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A capital idea

For five weekends this summer The London Festival of Architecture will bring you a feast of great urban design from all over the world. There are over 500 events - exhibitions, cycle tours, walks, talks, debates, boat trips and even street animations. Our top pick is the Embassy Project, where more than 20 international embassies will stage exhibitions about their indigenous architecture, including Denmark, which will open up their Arne Jacobsen building to the public for the first time ever. Don't miss it! From 20 June-20 July (020 7436 8625; ifa2008.org).

7 Hayward heyday

The brutalist beauty is 40 years old, and to celebrate the Hayward gallery is commissioning 10 artists to create architectural installations, including this huge iridescent observatory. Psycho Buildings at the Hayward, 28 May-25 August, admission £10 (0871 663 2519; southbankcentre.co.uk).



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Quality street

Sick of sifting through dusty second-hand detritus? This website will allow you to find that prize vintage piece in comfort. One click transports you to a virtual vintage town, which gathers the best shops, suppliers and specialists from across the UK. You can source chic reclaimed furniture and decorations, and there's no extra cost for online purchase (0845 053 3474; iwantvintage.co.uk).



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One for the buoys

Perfect for hedonistic evening pool parties, the ingenious Water Smoon from Beau and Bien is a floating, wireless lamp that lights up at the softest touch. You can launch these glowing orbs of white, red, amber and blue on any pool or pond, but the fun isn't over if you move inside - these amphibious lamps can be mounted on detachable bases too. Fully charged, each Smoon stays illuminated for eight hours, by which time even the most hardened party animal should have swum off home. Available in 30 and 40cm diameters, prices start from £702. (0161 278 2094; inspired-by-design.co.uk)

