving	•Ceramic and Tiles	•Rosary Made
		•Tezhip Art		

6. Inventory and Database Owned by Istanbul

In Istanbul there are activities and projects planned or carried out in relation to cultural process and other processes. Some of these works are;

- Turkish-German Designers Meeting
- Design Park
- Made in Sishane
- Master Job Beyoglu - Beyoglu Creativity Workshops
- Master-apprentice activity for Bilgi University students
- ISMEK
- Creative Cities and Institutes Symposium
- Is Bank: A Master Thousand Masters
- Istanbul Modern Craft, Art and Design Platform
- Turkey Design Week
- Istanbul Design Biennial
- The Masters of Istanbul

7. Istanbul Design Cluster Areas

Design works in Istanbul is concentrated in regions where nostalgia is intense. In addition, the shops where handmade products are made and sold are also used as coffee shops, making them different platforms that bring together designers and individuals.

The areas where design works is concentrated in Istanbul are as follows:



8. Events Organized in Istanbul

Activities are regularly held in the field of design in Istanbul. Grafist (Istanbul Graphic Design Week) activity brings design students together with professionals.

Also, focusing on sustainable design "EKODesign" conference, "Architecture and Design Summit", "Turkey Innovation and Entrepreneurship Week", "Alldesign - Creative Industries and Design Suppliers Fair and Conferences", "Structure – Turkeybuild" (Building, Construction Materials and Technologies Exhibition), "Fashionist Istanbul Furniture Fair", "IstanbulLight" (Lighting

Technologies Exhibition and Congress) and "Istanbul Packaging Industry Fair" are among the other valuable organizations in the city.

Among the important organizations in the last five years; "İstancool" (Istanbul Art and Culture Festival) which brings together talented and creative minds from many countries and disciplines and hosts public panels, workshops, exhibitions and film screenings and "Contemporary Istanbul / Design Department" which displays Turkish and global design products are leading organizations.

9. Istanbul Design Events

Istanbul Design Biennial

The Istanbul Foundation has organized the Istanbul Design Biennial for Culture and Arts every two years since 2012. This event is held to increase design awareness, to solve the global design challenges and to determine the design potential of Istanbul.

Design Week

Turkey Design Week, with Design Turkey Industrial Design Awards are internationally recognized by many designers, design schools and industrialists are bringing together every year. Istanbul Design Week is an international exhibition for designers' products.

Fashion Week

Istanbul Fashion Week brings selected brands and designers together with important actors of fashion world and consumers.

10. Istanbul Design Bureau

Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality established Istanbul Design Bureau within the scope of Urban Design Directorate. The bureau conducts, demands and reports on all the processes set out under the UNESCO Creative Cities Network (UCCN) strategy, communicates with UNESCO, implements support programs, conducts projects and produces new projects and reports. The bureau brings together all the activities of the stakeholders and all the authorities, experts, entrepreneurs and designers selected by the stakeholders within the scope of the UNESCO Design City Istanbul project.