

From May 21-24: Take a trip to ECI and get

in touch with your creative side among the style on show, suggests **Katherine Burnett**

Clerkenwell

DESIGN WEEK

WHETHER you want to know more about design and architecture, track down super cool furniture and lighting you won't find anywhere else, or just discover one of London's most creative neighbourhoods, Clerkenwell Design Week (May 21-24) has something for everyone.

Squeezed between the buttoned-up City and the frenzied commercialism of the West End, Clerkenwell has long been a magnet for alternative creative types. In the past decade, a steady influx of architects and designers has reintegrated ECI and since the Design Week was launched four years ago, it has proved a great and growing showcase for local – and international – creativity and ideas. The event has three main locations where more than 150 manufacturers and designers, including new brands and up-and-coming names, will be exhibiting their products.

The largest location is the Farmiloe Building, at the Smithfield end of St John Street. Some of the freshest talent in UK furniture making and product design will be here in this atmospheric, 19th-century former warehouse. Young rising stars like Hackney-based Norwegian Magnus Petersen will be showing his furniture here for the first time. There is even a whole floor dedicated to lighting, including leading international brands like Foscarini.

At the Order of St John, a bit further north just off Clerkenwell Road, the mix of exhibitors has been chosen to reflect the latest interior decoration trends and includes sophisticated British furniture and lighting brands Ochre and Se. Keep heading north to find the third location, The House of Detention, tucked away behind St James's Church Garden. This literally

Holes in one: Philipp Adzuta is based in Vienna where, inspired by nature, he combines new and old technologies to stunning effect in pieces such as this limited-edition Faustul chair



Lowrises an ash and aluminium sidebar the Locker series by Magnus Petersen, from Norway but now based in Hackney. See the range in the Farmiloe Building



cool subterranean space is, as the name suggests, a former jail, but it's now home to the newest designer names, representing a mix of furniture, ceramics, lighting and product design. Check out the striking innovative pieces from young Viennese designer Philipp Adzuta, who combines cutting-edge technology with craft techniques.

With a lot packed into a small area, we suggest you download the CDW app to help you find your way round. However, those who would prefer someone else to take the lead can get a local expert to guide them. Jane Young, a textile designer and historian, will be leading groups daily around the area. Her tours were a great hit last year. To sign up and join

her, go to creativeclerkenwell.com. Experiencing design isn't just limited to looking at CDW – there's also the chance to get some hands-on creativity. Renowned UK carpet company Brimons is running a competition and a workshop at its Sycamore Street showroom – visitors can paint a Union Flag, or design a bowler hat – and the winning entries will receive tickets to the Coronation



Top brands: Foscarini's room sets, above, and lighting, left, feature among the top brands on show



Sits another piece by Magnus Petersen showing in the Farmiloe Building

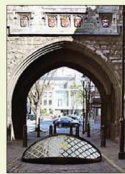
Festival at Buckingham Palace. At the Hands showroom on May 22, visitors can learn all about leather and make a key fob to take home. Craftsmen will also be demonstrating their skills at the St John Street showroom of top Italian furniture firm Poltronova Frau.

Many of the showrooms will be hosting talks, seminars and workshops. CDW attracts high-profile names in the world of design and this year is no exception. One of the highlights is on the evening of May 22, when French designer Erwan Bouroullec will be at the Vitra showroom, talking about his work as a designer. The Bouroullec brothers, Erwan and Roman, unveiled a series of office products for Vitra last month. Vitra's space will be transformed into a working office for CDW visitors for the duration so pop in, check your email and try their award-winning designs for yourself.

Installing ideas out on the street

CLERKENWELL is home to about 50 showrooms for interiors products – many of them opening to the public next week – but you don't even have to go inside to spot great ideas.

Design is taking to the streets with a number of intriguing, inspiring and even amusing installations. Look out for four hubs built by Architecture for Humanity, following on from the success of the charity's Love Hut



Hits the spots: the huge target installation at St John's Gate

last year, and for chairs – 200 of them, designed and made by Assemble who will be giving away instructions on making them.

There will also be sheep – soap yourself with one of Sedus's fake flock of four and you might win a prize; tables 100 tables topped with Lubna Chowdhary's beautifully coloured glazed ceramics will grace Charterhouse Square; a huge target right beneath the historic St John's Gate – design practice Giles Miller Studio has collaborated with maker Tegan to create the steel and brass pieces for this three-metre-wide installation, plus a maze in St John's Square made by Mobile Studio, and more...

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In the Farmiloe Building: And Then Design is a Nottingham-based studio with an emphasis on using UK craftsmen and materials for its playfully styled products