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Clerkenwell Design Week opens its 2023 edition with visitor registrations up 50% Until 25 May 2023



Above left: Gateway by Steve Messam in collaboration with SketchUp (Image: Sam Frost)
Above right: Telephone boxes by Steve Messam sponsored by Budvar (Image: Sam Frost)



[Tuesday, 23 May 2023] [Clerkenwell Design Week](#) (CDW), the UK's largest and free design festival, is back in EC1 London with its most extensive programme yet – featuring more than 600 events. Opened today (until 25 May 2023) with pre-registrations up by 50% (vs 2022), the 12th edition of CDW takes place across the whole of Clerkenwell, a neighbourhood renowned for its high concentration of architects and designers.

The 2023 festival sees a total of [11 exhibition venues](#) presenting [more than 300 design brands and makers](#) – supported by a network of [over 160 local showrooms](#) hosting a range of product launches, workshops and talks. Over the three days, architects and specifiers, interior designers and the general public alike can explore everything from new furniture and lighting to kitchens and bathrooms, materials and surfaces, decorative accessories, and more.



Above left: BAUX's installation with feature wall by Morag Myerscough (Image: Sam Frost)
Above right: Curiousa's lighting design at Light (Image: Sam Frost)



Headling this year's event is a specially commissioned, inflatable public art by British artist **Steve Messam** at St John's Gate of the Order of St John. In collaboration with SketchUp and measuring 6m high by 15.5m long, Gateway features 27 giant spikes hand-sewn in a striking blue textile. Visitors can also experience Messam's artistic treatment of the iconic, Sir Giles Gilbert Scott-designed telephone boxes. Sponsored by Budvar, they can be found on Cowcross Street, as well as on Clerkenwell Road and outside St James's Church during the festival.

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Another immersive design to look out for is Symbiocene Living: Mycelium Building Block by **PLP Architecture**. Situated on St John's Square, the modular structure is made of mycelium blocks with a 3D-printed timber shell encouraging the public to envision and engage with fungi architecture. While East London-based artist and designer, **Russell Bamber** has designed a 'ha ha' fence located on Jerusalem Passage, a whole host of brand activations also spread across Clerkenwell; from **Texxa's** unique acoustic installation to **BAUX's** temporary exhibition with feature walls by **Morag Myerscough**. Other participating brands include **Universal Fibers**, **Jennifer Newman**, **Swatchbox** and **Duffy London**.



Above: Clerkenwell Design Week 2023 (Image: Sam Frost)

New to CDW this year is a set of [design destinations](#) where key areas are highlighted as creative hubs to host installations, brand features and temporary design showcases; from **The Goldsmiths' Centre** and **Cowcross Yards** to **Paxter Locher House**, **Groupwork Architects**, **Brewhouse Yard** and **Bourne and Hollingsworth**.

Sponsored by RAK Ceramics, [Conversations at Clerkenwell](#) – a compelling schedule of daily talks exploring a series of industry topics – returns to Spa Fields and is housed in an **AirClad** structure. The three-day discussions feature headline names including **Morag Myerscough**, **Philippe Malouin**, **Nipa Doshi of Doshi Levien**, **Yuri Suzuki**, and **James Patmore of Soho Home**.

Over at Old Sessions House, in celebration of its 20th anniversary, **ICON** magazine hosts a series of intimate talks, [ICON at 20](#) (sponsored by Dyson and Humanscale) with the likes of **Mimi Shodeinde**, **Tom Dixon** and **Todd Bracher**, followed by interactive workshops with **BRIK Chocolate**.

For those interested in lighting, there is also [\[d\]arc thoughts](#), a talks programme dedicated to this subject matter at House of Detention – curated and hosted by lighting magazine **Darc** and supported by **Lutron**.

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Last but not least, as part of the [Fringe](#) programme, various design studios open their doors to visitors offering a variety of creative workshops – while they enjoy one-off discounts and deals from local [food and drink](#) partners.

The 12th edition of Clerkenwell Design Week takes place across EC1, London from now until 25 May 2023. For more information, please visit clerkenwelldesignweek.com.

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PRESS CONTACT

For press enquiries, please contact Belinda Fisher and Patricia Gill at Friends & Co: cdw@friendsandco.co.uk. Press registration: clerkenwelldesignweek.com/pr

NOTES TO EDITORS

Clerkenwell Design Week, 23 – 25 May 2023

Website: clerkenwelldesignweek.com | Instagram: [@clerkenwelldesignweek](https://www.instagram.com/clerkenwelldesignweek)

Twitter: [@cdwfestival](https://twitter.com/cdwfestival) | Facebook: [@clerkenwell.design.week](https://www.facebook.com/clerkenwell.design.week) | Hashtag: #CDW2023

2023 exhibition venues

- **Design Fields** – home to international furniture and interiors brands;
- **Contract** – home to commercial interiors;
- **Light** – home to international lighting brands;
- **Project** – home to workplace furniture and solutions;
- **Elements** – home to architectural hardware and finishes;
- **British Collection** – home to the best of British interiors brands;
- **Detail** – home to luxury interiors;
- **Platform** – home to emerging design talent;
- **Old Sessions House** – home to brand pop-ups and activations, and also the festival hub offering CDW visitors free access between 23 – 25 May;
- **Ceramics of Italy** – home to Italian tile brands; and
- **(NEW) Catapult** – home to contemporary design for office, hospitality and retail.

Visiting information

- Visitors can register for their FREE festival passes via clerkenwelldesignweek.com.
- All visitors require a visitor badge to access the exhibition venues and showroom events.
- Exhibition venues are open **10:00 – 18:00** on **Tuesday**, **10:00 – 21:00** on **Wednesday**, and **10:00 – 17:00** on Thursday. Showroom opening hours vary.
- Closest underground stations: Farringdon and Barbican
- Bus routes: 19, 341, 38, N19, N38, N41, 55, 48