

Media Release:

Brompton Design District reveals programme for London Design Festival 2026

- Designers and studios participating include: Isamaya French (Studio Iron), Rafael Prieto, Zoë Chinonso Ene, Byron Pritchard, Beverly Nguyen, Jesse Butterfield, Conie Vallese, Pierre Marie Agin, Patricia Urquola, Rich Aybar, Maika Palazuelos, Joe Sweeney, Laila Gohar, Tino Seubert, Kelly Wearstler, Cristián Mohaded, Toast New Makers and RCA Class of 2026 Design Products Graduates
- Responding to the theme *Perfectly Imperfect*, the programme invites visitors into studios, rehearsals, workshops, and conversations, celebrating the experimentation, research, collaboration and occasional failures that underpin every creative practice
- Building on the success of the 2025 Brompton Design District Programme, curator Alex Tieghi-Walker has invited designers and curators to fill spaces across the District with design talent from their networks resulting a programme of diverse voices, talents and communities showcasing the work of over 150 designers and makers
- Design showrooms and brands based in the District launching new collections and design pieces include Molteni&C, Cassina, Bisazza, Kartell and SLAMP
- Curated programme sees London based design talent showcase new works, processes and approaches and are joined by a selection of NYC based designers show work at London Design Festival for the first time

Brompton Design District has revealed its programme for London Design Festival 2026.

Running from 12 - 20 September, London's first design district, known for nurturing new and experimental design, will host a range of exhibitions, events, openings and product launches.

The programme showcases the work of established and emerging designers as well as celebrating leading designers and brands including Molteni&C, Cassina, Tai Ping and others who have been instrumental in bringing some of the world's most iconic designs and designers to London. Building on last year's success, this year Brompton Design District's programme of temporary exhibitions and installations is programmed by British-Italian curator and gallerist Alex Tieghi-Walker. Through Alex's curation this year's programme explores connections between craft and design, introduces new voices to London Design Festival audiences and puts moments of emotional connection at the heart of design experiences in the district.



Isamaya French of STUDIO IRON photographed by Hans Neumann

This year's theme for the 2026 Brompton Design District programme at London Design Festival is *Perfectly Imperfect* inviting visitors into studios, rehearsals, workshops, kitchens and conversations, celebrating the experimentation, research, collaboration and occasional failures that underpin every creative practice. With events and exhibitions dotted throughout the District with a concentration at The Lavery, 4 Cromwell Place. *Perfectly Imperfect* sees designers and studios including Isamaya French (STUDIO IRON), Rafael Prieto, Zoë Chinonso Ene, Byron Pritchard, Beverly Nguyen, Jesse Butterfield respond to the theme. From invitations to play games and connect in the setting of a Nigerian parlour, to an invitation to see hand tools bring a slab of sycamore to life in a woodworking studio or a welcome in spaces celebrating queer design, the 2026 Brompton Design District programme facilitates moments of contemplation and connection.

Curator Alex Tieghi-Walker said:

“What excites me about Brompton this year is the broad variety of ways in which design is being experienced. I've tried to avoid a simple 'showcase' of good design. Instead, we have artists working inside their studios, performances taking place in a cemetery chapel, a private dining room transformed by a designer, a reading room, a garage becoming a workshop, and major international brands presenting alongside independent makers. It feels less like a collection of exhibitions and more like a neighbourhood coming alive through design.”

“Perfectly Imperfect to me is about shifting our attention from the finished object to everything that happens before it. I wanted to create a programme where visitors could see experimentation, collaboration, research, performance and making in real time. The most interesting part of design is often what happens before something is resolved. The decisions, accidents, conversations and discoveries that shape the final work.”

“I wanted this year's programme to feel expansive in every sense. Alongside established showrooms and international brands, we're bringing together artists, designers, craftspeople, performers, architects and cooks, working across homes, studios, galleries, restaurants, a cemetery chapel and public spaces. That diversity is what makes Brompton special: you can move through the neighbourhood and encounter design in completely different contexts.”

“I'm interested in exhibitions that ask visitors to do something rather than simply look. This year there are spaces for eating, reading, playing, listening, performing, making and gathering alongside more traditional exhibitions. For me, that's where design becomes most interesting — when it creates the conditions for people to connect with one another.”

“I think the best projects this year share a willingness to be a little unfinished, a little open-ended. They're not simply presenting answers; they're inviting people into a process. Whether that's watching Byron Pritchard work with a piece of timber, entering Ushara Dilrukshan's rehearsal, gathering around Homenkà's parlour table or sitting down in The Reading Room, the visitor becomes part of the work.”



Nudo Chair Kelly Wearstler x ARCA for STUDIO IRON

Curated programme includes:

Isamaya Ffrench: STUDIO IRON

Founded by Isamaya Ffrench, STUDIO IRON brings together artists, designers and makers working across disciplines, exploring the fertile space between art, design, fashion and contemporary culture. For Brompton Design District, the platform presents a wide-ranging group exhibition spanning furniture, objects, sculpture, textiles and experimental practices, bringing distinct voices into conversation. Featured designers include: Wretched Flowers, Kouros Maghsoudi, Marten Herma Anderson, Panorammmma, CJ Aslan, Paul Coenen, CRUDA, Kelly Wearstler, RA Workshop and more. The exhibition reflects STUDIO IRON's interest in the unexpected connections that emerge between disciplines and approaches to making, with works by established and emerging practitioners presented together as one evolving landscape.

The Lavery, (First Floor 3 Cromwell Place) London SW7 2JE

Rafael Prieto: *On the Sunset, Which is Only One*

Mexican designer and chocolatier Rafael Prieto transforms The Lavery's Private Dining Room into an intimate meditation on light, perception and perspective. *On the Sunset, Which is Only One* is centered around six sculptural chairs, by his design studio Savvy. Each responds to a different position of the sun, the installation proposes that no single viewpoint can ever fully

describe an experience. Rather than depicting a sunset, the works reveal six distinct encounters with the same phenomenon, suggesting that perception itself is the subject. Presented alongside Marrow lights by Loup Sarion and Rafael Prieto and artworks by Kritika Manchanda, as well as work from friends ; Conie Vallese, Pierre Marie Agin, Laila Gohar and Kadri Kashmir. The exhibition creates a dialogue between furniture, light and art within a space designed for gathering and conversation. Responding to Brompton Design District's *Perfectly Imperfect* theme, the installation argues that design is shaped not by singular answers, but by the accumulation of many irreducibly different perspectives.

Private Dining Room, The Lavery, 4 Cromwell Place, SW7 2JE



Rafael Prieto (Savvy Studio) Ideal Chairs

Byron Pritchard: *Finding Form*

Throughout London Design Festival, Byron Pritchard and his team will transform a garage in Cromwell Mews into a working studio. For *Finding Form*, a single slab of sycamore will be shaped using only hand tools: axes, wedges, saws and chisels. Alongside the residency, Pritchard will undertake research at the nearby Victoria and Albert Museum, drawing connections between historical woodworking traditions and contemporary design practice.

No drawings or predetermined designs will dictate the outcome. Instead, each object will emerge through a direct engagement with the material, allowing process, intuition and the character of the timber to determine what is made.

In doing so, Pritchard questions a process that many contemporary designers take for granted. Where furniture is often fully resolved before any material is touched, he proposes the opposite: making itself becomes the design process. Through the deliberate use of axes and hand tools, the pace of production is slowed, revealing the decisions, adjustments and discoveries that

shape each piece as it comes into being. The residency invites visitors to witness design not as a finished object, but as a living process of research, experimentation and exchange.

Cromwell Mews Garage, London SW7 2JS



Byron Pritchard photo courtesy of the designer

BEVERLY 1975: CONCIERGE

Stylist, creative director and founder of New York concept store BEVERLY 1975, Beverly Nguyen launches CONCIERGE at Brompton Design District—a new travelling platform connecting global communities through design, hospitality and everyday ritual. The installation brings together Vietnamese kitchen essentials, textiles, baskets, ceramics, lighting and objects for the home by designers including Shane Gabier, John Sohn, Judi Wong, New Fibers, TWP and FLOS. Displayed within BEVERLY 1975's signature pegboard system, the presentation celebrates objects made to be used, shared and treasured. A programme of dinners, personal shopping and editorial curations transforms the space into a place of conversation, exchange and hospitality.

Speaking about responding to the theme Perfectly Imperfect, Beverly Nguyen said: “To us, it means prioritizing handmade creations, experiential spaces, and human connection in real time. It's what happens when we act on urgency to deliver something one of a kind to our friends and community rather than continuing the cycle of mass-produced landfill.”

The Lavery (Ground Floor, 2 Cromwell Place), London SW7 2JE



Beverly Nguyen: Beverly 1975: CONCIERGE

Homenkà & Friends: *Our Parlour*

Our Parlour is an immersive domestic environment hosted by four Igbo women whose practices cut across design, art direction, photography, and food. It centres on Nchọ, an heirloom reinterpretation of the traditional Igbo strategy game, as a joyful reason to gather.

Drawing inspiration from the Nigerian parlour (the room where families gather to eat, converse and pass stories between generations) the space invites visitors into a week-long programme of game nights, conversations, workshops, reading sessions, performance, vinyl DJ sets, and communal dining. Nchọ boards, designed by Zoë Chinonso Ene, sit alongside vessels, scents, and sounds by Chinasa Chukwu, photography by Christina Nwabugo and a culinary programme by Ogochukwu Igwilo.

Responding to *Perfectly Imperfect*, the space explores how familiar materials, everyday objects, and repeated acts of gathering accumulate meaning over time. Rather than presenting design as a finished artefact, *Our Parlour* reveals it as something inherently personal and continuously shaped through use, participation and collective experience.

The Lavery, (First Floor, 2 Cromwell Place) London SW7 2JE



Zoë Chinonso Ene: Nchọ from *Our Parlour* photo by Christian Cassiel

Jesse Butterfield: *A Veiled Boundary*

A Veiled Boundary brings together designer Jesse Butterfield's two distinct bodies of work, sewn paper and hammered steel volumes, exploring the flexible and transformative materiality of each. These objects challenge our assumptions of paper and steel, allowing the inherent qualities of each material to dictate form. Compositions of shadow, weight, texture, and light create an atmospheric texture, while each object maintains its condition of functionality.

Working closely with The Paper Foundation Jesse's lamps latch onto an essence of paper, using its flexibility and translucence to create enclosures of light and shadow. Designed for the floors, ceilings, and walls each lamp is conceived in the moment of its creation, a conversation with the designer's own preconceived notions and the limits of paper and sewing machine. These sculptures of ephemerality and impermanence breathe a warmth into the exhibition space.

Jesse's steel objects have emerged from an exploration of sheet steel's malleability and its capacity to behave like paper. Through an intimate approach to making in his London studio, he heats and hammers laser cut sheets until a paper-like quality is achieved. The resulting forms have the cartoonish charm but imbued with an imposing quality in the likeness of megalithic structures or stone furniture. Surprisingly light, the series questions our expectations and uses of steel in a domestic setting.

The Lavery, (Second Floor, 2 Cromwell Place) London SW7 2JE



Jesse Butterfield A Veiled Boundary photo courtesy of the designer

Alex Tieghi-Walker: *The Reading Room*

The Reading Room is a temporary reading room dedicated to queer design, creativity and cultural history in London. Conceived by curator Alex Tieghi-Walker, it brings together furniture, objects, books and printed matter in an environment somewhere between a library, salon and exhibition. Rather than presenting individual works in isolation, the project creates a shared interior: tables, chairs, shelving and objects come together to form a space for sitting, reading, conversation and exchange. A group of London-based queer artists and designers contribute to the room, including: Nicolas Zanoni, Rich Aybar, Joe Sweeney, Tino Seubert, Zack Toppin and Henry Svendsen.

Soho-based Tenderbooks curates the accompanying library, bringing together publications exploring queer histories, art, design, architecture and culture. Across London Design Festival,

the room will also host a programme of conversations, talks and book signings. At its heart, The Reading Room considers queer design not as a fixed category, but as a living history—one shaped through objects, spaces, relationships and the communities that gather around them.

36 Thurloe Place London SW7 2HP

Toast: *New Makers 2026*

Now in its eighth year, Toast have invited international craftspeople to apply for their New Makers programme. This new exhibition in the Hazel studio at The Lavery allows London Design Festival audiences to engage with the New Makers for 2026: Jacob Marks, Yuichi Romita, Egle Silko, Hannah Watts, and Linnan Ye. Spanning wood-fired and wheel-thrown ceramics, vessels shaped from pine resin, and textural sterling silver jewellery, each piece in this year's collection demonstrates a creative use of materials and a thoughtful approach to form.

Jacob Marks's novel use of translucent natural pine resin, alongside paper, charcoal and plant-based pigments, is expressed through a distinctive range of vessels and home accessories. Blending time-honoured techniques with inventive methods, Yuichi Romita forms visually delicate tableware on the wheel and leaves each piece unglazed, highlighting the raw texture and character of the clay. Embracing the fluidity of silver, jewellery maker Egle Silko creates textural pieces from her studio in Tallinn, Estonia. She takes an experimental approach, employing freehand melting and reticulation techniques to shape her work. Inspired by lifelong visits to Cape Town, Hannah Watts creates striking ceramic plates and platters. Her use of colour and the sgraffito technique subtly echoes the traditional African textiles she has encountered on her travels. San Francisco-based ceramicist and illustrator Linnan Ye's architectural background informs her practice, shaping a sensitivity to how objects occupy and interact with space. Working primarily on the wheel, while integrating hand-built elements, she creates quietly impactful pieces that enhance the experience of everyday rituals.

The Lavery, (Hazel Studio, 4 Cromwell Place) London SW7 2JE



Designer Sahand Zeinali stool made from a hose using a wrench featured in One Tool, One Stool

RCA Design Products: One Tool, One Stool

Developed by the Royal College of Art's MA Design Products programme, One Tool, One Stool presents the first design exercise undertaken by every student at the beginning of their studies. Working within strict constraints, students are challenged to create a stool using a single tool, encouraging experimentation, resourcefulness and new ways of thinking through making. The exercise strips design back to its fundamentals, revealing how limitations can become catalysts for creativity. Presented as part of Brompton Design District's Perfectly Imperfect theme, the exhibition foregrounds process over outcome, offering visitors a rare insight into the formative stages of a designer's education before ideas become fully realised projects.

36 Thurloe Place London SW7 2HP

RCA Design Products Graduates: InResponse

Presented alongside One Tool, One Stool, the Royal College of Art's Graduate Showcase brings together work by graduating students from the MA Design Products programme. Seen in dialogue, the two exhibitions chart the arc of a designer's journey—from a simple introductory exercise to ambitious final projects developed through a year of research, iteration and experimentation. Together they embody Brompton Design District's *Perfectly Imperfect* theme, revealing that great design is rarely the product of a single idea, but of continual testing, refinement and discovery. The showcase offers visitors an opportunity to experience both the beginnings and the culmination of one of the world's leading design programmes.

36 Thurloe Place London SW7 2HP



Henry Holland at Royal Society of Sculptors

Royal Society of Sculptors: There's No Place Like It curated by Henry Holland

To mark 50 years at Dora House, the Royal Society of Sculptors reopens its historic home during London Design Festival with its 2026 Summer Show, *There's No Place Like It*, curated by designer Henry Holland. Taking home as its starting point, the exhibition opening 19 September brings together works by members of the Society that explore the places, objects, memories and relationships that shape our sense of belonging.

The exhibition coincides with the completion of *Creating a Home for Sculptors*, a major capital project transforming the building's previously derelict basement into a self-contained flat and flexible studio for visiting artists, alongside a new home for the Society's archive. The reopening

continues Dora House's own history as both a domestic and creative space: the building was the home and studio of sculptor Cecil Thomas, who gifted it to the Society in 1976.

Dora House, 108 Old Brompton Rd, London SW7 3RA

Showcasing installation and events **Brompton Cemetery Chapel** is again transformed into a live studio for performance and scenographic experimentation for London Design Festival.

Giulia Tofana is an experimental operatic performance installation by Artists in Residence Ushara Dilrukshan and Sonnie Carlebach. Inspired by the legendary seventeenth-century figure Giulia Tofana, the work explores themes of feminine resilience, collective knowledge and transformation through voice, movement, sound and spatial design. Responding to Brompton Design District's Perfectly *Imperfect* theme, audiences are invited inside an open rehearsal, witnessing performers, composers and designers collaboratively shaping the work in real time. A bespoke scenographic environment by Fiona Campbell and Anousha Payne frames an evolving creative process where experimentation, revision and collaboration become the work itself. The residency culminates in a series of public performances over the closing weekend of the festival.

Brompton Cemetery, Fulham Rd., London SW10 9UG

Highlights include:

Cassina: 2026 Collection

The Cassina Store London presents a selection of new products from its 2026 Collection which harmoniously integrates with the brand's iconic pieces and recent projects fully reflecting "The Cassina Perspective" philosophy. These include Ardys, the new modular sofa system by Patricia Urquiola, presented in the striking London fabric which amplifies the piece's textural appeal with an urban approach that recalls the lightness of technical sports fabrics. The glossy lacquered cement of the Ardys coffee tables contrasts and engages with the softness of the upholstery. The refined matt lacquered AB Dining table by Aldo Bakker, poised between furniture and sculpture, is paired with the reissue of the rigorous and elegant CH66 chair by Nicos Zographos. In the living area, the scenographic Peacock Chair by Verner Panton, presented on the centenary of his birth, stands out next to the new finishes of the 780/783 low tables by Gianfranco Frattini, also launched in celebration of their author's centenary.



Cassina: 2026 Collection

Bisazza: Mad About the House

Bisazza hosts a special takeover at 60 Sloane Avenue by Kate Watson-Smyth, interior design journalist, author and founder of the blog Mad About The House. The project combines Bisazza's mosaic heritage with a contemporary vision of the home. By moving beyond its traditional display role, the space becomes an open platform for new perspectives and alternative ways of engaging with design, inviting visitors to experience mosaic as an integral part of everyday interiors and contemporary living. Within this setting, Bisazza will also unveil two new collections, further extending the dialogue between Bisazza's mosaic heritage and contemporary design.

60 Sloane Avenue, London SW3 3DD

Molteni&C: 2026 Indoor Collection

During the London Design Festival 2026, Molteni&C unveils, for the first time in the UK at its London Flagship Store, the Julian sofa and the Pheasant kitchen, both designed by Vincent Van Duysen, alongside the Corsetto armchair by Cristián Mohaded. The exhibition also marks the debut of the new Molteni&C Bathroom Collection, with Framis designed by Vincent Van Duysen, introducing the brand's bathroom offering for the first time. A selection of pieces from the 2026 Indoor Collection further highlights a dialogue between research, innovation, and contemporary design culture.

245-249 Brompton Rd, London SW3 2EP



Corsetto armchair by Cristián Mohaded for Molteni&C

Tai Ping: Icons Underfoot

Celebrating 70 years of craftsmanship, Tai Ping presents Icons Underfoot, an exhibition showcasing seven iconic rugs spanning seven decades. Presented as a gallery-style exhibition, 'Icons Underfoot' invites visitors to discover seven of its landmark designs selected from across Tai Ping's extensive archive. Each rug represents a defining moment in the brand's creative journey, revealing how its design language has evolved while remaining rooted in a dedicated commitment to craftsmanship and quality. Together, the seven pieces map a story of innovation and reinvention. From remarkable collaborations with some of the twentieth century's most influential creatives to contemporary explorations of sustainability, texture and nature.

117-119 Fulham Rd., London SW3 6RL

SLAMP: LDF 2026

SLAMP returns to London Design Festival with a presentation that celebrates the intersection of technology, craftsmanship, and artistic expression. This year's exhibition brings together new product launches, signature collections, and immersive installations that showcase the brand's ongoing commitment to innovation, sustainability, and contemporary design. Visitors will experience how materials, texture, and illumination combine to create distinctive atmospheres across residential, hospitality, and commercial environments. The exhibition also highlights the company's responsible manufacturing practices and dedication to producing long-lasting, high-quality lighting solutions made in Italy.

9A Thurloe Pl, South Kensington, London SW7 2RZ



SAVOIA Kartell Chair by Edward Barber & Jay Osgerby

Kartell

Kartell will present the UK launch of their landmark collaboration with Edward Barber & Jay Osgerby. SAVOIA is a seat that expresses lightness, precision, and formal clarity. The structure, made of die-cast aluminum, stands out for its extremely slim profile, which extends and molds into the armrests, creating a continuous line that combines visual elegance with structural solidity. The aluminum frame is available in polished colored finishes as well as a chrome version, expanding the project's expressive language and highlighting its industrial and contemporary vocation. SAVOIA presents itself as a versatile system, defined by a measured aesthetic and a refined balance between technology and comfort.

223-225 Brompton Rd, London SW3 2EJ

Finally, to celebrate **Meridiani's** 30th anniversary, the showroom presents a curated selection of the brand's most representative creations in a refined setting conceived by Art Director Andrea Parisio, reflecting the brand's distinctive aesthetic vision and design heritage.

10 Thurloe Pl, South Kensington, London SW7 2RZ

The full District programme can be viewed online at www.bromptondesigndistrict.com from 24th August. On Thursday 17 September visitors will be welcomed to Brompton for a series of late night events at temporary exhibition spaces and showrooms across the District.

For further information, interview and image requests please contact Owen O’Leary on 07815992658 or email owen@owenoleary.com

View and download hi res images here:

<https://app.box.com/s/5oeujntfjql87pk2lqhx7jrz8wga1pzo>

Visit www.bromptondesigndistrict.com to see the full programme and a map of venues from Monday 24 August.

Follow Brompton Design District on instagram here: [@brompton_design_district](https://www.instagram.com/brompton_design_district) and London Design Festival here: [@l_d_f_official](https://www.instagram.com/l_d_f_official)

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Notes for Editors:

About Brompton Design District

The BROMPTON DESIGN DISTRICT is a partnership between leading international brands, independent retailers, local restaurants and cultural institutions.

Initiated by [South Kensington Estates](http://www.southkensingtonestates.co.uk), a company with a history woven into the fabric of the district for over 200 years, the Brompton Design District was established in 2006 becoming London’s first Design District. Stretching from the V&A to Brompton Road, Brompton is a destination for design; global design brands sit within an ecosystem of fashion shops, local cafes, established restaurants and the world’s first cultural quarter. Brompton Design District has revitalised the area as a place where people come together to share, enjoy and learn about design in its broadest sense; including through culture, fashion and food.

bromptondesigndistrict.com

[@brompton_design_district](https://www.instagram.com/brompton_design_district)

About London Design Festival

Established in 2003 by Sir John Sorrell CBE and Ben Evans CBE, London Design Festival celebrates and promotes London as the design capital of the world. London Design Festival has since earned the reputation as a key calendar moment of London’s autumn creative season, alongside London Fashion Week, Frieze Art Fair and the London Film Festival, attracting the greatest thinkers, practitioners, retailers and educators to the capital, in a citywide celebration.

#LDF26

www.londondesignfestival.com

Instagram: [L_D_F_official](https://www.instagram.com/L_D_F_official)

Twitter: [L_D_F](https://twitter.com/L_D_F)

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