

Primer | What Not to Miss at This Year's London Design Festival

DESIGN
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SEPTEMBER 14, 2013 1:23 PM



By Nick Barr. Omer Arbel's "28.280," a collaboration with Bocci, at the Victoria and Albert Museum.

The 11th annual London Design Festival opens today and runs through Sept. 22, promising once again the high-level events and exhibitions that have made it a can't-miss on the design-fair circuit. Here, the destinations to hit:

The Victoria and Albert Museum

For the fifth consecutive year, the design museum will serve as the festival's hub, housing a number of site-specific installations. The splashiest is Omer Arbel's eight-story-high "28.280" chandelier, which hangs from the cupola just inside the main entrance. The title refers to the 28 Series of pendant lights he designed for the Canadian design firm Bocci, 280 of which form the piece. Among the other installations are FAT Architecture's cork-tile floor in a trompe-l'oeil geometric pattern and "The Wind Portal" by Najla El Zein, a wall of 5,000 paper windmills. And "God Is in the Details," created by designers like Tom Dixon, Faye Toogood, and Paul Cockshedge, is an interactive installation that invites visitors to look at the permanent collection through specialized lenses from Swarovski. To hear about what the actual designers saw when they peered through the lenses themselves, there will be a panel on the 19th at 12:30 pm.

Viladas, Pilar. "Primer | What Not to Miss at This Year's London Design Festival," *T Magazine*, September 14, 2013.

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