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'Design Researchers in Residence 2023/24: Solar', Design Museum, London

This fascinating free exhibition is the result of a residency programme where researchers spend a year responding to a pressing theme. The latest crop has worked to the prompt of 'Solar', interrogating the ways in which design can intersect with the heat and light of the sun. Stellar stuff. Until 22 September (designmuseum.org).



London Open Gardens

For just two days in June, some of our capital's most clandestine gardens will throw their gates wide open. To celebrate the event's 25th year, nine new 'green lungs', including a community garden in Hackney and a rooftop garden in the City, join the impressive roster of verdant spots to visit. 8-9 June (londongardenstrust.org).

'Sunlight: Roger Ackling', Norwich Castle Museum & Art Gallery



What do you get if you combine a magnifying glass, found wood and sunlight? For Roger Ackling, the results were revelatory. The late artist transformed driftwood into sculptural works, scorching them with focused rays to create patterns on the timber. These objects feature in the most significant exhibition of his work to date. Until 22 September (museums.norfolk.gov.uk).

London Gallery Weekend

This art bonanza sees hundreds of the capital's contemporary art galleries offer free admission.

With artwork by the likes of Jin Han Lee (at Union Pacific in Bloomsbury), special events, talks and family workshops, it's the one-stop shop for collectors and enthusiasts alike. 31 May-2 June (londongalleryweekend.art).

Dates for your design diary...

The first month of summer is the perfect time to get out and see something new, be it opera in the English countryside or a jaunt to a great gallery

The Treasure House Fair, Royal Hospital Chelsea

This luxury fair only started last year, but is already a staple on the art calendar, bringing together premium works and antiques from some of the biggest names in the industry. 26 June-2 July (treasurehousefair.com).



'Design Discoveries: Towards a Design Museum Japan', Japan House London

'If there were a permanent Japanese design collection, what would you put in it?' This is the question Japan House posed to leading creatives as, quite astonishingly, Japan doesn't have a museum dedicated to design. The responses, ranging from patchwork garments to cutlery, are the subject of this new exhibition.

Until 8 September (japanhouselondon.uk).



Glyndebourne Festival

For an alternative to the Proms, Glyndebourne's yearly summer festival is your answer. Enjoy world-class opera in its state-of-the-art indoor auditorium – we'd recommend booking tickets to *Carmen* by the award-winning Broadway director Diane Paulus and dining al fresco in lush gardens during the 90-minute interval. Until 25 August (glyndebourne.com).

London Festival of Architecture

For a month, architecture aficionados will descend on the city for this annual festival of the built environment. Along with the usual glittering array of exhibitions, talks and open studio events, this year there will be an extra celebratory atmosphere as the event turns 20. Until 30 June (londonfestivalofarchitecture.org).