

WORKING TITLE

FOR THE OCCASION OF THE 2009 LONDON DESIGN FESTIVAL

Original chair arch, photographed by Duncan Riches in Alex Hellum's studio.



Entering the Victoria and Albert Museum I walked into the John Madejski garden expecting to see the towering chair arch by Wallpaper magazine. From a distance I thought I'd got what I was looking for, but alas it turned out to be a toddler under the arch, and perspective playing tricks.

Its unfortunate, the arch itself is visually pleasing, but set against the architecture and scale of the v&a, its is underwhelming. Its a shame that a designer can get scale so wrong, often an offshoot of designing solely on computers, or perhaps in this case limitations in budget.

The original arch which inspired this miniature attempt was created in High Wycombe in 1877 to mark the visit of Queen Victoria, from an era when arches were used to celebrate special occasions.

The original antique arch being grander in scale, and more ad-hoc in finish and nature, with the largest chair arch containing 400 chairs, this latest version around 80. Over 100 years later, and 1/4 of the scale, progress.

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Text: Ian Atkins

Man's descent down stairs foiled by giant teacup



IMAGE OF THE DAY



Word on the grapevine is that Tent London successfully shot design in foot by turning away a potentially powerful, high profile connessuir and buyer, Victoria Beckham. Why, because she came early, no surprise really I'm sure she wanted to browse in peace. Too cool for school, or just too stupid?

TENT Tent Give Posh the Push Pic - <http://yfrog.com/2p9uej> (Thanks to @Moregeous for line) #ldf09 #incidental9:58 AM Sep 22nd



10 MINUTES UNTIL CLOSING...

If like me you have found yourself visiting 100% on the last day of design week or have scheduled an hour to trawl the contents of Earls Court two, then there are three things that you must see before you leave- all doable in ten minutes.

10-Minutes

If you haven't already seen... from UCA the home made rotational moulding machine, a reaction to the way in which materials and processes are taught by two recent graduates, Andrew Duffy and Craig Tyler. Powered by a power drill, it's a nod to the Heath Robinson types amongst us. Already exhibited earlier this year at new designers they are 'on tour' shortly exhibiting in both Birmingham and Newcastle. Watch this space...

7-Minutes

Give new materials a squeeze and Chris Lefteri's 100% Materials stand. My favourites are #1123, #1002, #92. 150 new materials on show without the hard sell.

5-Minutes

On the way out pop into 'Ten', a group of 10 designers who annually exhibit at 100%. This year they tackle the 'sustainability issue', using digital processes to re invent used materials. The results are eclectic but considerate. Not a whiff of shabby chic!

...Home time.

Text: Laura Hasting

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"I like to know who I'm sitting on"

Truman Brewery, brick lane: it has become a very sellable brand, having been tweeted the shit out of by Rachel Isherwood, tagged all over the place. Tent has always been a nice little package, promising a variety of stuff for all to see, but to me it has never really gelled, seeming somewhat disparate.

Here is my selection of stuff from Tent.

OLD FURNITURE STILL BETTER THAN NEW

Tent once again puts vintage furniture alongside new stuff, design clash, but again the old furniture comes out on top, especially in comparison with the Mona Lisa chair by Korean designer Kwang Hoo Lee, Retranslation of Readymade

www.hoosdesign.com

LOTS OF OLD CLOCKS BUT STILL NEED A WATCH

A whole wall of old clocks, lovely of course but not in a semi trade show context.

"BACKS ARE BAD NEWS IN A NEWSPAPER"

Barbara Chandler shares a little nugget from her years of experience in the publishing industry as she tells me about her lovely images from Poland. It was good to see photography in a design event, it gave the other work in the exhibition some background and context.

VISIONS OF POLAND

An exhibition of photographs by Barbara Chandler
www.barbarachandler.co.uk

POLSKA FOLK

TENT DIGITAL DARK

MAX FRASER INTERN BORED AND NEEDS A WEE

"he went out for lunch two hours ago and still hasn't come back"

SELLING LOADS OF PLASTIC CUPS TO SAVE THE WORLD

Australian company Keep Cup fills a table with plastic cups and watches them sell like cakes hotter than hot cakes, it's amazing what people buy. Perhaps Tent had weakened everyone's defence and they felt like they had to consume something more rewarding, achieved by buying something physical. Apparently 1.8 billion paper cups are disposed of every year in the UK to quote Mr Stuart Forsyth, the persistent salesman behind the table. If you want to be sustainable then let's just produce nothing apart from events and occasions the excite and inspire. Or just stay at home, how negative.

www.keepcup.com



guest illustrator: Miles Dodd

Brompton on a Brompton



As part of their curation of 100% Design this year, Jamie from Jam asked a bunch of his friends if they could contribute in some way. Amongst those asked was cycling obsessive Richard from SUSD who put two and two together: 100% Design is in the "Brompton" area, and there exists a famous foldable bike of the same name. And that is how the "Brompton Bicycle Tour" was born.

The Brompton Bicycle Tour starts outside Earl's Court 2, and is a free tour of galleries along the design trail and around the Brompton area. Several Brompton bicycles are provided for anyone who wishes to take part and after a brief demonstration of how to fold/unfold the contraptions we are away. Designed by Andrew Ritchie in 1979 the design has changed a little, but not by much. If you haven't ridden one before, the bike itself requires some time to adjust to, but once you acclimatize they are surprisingly enjoyable to use.

The first stop was the Rabih Hague shop where we were kindly given an Orangina each and shown some lovely furniture true to Rabih's beautifully subdued tone. Back on our bikes again and Skandium is our next stop, and after a short stroll

around we head off to the V&A to see the Chair Arch, constructed specifically for Design Week. After two further stops and an hour or so on the tour Richard takes us back to Earl's Court to conclude the tour. I must say this has been one of my favourite Design Festival surprises this year. This is exactly what the festival needs in London, more immersive events which broaden the experience of design and the format in which it is presented. We're in a great city which doesn't feel as though it's being used to its full potential. Much credit to Richard who managed to sustain a high level of enthusiasm for the project despite having been cycling non-stop for the past week. With no accidents yet I hope the bike tour will return again next year for people to enjoy, and that organizers can take inspiration from looking at design curation and presentation and how broad the possibilities are in this city.

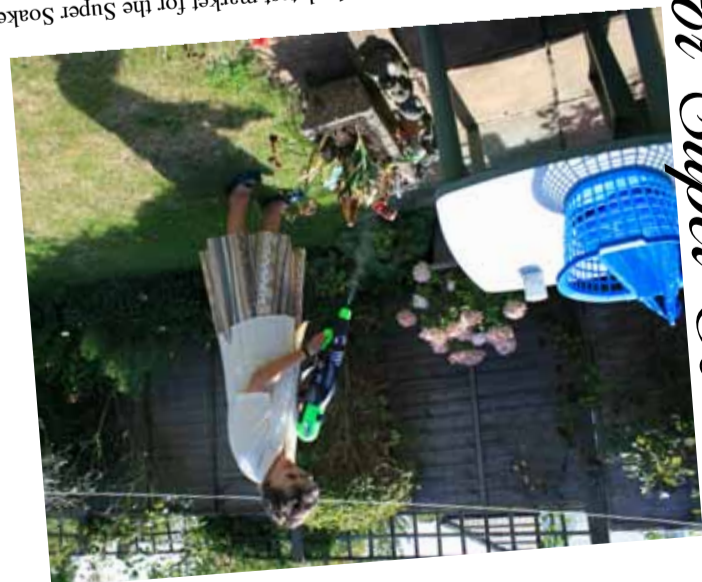
Thanks to Richard for taking us around and Charlie for looking after the bikes.

Text: David Wilson

Over sixties are emerging as the latest market for the Super Soaker: (the large water pistol with pump action). The squirting action is fast becoming a household item amongst senior citizens as the method of choice for moving on rooftops. The Super Soaker turns out beds and seagulls perched on rooftops. The Super Soaker turns out to be an effective alternative for watering a variety of pot plants. "It was Hettie from across the road who one got first" explained Edna White, 79 from Brighton, who went on joke: "Well I was never allowed one as girl..."

Text: Lorna Robertson
Image: Catriona Robertson

With special thanks to Barbara Chandler for her ongoing support and consultancy for this independent publication.



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