

The Clerkenwell Post

ISSUE 15 • SEPTEMBER / OCTOBER 2013

FREE



BORING

DRILLING THROUGH
FARRINGDON
THE CROSSRAIL LATEST

PLUS

100% DESIGN
PREVIEW

SKULLS AND SPECIMENS
INSIDE BARTS PATHOLOGY MUSEUM

A LIFE IN
BOOKS

ERIC
PARRY



Tour Zaha Hadid's gallery
 16-22 September
 Clerkenwell-based architect Zaha Hadid is behind some of the world's most instantly recognizable structures including the Guangzhou Opera House in China and the London Aquatics Centre in Stratford's Olympic Park. During LDF, Zaha Hadid Design Gallery is offering the chance for small, pre-booked groups to tour its Studio. You'll get to take a look at its latest designs and see architecture models from the archive. Hadid has also teamed up with Samsung to unveil a vision for 'Retail of Tomorrow' at 100% Design, using design and tech to create a futuristic shopping experience. Visit Samsung's stand at 100% to discover more.
 Zaha Hadid Design Gallery, 101 Goswell Road, London EC1V 7EZ.
www.zaha-hadid-design.com
www.100percentdesign.co.uk

Retail Facility Pop-Up Shop
 17-20 September
 Retail Facility is popping up at Industrial Facility's design studio, previewing Sam Hecht and Kim Colin's new desktop accessories collection Formwork™ designed for Herman Miller. There will also be a 10% discount on all Retail Facility products, so mark your diary for some quality retail therapy.
 Retail Facility, 20 Britton Street, London EC1M 5UA.
www.retailfacility.co.uk

Explore the Barbican
 14-22 September
 Wander the Barbican's highwalks and learn more about its history at an architectural tour. These 90 minute guided walks will take you around both the exterior and interior parts of the centre, where your guide will reveal more about the history of the site and the plans behind its design. The tours form

part of the Barbi's Urban Wandering season of films and talks exploring London's landscape, focusing on the East End. www.barbican.org.uk

Get the Royal treatment
 Royal Mosa is throwing open the doors of its new Architectural Ceramic Centre during LDF. The luxury ceramics and tiles specialist is celebrating the opening of its St John Street showroom on 18 September by offering free consultations with an interior designer, along with a 20% discount off every quotation. www.mosa.nl

East meets West

The London Design Festival is back from 14-22 September. Much of the action focuses on Clerkenwell in the east and the V&A and 100% Design in west London, so Yvonne Courtney has put together a handy guide to the best events in these two creative hotspots...

100% Design
 18-21 September 2013
 London's landmark design fair, 100% Design is a must-visit for anyone working in or interested in contemporary design. The interiors show is now in its second year under new owners Media 10 (the company behind Clerkenwell Design Week, Grand Designs Live and The Clerkenwell Post) and is expected to attract over 30,000 visitors. This year's stellar line-up of speakers includes architects Richard Rogers, Eric Parry and Nigel Coates, plus furniture design legend Giulio Cappellini. Exhibitor highlights include:
The Super Design Market
 This new shopping area in 100%'s interiors section will feature ceramics, textiles, glassware and plastics. Items on sale include everything from Kaaita's chic Hende XL laundry bag to Kwamecorp's Josiah Wireless Speaker, and will reflect key trends and techniques in small scale and mass production design.
Collectionism
 Part of Central St Martin's Textiles Futures showcase, this project

explores people's tendency to acquire and collect objects, even when they are not of immediate use. It aims to facilitate a more meaningful relationship between objects and people, while finding new design solutions for 'defunct' components.
 100% Design, Earls Court Exhibition Centre, 2 Warwick Road, SW5 9TA.
www.100percentdesign.co.uk

The Dinner Party at the V&A
 14-22 September
 The London Design Festival joined forces with the V&A in 2009 and its installations and events seem to get ever more daring and intriguing. One highlight this year is The Dinner Party, which invites visitors to interrupt a deserted dinner gathering, the music still playing softly. The Norfolk House Music Room in the British Galleries will provide a theatrical backdrop for this seemingly lived-in setting, with contemporary tableware from Dutch studio Scholten & Baijings contrasting against the French-style panelled interiors.
 V&A, Cromwell Road, London SW7 2RL. www.vam.ac.uk

Bums on Seats at Ally Capellino West
 15-22 September
 Accessories designer Ally Capellino brings her aesthetic to the iconic British-made tubular stacking chair. Using the premise 'Bums on Seats', Capellino looks at the way we position ourselves while seated – 'left leaning' or 'knees up' for example. She has designed variations on this theme, adapting the chairs with materials and techniques used in her signature leather bags. She's also produced a film referencing the 1957 Oscar-winning short 'A Chairy Tale' with long-time collaborator Donald Christie and a 'Bums on Seats' installation with Rupert Blanchard, which will be shown at Capellino's shop in Notting Hill. The trio will discuss the project at the V&A on 19 September.
 Ally Capellino, 312 Portobello Road, London, W10 5RU.
www.allycapellino.co.uk

Yvonne Courtney is a design and consumer culture PR strategist, writer and curator. www.yvonnecourtney.com
www.100percentdesign.co.uk



DESIGN GURU

&C1-based architect Eric Parry established his award-winning practice in 1983. He has since been President of the Architectural Association and is renowned for his empathy for London's dense urban fabric. Ahead of his talk at September's 100% Design, he talks to **Yvonne Courtney** about craft, ceramics and a special community project right in the heart of Clerkenwell...



Is Clerkenwell a good place for an architect to be?

It's spectacular. Not because it's rarefied, but more because of the St Luke's Church and Barbican axis, and Whitecross Street and its street market running between the two. It gets better every day.

When and why did you move your firm towards Old St?

We were in Saffron Hill before moving to Banner Street nine years ago. As the rents went up, we went with the rental flow. We're deeply embedded in the area.

What do you like most about Clerkenwell – do you have a favourite building?

I have a love/hate relationship with the Barbican towers [Parry lives in the adjacent Golden Lane Estate] which are rather like a Max Ernst petrified forest. My favourite building has to be St Luke's and its Hawksmoor obelisk.

What project are you most proud of?

Our community and social project at The Charterhouse. In partnership with the Museum of London and with funding by the Heritage Lottery Fund, this will see parts of the site opened to visitors and schoolchildren for the first time in its 642-year history. It's a living museum and a privilege to work on. The project involves the redesign of Charterhouse Square, creating a new entrance and museum facilities and refurbishing some of the existing rooms. [For the history of The Charterhouse see Post, issue 13.]

Are events like 100% Design important to the industry?

There was a big gap before 100% Design was launched. 100% Design reflects London's growing creativity – it stands for something important. It has gathered pace and gives impetus and focus to the showrooms. It's so exciting seeing all the new products.

What is your involvement with 100% Design?

I will be giving a talk exploring the ceramic buildings in Iran and the Topkapi Palace in Istanbul, and exploring the relationship between colour and texture through the crafting of artificial surfaces as seen in our projects such as the silk-screened transfer technique at Eagle Place in Piccadilly and the over-glazes at the Holburne Museum of Art in Bath.

ARCHITECTURE IS IN A STRONG PERIOD – FRESH AND INNOVATIVE

Do you think architecture and design is going through a strong period? Does the industry need more support?

Architecture is in a strong period – fresh and innovative. I'm preoccupied with what can lift architecture above building. There's a sense that industry dominates building. We need to get architecture embedded into industry.

You have designed a bench – do you have any more furniture design plans or collaborations in the pipeline?

That was shown at Clerkenwell Design Week and yes, it marks a focus on product design and the start of a series including fabrics and ironmongery. Getting involved with traditions that are all but dead which, as a designer, I can help resuscitate by showing how materials can be used in a contemporary way. Craft matters.

Eric Parry's talk Ceramics - The Crafting of Artifice in association with Turkishceramics takes place at 100% Design, Earls Court on 18 September. 100% Design is officially the UK's largest design trade event with over 25,000 visitors including architects, interior designers, retailers and designers. The event is held from 18-21 September and is the biggest event during the London Design Festival. www.100percentdesign.co.uk

Eric Parry Architects celebrates its 30th anniversary this autumn with the third volume of its Eric Parry Architects monograph series (Artifice, £24.95)

PETER'S PERSPECTIVE



Why two award-winning Clerkenwell constructions represent a new breed of London buildings...

326 Downstairs is a new addition to the offices of architects Bennetts Associates in St John Street. It's the final phase in a 12-year project to upgrade the 18th Century barn that houses this very modern design practice, and it recently won Best Office Design at the 2013 New London Architecture (NLA) Awards.

The barn once provided shelter to livestock before being driven down to Smithfield for sale or slaughter. When Rab and Denise Bennetts discovered the building it was near collapse. They restored it to form the 'hub' of their practice, with exposed brickwork and airy open-plan offices. Bennetts Associates sees bringing redundant buildings back into re-use as key to reducing the carbon footprint of building.

Another local winner in the NLA Awards was Clerkenwell Close-based architect Amin Taha - best known in the area for his wonderfully gutsy, rusting cladding for Gazzano House on Farringdon Road. The judges were impressed by Taha's conversion of 115 Golden Lane, originally workshops for clockmakers and button manufacturers. It is now home to Jefferson Hack, co-founder of Dazed and Confused, and his MAD Agency. The architects stripped out all recent additions – partitions, suspended floors and ceilings – leaving the exposed brickwork and large high-ceilinged spaces.

These two buildings epitomise the historical changes that have taken place in Clerkenwell; from rustic and industrial use to centre of the burgeoning creative economy. They also represent a key aspect of new architecture in London – the confidence to bring together cutting-edge design and traditional architecture to create environments that reflect the best of both worlds.

New London Awards Show and Tell presented by Peter Murray, 18 September at 100% Design, Earls Court London. www.100percentdesign.co.uk Peter Murray is Chairman of NLA www.newlondonarchitecture.org