

THEY'VE GOT DESIGNS ON YOU

Bath interior designer Clair Strong visits the shows at the London Design Festival for inspiration

London Design Festival (LDF) is one of the most important events in the design calendar. It's a huge, week-long celebration of creativity and innovation, drawing in some of the biggest and brightest names in design from across the globe. I headed to the shows to scope out the trends for the coming seasons. There are hundreds of events, all over

the city, from major design shows in grand buildings to small pop-up shops and exhibitions in every corner. It's a really exciting and inspiring time to visit, the city buzzes with the thrill of all this ingenuity coming together. I go to the shows to source new products and materials and check out the latest trends, a vital part of my job as an interior designer. Here are my highlights from this year:



DECOREX INTERNATIONAL

Featuring 400 hand-selected exhibitors, Decorex is one of the more exclusive shows. The Future of Luxury was this year's theme, and visitors got a first look at new collections from some of the finest names in British design. Renowned designers and salvagers, Bert and May, launched Bert's Boxes – a new standard in pre-fab, modular living. There are four models, from large and spacious two-bed homes to small but seriously well-designed garden office spaces.

For more visit: box-9.co.uk/portfolio/berts-boxes/

100% DESIGN

100% Design has been running since 1994, making it the longest running contemporary design event for industry professionals in the UK. This year, the show moved to Olympia London and covered 20,000 square metres over two floors. It's an enormous event featuring exhibitions from groundbreaking brands and designers and a programme of talks for a truly inspirational experience.

One of the most interesting stands at 100% Design was Joined + Jointed, a collective of celebrated designers and makers. J+J have created a collection of original furniture pieces. The collaboration features one of my favourite designers, Simon Pengelly, so I was especially pleased to have the opportunity to see his recent work in the flesh.

I liked the large format designs of Porcelain Tiles, these giant tiles are striking and unique. Porcelain Tiles supply tiles to some of the most prestigious homes and commercial properties in London. There was quite a buzz around the stand.

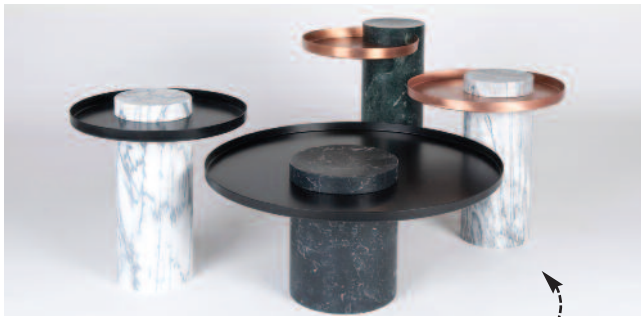


Norse chair and Concave bookcases, below, by designer Simon Pengelly. Based in Brixton or visit: simonpengelly.com



ROTHSCHILD AND BICKERS

The company that really struck me at Design Junction was Rothschild and Bickers, which creates beautiful lights. Behind the designs is a dedication to keeping a dying craft alive. All the pieces are made by hand by glassblowers.



DESIGN JUNCTION

Design Junction is a platform for commercial and cultural design. The event relocated this year to The College (formerly Central St Martin's) and Victoria House. Design Junction is renowned for hosting exhibitions in beautifully raw, industrial spaces and this year did not disappoint.

Another favourite was French furniture brand, La Chance; beautiful high-end design. Its work is distinctively cosmopolitan, very modern and fresh. I love championing British design but it's also great to see what designers around the world are creating.

And finally . . . modular shelving from Swedish company String. As homes get smaller, furniture gets smarter and String's shelving concept is no exception. I really like the idea of furniture you can play with and adapt to your own space. String's design-your-own system was originally designed in 1949, and is made from high quality materials intended to last a lifetime.

La Chance, Paris. Visit Lachance.fr
String shelving, Visit: string.se



STICK WITH THIS

Wallpaper has had a revival in recent years. Sian Zeng, creators of fun and whimsical magnetic wallpaper, launched its beautiful Seasons Collection. This range captures the ethereal beauty of the changing seasons with dramatic designs that will immerse your home with the wonder of each season.

Clair Strong Interior Design is a small, friendly, creative business based in Bath and London, providing services for residential and commercial clients. Visit: clairstrong.co.uk or contact: clair@clairstrong.co.uk.

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