

A Top Time At LDF!

The London Design Festival saw everyone in the interiors industry descend on the capital for this glorious event!

BIID members Lindsey Rendall of Rendall & Wright, Susie Rumbold, owner and Director of Tessuto Interiors (and Vice President, President Elect and CPD Director of the BIID), and Nia Morris of Cloud Design Studios, and BCFA members Lisa Cluer, Managing Director of Inside Out Contracts, Katerina McMahon, Design Director of Morgan, and Eleanor Cardwell of Tektura, were amongst the visitors. They tell in.Design about their favourite elements.

Which shows did you attend in September, and did you have a favourite?

Susie: I think this year's London Design Festival was the best ever, and I was able to immerse myself in it completely. I attended Decorex, 100% Design, designjunction and Tent/Superbrands. I also went to the V&A for a highlights tour of the various installation dotted round the museum. I found great new products at all the shows, but if I had to choose I would say my favourites were Decorex and designjunction.

Eleanor: I attended Decorex, 100% Design, designjunction and Tent/Superbrands. This year I particularly enjoyed Tent, which showcased an interesting combination of the latest products from big names, alongside up and coming talent exhibiting cutting edge designs. designjunction always feels fresh and edgy – great for getting an overview of the latest trends and seeing what other brands are up to.

100% Design was buzzing at its new venue, Kensington Olympia, which provided a stunning backdrop. And of course Decorex was special this year for Tektura because we were exhibiting again after an eight year break, and we launched Rare Finds, our new collection of luxury surfaces.

Lyndsey: London Design Week delivered as usual, I crammed as much in as



Lindsey Rendall





BuzziSpace (100% Design)



Nia Morris

▲ possible amongst a busy work schedule and attended designjunction, 100% Design, Focus/15 and of course my favourite show, Decorex!

Lisa: I visited 100% Design, designjunction and Tent London. I've been going to 100% Design since it opened over a decade ago and it's been interesting to see it grow and change over the years. This year was especially exciting, walking into the iconic Olympia you are greeted by a wonderful array of coloured sculptures and stands that signal the incoming trends for next year.

Katerina: We attended CDQ (Clerkenwell Design Quarter), designjunction, V&A Museum, Somerset House and the Shoreditch Design Triangle. We enjoyed the variety of product at designjunction and thought that the building was an amazing exhibition space.

Nia: Decorex was hugely impressive – there was a great energy there this year and

it was probably my favourite. I had a fun morning there speaking on a panel with Dan Hopwood, Steffan Tollgard and Susie Rumbold about the trials and tribulations of being an interior designer! I also had a full and exhausting day visiting Tent, Superbrands, designjunction and 100% Design – probably a bit too much visual overload for a single outing!

Which exhibitor's display stood out the most to you?

Lisa: Ebb & Flow at 100% Design really impressed me with their elegant and understated display of classic and vintage glass lighting. Gareth on the stand was also very helpful and friendly which is key for a positive lasting impression when on the look-out for new suppliers.

Nia: I adored Bert & May's Big Box at Decorex. It was creative, fun and a celebration of simplicity and 'less is more' that I am very drawn to.

Lyndsey: The display stands delivered a wide mix of vibrant colour palettes, subtle pastel tones, and monochromatic schemes. I adored the feminine shapes of many 1940's inspired pieces of furniture on display, enticed onto the stands by the chic elegance of design to further inspect the pieces and feel the luxurious velvets and fabrics. My textile background gets the better of me in these situations and I can't look without touching!

Katerina: We liked the new Knit Collection from the collaboration between Curver and the FranklinTill Studio, a fun yet practical product.

Susie: Without question Bert & May's Big ▼



Luca Nichetto's Alphabeta lights for Hem (Somerset House)



Susie Rumbold

▲ Box at Decorex stood out for immaculate design, reclaimed materials, innovative new finishes and fittings, and for its impeccable environmental credentials. I loved their barge at Clerkenwell this year, but the Big Box was even better. Another highlight was Laufen's display within the old Central St Martin's Gem Studio at designjunction which was a wonderful use of this heritage space.

For me though, the V&A's Curiosity Cloud by Mischer Traxler, while not exactly an exhibitor's display, was unforgettable. The work consisted of 250 mouthblown glass globes, each containing a laser-cut, hand embroidered, flying insect with a motion detector and light. As you moved between the globes, the insects came alive and flew round inside their glass prisons softly thudding against the glass and causing the whole room to vibrate and thrum.

Eleanor: Dulux's ColourFutures stand at Tent – a collaboration with Kit Miles (Tektura's new digital designer) to create an ▼

▲ installation based on Dulux's colour trend forecasts for 2016. The result was truly stunning. Kit's interpretation of the Cherished Gold colour palette was beautiful and the site-specific nature of the piece really worked – when I was there the sun was bright and blocks of light from the industrial windows were scattered across the floor, the effect was glittering golden bursts of colour which shifted with the light and passing crowds.

Also worth a mention is the 2 Lovely Gays collaboration with Nest.co.uk at designjunction... the outcome was a mint green terrazzo extravaganza! Terrazzo effects were everywhere this season and this was a modern and playful take on the trend, which I really loved. BuzziSpace's vibrant stand at 100% Design was well worth the visit, and also Material Lab's The Future of Luxury feature at Decorex.



Katerina McMahon

What was your best new discovery?

Lyndsey: I loved the fabulous textiles displayed so brilliantly by A Rum Fellow. The vibrancy and richness of colour and texture made the pieces exciting and engaging. I can't wait to incorporate some of their designs into my own work.

I also adored the hand-stitched leather by Bethan Gray which was exhibited so beautifully on a set of round side tables. The soft colours and exquisite detailing makes it a very exciting product to consider.

Susie: For me it was all about lighting this year. I loved Bert Frank at Decorex for the superb quality of their matt lacquered finishes, Rothschild & Bickers exquisite mineral pendants like hand-blown planets at designjunction and Neo Craft's iridescent globes at Tent. At designjunction, I also adored Australian artist Angela Groundwater's wallpapers. She uses the faces of real people photographed in London's east end in her work, and can create witty bespoke papers that tell the story of your life.

For beautifully designed high quality contemporary furniture there were two exhibitors both at designjunction who really stood out for me. One was Dare Studio, and especially their collaboration with design duo Eley Kishimoto (well-known shape shifters of the print world) to create marquetry effects on cabinetry. The other was French designer Red where I fell in love with their beautiful lacquered occasional tables and their well-designed mid-century inspired upholstered pieces.

Eleanor: I'm mainly on the lookout for colour, pattern and surface trends... I'm



Lisa Cluer

in the process of putting together our bi-annual trends round up, Word on the Street. This year terrazzo effects and innovative materials were everywhere, natural minimalism, inky prints, graffiti and oversized weaves. Cobalt blue was a big colour trend, also every shade of pink, canary yellow, warm neutrals, indigo, and gold in matt, polished and antiqued finishes.

We met Kate Farley at Tent who collaborated with Formica on some new 'micro patterns' that were really interesting. And our heads are swimming with ideas for new surface patterns, textures and colours. We're always on the lookout for new design talent, and there has certainly been a lot to choose from this year, so watch this space...

Lisa: I am always on the lookout for new and unique designs that are both visually amazing and contract suitable, albeit luxury fabrics for boutique hotels or hard-wearing innovative upholstery for busy airports and public spaces. So I was delighted to meet with designer Iona Crawford at 100% ▼

Design; her beautiful yet modern fabric patterns, inspired by nature, really caught my eye and stood out from the rest.

As a manufacturer and supplier of contemporary contract furniture, introducing new fabrics for our furniture has always been key and is an important point of difference to ensure our clients are always able to view the very latest designs on our website and at our London showroom.

Katerina: The new Alphabeta lighting collection from Hem!

Nia: It was exciting to see so much craft and many smaller makers. I was very taken with the ceramicists at Tent, in particular Jo Davies and the ceramicists at The Cold Press.

What would you add to an interior design show to improve it?

Lyndsey: I would have the luxury of more time!

Lisa: More lounges; often you need a moment to sit and recoup all the brochures, business cards and more, and write down ideas and inspiration from exhibitors before it's lost.

Lots of free coffee and water can never go astray also and would give many the energy and motivation to keep going!

Katerina: A good map or app in order to help plan what you want to see.

Nia: I'd love them all to be physically closer together which would save a lot of personal wear and tear!

Susie: A cloakroom at designjunction. The



Jo Davies Ceramics (Tent)

first time I visited (I went twice) I was carrying a really heavy bag and a coat which I then had to lug up and down umpteen flights of stairs. I would have appreciated what I was seeing so much more had I been unencumbered!

Eleanor: That's a tricky one... I think it's good to have a combination of established brands and up and coming designers and makers. If I could wave my magic wand I would make all of the design shows in a central location... it can be time consuming to travel between them!

I really enjoy stands where you can engage with the brand, and the manufacturing process – last year Bert & May were making tiles on their stand at designjunction which was fascinating, and this year we visited a virtual world with Volta at Decorex.

One of the shows last year, I think it was the Surface Design Show, did a video walk through – it was brilliant to be able to revisit the show when I got back to the office. I'd like to see more of that!



Eleanor Cardwell