


**NEW HOMES & CONDOS**

# Get inspired by visiting IDS 2017



MELISSA DAVIS

## LIFE WELL-DESIGNED

Inspiration exists in the everyday. We look to our peers, travel, nature. Fashion continues to be a driving influence in the emerging home decor trends.

There's a romance in the meandering absorption of ideas. That at some point, culminates in a completed concept and physical space. That is until we realize the contractor needs the flooring selection by Tuesday, and the looming dinner party, hath no dinner table.

The annual Interior Design Show has become the place

designers and home aficionados, alike search out the latest and greatest with the swift efficiency of a curated show.

We designers plot out a calculated course, pouring over the exhibitor list in advance, and breaking in our most stylish rubber soled shoes. Here are my Top 5 reasons to attend this year's show that runs this weekend.

**1. Be Inspired** AyA Kitchens and Baths never disappoints with their annual tradition of partnering with a notable design team, creating impressive examples of both the prac-

tical and whimsical reality of the contemporary kitchen. Check out PARTISANS FACTORY: Equal parts fabrication warehouse, artist studio and lounge party, this installation is where making and doing meets play and performance. Guests are also encouraged to luxuriate in a sitting room featuring special pieces by Le Corbusier and Frank Gehry, curated by Porch Modern.

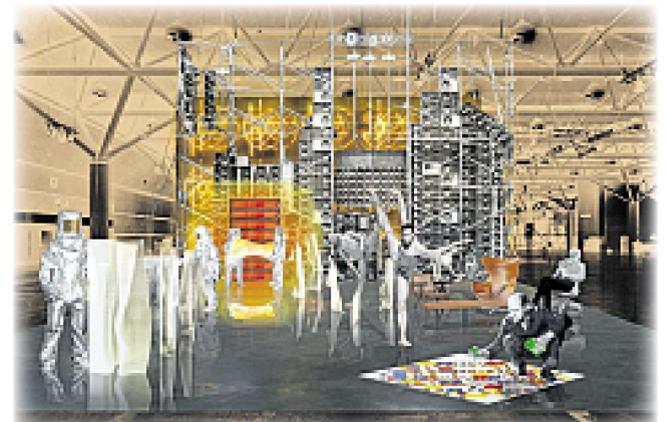
**2. Source New Products.** Whether you're embarking on a complete home renovation, or looking for those finishing touches this is the show to attend. Lee Valley will be showing a beautiful assortment of hardware options and visitors can also play with 'no electrician required' LED options that add a custom touch to any room

Designer approved luxury vinyl, engineered and laminate flooring from Metropolitan Flooring. Check out there booth (#710) the Kentwood IDS

Design Challenge. Rather than a traditional trade show booth, the company challenged students to create a unique design utilizing Kentwood hardwood flooring and they will showcase the talent and creativity of selected design finalists from some of Canada's leading design institutions.

**3. Latest technology.** The LAB is where technology and design meet. This curated section will feature the newest and latest technology, apps and gadgets for design trade professionals and homeowners.

**4. Hear from the pros.** Plan your visit around your favourite design star, with the rare opportunity to hear what inspires, and drives their success. An impressive lineup, this year's show includes: Nicholas Haslam, one of the world's finest Interior Designers sought by royalty and rock stars, alike. Megan Torza, inspires with her socially-minded, contextually-sensitive portfolio, and Canada's own



More than just a showcase for new products, IDS 2017 seeks to inspire by offering up the latest in design trends.

style maven Jeanne Beker will be on stage, to name a few.

**5. Be the first.** Visit Studio North and Prototype to be the first to see over 65 Canadian and international designers of the highest calibre presenting one-off and custom collections of furniture, lighting, glass, ceramics, textiles and surface design in a gallery-like setting. This marketplace showcases custom work and limited-edition collections and should not be missed!

Designboom brings back its

international design market for IDS17, offering 30 creative professionals from all over the world the opportunity to introduce their new products to the Canadian market. Visitors can purchase the self-produced or limited edition pieces directly from the designers.

— *Melissa Davis is a celebrity designer well-known for her appearances and work on several HGTV programs. Visit her at [www.melissadavis.com](http://www.melissadavis.com).*

# Design festival is 'outside-the-box'



NATALIE DEANE

## DECOR AND MORE

The Toronto Design Offsite Festival (TO DO) will be transforming downtown Toronto into an immersive design exhibition with installations, events and displays showing off Canadian and International design talent from January 16 until Sunday January 22 with some exhibits happening until the end of February.

Located in and around the city with over 100 locations, this festival allows you to explore design and exhibits while exploring or, re-exploring Toronto. These aren't just for design buffs, some of the displays are unique and interactive making for a fun family outing.

Deborah Wang, creative Director promises an accessible and engaging showcase of bold and innovative creations by both established and

emerging talent.

TO DO will feature work from over 400 independent local, national and international artists. There is everything from tableware to wall murals to lighting to fully transformed community spaces that you can explore.

In its seventh year, the festival continues to grow providing a platform for artists and designers to showcase their work while advancing design in Canada. The signature projects for this year's TO DO include Living Well, Compact Living and Outside the Box.

### Living well

'Living Well' is an exhibition that explores the ways in which design improves our daily lives. How can the way an object or space is designed help us live and feel better? Can designers create something that can trans-

form our current lifestyle? Think back to before there were microwaves, or laptops or multifunctional furniture. 'Living Well' will let you in on the new trends.

### Compact living

Working in partnership with Umbra, 'Compact Living' is an exhibition that showcases fresh and original houseware prototypes for contemporary compact living through the work of 11 Canadian designers.

Urban dwellers know all too well about compact living — especially since most live in homes that average 600 sqft. You'll want to explore this exhibit to look at new ideas for décor, storage and smaller household items that fit better in tighter spaces.

### Outside the box

'Outside the Box' builds a map of design in North America. Working with WantedDesign NYC, this project features the work of over 70 designers from 12 cities across Canada and the United States to create a collection of thoughtfully designed objects that fit into a standard Bankers box.

Each box includes original works from local designers, reflecting the particular resources and makers of each

area. So, Montreal features designs showcasing wood, concrete and fur while Toronto Offers more commercial and industrial items reflecting the financial hub of Canada and Vancouver focuses more on the land sea and sky outdoorsy feel.

After January, this exhibition is shipped to New York to be part of the annual design celebration NYCxDESIGN.

Along with the signature projects are TO DO tours that encourage the experience of design with all the senses through innovative programming like a Blindfolded Walking Tour and Regent Park, a Renewed Community.

### A renewed community

This tour focuses on public facilities that create community health through the arts and recreation, while also offering an exploration of the new Regent Park.

Regent Park transformed an aging Toronto Community Housing neighbourhood into a vibrant integrated community with urban flair. Over 2,000 housing units were torn down and with careful planning 4500 were created along with amenities including the



Jonathan Silver hosts a blindfolded walking tour to understand the importance of multi-sensory design.

Daniels Spectrum, the Regent Park Aquatic Centre, the new Regent Park, and the Regent Park Athletic Grounds.

### Blindfolded tour

A well-designed place doesn't just look good; it feels good, sounds good, and smells good. Jonathan Silver hosts a 'Blindfolded Walking Tour' to understand the importance of multi-sensory design and to

learn how to experience the city through your non-visual senses.

To find out more about The 2017 Toronto Design Offsite Festival visit [www.todesignoffsite.com](http://www.todesignoffsite.com).

— *Natalie Deane is a lifestyle connoisseur who shares tips for everyday living through decor, entertaining and household trends.*