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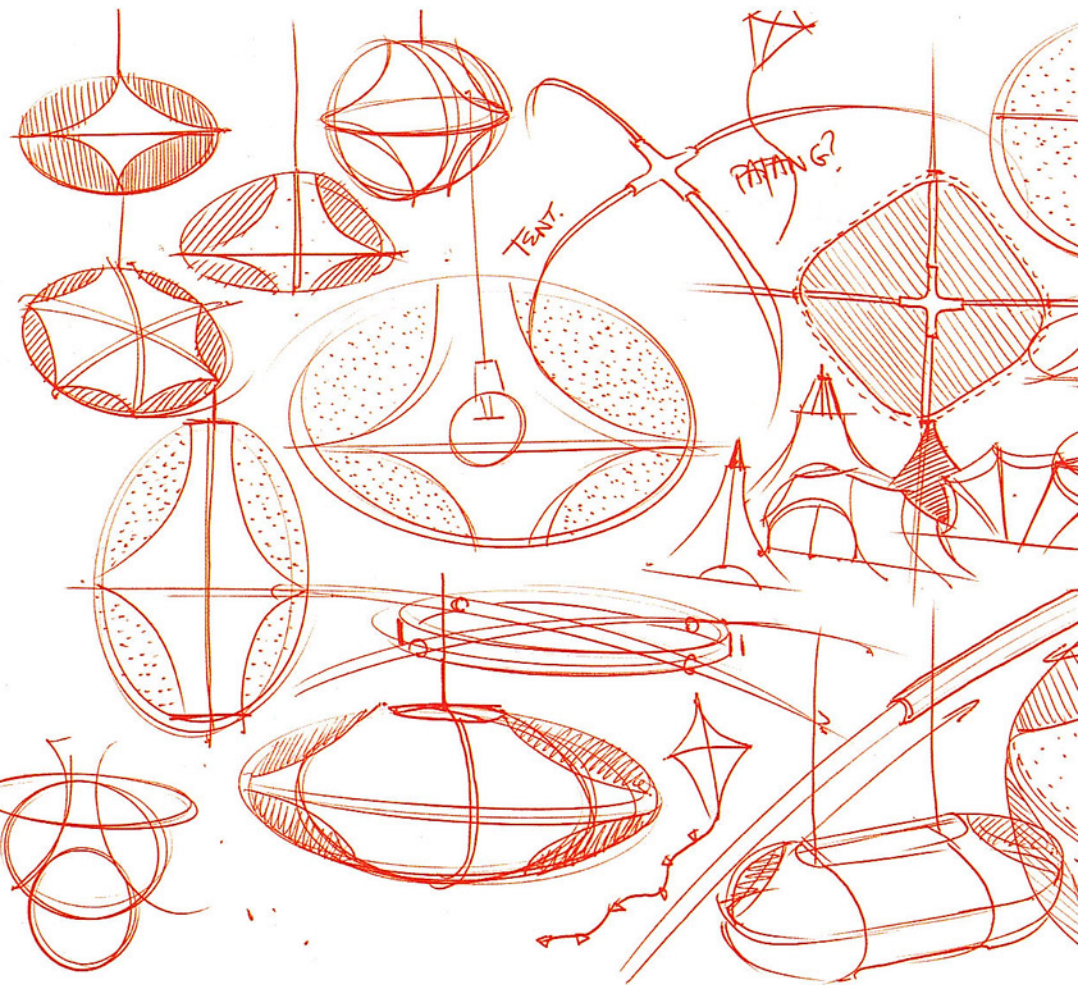
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Benjamin Hubert's sketches for Tenda light, debuted at designjunction 2012

SPECIAL REPORT

London Design Festival took place in venues across the city from 14 until 23 September 2012, and like past offerings it included a mix of events, installations and exhibitions. The low-tech, experimental spirit of the festival was captured in gritty spaces and behind-the-scenes showcases, lending the overall event an intimate scale. ►

London

In 2012 the London Design Festival celebrated its first decade. With thousands of exhibitors, five key venues and the fourth year of a strong collaboration with the V&A, it is now a decidedly different event than its 2002 debut. From east to west, south and central, the 2012 event continued the eclectic design aesthetic that has come to characterise the English point of difference, peppered equally by international designers drawn to London for its rule-breaking reputation. Of special note this

year, perhaps as a consequence of a larger global awareness of where and how things are made, was an increasing display of design as it occurs 'behind-the-scenes'. In contrast to sleek, edited exhibits that used to typify designs on show, in 2012 designers were turning their work inside-out, back-to-front and getting their hands dirty in an effort to educate visitors about their products. Similarly, many of the spaces containing works were rough-and-ready and previously unseen.

Left—As part of Tom Dixon's West London canal side event, The Dock, Moooi hosted The Unexpected Welcome, which showcased the brand's latest lighting, furniture and accessories

Right—Benjamin Hubert, Tenda light, Tramedia at designjunction

Below—From Hot Tools, ECAL/Felix Klingmüller, Stein; ECAL/ Philipp Grundhöfer, Mould in Motion. Photography ECAL/Nicolas Genta



Hot Tools

Hot Tools at Gallery Libby Sellers saw a curated display of experimental glasswork by recent graduates from the Product Design Masters at ECAL University of Art & Design Lausanne, following a workshop with Ronan Bourollec and glassblower Matteo Goner. Rather than simply working with extant techniques for glassblowing, students designed self-made tools to challenge the usual processes of making – allowing them to shape and transform glass into elegant, novel pieces. Philipp Grundhöfer's unique editions of *Mould in Motion*, made from a six-part wooden form clamped together around molten glass, were especially successful; while Rita Botelho's *DIY Mould* caught attention for the amoebic shapes she produced. libbysellers.com

