

IN DESIGN

WE MAP THE INTERIOR TRENDS FRESH FROM THE LONDON DESIGN FESTIVAL

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Since launching in 2003, London Design Festival has established itself as one of the world's most important design events, attracting thousands of design-savvy visitors to the capital. The festival takes place annually in September and is now the UK's largest celebration of all things creative, with a strong emphasis on interior design. Aiming to showcase both home-grown and international design, the fair encompasses over 300 events and exhibitions. Attractions include talks from world famous designers such as Tom Dixon and Richard Rogers, alongside pop-up exhibitions from young graduates. During the ten-day festival, waves of new products are launched, offering a unique insight into the major interior design movements. Zoey Goto scoured this year's fair to find the forthcoming hot trends that will be making an impact on our homes.

BRITISH HERITAGE

Surface View has made a name for themselves with their graphic wall hangings and epic sized posters. For London Design Festival, they launched a series of wall coverings inspired by The British Museum. The collection includes illustrations from Alice in Wonderland and Victorian theatre posters.

Increasingly, designers who are trying to keep their manufacturing UK-based can find themselves struggling to compete with their competitively priced international neighbours. Thankfully, an increasing number of consumers are willing to pay a little extra to have furniture made by skilled British craftspeople. The family-run company Fleming & Howland produce all their furniture in their Ramsgate workshop and sell it in their showroom, situated near London's Barbican. For London Design Week, they have launched a new collection of sofas and chairs made from vibrantly dyed wool, created by the best British mills. It's all about keeping it local.



SCANDI CHIC

Minimalism, functionality and natural materials were key themes at this year's London Design Festival. Tent London, the East End's blossoming design show, played host to the 100% Norway exhibition. Over the past ten years, 100% Norway has become an established showcase for iconic Norwegian design. Highlights this year included Peter Opsvik's Swing chair. Made from beech and suspended from the ceiling, the chair was inspired by his idea that people prefer movement to remaining static. Philipp von Hase cemented his position as a young designer to watch, with his seed-shaped Spire table. The handcrafted design brings nature into the house with an incorporated bowl that can be used for planting.

RETRO RECYCLING

The East London design store Mini Moderns asked a selection of established designers to reinterpret their 60s and 70s inspired prints, splashing them across furniture and accessories. Zoe Murphy, the queen of domestic up-cycling, took up the challenge by stencilling the print over a mid century sideboard, while Group Design created Mini Modern's first collection of lighting, with an emphasis on nostalgic prints.



3D PRINTING

The Design Museum held a major exhibition entitled The Future is Here, highlighting advances in what it describes as the 'new industrial revolution'. 3D printing was at the forefront of the show with live presentations of the technology at work. The process allows you to make a three-dimensional solid object from a digital model, without the need to cut or stick parts together. The Design Museum had everything from a 3D printed Eiffel Tower to a miniature version of the Prime Minister. Tempted to design your own mini-me? Makie dolls can now allow you to design a customised figure, which they will create using 3D printing.

Across town in Clerkenwell, iMakr, the world's largest 3D printing store, opened its doors for a showcase of the everyday objects that this new technology can create. Just a few of the items on display included shoes, soap dishes and sunglasses. The exhibition seems to suggest that in the near future all of our homes will contain 3D printed objects. Who knows, perhaps even the house itself will be created using this smart technology?





GEOMETRY

Lines zigzagged their way over soft furnishings, wallpaper, cabinets and lighting. Sian Elin presented her Tress Wallpaper, in a kaleidoscope of colours. The Finnish designer Ari Kanerva, showcased his Tiuku pendulum clock - a traditional grandfather clock with an elongated twist. In the world of textiles, Tamasyn Gambell embraced all things Aztec with cushions and upholstered chairs in autumnal tones.

WOOD REVOLUTION

Each year the festival hosts a crowd-pleasing landmark installation. Past projects have included a giant, interactive chess set in Trafalgar Square and a 28 tonne concrete sculpture by Zaha Hadid. This year, the lawn outside the Tate Modern gallery played host to a vast installation entitled Endless Stair, which invited visitors to climb and explore a series of interlocking staircases. It aimed to show the possibilities of timber, which Endless Stair's designer Alex de Rijke predicts will be the dominant construction material of the 21st century. Cheap, strong and sustainable, it looks as if wood is the new concrete.

