[EASTSIDE EYE] International Design Drops into L.A.

BY KATHY MCDONALD ON MARCH 29, 2018

so Starck, so Bouroullec...
so "FRENCH DESIGN"
Everyday life benefits from thoughtful and artistically designed items. Whether a perfectly crafted chair or ergonomically correct scissors, we intrinsically react positively to creatively articulated products, furniture and other everyday items.

Japan and France are promoting their refined contributions to modern interiors and contemporary products via two pop-up exhibitions currently on display in Los Angeles; both are official presentations backed by government and tourism related entities. Ongoing throughout the year, Japan House, on the second level of Hollywood & Highland, holds both a store and an exhibition space. (A related Japanese restaurant will open in the coming months). And at the A+D Museum in downtown L.A., No Taste for Bad Taste showcases France’s design flair in a colorfully organized promotion meant to display the country’s influence on 21st century lifestyle.

No Taste for Bad Taste presents 40 iconic items in its compact interactive presentation. Visitors are welcome to experience or touch most of the objects. A panel of French tastemakers determined the content and voted on which influential designs to include in the show. Among the standouts are a perfect leather armchair from French architect Jean Nouvel and a playfully decorated bicycle from Philippe Starck. The vivid graphics and themes are from by Jean-Charles de Castelbajac who framed the exhibition.

Ongoing throughout the year, Japan House on the second level of Hollywood & Highland holds both a store and an exhibition space. (A related Japanese restaurant will open in the coming months). Items on display and for sale are artisan made, from the hand rolled candles to lighter-than-air balsa wood sake cups. Don’t expect any Hello Kitty or mass-produced products.

The Japan House’s exhibit space explores different modes of expression; an earlier exhibition, A Light Un Light featured designer Kunihiko Moringa of the Japanese fashion house Unrealage, who pushes the envelope in marrying technology and fashion. His photo chromic coat reveals its pattern only via camera flashes. In April, the Taken Paper Show: Subtle will demonstrate paper’s artistic viabilty from unique paper-made objects to photography.

Japan House Los Angeles is located near the entrance to the Dolby Theatre and Awards Walk on the second level of Hollywood & Highland (japanhouse.jp/losangeles). The A+D Museum (aplusd.org) is at 900 E. 4th St. in downtown Los Angeles.

[Correction: An earlier version of this article referred to the Kodak Theatre. The venue was renamed as the Dolby Theatre in 2012.]