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Section 9

THE SUNDAY TIMES

# Home



time should also be going, as the festival is Europe's biggest interiors event: a showcase for the best styling and the latest technology, with something for every pocket and any taste.

But which to visit? That depends on what changes you want to make. Our seven-page guide talks you through the hottest trends for every room in the house, and where to find them. To get the inside track on colours, flooring and fabrics, go to Decorex or 100% Design. High-end designers, architects and furniture-makers — among them the interior designer Kelly Hoppen, the furniture brand Andrew Martin, Blenheim Carpets and Chesney's, the fire-surround company — and bespoke brands all show at Decorex. Prices will probably be steeper, and the overall tone more conservative, than at exhibitions such as 100% Design, ReDesign, or Tent London, which showcase more cutting-edge work — think the furniture designer Tom Dixon, the wallpaper company Cole & Son, and Ercol, the funky retro furniture-maker. Don't miss the satellite shows: 100% Design has several, including 100% Detail, which has a concentration of sustainable materials, as does Eureka, part of the ReDesign workshops. Products there are all in production; offerings elsewhere may still be prototypes. For fabric, head to Focus, where you'll see collections from the likes of Zoffany and Jane Churchill.

Not all shows are open to the public every day, but they all have at least one day that is, usually at the weekend. They are vast, inspiring and make a great day out, even if you don't buy anything. Try to visit several, so any decision about significant changes is an informed one. Where else can you find the best design that Britain has to offer, all under one roof?

Regardless of which show you visit, remember that great design is timeless, as Martin Waller, director of Andrew Martin, points out when asked which designer he rates the most. In his eyes, it's the anonymous artisans behind China's terracotta army, on display at the British Museum: "What unbelievable skill — to make a product that still inspires 2,000 years later."

And opt for raw linens to be really ecofriendly. If you want a splash of colour, don't go for a block. Even Designers Guild, famed for its rich shades, has lightened up: its new Flores range of bed linen still features bursts of hot pink and teal, but only as an accent. Strong colour has moved to the walls, where you shouldn't be afraid to go bold — what you're trying to do is create a cosy nest.

Sally Bendelow, head of Home at Marks & Spencer, says shades of purple, from amethyst to plum, are hot, and texture is a strong theme.



## THE LIVING ROOM

**Joris Laarman's Heatwave modular radiator system, from £794, at Tent London (see calendar overleaf) or [www.jagahomeheating.co.uk](http://www.jagahomeheating.co.uk)**



Oversized is this season's hot trend, following the lead of the Belgian Marcel Wanders. Lights, furniture, rugs, patterns — you name it, it's big. And, at last, the square, boxy sofa in neutral fabrics is dead: long live colour. Adopt the theory behind statement pieces (see page 10), and make sure the colours you use on your walls, upholstery and flooring complement each other — which even traditionally "clashing" colours can do.

Try teaming purple and orange, for instance, or blue and green: it can work.

The look is all about juxtaposition,

**The Osborne & Little Vintage Silks collection consists of four classic designs reinterpreted. £75 per metre; 020 7352 1456; [www.osborneandlittle.com](http://www.osborneandlittle.com)**



says Sandra Drechsler, creative director of Taylor Howes, the London-based interior-design studio. "Modern classics such as the Eames chair and Saarinen Tulp table are back in fashion," she explains. "And look out for Jonathan Adler, an American interior designer and furniture-maker. His retro-inspired style is on target for next season and is refreshingly playful."

Gold, new metallic and pearlised finishes show no sign of fading away, and it's the finish itself, not the metal of the object, that's important. If all this sounds a step too far, you'll be relieved to know that plain black and white is also back in vogue. Carrara marble is the flooring of choice for high-end design clients. If you can't run to that, try limestone or some of the synthetic coverings that mimic the effect — though nothing beats the real thing. **Shows to visit:** 100% Design, Tent London, Focus, Decorex

zen minimalism — how a Scandinavian architect might approach a Japanese bathroom.”

In plain English, what you are aiming for is purity, simplicity and cleanliness, so sanitaryware should be white, chrome or stainless steel. Natural finishes look fantastic — think limestone, matt marble, wood veneer, even coloured glass — and all these materials look great as trim or in cabinets. When designing the layout, remember to include furniture: it's remarkable how much we need to store in a bathroom. For a softer look, go for a mouldable material such as Corian, which is more often found in kitchens. It has some even more adaptable relatives, such as Exmar and Crystal Plant, which give sanitaryware a soft, sensuous and lightweight feel. These materials also come in a range of subtle shades.

If you want to incorporate bolder colour, limit it to splashbacks of coloured glass mosaics or backpainted glass wall panels, which are increasingly replacing conventional ceramic tiles. You can also change them easily.

Bathrooms in the 1990s were temples to hedonism; in the Noughties, they have two roles. They must transform into virtual day spas for one — or two — but must also be somewhere to take a quick shower on a workday morning. Crucially, there should be continuity and flow between here and the rest of the house. Pidgeon is particularly keen on the work of Agape ([www.agapedesign.it](http://www.agapedesign.it)), Boffi ([www.boffi.com](http://www.boffi.com)), Flaminia ([www.ceramicafflaminia.it](http://www.ceramicafflaminia.it)), Dornbracht ([www.dornbracht.com](http://www.dornbracht.com)) and Bisazza ([www.bisazza.it](http://www.bisazza.it)), all of which employ trendsetting designers and architects.

**Shows to visit:** Decorex, 100% Design — and don't neglect the satellite shows at both

## Design fair calendar

<p><b>ReDesign workshops</b> Today, Saturday, Sunday Festival Hall, SE1 020 8406 4160 <a href="http://www.redesigndesign.org">www.redesigndesign.org</a></p> <p>Workshops for all ages on turning household waste and sustainable materials into fun, desirable products. Run by a not-for-profit organisation established by designers with a passion for sustainable design</p>	<p><b>100% Design</b> Thursday to Sunday Earls Court, SW5 01923 690624 <a href="http://www.100percentdesign.co.uk">www.100percentdesign.co.uk</a></p> <p>Directed by Tom Dixon, a previous exhibitor. Innovative new and established designers and companies. Furniture, lighting, kitchens, bathrooms, wall and floor coverings, interior accessories, textiles. New this year is 100% Futures, a showcase of emerging talent</p>	<p><b>OXO Tower Wharf</b> Thursday-Sunday Oxo Tower Wharf, SE1 020 7401 2255 <a href="http://www.oxotower.co.uk">www.oxotower.co.uk</a></p> <p>Showrooms launching new products, textiles, jewellery, ceramics, glass and interior design. New Designers Selection showcasing 50 designers from July's New Designers graduate show</p>	<p><b>Tent London</b> Thursday-Sunday Truman Brewery, E1 020 7739 5561 <a href="http://www.tentlondon.co.uk">www.tentlondon.co.uk</a></p> <p>New products from emerging and established designers, plus an international vintage design show. A taste of the Milan furniture fair, with trendsetting and leading international brands, and a showcase of graduate designers</p>
<p><b>Designersblock</b> Thursday-Sunday Nicholls &amp; Clarke Buildings, E1 020 7613 0134 <a href="http://www.designersblock.org.uk">www.designersblock.org.uk</a></p> <p>Cutting-edge, emerging designers and graduates selling one-off pieces of furniture and ceramics. There will be a kiln to melt down empty glass bottles from the show — designers will create pieces out of the glass live</p>	<p><b>Focus</b> September 23-26 Design Centre, SW10 020 7225 9125 <a href="http://designcentrechelseaharbour.co.uk">designcentrechelseaharbour.co.uk</a></p> <p>Showcase of the latest designs from 120 high-end interior brands: fabrics, wall coverings, furniture, lighting, accessories and carpets. Seminars and lectures from design experts</p>	<p><b>Decorex International</b> September 23-26 Royal Hospital Chelsea, SW3 020 7833 3373 <a href="http://www.decorex.com">www.decorex.com</a></p> <p>Now in its 30th year, the fair has 260 exhibitors. Top-end, aimed at interior-design professionals, featuring high-quality products. Fabrics, wallpapers, furniture, bed linen, lighting and rugs, along with bespoke products</p>	<p><b>The Great Big Home &amp; Furniture Store</b> September 28-30 Earl's Court, SW5 <a href="http://greatbighomeandfurniturestore.com">greatbighomeandfurniturestore.com</a></p> <p>Top manufacturers, big brands and specialist retailers offering goods for the home at sale prices — from Italian leather sofas to oak dining sets and televisions</p>