

# Architects of Air featuring at Design Brighton 2nd-5th April 2020

BHCC event proposal October 2019



# DESIGN BRIGHTON

April 1st - 4th  
2020

A local group of development industry creatives have designed the DB festival to capture the unique spirit of Brighton & Hove, the festival will feature Talks@DB, debate, installations, tours, professional and maker showcases in an imaginative network of venues throughout Brighton and Hove's main districts; designed to generate enthusiastic and engaged dialogue focused on the City's heritage, present problems and opportunities and future vision.

We have seven design districts, each focused on a specific topic for the Talks@DB and a focus for the installations, design trails and tours. Through specially curated events the Design Brighton team have focused on key issues surrounding the future of the region and urban communities in general.

These include the role of Placemaking, Future High Streets, Public Realm Infrastructure, Circular Economic and Waste issues, New Construction Methods, Energy Options, Connectivity and how digital disruption is changing the way we experience our place.

Everything that concerns how we live, work and play, now and into the future.



# Architects of Air

Alan Parkinson - Founder and designer of AoA

*"I design luminaria because I want to share my sense of wonder at the phenomenon of light. A luminarium provides the frame for an encounter with a light whose surprising and simple intensity cuts through conditioned perception."*

Founder, designer and artistic director Alan first started experimenting with pneumatic sculptures in the 1980s and has since developed his own language of form in this plastic medium. In 1992 he established the company to build and tour his luminarium designs. Since, Architects of Air, a Nottingham based company has made over 500 exhibitions in more than 40 countries.

## April 2nd - 5th 2020



# The Experience

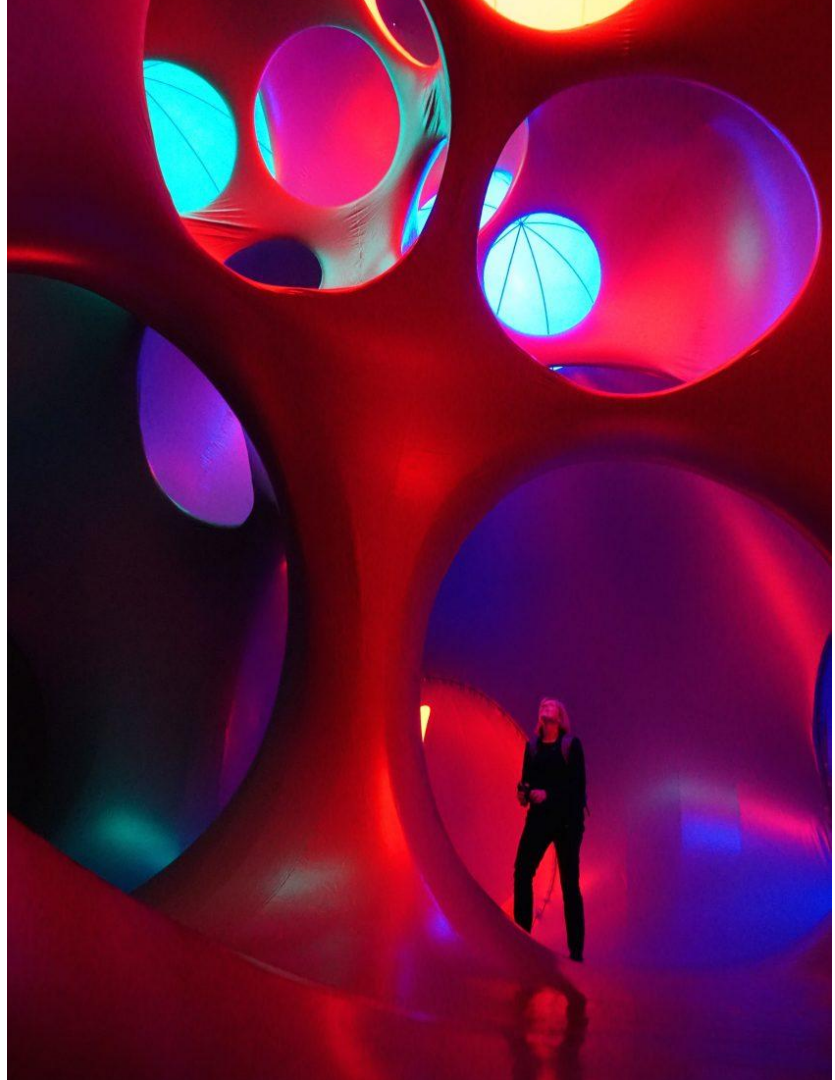
The luminarium's pneumatic environment, in its organic purity, provides a utopian vessel to contain light's radiant brilliance and subtle hues. Through labyrinthine tunnels and cavernous domes visitors move in a medium of saturated colour, in a world apart from the normal and everyday, accompanied by a gentle sensory soundscape.

It is a paradox that such a stimulating environment can also be so calming, comforting and many people find the luminarium a place for rest or contemplation.

No two visits to a structure are alike as the atmosphere inside alters according to changing weather and light outside. How the visitor responds to the luminarium modifies the experience for other visitors - each visitor becomes part of a living, inhabited sculpture that is the luminarium experience.



Exterior

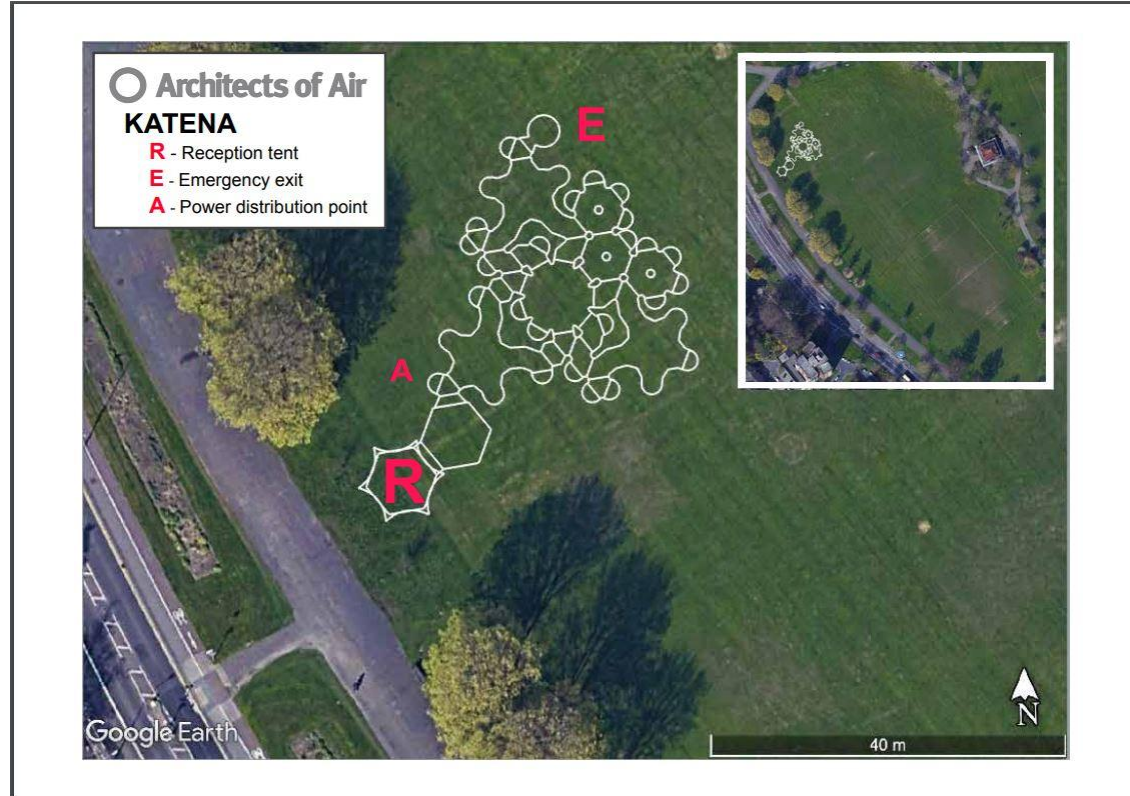


## Interior



# Introducing KATENA

KATENA is an inflatable PVC structure 42.50m long, 36.40m wide and rises to 10m at its highest. The structure is formed out of domes, tunnels and pods all connected to each other. To keep the pressure inside the main body the entrance is an airlock connected to the main body with a zip. A reception tent is set up adjacent to the airlock. The reception tent is an open-sided structure. An emergency 'mini' airlock is also connected to the main body with a zip. The airlock, the reception tent and the emergency airlock that comprise the entrance and exit structures are supported by a high-pressure exo-skeletons that are design to stay inflated in the event of power failure. The keep the whole structure constantly inflated blowers are positioned all around the structure, including the airlock, reception tent and the emergency airlock. The main body, the airlock, the reception tent and the emergency airlock are either pinned or ballasted to the ground.



An aerial photograph of Preston Park, showing a large green field with a baseball field in the center. A winding path or stream runs through the park, surrounded by trees and a few buildings. The overall scene is bright and green.

# The Location

## Preston Park : Connectivity

Design Brighton proposes to locate KATENA in Preston Park, our Design District for Connectivity.

During the festival we will be using Brighton & Hove as a living case study of the challenges facing cities everywhere and seek to inspire all stakeholders to forge new paths to the future. A luminarium offers a variety of ways to engage the attention and enthusiasm of the audience and can be used during or after a visit as inspiration to explore a number of themes in Science, Art, Design, and Technology.

**Thursday 2nd April to Sunday 5th April**

**Open to the public: 10am-4pm**



# Tourism and Media Coverage

The luminaria is very photogenic and offers exceptional promotional potential. They are successful in attracting good media coverage. It is not unusual to have a front-page photo on a national daily. TV news reportage is common as well as occasional live broadcasts. Web coverage is now enormous with some agency photos of luminaria achieving incredible worldwide profile for the host event.

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Brighton has hosted three previous luminaires for Architects of Air via Brighton Festival, The Zap Club and Brighton Shed.

Design Brighton as the presenter will be charging an entrance fee, this is expected to be approx: £5 with concessions for advance, bulk orders, students and elderly.

# Health and Safety

Architects of Air have built and toured the luminaria's since 1992. They have welcomed over 3 million visitors at over 500 exhibitions in over 41 countries. In all that time Architects of Air have maintained a 100% safety record with no incidents of personal injury or claims on the Architects of Air public liability insurance.

The luminarium invites visitors to enter. The visitors will remove their shoes before entering. An introductory speech tells visitors it is forbidden to run and to bounce and slide on the walls. It is forbidden to smoke eat or drink Inside (except for water). Once inside the visitors can wander freely, sit or lie down. It is a place of relaxation and contemplation. The capacity is set at 80 persons for luminaria of ground areas 750 – 1200m<sup>2</sup>. This occupancy level is considerably below the maximum allowable by conventional calculations. The determining factors of this capacity are the time taken to evacuate all the visitors (which does not exceed 5 minutes) and the avenues by which the visitors are evacuated.

Continuous security (normally 2 persons) to be provided at all times when the luminarium is on site but not in use. Normally the luminarium will be left out deflated overnight but Architects of Air reserve the right in their absolute discretion to carry out a more substantial takedown at any time if the Luminarium Manager has any concerns about security. Full Safety Manual - Appendix A

# Zero Waste Ambition

Design Brighton works closely with Eco Artist, Kate Amery. We are in talks with her on how we can utilise waste PVC products from AoA to creating sculptures around the City to act as a city wide trail that signposts to the installation. The art work is then donated to local schools after the event ensuring a 2nd and 3rd life for our waste.

Design Brighton has a zero waste ambition and this filters into all our installations and events throughout the year. The Seafront is our Circular Design District where we will be working with Circular Brighton and Hove to spread awareness of Circular Economy within construction and design.



# Itinerary & Delivery

On Site Senior Luminarium Manager: Gabriel Burden (Production Manager for Pride)

## Tuesday 31 March 2020

- 2 Luminarium Managers arrive from Europe

## Wednesday 1 April 2020

- 08.00 Structure delivered / Get-in crew call (8 crew)
- 15.00 Safety Inspection
- 16.00 Stewards training
- 17.00 Press Call – preview
- 18.00 Luminarium deflated/crew finish/ security on-duty

## Thursday 2 to Sunday 5 April

- 09.00 Steward call (9/10/11 persons)
- 10.00 Open to public
- 16.00 Last admission / security on duty
- 16.20 Luminarium closes
- 16.30 Stewards finish/ Deflation

## Monday 6 April 2020

- 08.00 crew call/ get-out (6 or 8 persons)
- 15.00 (approx) collection by freight company 2 Luminarium Managers depart

# DESIGN BRIGHTON

## Architects of Air

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