



Inside eye

From fresh inspiration to cutting edge trends, design expert **Ellie Tennant** explores three key interior design festivals around the globe

Every year, the world's leading trend forecasters, interior designers, retail buyers and creatives gather together to share ideas and innovative new designs at enormous annual events. Hothouses for young talent, these shows are the best places to spot upcoming furniture, lighting, product and textile designers, while previewing the

latest collections from all the most fashionable established home brands. As well as providing a glimpse into the future of interiors, these highlights on the global design calendar allow you to soak up seminars from experts in the field, discover the latest 'looks' at curated exhibitions and experience interactive pop-up installations.

DUBAI

The design scene in Dubai is expanding almost as rapidly as the city itself. While it's not a leading global 'hub' for design yet, experts predict that it soon

will be. The United Arab Emirates has the youngest demographics in the Middle East and North Africa region, which means it's an exciting, vibrant place, where change happens quickly.

Dubai's seemingly boundless energy is reflected in Dubai Design Week – a forward-looking festival made up of more than 200 events covering design across a range of disciplines including architecture, product, furniture, interior and graphic design. This sleek six-day celebration of design attracts on average 60,000 visitors. Expect educational workshops, keynote speeches, panel discussions, innovative exhibitions, installations and a gallimaufry of satellite events held at universities, galleries and studios around the city.

The progressive 'Global Grad Show' that brings together works from 100 of the most innovative design schools across the world is a must-see if you want to find

the freshest new ideas and stay abreast of future trends. Don't miss 'Downtown Design', either, which is Dubai Design Week's leading fair, the highlight of which has to be 'Downtown Editions' – a curated showcase dedicated to bespoke and limited-edition design, providing opportunities to buy and commission unique design objects and offering a rare chance to learn more about local studios.

Dubai Design District (d3 waterfront)

12-17 November
dubaidesignweek.ae

MELBOURNE

Now in its 15th year, Decor + Design attracts around 11,500 design and retail buyers from across Australia and more than 300 of the country's leading home brands. Melbourne is a young, vibrant city – it was only established in 1835 and the median age is just 36. ▶

Above: The Christofle display at Maison et Objet in Paris, the French leading professional trade show for home fashion and interior design



It's not surprising, then, that the emphasis at Decor + Design is on unearthing Australia's next wave of design talent and delving into future trends.

Melbourne is famous for its 'laneways' – an inner grid of arcades, alleys and lanes which have increasingly become spaces for artistic expression. Taking inspiration from this creative city, 'Design Laneway' at Design + Decor features a collection of exhibitors including small studios, textile designers and surface artists who produce original design work across ceramics, lighting and furniture.

Decor + Design always attracts big names. The 2018 keynote speaker is global design powerhouse, Martyn Lawrence Bullard, who boasts a plethora of 'A-list' clients and was recently

named the world's top interior designer by Architectural Digest. Sydney-based stylist Megan Morton and British trends forecaster Victoria Redshaw (of Scarlet Opus trends forecasting agency) will also be giving talks.

Melbourne Convention & Exhibition Centre
19-22 July
decordesignshow.com.au

PARIS

From the elegant ceramics of Astier de Villatte to the sleek designer furniture at Roche Bobois, Paris has long been considered one of Europe's leading design destinations so this timelessly-stylish city is a fitting location for Maison & Objet, a gigantic biannual show that celebrates the latest and greatest interior design products



and talent from Europe and beyond. With 90,000 visitors and over 3,000 exhibitors, it's considered by many to be the world's foremost event for professionals in the interior, lifestyle and design industries.

The highlight is always the 'Rising Talents Awards' area, which provides a platform for young designers from

a specific country each year. This September, the focus is on Lebanon, a country with a booming creative scene and a multiplicity of influences. The results are impressive, rich and diverse – think concrete vases, brass candelabras and cutting edge upholstery. Maison & Objet conveniently overlaps with Paris Design Week (6-15 September), a city-wide extravaganza involving more than 200 participating venues – from design showrooms and galleries to restaurants, ateliers and museums – which host a plethora of installations, exhibitions and product launches.

Paris Nord Villepinte Exhibition Centre
7-11 September
maison-objet.com



Top left: Pierre Frey's work in Paris Top right: La Forma at the Decor Design Show in Melbourne Above: The aisles at Paris' Maison Objet Festival Left: Marc Dibeh is a Beirut based designer, exhibiting at Dubai Design Week