

Design District Creates

The festival of ideas and innovation in
London's new creative hub – 15 September to
17 October



Design District is a permanent home for the creative industries – 16 buildings by eight pioneering architects, one minute from North Greenwich Underground station.

Design District is beginning with a bang. This September, London's new hub for creativity officially opens on Greenwich Peninsula, marking the occasion with a packed programme of talks, events and exhibitions to complement September's creative-industry events schedule, including London Design Festival and London Fashion Week.

Design District Creates gives the public the first opportunity to properly explore their pioneering new development in London: an architecturally progressive, dedicated centre for the UK creative industries, and the home of a dynamic community of makers from across the spectrum of creative disciplines, at all stages of their careers.

Two of the district's 16 buildings will be given over to design and art exhibitions running into October – including Art Block, in collaboration with NOW Gallery – and, following the official opening of Design District on 15 September, a series of headline talks will take place on 21–23 September, exploring hot-button issues across design, fashion, craft and creative innovation. Other highlights include an e-bike pop-up for Polestar, a new hoarding project by artist Lois O'Hara, and Smile Plastics transforming Liz West's installation Hundreds and Thousands into a collection of bespoke recycled-plastic tables to furnish Design District.

Talks programme

During London Design festival, Nick Compton of Wallpaper* curates a three-day programme of conversations with leading thinkers and makers from across the creative world, covering topics ranging from the post-pandemic future of collaboration to how to design for sustainability in the long term.

The talks take place in the Design District twice a day, at 2pm and 6.30pm, from Tuesday 21 to Thursday 23 September.

Tuesday 21 September

2pm *Big problems, bigger ideas: The promise of design activism*

As an emerging generation of creatives seeks to make positive change in the world, actively tackling issues such as sustainability, diversity, representation, inclusion and accessibility, some of the leading figureheads discuss the future of design activism.

Chair: Suhair Khan – founder of activist design platform Open/Ended, former head of Google Arts and now part of Strategic Projects at Google.

Panel includes:

- Sachini Imbuldeniya – founder and managing director, Studio PI, an agency representing photographers and illustrators of colour, and creative director of Bridge Studios.
- Joseph Henry – senior project officer at Greater London Authority and co-founder of architecture diversity platform Sound Advice.

6.30pm *Coming unstitched: Can fashion fix itself?*

Every facet of the fashion industry – design, marketing, retail, logistics – is under more scrutiny than ever before. As fashion faces a barrage of criticism from all angles – from environmental responsibility to identity politics – a panel of designers and fashion leaders considers what happens next.

Chair: Sarah Mower – ambassador for emerging talent at the British Fashion Council, head of its #NewGen committee and Vogue Runway’s chief critic.

Panel: to be confirmed

Wednesday 22 September

2pm *Collaboration: Make friends and influence people*

Although ‘collab’ is a buzzword of contemporary consumer culture, attached to any number of cynical marketing ploys, genuine, constructive collaboration can lead to real, industry-changing innovation and insight. After the pandemic blew open the possibilities of digital collaboration, a forward-thinking panel explores the possibilities of physical and virtual collaboration in the modern creative world.

Chair: Nick Compton, contributing editor and former features director of Wallpaper*

Panel includes:

- Daniel Bailey – footwear designer and founder of footwear research Concept Kicks

4pm – Challenging Exhibition Waste: Exploring Regenerative Design

NOW Gallery’s cultural projects commissioner Kaia Charles, Bureau architect Roz Barr, and Smile Plastics’ Emily Skinner hold a panel discussion about ways of recycling and repurposing art-industry waste streams.

6.30pm – *Craft, code, print and grow: Tools for modern making*

In a world where ‘creative’ increasingly seems to describe digital work, it’s easy to forget the people who are involved in physical making. The panel discusses topics including the future of making and manufacturing at every scale, the sometimes-strained relationship between design and technology, material research and the perilous temptation of nostalgia when it comes to craft.

Chair: Annie Warbuton – CEO of Cockpit Arts

Panel includes:

- Bisila Noha – ceramicist and co-director of arts and activism organisation Lon-art

Thursday 23 September

2pm – *Creative spaces: Better places for better practice*

The pandemic has changed how we create, how we collaborate, how we use spaces and what we need from them. How have our needs evolved and what does the ideal creative space look like, now and in future?

Chair: Nick Compton, contributing editor and former features director of Wallpaper*

Panel includes:

- Roz Barr – founder of Roz Barr Architects designer of Bureau at Design District
- Rosie Haslem – director of strategy and design collective Streetsense, former director of Spacelab, co-founder of Young Urbanists group, and visiting lecturer at Bartlett School of Architecture
- Akil Scafe-Smith – master’s alumnus from the Bartlett Development Planning Unit and co-founder of interdisciplinary design collective RESOLVE

6.30pm – *Deep time: Design for now and the seventh generation*

Sustainability is a major issue in every creative industry, but lasting change demands more than quick fixes. How might we develop a model for sustainable design that recognises the need for the immediate change while accounting for impact seven generations from now?

Chair: to be confirmed

Panel includes:

- Yosuke Ushigome – director at design-innovation practice Takram
- Leanne Elliott-Young – co-founder and CEO of The Institute of Digital Fashion (IoDF), and Commune East

Exhibitions programme

Until 17 October, two of Design District's buildings will be given over to free-to-attend exhibitions, showcasing the work of some of the most exciting emerging UK talents in art and design in London.



Art Block

A collaboration between Design District and the neighbouring NOW Gallery, the Art Block exhibition will take over all three floors of building D4 by Barozzi Veiga.



Building D4 by Barozzi Veiga with artwork by Vince Fraser that will be displayed at Art Block, a collaboration between Design District and NOW Gallery.

Each floor will house an exhibition of a single artist:

- Human Stories: the Surrealist – a showcase of evocative 'afro surrealist' works by motion graphics and digital artist Vince Fraser
- Images of Broken Light – a retrospective and new works from fine art photographer Charles Emerson
- Memories of Gigabytes – a series of installations exploring memory by researcher, designer and visual artist Lisa Wolf, in collaboration with Kvadrat



Design showcases

6a architect's stunning terrazzo clad building A2 presents a selection of contemporary design from a range of disciplines, showcasing some of the most exciting emerging talents and start-ups:

- Master woodworker Tristan Hibberd merges furniture design and art to create a series of origami artworks, which visitors will be invited to contribute to over the course of the exhibition.
- Specialist in 3D printing, Glowdog's Felix Fried reveals the process behind the creation of his sculptural lampshades, from design and prototyping to final 3D printing.

- Sustainable womenswear designer Pejou Obasu exhibits her richly colourful and beautifully textured contemporary designs, drawing on her Nigerian roots to deliver the unexpected.
- Nathan Philpott and Jemma Ooi's research-based design practice Cushtom displays a collection of handmade wallpapers, ceramics, textiles and designed products that experiment with tactility and graphic-led design.

Art into design

In another collaboration with NOW Gallery, Design District has invited the recycling-driven materials studio Smile Plastics to transform Liz West's art installation Hundreds and Thousands into tabletops to furnish Design District buildings. The artwork spanned 00 metres of walkway in the elevated linear park the Tide, wrapping the balustrade in a ribbon of shifting colours. Demonstrating how regenerative design might be applied to address art's post-exhibition waste, Smile Plastics are transforming West's vinyls into panels of recycled plastic that will then become tabletops in members club Bureau – as well as keyring for Design District tenants.

NOW Gallery's cultural projects commissioner Kaia Charles, Bureau architect Roz Barr, and Smile Plastics' Emily Skinner will hold a panel discussion about the project at 4pm on Wednesday 22 September.

The Greenwich Designpost

For 2021, London Design Festival has joined forces with the American Hardwood Export Council (AHEC) and the furniture maker Benchmark to create a series of 'Designposts' – sculptural way markers for each of the festival's 10 constituent districts.

Each one is being designed by a selected student designer or recent graduate, with Jason Brooker of the Bartlett School of Architecture being chosen to create the Design District installation. His design in American red oak references the various creative cultures and traditions that have developed in Greenwich throughout its rich history and which now have a permanent home here. The 'masts' of the Designpost are engraved with all the creative disciplines practised by Design District tenants.

The work also pays tribute to the area's maritime past through the sail-like structure of the piece and the traditional hemp rope used throughout.

More highlights

- Artist Lois O'Hara unveils colourful wave-inspired artworks for the hoardings of buildings B3 and D3.
- One of the most architecturally striking buildings in Design District, the Canteen by SelgasCano will be open to offer visitors food and drink throughout Design District Creates. Filled with living greenery and encased in a transparent shell, the caterpillar-like structure will provide an atmospheric spot to rest and refresh during the event.

Visit designdistrict.co.uk for the full Design District Creates programme.

Notes to editors

For more information about Design District's opening and the Design District Creates programme, please contact Rupert Evans-Harding at designdistrict@zetteler.co.uk

Design District

At the heart of Greenwich Peninsula, Design District is London's first permanent, purpose-built hub for the creative industries.

Conceived and developed by Knight Dragon, and designed by eight leading architects, the Design District's collection of 16 unique buildings supports an ecosystem of 1,800 creatives, encompassing individual makers, ambitious start-ups, ground-breaking enterprises and industry leaders.

The closest Tube station is North Greenwich (30 metres). The Jubilee line (24-hour on Friday and Saturday), gets you to London Bridge in eight minutes and Waterloo in 11.

Rent a light-filled studio, a floor or an entire building for just £5 per sqft rent for the first year. With affordable spaces, comprehensive facilities and flexible leases, everything is designed to help creative Londoners thrive.

designdistrict.co.uk

Greenwich Peninsula

Greenwich Peninsula is fast becoming the capital's most boldly modern landscape, with 15,000 new homes, 13,000 new jobs and 48 acres of open public space emerging over the coming years. Here, a community of thousands of pioneers have the opportunity to live in new riverside homes, work in a cutting-edge Design District and enjoy a new linear park, the Tide – all wrapped by the River Thames. This is new London: a destination for modern urban living.

greenwichpeninsula.co.uk

Knight Dragon

Knight Dragon is an entrepreneurial urban regenerator and property developer. It creates places, builds properties and invests in related projects that bring new ideas and set new standards for urban living. The team uses creativity and collaboration to innovate. Backed by Dr Henry Cheng, Chairman of New World Development Company Ltd and Chow Tai Fook Jewellery Group Ltd, and led by entrepreneur Sammy Lee, Knight Dragon has a solid foundation and a global outlook. Its flagship

project is Greenwich Peninsula in London, where the team is delivering a new district that encapsulates Knight Dragon's approach and expertise in creative placemaking.

knightdragon.com