



IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Chronicle Books Announces Winners of the First Little Free Library Design Competition

San Francisco, February 13, 2017: In over 50,000 neighborhoods in 70 countries all over the world, neighbors share books through Little Free Library book exchanges. Based on the “take a book, leave a book” model, Little Free Libraries come in all shapes and sizes, but most are simple outdoor wooden boxes that hold a few dozen books.

This year Chronicle Books, in partnership with the Little Free Library organization and the American Institute of Architects San Francisco, sponsored a design competition challenging designers to create a Little Free Library that would be durable in all weather, usable at night, accommodate the height difference between adult and child readers, and suit the community where it is sited.

The judging panel received 300 submissions from 40 countries, including the UK, India, China, Iran, Germany, Italy, Japan, and more. Some were large, freestanding structures that people could practically live in, some designs affixed to existing infrastructure like parking signs and light poles. All were bound by a love of learning and the role books continue to play in it.

View all the winners and honored designs: <https://medium.com/chronicle-books/the-winners-of-the-little-free-library-design-competition-8e7833f4283#.2btum1o2c>

Judges selected **Owlie by Bartosz Bochynski, FUTUMATA / London, England** as the overall winner. Owlie is a wooden owl, standing approximately 4 feet tall. Books are accessed through plexiglass doors in the back and are visible through its eyes. A metal roof finish protects it from the elements. As Bochynski explained, Owlie “is made from affordable and ecological materials, and it can accommodate around 40 books which are visible in her eyes. There is a shelf for kids’ books, a shelf for adult books, and a shelf for a notebook for visitors’ comments. All shelves are highlighted with the LED lighting.” Competition judge Renée Elaine Sazcı of AIASF noted “I love that in the evening, with the help of the LED lights, the owl’s eyes light up as a feature. This not only attracts people, but creates safety for the tiny library.”



The Chronicle Books Choice winner by **Rachel Murdaugh, Clark Nexsen / Asheville, USA** is a free-standing kiosk with a hinged frame and optional fold-down seat. It would ship in a flat pack and could be assembled with the included hardware and instructions. Chronicle's design team praised it as "a thoughtful and impressive alignment of style and substance, and the materials chosen were very smart from a production standpoint."

Also singled out for praise was a Little Free Library designed by **Anders Hellsten Nissen / Berlin, Germany** to fit onto an existing pole, such as a street light or traffic sign. The judges said "we like that this design takes advantage of existing infrastructure and does not require added lighting which could easily break or go unreplaced when it burns out. We also like that it is multi-layer to provide access for all ages."

The Book Pinwheel by Naseem Alizadeh / Oxford, UK + Detroit, MI was honored for its "simple design, which could be used in front yards or parks alike. It includes motion-detection lighting, seating, a dog leash hook, book accessibility for children and adults, see-through doors, and areas for bookmarks or flyers."

Between the Folds by Ronnie Katakai, Jia Li Song, Edward Wang / New York City, USA was, according to judge Brett Randall Jones, "the most innovative. Incredibly unique and thought-provoking." This Little Free Library is a circular structure of pleated Tyvek suspended from and encircling a tree trunk. Books are nestled between the folds of this waterproof structure, while flaps offer further protection.

The most unusual design to be honored was **Book Cheese by Xi, Tan Qian, Sun Xiaojing, Zhang Yan, Li / Guangzhou City, China**, a yellow metal arc that protects books from the elements and allows patrons to step inside to browse the shelves. Holes cut in the structure not only reduce the overall weight, they also create a whimsical touch, making this Little Free Library look like a big wheel of Swiss cheese.

Complete list of winners:

Judges Choice Award

Owlie by Bartosz Bochyński, FUTUMATA / London, England



Judges Choice Runner-Up

Seth Thompson / San Francisco, USA

Chronicle Books Choice - This award was chosen by the Chronicle Books creative team with a focus on production potential. This category had the additional requirement of being able to ship in a flat pack.

Rachel Murdaugh, Clark Nexsen / Asheville, USA

Chronicle Books Choice Runner-up

Lea Randebrock / Lahti, Finland

Stewards Choice

Tree of Knowledge by CIRCLE (Ryo Otsuka, Lin Zihao) / Tokyo, Japan

Stewards Choice Runner-Up

4th Street Farms Little Free Library / Columbus, USA

Honorable Mention

Anders Hellsten Nissen / Berlin, Germany

Book Cheese by Xi Tan, Qian Sun, Yan Li, Xiaojing Zhang / Guangzhou City, China

Tree of Knowledge by CIRCLE (Ryo Otsuka, Lin Zihao) / Tokyo, Japan

Nicola Urban / Tolmezzo, Italy

Aiofe Marnane / Limerick, Ireland

Liminal Wall by Robert Cannavino and Myung Jae Lee (ASMAR), New York, NY

Anna Bijak, Jan Christian Hinrichs / Frankfurt (Oder) / Słubice

The Book Pinwheel by Naseem Alizadeh / Oxford, UK + Detroit, MI

Between the Folds by Ronnie Kataki, Jia Li Song, Edward Wang / New York City, USA

Tadah! Beach Day by Peter Salim + Yoona Ahn / Philadelphia, PA



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Judges:

Award-winning architecture firm Snøhetta's San Francisco team

Brett Randall Jones of the renowned David Baker Architects

Dan Cohen of Gramming for Good

Renée Elaine Sazcı of AIASF

Kevin Lippert of Princeton Architectural Press

Christina Jenkins of Project H Design

The staff of Little Free Library including founder Todd H. Bol.

About Chronicle Books: One of the most admired and respected publishing companies in the U.S.; Chronicle Books was founded in 1967 and over the years has developed a reputation for award-winning, innovative books. Recognized as one of the 50 best small companies to work for in the U.S. (and the only independent publisher to receive this award), the company continues to challenge conventional publishing wisdom, setting trends in both subject and format, maintaining a list that includes much admired illustrated books and gift products in design, art, architecture, photography, food, lifestyle, pop culture, and acclaimed children's titles. Chronicle Books' objective is to create and distribute exceptional publishing that's instantly recognizable for its spirit, creativity, and value. For more information about Chronicle Books, visit www.chroniclebooks.com.

About Little Free Library®:

Little Free Library is a nonprofit organization that inspires a love of reading, builds community, and sparks creativity by fostering neighborhood book exchanges around the world. Through Little Free Libraries, millions of books are exchanged year, profoundly increasing access to books for readers of all ages and backgrounds. There are over 50,000 registered Little Free Library book exchanges in all 50 U.S. states and over 70 countries around the world. For more information, visit <http://littlefreelibrary.org>

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