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LONDON DESIGN FESTIVAL

RAYMOND BLANC ON
TRANSFORMING
LE MANOIR'S GARDEN

*Pattern,
colour & style*

*We reveal the best
of this season's fabrics*



LONDON DESIGN FESTIVAL 2014

There's no better place for design lovers than London in September, when a raft of exciting launches, installations and exhibitions takes place across the capital. From individual makers' open studios to large-scale design shows, we share our highlights of this year's 12-day event

FEATURE SARAH BALDWIN ILLUSTRATIONS ORLANDO HOETZEL



DECOREX

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THE BEST NEWCOMERS

1 | The Heritage Collection, from £75m, Liberty Art Fabrics, 020 7734 1234, liberty.co.uk.

2 | Gideon Hatch Coral hand-knotted rug, £720sq m, Gideon Hatch, 020 7498 5574, gideonhatch.co.uk.

3 | Portman headboard in Bisson Bruneel Polyabaca Paille and Dedar Adam & Eve (edge), prices on request; Herald Superb mattress with Prestige divan, £4,500, Vispring, 0800 592952, vispring.co.uk.

With an exhibitor list that reads like a who's-who of interiors, Decorex is one of the biggest events in the LDF calendar. More than 350 brands take a stand (about a third are new to the show this year) and there's a lively seminar programme. This year, it moves to Syon Park, one of London's great houses, which will make a stunning stage for an exhibition that is taking the Georgians as its theme. To tie in with this, the entrance is inspired by William Hogarth's *A Rake's Progress*. Created in collaboration with Sir John Soane's Museum, it will feature contemporary takes on Hogarth's scenes by talents such as Nigel Coates, De Gournay and Shaun Clarkson. Meanwhile, Future Heritage, a selection of names to collect in British craft curated by critic Corinne Julius, is another must-see feature.

TAKE THE FLOOR

An exciting unveiling at this year's show is Quirky B: Alternative Flooring's new broadloom carpet collection created in collaboration with designers Ashley Hicks and Margo Selby. Our favourite is the Hicks' Chainmail design (below). £95.85sq m; its angular lines will work in any room. Contact 01264 335111, alternativeflooring.com.



FABRIC WATCH

The latest ranges by Altfield feature an exciting blend of lively pattern and rich texture. Included in the mix is the Affinity collection by Bretano (right), from £104m – we love the delicate texture and hues. Contact 020 7351 5893, altfield.com.



LONDON LUXURY

Savoir Beds will be at the show to feature its new Savoy, £11,381 (left). As the name suggests, it was created to celebrate the famous hotel's 125th anniversary. We can't wait to see it. Contact 020 8838 4838, savoirbeds.co.uk.

WHEN 21-24 September.
WHERE Syon Park, London Road, TW8 8JF.
FIND OUT MORE decorex.com.

DESIGN CRITIC CORINNE JULIUS

The curator of Future Heritage on craft



How did your link with Decorex come about? I was aware that there was relatively little modern craft or design at the show. It seemed to me that many visitors might have the projects and budgets to work with makers, but lack the knowledge and expertise to find one. I approached Simone du Bois of Decorex and she asked me to put my money where my mouth was.

Tell us your take on the historical theme. The Georgians were inveterate experimenters. Their designs were the result of exploring techniques and manipulating forms, materials and methods. My selection shows makers who have similarly high standards, engaging with ideas and innovation: they are present-day Georgians.

What is your aim with the show? I want visitors to see that craft is a field of enormous interest to them. I have a deep respect for today's makers. They produce functional art, at a price way below mundane reproductions. I also want to demystify commissioning.

Can you offer advice on this process? The first thing is to look and look again. Ask questions and handle objects. Consider what you like and why, before you even think of commissioning. And enjoy it; you are buying a slice of the maker's ingenuity and something to pass on to future generations. Open studios and artist-owned galleries are good places to start your search. >

