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THE BEST OF INTERIORS ARCHITECTURE FURNITURE LIGHTING CONCEPTS STUDENT AWARD

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THE LONDON LOOK

Winsome art installations and sports arenas are transforming London into the most playful Olympics city ever

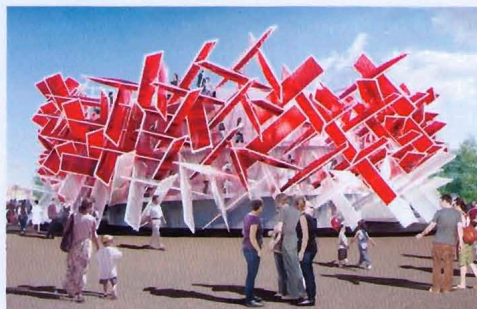
BY DAVID DICK-AGNEW



← Inspired by Neil Young's "Running Dry" and the Velvet Underground's "Run, Run, Run," Monica Bonvicini created an installation that rocks. By day, the nine-metre-high mirrored glass letters reflect the Copper Box venue in Olympic Park; by night, they're illuminated by LEDs, which gives them a mysterious depth.

↓ At nearly 115 metres tall, ArcelorMittal Orbit, by artists Anish Kapoor and Cecil Balmond, eclipses Big Ben. Between Olympic Stadium and the Aquatics Centre, the roller coaster-like structure supports two viewing platforms that overlook the park and the city.

→ The Royal Artillery Barracks' three temporary structures, by Magma Architecture, are wrapped in taut PVC membranes. Bright mesh-covered apertures bulge in and out of the walls and roof, providing ventilation. After the games, the buildings will be disassembled.



↑ The Coca-Cola Beatbox pavilion, by London firm Pernilla & Asif, doubles as a musical instrument. Visitors can play the red and white panels that flank the cylindrical building's spiralling ramp, and can even remix audio clips sampled from Olympic sports to make their own beats.



← For those who can't get to the Olympic grounds, the Design Museum's Designed to Win exhibit spotlights gear that has helped past athletes smash records, including this racing bicycle that debuted at the 1992 Games; and such new icons as this year's Barber Osgerby-designed torch which the museum recently dubb Design of the Year.