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Fit for a Prince: Highgrove's craftsmen
Why London is interior-design heaven this week

London Design

Destination for design

The design eyes of the world are focused on the capital this week during the London Design Festival. Arabella Youens and Rachel Ogden pick their highlights from two must-visit shows opening this weekend

OVER the next few days, the great and the good of the creative-design world will descend on London, with hundreds of London Design Festival events taking place across the city (until September 21, 020-7242 6022; www.londondesignfestival.com).

Then, as the festival draws to a close, the two largest interior-design events of the year will open their doors. Decorex International, which opens on Sunday in Syon Park, west London (until September 24, 020-7921 8406; www.decorex.com), brings together the *crème de la crème* of good design. The general public is only allowed access for one afternoon, on Tuesday, September 23 (tickets £30), so our guide to the top 10 stands suggests how to make the most of the time available.

Closer to town, Focus/14 also opens on Sunday at the Design Centre, Chelsea Harbour, SW10 (020-7225 9166; www.dch.co.uk). This is an action-packed four-day programme of talks and events, full of opportunities to hear direct from the designers. On pages 122-126, we give a sneak preview of some new product launches.



Sir John Soane's Museum

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Decorex preview Top 10 stands

1. The entrance

This year's theme is 'The Georgians' and the eight scenes from William Hogarth's series of paintings 'A Rake's Progress' have been reinterpreted by contemporary designers, all in partnership with the Sir John Soane's Museum. Nigel Coates will create *The Levee*; Fromental and Russell Sage, *The Orgy*; de Gournay is designing *The Marriage*; Harlequin London and Martin Kemp combine to create *The Gaming House*; Shaun Clarkson will create *The Prison*; and Timorous Beasties and Retrouvius will focus on *The Madhouse*. Finally, Soane Britain and Edward Bulmer will concentrate on *The Heir* (above).

2. Future Heritage

Future Heritage, the major exhibition at Decorex this year, features works by 21 designer/makers chosen by the design and applied-arts critic Corinne Julius to inspire greater collaboration between the worlds of interior design and contemporary crafts. Taking inspiration from the setting of Syon Park, the exhibits reflect the 18th-century

My Decorex: Janine Stone

THIS year, I shall be heading to **Future Heritage**. I'm intrigued to see the ceramicist Hitomi Hosono's work, which uses intricate leaf and foliage sculptures, as her take on colour is remarkable. I'll also be interested to see how the venue houses the exhibition—Syon Park is an inspiring setting.

Exhibitors that have caught my eye in recent months include **Talisman** (stand C38) and the Brooklyn-based furniture company **SENTIENT** (H40). Both brands have craftsmanship at their heart, working with natural materials and allowing them to take centre stage.



I'm also looking forward to Sue Crewe's conversations with Nina Campbell and Tara Bernerd.

Janine Stone is founder creative director Janine Stone

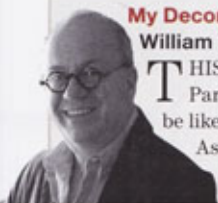




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My Decorex:

William Yeoward



THIS year at Syon Park, it's going to be like coming home.

As an original Decorex exhibitor,

I loved our years at Syon with space and privilege, architecture and historical reference. I'm looking forward to my conversation with Giles Kime (September 23, 3pm) on the importance of the past as an influence on the future. I believe we'll see the future at Decorex 2014, so come and see if I'm right.

I'm also looking forward to debuting my **three new fabric collections**—Marlena, Library and Alberesque—which incorporate my passion for indigo, woad and denim, as well as the introduction of my second collection of historical furniture, in a combination of rich hues and natural colours that complement each other beautifully.

William Yeoward is a home-ware and interiors designer (stand H53)

spirit of improvement and innovation, combining intellectual processes and new technology and materials with the finest skills of craftsmanship.

They span a range of disciplines, from ceramics—see Felicity Aylieff vessels made with traditional processes in China (pictured) and Michael Eden's 3D printed ceramics inspired by Wedgwood and Sèvres—to glass, metalwork and textiles.

The curator will be giving seminars on commissioning and collecting contemporary craft and design.

3. FRONT London

The rug emporium will be sending one of its master weavers from Nepal to hand-knot Jan Kath's Erased Heritage, Tabriz Canal Aerial rug during the show. These striking rugs have been described as 'antiques of the future' and feature a clever rubbed-out effect that's spot on for faded glamour in country houses.

Stand J53

4. Harlequin London

Jamie Horton, managing director of Harlequin London, believes that Decorex is the interior-design show 'with character'. He launched the brand—a one-stop, high-end shop for tableware, decorative accessories and lighting—

My Decorex: Ashley Hicks

DECOREX has been part of my life since I showed my first furniture there, at Syon Park in 1997. How nice that it will be back at Syon this year. Obviously, I'd recommend Ashley Hicks at **Alternative Flooring** (stand E56), but also **Carolina Irving Textiles** (D23)—I adore both her and her beautiful fabrics.



Cox London (B50) has elegant and eccentric furniture and lighting, all painstakingly made in London. I particularly love its Serpent table. I found **CTO Lighting's** (D35) Abstract brass wall-light last year at Decorex and have used it ever since. I'm a fan of **Fine Cell Work** (C20) and have commissioned various things, including a needle-work ottoman cover, which was executed beautifully by four different prisoners. **Melodi Horne** (G83) has very pretty lampshades and I love **Stevensons of Norwich's** (E72) National Trust range of cornices. **Ashley Hicks is an interior designer**



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My Decorex: Will Fisher

ANOTHER person who is delighted by the return of Decorex to Syon Park this year is Will Fisher, who co-founded (with his wife, Charlotte), the antiques and reproduction house Jamb (*COUNTRY LIFE*, April 2, 2014). I'm looking forward to the 'In Conversation' that Sue Crewe is hosting on Sunday, September 21 at 12pm with Ben Pentreath, Nina Campbell and Tara Bernard. Other stands he's planning to visit are the ever-popular **Stevensons of Norwich** (E72) and **Sir John Soane's Museum** (B19).

