TREND REPORT

LONDON DESIGN FESTIVAL 2019

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LONDON DESIGN FESTIVAL 2019

Every year I leave London Design Festival wishing that I had more time to experience the amazing design on show; it would be impossible to see even a fraction of the 500+ events taking place.

Within this report I hope that you enjoy a flavour of London Design Festival 2019 as well as an insight in to a selection of specific trends.

The Festival was a hugely enjoyable event, providing commercial and conceptual design as well as experiences and inspiration.

London Design Fair was a truly international event; brimming with creativity, life and world class design!

Design Fresh stole the show at 100% Design, it gave a sense of optimism from designers not restricted by the constraints of being a commercial brand. Within the rest of 100% Design there were notable product launches, however, overall the event was lacking in atmosphere and curation. 100% Design needs to break their mould and look for a new approach, and this must include a new venue.

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NEW PRODUCT LAUNCHES

London Design Festival is regularly used as a launch platform for new products and although this year was no exception there were fewer new launches that I had anticipated.

New furniture designs were launched at all 3 of the larger venues, 100% Design, Design Junction and London Design Fair as well as at stand alone venues such as SCP.

Attention was given to the use of environmentally sustainable materials and processes.

1. ***Hayche*** - *Dune Chair*
2. ***James*** - *Yonder Stacking Low Chair*
3. ***Engelbrechts*** - *Kevi Lounge*
4. ***Boss*** - *Ola*
5. ***Origin*** - *Aup Collection*
6. ***Sixteen3*** - *Reece Collection*
7. ***&New*** - *Jää bench*
8. ***Dale Stephens*** - *03 BNCH*
9. ***Teal*** - *Roku Keata*
10. ***SCP*** - *Sarah Kay Jethro Table & Bench*















RAW









1. *Irthi Contemporary Crafts Council, Jennifer Zurick*

2. *Irthi Contemporary Crafts Council, Creative Dialogue by Shaikha Bin Dhaher & Adrian Salvador Candela*

3. *Viran Nature Vase, Martina Taranto*

4. *Ted Wood*

5. *Miller Ceramics*

6. *Jesper Eriksson*

7. *Nadiia and Masha Reva*







RAW AT MINT

For many years Lina Kanafani has promoted new designers, graduates and those pushing the boundaries in product and furniture design. Her Brompton Rd store, Mint, is one I make sure I visit each year during London Design Festival. This year Lina and her team curated a beautiful exhibition focused on minimising our impact on the environment which in many of the pieces is realised through innovative use of raw materials. Two designs which caught my attention were Jesper Eriksson's use of coal as the structure of his furniture. Eriksson hopes to highlight the unconscious way we place value on certain materials over others. I was also drawn to Martina Taranto's pieces which are made from composite material, 84% organic, and able to host life. Implanted with seeds the pieces will grow and eventually fade in to nature.

IRTHI CONTEMPORARY CRAFTS COUNCIL

Raw materials were prominent in the Irthi Contemporary Crafts Council exhibition, guests of the London Design Fair. Irthi Contemporary Crafts Council, based in Sharjah in the United Arab Emirates, operated a programme of creative, cultural and commercial initiatives designed to empower women through indigenous craft. To do this Irthi build connections between renowned global designers with the next generation of female makers in the UAE. Shaikha Bin Dhaher & Adrian Salvador Candela's fruit bowls embrace the natural qualities of leather, taking inspiration for the form from deset dunes and draped women's veils. USA craft artist Jennifer Zurick worked with Irthi's Bidwa artisans to combined Safeefah and other weaving techniques to braid camel leather.

Raw materials and finishes were also present in new product launches, including pieces by Ted Wood, accessories including engaging ceramics by Nadiia and Masha Reva and stand design including Miller Ceramics.



LARGE TERRAZZO

SPECTACULAR SPECKLE GOES LARGE

Terrazzo is a composite material consisting of chips of marble, quartz, granite, glass, or other suitable material, poured with a cementitious binder.

Terrazzo has been a trend which we have been enjoying over the last months. Until now the chips within the terrazzo have been relatively small (and these are still popular) but it brought a smile to my face to see the surfaces created when much larger chips are incorporated in to the composite.

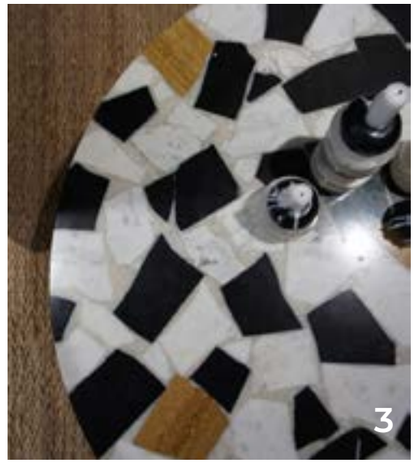
At London Design Fair Altrock demonstrated both contrasting large terrazzo and more subtle large terrazzo with both white chips and a white binder.

Jehanara Knowles took an enormously brave step and launched her new brand as part of Shoreditch Design Triangle, Kam Ce Kam. The Kam Ce Kam launch collection celebrates the resource of craft and materials in India, Indian materiality with a contemporary design ideology. Within the collection boldly sits their large scale terrazzo table.

It will be interesting to see this evolving trend move across different applications, will large terrazzo appear as textile and wallpaper designs in the coming months?



1. *Altrock*
2. *Tera Collection by SMS Architects*
3. *Kan ce Kan*
4. *Ragna Mouritzen & Troels Flensted*
5. *Altrock*
6. *Les Pieds de Biche*
7. *One We Made Earlier*













MORGAN
PEN & INK BY
LUKE ADAM HAWKER

Morgan Furniture hosted a talk by pen & ink artist Luke Adam Hawker in its Clerkenwell showroom during London Design Festival.

Specialising in intricate architectural and natural drawings on location, Luke spoke about his process and experience as an artist against a backdrop of open sketchbooks. He engaged the audience at length, answering the numerous questions of curious minds.

Following the talk, Luke encouraged everyone to pick up a pen and piece of paper and then find an interesting perspective within the showroom to capture. Katerina Zachariades,

Luke's work continues to be on display, and on sale, at the Morgan showroom.

'DRAWING AND SHARING ART IS A WAY OF COMMUNICATING AND CELEBRATING OUR DIFFERENCES AND UNIQUE PERSPECTIVES WITH ONE ANOTHER. I HOPE OUR SHOWROOM HELPS CULTIVATE THIS.'

Katerina Zachariades, Morgan Design Director

RAKINO

designed by Tim Rundle





morgan

www.morganfurniture.co.uk

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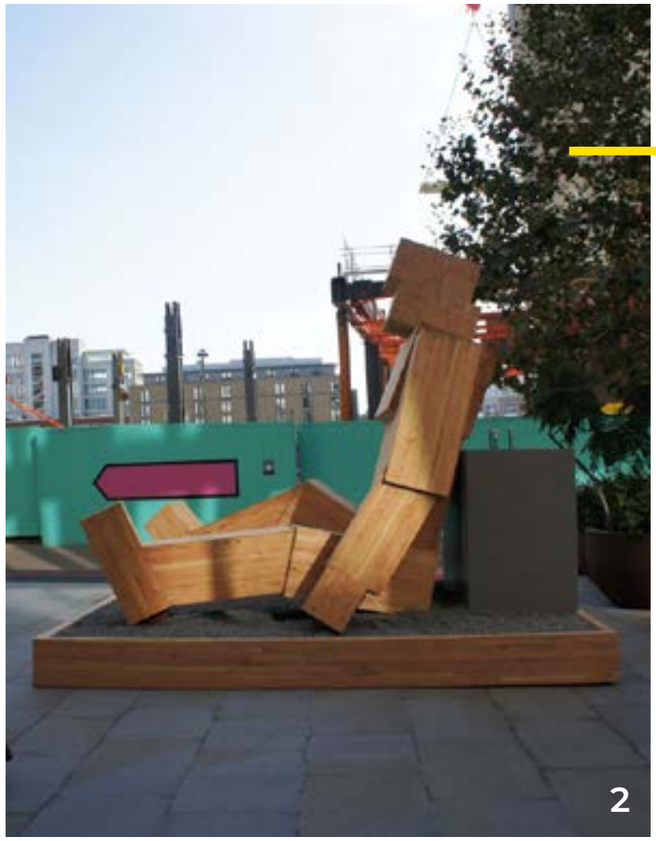
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INSTALLATIONS

Sam Jaxob's installation at the V&A was engaging and you immediately became absorbed in a ceiling top sea.

Steuart Padwick's Talk to Me men made the stroll up King's Boulevard in King's Cross more thought provoking, supporting the mental health anti-stigma campaign, Time to Change.

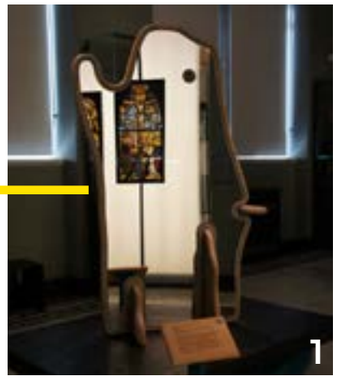
But the London Design Festival 2019 installation triumph was Paul Cocksedge's Please be Seated. This extremely successful installation enabled people to interact with the piece; sitting, eating, reading, working, lying down, chatting and hugging all took place with ease.

1. ***Sea Things*** *- Sam Jacob, V&A*
2. ***Talk to Me*** *- by Steuart Padwick*
3. ***Please be Seated*** *- Paul Cocksedge*



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LEGACY
V&A







1. Dr Maria Balshaw CBE, Director, Tate, worked with Max Lamb

2. Dallas Pierce Quintero for Sir John Sorrell CBE

3. Amanda Nevill CBE, CEO, British Film Institute, worked with Sebastian Cox

4. Hans Ulrich-Obrist, Artistic Director, Serpentine Galleries, worked with studiomama

5. Kwame Kwei-Armah, Artistic Director, Young Vic, worked with Tomoko Azumi

6. Alex Beard CBE, Chief Executive, Royal Opera House, worked with Terence Woodgate









Our highlight of London Design Festival 2019!

Sir John Sorrell, Chairman of London Design Festival, invited leaders of London's cultural institutes to collaborate with some of the world's most prolific designers to create a 'Legacy' piece of design.

"We called upon cultural leaders in London and asked if they would like to contribute to this thought-provoking project," says Sir John Sorrell. *"We then invited some of the world's top designers and were delighted when everybody immediately said yes."*

The 10 commissioned designers created thoroughly realised commercial designs which started with a clear concept. Each design showed the designers' skill and expertise. The V&A's sculpture rooms were the perfect setting for this exhibition.

After being shown at the V&A throughout London Design Festival the 10 items will relocate to the homes or institutes of each of the commissioners.

All 10 pieces were expertly made by Benchmark Furniture in Berkshire.

Sean Sutcliffe, Founder of Benchmark Furniture, says: *"I am looking forward to working with some designers that we have not worked with before, and re-engaging with some that we have. I'm going to be interested to see what they come up with in a 'single material' like American Red Oak – and in such a short timeframe. I am also excited to get a brief glimpse into the personal thinking of some of the leaders of London's major cultural institutions."*

Supported by American Hardwood Export Council.

DESIGN JUNCTION



1. *Disco Carbonara - Martino Gamper*
2. *Sixteen3 - Darcy Chair*
3. *Case - Tanso Collection*
4. *MT Masking Tape - Stephen Smith*

IT WAS WONDERFUL TO SEE DESIGN JUNCTION BACK IN KINGS CROSS!

10am on a Friday morning is not the usual time to attend a disco but Martino Gamper's invitation was hard to refuse. The temporary site specific installation was inspired by the concept of a Potemkin Village: a fake portable village build by Grigory Potemkin to impress his lover Catherine II. It was a joyful experience to pass through the disco before visiting the rest of the event.

Cubitt House brought together a collection of the UK's leading furniture and lighting brands, several of which launched new designs at the event. The visible use of recycled, and recyclable, board from Sixteen3 was particularly interesting. It would be wonderful to see this part of the event expand in 2020.

MT Masking Tape collaborated with award winning illustrator/graphic artist Stephen Smith, to create bold and inspiring installations at The Canopy. The bold statement added to the buzzing entrance to this part of the event which showcased design makers and retail brands.

This year Design Junction Talks questioned: How should design react to some of the world's most pressing problems? Sadly time did not allow for me to attend the Talks programme despite booking a place to hear Sheep To Seat, Fleece To Floor: Ella Doran And The Circular Economy. Did you attend? I would love to hear what you thought!









BROMPTON DESIGN DISTRICT



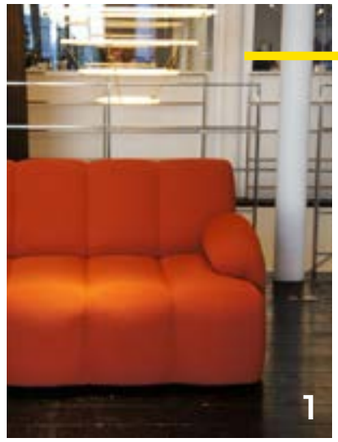
Jane Withers Studio's conceptual commissions were a welcome relief to the commercial design we experienced elsewhere.

Intricate insect homes and DIY wildlife environments were nestled in the private gardens at Thurloe & Alexander Square whilst nomadic pavilions were constructed on Cromwell Road.

1. ***Oficina Penades*** *- Traceless, Jorge Penades*
2. ***Studio Marlene Huissoud*** *- Please Stand By, Marlene Huissoud*
3. ***Interaction Research Studio*** *- Nature Scenes*







SCP 2019

The new SCP upholstery and furniture designs for 2019 is a collection that seeks to re-imagine traditional typologies; a wonderfully successful collection of conceptually driven commercial designs.

Within the collection Sarah Kay created a solid oak dining table and bench, which are based on the classic barn furniture typologies, but were brought to life by intricate and beautiful woodworking details. Matthew Hilton designed a new open-sided upholstered armchair of great elegance and poise.

Interestingly New York based designer David Weeks has designed an intriguing sofa that takes inspiration from the lines of early radar dishes.



1. ***Faudet-Harrison*** *- Pillar sofa*
2. ***Sarah Kay*** *-Jethro table and bench*
3. ***David Weeks*** *- Sonar sofa*
4. ***Matthew Hilton*** *- Colemore armchair*

