



London Design Festival | The Wrap-Up

DESIGN | By PILAR VILADAS | SEPTEMBER 23, 2011, 3:30 PM



Dominic Wilcox's "Moments in Time."

The **London Design Festival** may end on Sunday, but it leaves visitors with lots to remember.

On Monday, the fifth annual London Design Medal was awarded to Ron Arad at a dinner in the crypt of St. Paul's Cathedral. No one likes a long-winded acceptance speech, but Arad's may have set a record for brevity. A special lifetime achievement award was given to Vidal Sassoon, who charmed the assembled guests by talking about his lifelong love of architecture. This household name was thrilled when the Dutch architect Rem Koolhaas told Sassoon that he owned his book "Cutting Hair the Vidal Sassoon Way," because, as Koolhaas said, "It has great shapes."

The L.D.F.'s various sites displayed an almost overwhelming variety of objects, many of which displayed a sensibility that fused craft and commentary. At Dezeen Space (<http://www.dezeenspace.com>), a pop-up shop and event space organized by the blog of the same name, Dominic Wilcox's "Moments in Time" turned watches into timely tableaux (one depicts rioters, in a reference to the city's recent disturbances) adorned with miniature figures attached to the watch hands, and bell-jar-like crystals.



A piece from Formafantasma's recent series of textile works, "Colony."

At Libby Sellers's new space on Berners Street — the first permanent home for the gallery, which has operated nomadically for four years — the designers **Simone Farresin and Andrea Trimarchi of Formafantasma** showed their Moulding Tradition project of 2009 and their recent series of textile works, "Colony." (These were commissioned with the Audax Textielmuseum in Tillburg, the Netherlands, and first shown by Sellers at Design Miami/Basel in June.) The project explores issues of colonialism, migration and assimilation as well as the movement of cultural currents.

Craft of a less political nature was on view at a reception on Wednesday evening at 10 Downing Street. There, the curator and collector Janice Blackburn assembled the first-ever exhibition of contemporary British crafts — including a work by Edmund de Waal, the ceramicist who wrote “The Hare With Amber Eyes” — at the prime minister’s residence.

But London’s design obsession doesn’t end with the festival, and whenever your visit, the recently released 2012-2013 edition of [the London Design Guide](#), edited by Max Fraser, is a must-read.



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