



Design Centre, Chelsea Harbour is a renowned hub for designers, architects, decision-makers and the media. Bringing together the design world, it champions creativity and excellence.

LAST MONTH'S HIGHLIGHTS



FOCUS/19: CULTIVATING SUCCESS

Focus/19 was the most dynamic show to date at Design Centre, Chelsea Harbour - the breadth and magnitude which has never been seen before. Across six days, 130 sessions saw star-studded names sharing their knowledge and expertise at packed sessions. Cultivating success, there were the latest launches at every turn, stylish showroom openings, and inspiration and insight in abundance with visitors attending in droves to celebrate the best in international design.

Twice-daily design discovery tours saw the highest turnout ever, while sold out Design Workshops delved deeper into hot topics on the style radar including the rise of bespoke design and the importance of outdoor spaces. On the main stage, the acclaimed Conversations

in Design series boasted a formidable line-up of world-renowned speakers including legendary designers David Milnaric, Collett-Zarzycki and Andrew Winch, amongst many others, sharing their creative visions in front of capacity audiences. Operating on such an unparalleled scale and looking set to grow, Focus/19 was the assured linchpin of the season with interior designers, architects, decision-makers and design enthusiasts making it their first port of call from around the globe. "We're committed to being the world's No.1 design destination," says managing director, Claire German. "It's an exciting time here, and Focus/19 was proof positive that in the astonishing environment of Design Centre, Chelsea Harbour great design thrives."



Focus/19 Party

With flora and fauna high on the design agenda this season, the Focus/19 party had a decidedly green theme in recognition of the new zeitgeist. Stylish A-listers mingled with industry insiders for a glamorous evening to celebrate the influential show at design's natural habitat. Sparkling conversation, laidback tracks and plenty of cocktails kept the creative crowd in a convivial mood. Guests enjoyed drinks and canapés made from seasonal ingredients. Think gin, thyme, & pear cocktails; and fresh Vietnamese rice paper wraps. Overhead, the 'Sky Garden' in pastoral patterns was a reminder of how Design Centre, Chelsea Harbour continues to grow, nurturing its design community for an even brighter future.

WHAT THEY SAY

"The ultimate destination for interior architects, decorators and architects"
Vincent Van Duysen, designer

"The Design Centre will expose us to products we've never experienced before; it's educational!"
Anthony Collett, managing partner, Collett-Zarzycki

"The best thing is the relationships, and friendships... this is the number one place"
Andrew Winch, managing director, Winch Design



Sowing The Seeds of International Design

An abundance of new season collections from 600 international brands showcased the latest colour stories and thoughtful narratives at Focus/19. Embracing the bounty of the earth, from the rattan revival to wood, sisal and stone, they brought authentic yet refined elements to interior design. The use of natural materials, tactile textures and examples of handcrafted artisanship were seen throughout. In the showrooms, there were more opportunities than ever to engage with established makers at close hand and discover the creative process

with talented teams behind the collections at one-of-a-kind talks and presentations. Design collaborations were a talking point, an indication that originality flourishes when collective minds come together. Visitors were able to meet their design heroes who included, amongst others, Belgium architect **Vincent Van Duysen** for Sutherland Perennials Studio, Irish fashion designer **Paul Costelloe** for Ventura, from Italy came Draw Studio for Ceccotti Collezioni, **David Dolcini** for Porada and **Andrea Bonini** who also devised the new Turri showroom.



Collection of The Year

Porta Romana has been honoured by *The World of Interiors*, winning the magazine's Collection of the Year award at Focus/19 for its collaboration with Italian artist Viola Lanari. Her plaster lighting and furniture - recast from the originals in a composite material - marry simplicity with organic, sculptural shapes. Lanari was presented with the award by editor Rupert Thomas himself. Four further designs won Highly Commended awards: **Tissus d'Hélène's** French collection by Pukka Fabre; **Morris & Co's** *Lethaby Weaves*; the trimmings collection by Michael Aiduss for **Houlès**; and **Cole & Son's** *Pearwood* wallcoverings.

Best Showcase

This year's Focus/19 saw the launch of a new award, judged by *ELLE Decoration*, for Best Showcase. Style editor Kiera Buckley-Jones toured the floors to select one winner and two highly commended places, with the top spot going to **Hermès's** bold showcase on the Ground Floor, Centre Dome. The runners-up were **Ventura**, showing its new collaboration with fashion designer Paul Costelloe, and **Tom Faulkner**.



An Abundance Of Inspiration

Filling the Centre Dome with its creative use of the latest designs, Focus/19's 'Sky Garden' installation was an expression of how important a deeper connection to the natural world has become to interiors. 'Biophilia', literally meaning 'love of nature' - is the latest buzzword, and the suspended lanterns in the freshest new-season fabrics, with trailing fronds emulating seedpods spinning to the ground, encapsulated the trend.

Elsewhere, Focus/19's food and drink venues were not just convivial places to refuel but a way to incorporate even more of the latest

design directions. Dominating the *FT How To Spend It Restaurant* was a magnificent tiered tower of **Houlès'** cut fringes, beneath which **CTO Lighting's** lights gently illuminated the bar. Banquettes were upholstered in bold fabrics from **Créations Métaphores** at Abbott & Boyd, **Kravec** and **Pierre Frey**. **Bar Botanical** in the North Dome was enclosed by panels showcasing 'Cap d'Ail' wallcovering from **Lelièvre Paris** in tribute to Jean Cocteau, with dramatic panels above made from Villa Nova's 'Zamiifolia' sheer palm-print fabric from **Romo**, emulating a leafy canopy.

WHAT THEY SAY

"We're in the Design Centre every week"
Karen Howes, CEO, Taylor Hooes

"The most fantastic forum for people to come along and deepen their knowledge and understanding"
Giles Kime, interiors editor, Country Life

"The Design Centre feels like home"
Natalia Miyar, founder, Natalia Miyar Atelier

"Designers love to come here, and there's always a reason to come back"
Paolo Moschino, designer, Nicholas Haslam Ltd



Award-winning Style Directions

At the *International Homes & Gardens* Design Awards, two prestigious showrooms came out on top. 'Devon Green' paint by **Sanderson** won Colour of the Year as according to judge, Kit Kemp, it is the 'colour of right now'. In the Best Collection category, **Nobilis'** 'Antolia' was recognised by judge Barbara Chandler, for 'pushing the boundaries of texture'.



Creative Expressions

Curated spaces were a Focus/19 highlight, showcasing the new season's collections, seen through the eyes of leading interior designers. **Hill House Interiors** created a glamorous bar with a tented ceiling within Arteriors' showroom, **Suzy Woodless** designed a chic coffee space at GP & J Baker with sumptuous ikat velvet wrapping the walls, while **Nina Campbell** restyled her 'Nina's Apartment' concept with a hallway, dining and living spaces. Bringing visitors closer than ever to the heart of a design story, artisan demonstrations were the perfect way to deepen understanding and knowledge. The new Morris & Co showroom hosted block-printing sessions all week, decorative artists from the San Prignano community revealed their techniques at Paolo Moschino for Nicholas Haslam Ltd and Incrusta invited visitors to customise designs with imaginative paint effects in the new showroom in Design Centre East.

Macmillan Coffee Morning

The Design Club hosted the event as part of Macmillan Cancer Support's World's Biggest Coffee Morning, raising £670 in cash donations for the charity. Tempting treats on offer for this good cause included delicious coffee walnut cakes, brownies and peanut butter cupcakes.



MOVERS & SHAKERS

In situ until spring 2020, **Morris & Co's** pop-up showroom is the place to see the full breadth of William Morris's timeless nature-inspired designs, as well as the new **Melsetter** collection inspired by the work of his daughter May Morris. **First Floor, South Dome**



Timmy Fowler's pop-up in Design Space will be open for another couple of weeks. Head to the showroom to see *Heraldic*, the British brand's new collection inspired by the classical, medieval, and renaissance periods. **Design Space, Third Floor, South Dome**



The **Tollgård Pop-up** is open for three more months. Interior designer, Staffan Tollgård has assembled a stable of favoured brands in the showroom, including Man of Earth, Meridiani and Utility & Utopia, in a space zoned into different rooms. **First Floor, Centre Dome**



C & C Milano has doubled the size of its showroom, with a dressed bed and dining table in the new space, allowing the renowned Italian firm to show more of its linens and throws. **First Floor, Tollgård Centre East**

WHAT'S ON THE RADAR?

SIX OF THE BEST

Green takes root

One colour dominates this season's palette. From sage and olive to teal and jade, green is connecting us to the mood of the moment.



STYLE SPY

Pick of the Month

As the days become shorter and darker, what could be more joyous than switching on this beautiful 'Courtney' lamp by **Nina Campbell**? Created by Nina as part of her new lighting collection, it comes in just one smile-inducing colour, coral. The lamp is ceramic with an acrylic base and a stunning hand-painted shade, specially designed to coordinate with the new 'Ashdown Stripe' fabric on the wall.

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