

London Design Festival: The Total Guide

The London Design Festival at the V&A runs from 19 to 27 September. Let us guide you through the highlights happening out west. *Victoria Gill*



NEW HORIZONS

The London Design Festival celebrates contemporary design, encompassing events, installations, talks, tours, exhibitions, classes and shopping throughout the capital. Between 19 and 27 September, it transforms the Victoria and Albert Museum into a sprawling visual feast of creative innovation. The spotlight cast on conservation and energy runs from *In Praise of Shadows* – a spellbinding choreography of light in darkened galleries, to *Wasted* – a vast architectural seating strata made from reclaimed materials in the tunnel connecting the Underground to the V&A. Other highlights include the magnificent *Wallpaper Chair Arch* in the gardens, plus museum tours by luminaries such as Sir John Sorrell, Terence Conran and Nigel Coates. Aficionados descend on the Design Embassy and Biennial Design Symposium in the newly opened Sackler Centre.

BE INSPIRED

100% Design is the blockbuster exhibition showcasing hundreds of the world's most pioneering products and innovations. With a specialist kids' zone examining sustainable play, interactive making workshops and 100% Norway showcasing celebrated Scandinavian design, this is no ordinary expo. Should you be embarking on a work in progress, you won't want to miss Focus 09, where Chelsea Harbour and its King's Road neighbours showcase all that's hot for the coming year, including day-long masterclasses, lectures on the international super-yacht market and talks by David Collins. Food for thought? Digest at the especially-created *Tatler* restaurant.

ROUGH AND READY



Meanwhile, design darling **Rabih Hage** showcases his agenda setting *Rough Luxe* style by revisiting his furniture collection to create thought-provoking objets d'art with distressed effect. Architect **Nigel Coates** opens his new Chelsea showroom with a collection entitled *White Lights* – spellbinding lighting and furniture designs.

MAKE, DO AND MEND

Design isn't just a spectator sport: Get active and involved at state-of-the-art knitting classes with crafts guru **Barley Massey** at **Skandium**, or glass blowing workshops at the **Zest Gallery** to accompany its *Transformations* (recycled glass art) exhibition, and unforgettable luminary-led bicycle tours of the **Brompton Quarter** and V&A design installations.

GALLERY-GOER



apartamento magazine with Max Lamb creates a curious exhibition and pop-up shop called **Richard Lamb: The Everyday Life Collector**. New Brompton Design District destination extraordinaire **Mint** hosts an exhibition with Max Fraser of cutting-edge design tribe **The Escapists**. The **Vessel Gallery** showcases glass art **Monuments** by **Asa Jungnelius**, **SCP West** unveils **Donna Wilson's** decorative bone china, and **England & Co Gallery** curates a study of *Chair Poetics*. **Young Creative Poland** takes over the inspirational environs of a former Embassy building, while **Cecil Beaton's** *Glass*

of Fashion drawings are reinterpreted as fabrics and wallpapers for the launch of the award-winning *Sketchbook* collection, featuring saucy sailors, deco debutantes and a surrealist interpretation of the eye of **Greta Garbo**, with whom **Beaton** had an affair.

SHOP!

West London has been waiting with baited breath for the all-new **Tom Dixon** showroom in the Portobello Docks to be unveiled, and here it is: oozing character and showcasing the designer's latest collection, *Utility*. What's more, there's an ad hoc tearoom to refresh. The London Design Guide by **Max Fraser** has its very own temporary shop, creating a living room concept with **Sigmar London**. Popped out? Don't miss *apartamento* magazine's pop up shop with **Max Lamb** or **Tracey Neuls**, who is stitching the interiors of her shop, transforming it into a "delicate and inviting cocoon". Window-shopping? Admire the **Alessi Mandacaru Blow Up** installation by the **Campana brothers**, gracing the windows of **Harrods**.

Tom Dixon, Wharf Building, Portobello Dock, W10 (tomdixon.net)

Chair Poetics, England and Co, 216 Westbourne Grove, W11 (englandgallery.com)

Tracey Neuls, Definition without body, 29 Marylebone Lane, W1U (traceyneuls.com)

Donna Wilson, SCP West, 87 - 93 Westbourne Grove, W2 (scp.co.uk)

Monuments by Asa Jungnelius, Vessel Gallery, 114 Kensington Park Road (vesselgallery.com)

Richard Lamb: The Everyday Life Collector, 1-3 Exhibition Road, SW7 (apartmentomagazine.com; maxlamb.org)

London Design Festival, Victoria and Albert Museum, Cromwell Road, SW7 (londondesignfestival.com) 19-27 September

Cecil Beaton Sketchbook collection, 3 Carlton House Terrace, SW1Y (cecilbeatonfabrics.com)

Focus 09, Design Centre, Chelsea Harbour, Lots Road, SW10 (designcentrechelseaharbour.co.uk), 30 September

Brompton Bike Tours four daily tours starting from 10am during 100% Design (020 7739 6600).

Transformations, Zest Gallery, Roxby Place, SW6 (zestgallery.com)

100% Design, Earls Court (100percentdesign.co.uk) 24-27 September

Young Creative Poland, 5 Cromwell Place, SW7

White Lights, Nigel Coates, 27 Thurloe Street, SW7 (nigelcoates.com)

London Design Guide with Sigmar London, 5 Exhibition Road, SW7 (londondesignguide.com)

Rabih Hage, 69-71 Sloane Avenue, SW3 (020 7823 8288 rabih-hage.com)

Knit Wit with Iittala, Skandium, 245-249 Brompton Road, SW3 (iittalagroup.fi), 23 September

Campana Brothers Blow Up, Harrods, 87-135 Brompton Road, SW1X

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: WHITE LIGHTS | APARTAMENTO MAGAZINE | RABIH HAGUE