



**SOUTH  
AFRICAN MINT**

# DESIGN BRIEF

**CELEBRATING SOUTH AFRICA COIN SERIES**

**25 YEARS OF FREEDOM IN SOUTH AFRICA**

**1994 – 2019**

**R2 COIN DESIGN COMPETITION**

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The South African Mint Company (RF) (PTY) Ltd is a wholly owned subsidiary of the South African Reserve Bank

Directors M. Pillay (Chairperson), R.J.G. Barrow, P. Streng, P. Maharaj, J Sibanda, W Mkhabela  
Registration Number 1988/004898/07

## 1. Introduction

### 1.1. The Celebrating South Africa coin series issued in 2019 (SA25)

The Celebrating South Africa coin series incorporates both circulation coins and collectors' coins. The first theme to feature in this series was the 100th anniversary of the birth of Oliver Tambo in 2017, followed by the 100th anniversary of the birth of Nelson Mandela in 2018. The theme for the 2019 series is the 25th anniversary of a democratic South Africa. This series of coins is currently available and being promoted as SA25.

As part of this coin series, five R2 circulation coins were issued, each coin representing a right or freedom contained in the Bill of Rights. Due to the popularity of this range of circulation coins, the South African Reserve Bank decided to engage the public in the design process of an additional R2 coin which will be issued in 2020.

You now have the opportunity to create a design representing one of the rights or freedoms featured in the Bill of Rights, which has **not been represented** on an existing R2 coin.

The human rights and freedoms featured in the Bill of Rights are available on this website [www.justice.gov.za](http://www.justice.gov.za) (<http://www.justice.gov.za/legislation/constitution/SACConstitution-web-eng-02.pdf>).

The designs and themes of the existing R2 circulation coins issued in 2019 are featured below:

- R2 coin – environmental rights



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- R2 coin – freedom of movement and residence



Reverse



Obverse

- R2 coin – right to education



Reverse



Obverse

- R2 coin – children's rights



Reverse



Obverse

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- R2 coin – freedom of religion, belief and opinion



## 1.2. The R2 Coin Design Competition

When creating the artwork for the reverse side of the coin, take note that it is not only the theme that informs the design. The specifications of the coin and its manufacturing process also have to be taken into consideration, as each offers specific limitations and possibilities.

The theme is represented on the reverse of the coin. It is the side of the coin which features the denomination or face value '2 RAND'. The obverse represents the official side of the coin and features the South African national coat of arms, the official languages and the date the coin is issued in.

Please carefully read through the terms and conditions of the R2 Coin Design Competition, which can be found following this link: <http://contact.sa25.co.za/competition/>

## 2. Designing a R2 coin

### 1.1. Reverse and obverse of the R2 coin

#### 1.1.1. Design on the reverse

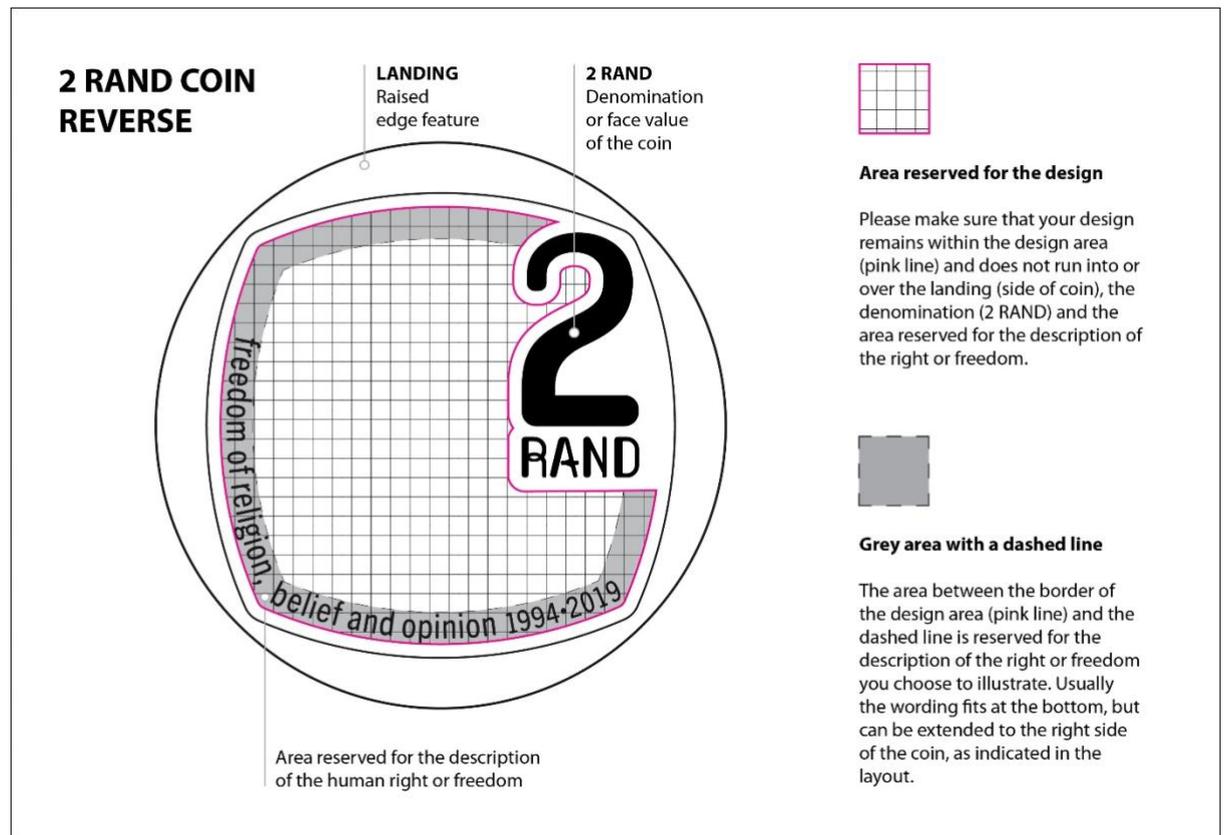
The '2 RAND' denomination indicates the coin's value and currency. The typeface, position and size of this feature is fixed. The R2 circulation coin you are designing has to visually match the existing five R2 circulation coins. Therefore, the dimensions and placement of denomination and additional typography has been defined to create a sense of consistency across the range of the R2 coins.

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An area has been reserved for the description of the right or freedom you have chosen to base your design on. This has been clearly shown by the grey area which currently features the words 'freedom of religion, belief and opinion 1994-2019'.

It is important to note that your design has to fit within the design area shown below. Please do not create a design which lies over or under, or runs into the area reserved for the description, the denomination and/or the landing of the coin.



### 1.1.2. Design on the obverse

The South African Mint Company produces commemorative circulation coins which commemorate specific events, but form part of the standard currency and circulation, coins. The obverse side for all R2 coins issued in a specific year is the same. Therefore this side of the coin does not form part of the design brief.

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## 2.2. Theme

The theme of the coin will direct your research, which will include an understanding of the historic and contemporary aspects of the theme and visual images related to it. When conceptualising a design, be cognisant of the fact that the coins are legal tender and represent South Africa as a country. Your audience is all the people of South Africa who, when looking at the minted coin, should be able to understand the imagery featured on the coin. Coins are often referred to as ambassadors of a country as they reflect the time period in which the coins were minted.

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## 2.3. Design

You can choose to create the design in any medium, from hand-drawn to digital illustrations. The illustration must be in black and white (have a look at the two rand designs featured in the introduction). A design compiled from photographs will not be accepted.

The manufacturing process of circulation coins has been included in this document to give you a basic understanding of the process and the function. Circulation coins have specific limitations which are determined by the manufacturing process and by the function of the coin. You have to understand these limitations to be able to explore the possibilities within the design of a coin so that you can be assured that your design will successfully translate into a coin die and minted coin.

Circulation coins are manufactured by the millions on high-volume minting presses. This means that the coin blank is struck only once. The base metal combinations used for circulation coins are not as malleable as gold or silver. Being harder, the metal does not flow as easily into the small detail of the typography and relief model which form the design on the obverse and reverse dies. There is only one chance to ensure that the impression on the coin blank shows all the detail and that the landing of the coin is fully formed. Therefore, the relief model, including the typography, is shallow and always lower than the landing. The landing is the highest as it is designed to protect the information it surrounds from wear. Over time, however, all circulation coins show a loss of detail in the design. It is therefore important that the denomination remains legible even if its edges are smoothed and softened by the many hands that will touch the coin. The imagery on the coin also serves to identify the coin. If you

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look at older R2 and R5 coins, the fine detail in the kudu and black wildebeest has disappeared, but the animals can still be identified by their outline or silhouette. On a circulation coin, the negative space is as important as the relief model. The field (background/negative space) of a coin helps to separate the various elements within the design, as does the combination of textured or modelled and smooth elements. Note that circulation coin dies have a uniform finish across the entire surface.

#### 2.4. Coin specifications

Metal: Nickel-plated copper  
Mass: 5.5 g  
Diameter: 23 mm

The size of the coin determines the available space you have for the various design elements. Consider the hierarchy of information within the design and the importance of each component in relation to the other. It is always a good idea to reproduce your design to the exact size of the coin.

#### 2.5. Relief model

- Understand that your design will be converted into a relief model by a die-sinker who needs to be able to interpret the marks you make in your illustration in a three-dimensional form.
- Interpreting a two dimensional illustration begins with a handcrafted relief model created with modelling clay. These relief models are very shallow and therefore, in the case of a human portrait, the characteristic features of a human face are compacted. Depending on the angle of the face, the eyes might end up at the same level as the ears. The shape and form of the features of the face are a carefully crafted illusion. This applies to any three-dimensional object, be it a human form, an animal or a plant, or an architectural or mechanical feature. Foreshortened elements within an illustration might look rather odd recreated in a three dimensional relief model. Understand that unlike an illustration, the illusion of depth is only created through the height, form or shape and placement (foreground versus background) of the design element. As coins are struck using dies, there are no undercuts or 90 degree angles within a design. Each element is surrounded by a draft angle of about 45 degrees which assists with the engraving of the die and ensures that the coins can be minted.

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- It should be clear that features such as the use of colour, shadows, gradients and transparencies which might enhance an illustration do not translate into a three-dimensional form. Therefore avoid all of these effects in your illustration.
- Once the clay model is completed, a negative and positive plaster model is cast and the finishing touches are applied. The positive plaster model is scanned and converted into a digital model. The software used by the South African Mint to create the final coin design relies mainly on vectors to create modelled elements. Therefore, the typography is typically added to the design at this stage. Textures and patterns can be modelled by hand or created in the three-dimensional modelling software. A finished coin model is a combination of handcrafted and digitally created elements.

## 2.6. Finishes applied to the production dies

The dies for the circulation coins have a uniform finish applied to their surface. The coins struck from these dies therefore have an even surface finish across the entire area of the coin.

## 2.7. Aspects which should be avoided within a coin design

Please understand that there are certain characteristics of our society which need to be managed with sensitivity and which are not considered to be suitable imagery on national currency. It is important that you carefully consider this requirement and understand that a design including imagery reflecting the following aspects will not be approved:

- sex and nudity;
- violence and gore; and
- profanity.

## 2.8. Coin Design Agreement

If you are chosen as a finalist or as the winner of this competition, you will be required to sign the coin design agreement, which is a legal document that informs the agreement between the artist and the South African Mint Company and by extension the South African Reserve Bank.

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## 2.9. Online submissions to the R2 coin competition

**All online entries to the competition must be submitted by 10:00 on Thursday, 31 October 2019 .**

**Please ensure that the design you upload is a high resolution file and that the actual design can be printed to a size of 280 mm x 280 mm.**

## 3. Circulation coins

Millions of South African circulation coins are manufactured annually and distributed for daily use as currency. These coins are light and small, made from base metals which may consist of a steel or copper blank plated with either nickel, bronze or copper. Each coin has distinct features which allow the user to quickly identify the coin and its value.

### 3.1. The process of making circulation coins

#### 3.1.1. Casting

This is where the process of manufacturing various types of alloy coils begins. A cast strip of metal is created by combining specific quantities of metals melted in a furnace with temperatures up to 1 350°C.

#### 3.1.2. Rolling

The strip of cast metal alloy is then passed through a mechanism with rollers that shape and flatten the cast metal. After each pass, the rolling pressure is increased until the final thickness is reached. The thickness is determined by the specification of the blank – the round metal disc which will later take on the shape of a coin during the minting process.

#### 3.1.3. Blanking

Blank circular discs are punched out of the material strip using high-speed blanking presses at a rate of 270 000 blanks per hour.

#### 3.1.4. Rimming

The blanks are then rimmed to give them a 'raised edge'.

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### 3.1.5. Electro-plating

Electro-plating involves a process of dissolving metal at the anode and depositing it at the cathode. The direct current applied between the electrodes is conducted through a solution containing metallic salts.

### 3.1.6. Annealing

The metal disks or blanks experience stresses during the various processes and become very hard and brittle, which restricts material flow in the coining process and adds additional stress to coining dies. During the annealing process, coins are tempered in an annealing furnace to soften and strengthen them for the coining or minting process.

### 3.1.7. Coining

The prepared coin blanks are coined on high-speed coining presses.

### 3.1.8. Packing

The finished coin product is packed according to the client's requirements.

## 4. Information

Please make sure you read the terms and conditions as well as the design brief carefully. All the information and instructions you need to create the design are incorporated in these documents.

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