

# design centre LONDON NEWSLETTER

September 2017

## Spotlight on Focus/17...



### Connect, Converse, Create

Bigger and more colourful than ever, Focus/17 is universally recognised as a primary design destination for designers, architects and decision-makers who descended for a dizzying week of experiential events and collection launches. Design Centre, Chelsea Harbour has long been a catalyst of creative connections and showrooms reported a rise in global visitors, especially from the USA, Italy and Asia. Focus/17's intention was to explore a 360 degree approach to design, and sharing ideas with influencers, established makers, emerging innovators and luxury brands was at the heart of it all. An incredible line-up of 125 experiences – from workshops, demonstrations and discovery tours to meet the designer sessions – delivered on emerging trends and the latest design practices, while at the acclaimed Conversations in Design sessions international names like Patricia Urquiola shared their knowledge to capacity audiences. For many visitors it was the first chance to explore the wealth of new showrooms in the newly expanded Design Centre East and beyond. *"It's been a huge success – the fusion of design encounters and opportunities to connect with 600 international brands offered a dynamic collective unseen anywhere else. Focus/17 brought together the design world at Design Centre, Chelsea Harbour, cementing the sense of community that is already one of our greatest strengths,"* said managing director Claire German.



*"The Design Centre fosters the design community; it's very friendly and it always works together"*  
Deborah Barker, editor-in-chief, *Homes & Gardens*



### Meet & Mingle

Focus/17 was a place to meet, talk, do business or simply catch up with friends – and in recognition of its sociable nature, there were more convivial places to eat and drink than ever before. Specially commissioned pop-up restaurants, bars and cafes were an essential ingredient of the experience, often with a side helping of design inspiration devised by creative director Arabella McNie. Tom's Kitchen at the *Tatler* Restaurant featured a menu by award-winning chef Tom Aikens, served by Absolute Taste, while a new addition was the South Dome Deli, an informal, all-day-dining destination. Visitors headed up to the Third Floor Food Market for something fresh and fast, and to the Champagne Bar in Design Centre East for a relaxing interlude with a glass of fizz. The Vagabond Coffee Roasters Bar and the Sensory Salon serving Jing tea took care of those little extras that make the day go well.



### Making Sense of Design

Design is about so much more than sight; we engage many more senses when we are taking in an environment, and it is the layering of all of them that creates an emotional connection. A new initiative at Focus/17 was the Sensory Salon, a calming, regenerative space where visitors were uplifted by the perfect cup of Jing tea. Artist DD Regalo, represented by ArteMea Advisory, painted the walls throughout the week with a meditative piece inspired by life's journey. At the new Sensory Series Workshops, top chef Tom Aikens cooked up a storm; Jo Malone London gave a masterclass in styling your home with scent; Vagabond Coffee Roasters had a 'coffee cupping' guided tasting; and Tony Marklew, creator of the floral arrangements for Focus/17, gave a demonstration of his unique, romantic way with blooms. They shared their expertise, enraptured their audiences and provided the chance to slow down in a fast-paced world.

*"It's a dream come true – to have some of the top designers coming in to discover us is something that we're really excited about"*  
Philip Bershad, president, Philip Jeffries



### Celebrating Great Design – Hollywood Style

The Focus/17 party was the hot ticket this season when the great and the good of the design world came together for a legendary evening of star studded glamour. International guests were greeted by a troupe of Hollywood flappers bedecked in sequins and feathers. With a Roaring Twenties vibe, there was foot-stomping jazz, dazzling cocktails, sparkling conversation and plenty of energetic Charleston dancing throughout the night.



*"There's no way I could go anywhere else. This is the place where the top names have to be"*  
George Khachfe, CEO, Flexform

### Getting Social

Annamaria Papayova is the winner of Focus/17's Blog Award, given to the blogger who best captured the spirit of the event. The concept of 360 degree of design was at the heart of Annamaria's perceptive post; she covered it all, from the floral displays to Access All Areas showroom happenings and innovative new launches. The award was judged by Will Gibbs, Managing Director of KLC School of Design, interior designer Samantha Todhunter and Grant Pierrus from design blog Interior Style Hunter. The judges felt that, besides Annamaria's infectiously enthusiastic response to the show, she also kept a strong and distinctive voice throughout; they also praised her photography and strong visual sense. [Read it here.](#)



## And the Award Goes To...



### Drum Roll Please

It was a good day for Design Centre, Chelsea Harbour showrooms at the recent *Homes & Gardens* Fabric Awards. They included Baker Lifestyle, the winner of the best go-to fabric for 'Salsa Square', Colefax and Fowler's 'Study' for the best plain, Sanderson's 'Gunnersbury' for best embroidered and No 9 Thompson for 'Amaryllis' who won for the best printed fabric.



### The World of Interiors Awards

Boussac's new *Cartoon* collection from Pierre Frey was the winner of *The World of Interiors* Award at Focus/17. Editor Rupert Thomas personally presented it during the show, along with several Highly Commended awards, which were given to Oscar de La Renta's fabric collection for Lee Jofa at GP & J Baker; Alfonso Marina's secretaire from Paolo Moschino for Nicholas Haslam Ltd; Davidson's 'Aspen' table; and the *Bloom & Berries* collection by Raoul Textiles at Turnell & Gigon.



### The International Design and Architecture Awards 2017

Huge congratulations to The Silk Gallery for winning the prestigious fabric award at the latest International Design and Architecture Awards 2017. With an impressive 100, 000 votes they were well ahead in the race against a host of other projects submitted from all over the globe.



## Up and Coming Events...

### Art & Interiors

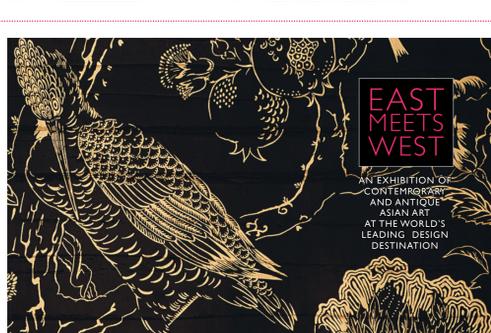
*Join House & Garden* for an all-day event devoted to the role of art in interiors. Interior designer Veere de la Hay, the master of contrasts, the humble with the grand and clean modernity with classicism, starts off the morning session. Arts editor Emily Tobin hosts a panel discussion with Frances Christie, who is the head of modern and post-war British art at Sotheby's, and renowned interior designer Francis Sultana. They will discuss selecting, valuing and buying art. Following a lunch break, acting editor Gabby Deeming will discuss styling, lighting, grouping and displaying art with renowned design duo Eleanora Cunietti and Audrey Carden of Carden Cunietti. Tickets are going fast so book now to secure your place. [Book here](#)



### Flock Together

Look out for brightly coloured sheep grazing in the domes during Wool Week 2017. Bringing together irresistibly tactile textures in innovative colour combinations, the witty installation will encourage visitors to consider the journey from fleece to floor or fabric. Well-loved by interior designers and style-seekers alike, celebrated the versatility, beauty and natural properties of wool. The Campaign for Wool was initiated by HRH The Prince of Wales in 2010 to promote better understanding and use of the sustainable benefits of real wool. It has united the international community of wool growers, manufacturers, retailers and wool lovers.

7 – 15 October



### East Meets West

For centuries, Eastern style has caught the imagination of the West and in recognition of this, Design Centre, Chelsea Harbour will present 'East Meets West' an exciting curated exhibition in association with Asian Art in London. Welcoming top designers, architects, international collectors, dealers and style seekers, the curated exhibition will create a dialogue between tradition and progress; history and the future, showcasing treasures from contemporary Asian artists juxtaposed with rare antique artefacts from the past. Throughout the week there will be special installations, displays, talks, demonstrations, workshops and discovery tours, exploring the crossover between East and West. Courtesy transport will bring discovering art lovers from Christie's auction house to Design Centre, Chelsea Harbour specially for the event. Save the date and watch this space. 2 - 11 November



## Movers and Shakers...



### Villeroy & Boch

With the bathroom now a place of relaxation, the new collections from leading brand Villeroy & Boch combine style and comfort to offer a sense of serenity at the end of a long day. Since 1748, this famous German name has stood for timeless elegance, innovative design and outstanding quality. Now, it has opened an expansive showroom in Design Centre East. Taking inspiration from current trends, the ranges showcase colourful statement pieces, alongside more neutral products for a subtle change of decor. There is also beautiful crockery, glassware and cutlery, setting Villeroy & Boch's fine-dining tableware apart.

Third Floor, Design Centre East

### Beyond Books

Don't miss a new pop-up salon in the Bookshop, masterminded by Miles de Lange. Powerfully tactile furniture and sculptural objects by Alexander Lamont take centre stage. Highly detailed imagery by a clever use of scale and colour gives the botanical wallpaper by rising star Kit Miles a sensory narrative that draws you in. Until Christmas 2017, be inspired and browse the latest books in stylish, convivial surroundings.



### Siberian Floors

Wide-plank timber flooring brings a sense of nobility and character to an interior. Siberian Floors, a newcomer to Design Centre East, makes its flooring to order, so it can be customised to create any pattern, colour and plank size. The engineered hardwood planks are pre-finished in a state-of-the-art manufacturing facility outside Moscow, and finished with hardwax oil to enhance the wood's natural character and provide a durable finish. [Third Floor, Design Centre East](#)



### Lacaze London

Lacaze London's work is a melting pot of traditional and modern production techniques, offering luxurious bespoke furniture including upholstery, cabinetry and metalwork. On display in the new showroom is a raft of statement pieces made from exquisite materials and finishes. The workshop is based in West London where highly skilled craftsmen ensure that every last detail is finished to the highest standards. [Third Floor, Design Centre East](#)



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