

Tim Burton exhibition smashes visitor record at the Design Museum

The World of Tim Burton

NOW EXTENDED TO 26 MAY 2025

the Design Museum

In partnership with Harvey Nichols

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- ***The World of Tim Burton* exhibition becomes the Design Museum's most-popular show in its 35-year history**
- **Record-breaking demand means the exhibition will be extended by five weeks — tickets on sale today**
- **Tim Burton says he is “blown away by the response to the exhibition”**
- ***Barbie: The Exhibition* closes with over 144,000 visitors, also making it one of the most attended shows in the museum's history — it will now tour**

The Design Museum today reveals that its major retrospective on the exceptional career of director Tim Burton has become the most visited exhibition in the museum's history.

Over 171,000 people have so far experienced **The World of Tim Burton** as of yesterday (24 February 2025). This is the highest attendance of any show since the Design Museum was established over 35-years ago.

Due to this record-breaking demand, the museum announces that the Burton exhibition will have its run extended by five weeks. Originally due to close on 21 April, it will now close on 26 May, giving even more time to delve into the Director's personal archives. Tickets for these additional weeks have gone on sale this morning.

The exhibition arrived in London as its final destination after a hugely successful decade-long world tour that saw it visit 14 cities in 11 countries since 2014. It's showing at the Design Museum — in an expanded and reimagined form — is the very final time the exhibition will be staged.

When **The World of Tim Burton** opened to the public in October 2024, it had already broken the museum's record for the most pre-sales of any Design Museum exhibition, selling over 32,000 advance tickets.

In the four months since opening, the exhibition has surpassed the museum's previous most popular exhibition — *Stanley Kubrick: The Exhibition* — which welcomed over 156,000 visitors in 2019.

Also revealed today is the final attendance for the museum's much-loved Barbie exhibition, which closed on Sunday (23 February 2025). This show saw 144,480 visitors across its 7-month run, making it the third-most visited exhibition ever at the Design Museum. The museum announces that the exhibition will go on a tour with cities and venues due to be revealed later this year.

The World of Tim Burton — which was hailed as “the exhibition of the year” by the Independent — showcases Burton's remarkable output, with over 18 of his films individually spotlighted in the show. It celebrates the creative processes behind some of the most significant movies of the past five decades, including *Beetlejuice* (1988), *Batman* (1989), *Edward Scissorhands* (1990), and *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* (2005).

Highlights include hundreds of Burton's expressionistic sketches and drawings that he has created prolifically since childhood. These are seen alongside props, set designs, and costumes from his iconic films, including Michelle Pfeiffer's Catwoman costume from 1992's *Batman Returns* and the black and white striped dress from 1999's *Sleepy Hollow*, worn by Christina Ricci.

Tim Burton said, "I'm blown away by the response to the exhibition and to hear about the record number of visitors. I didn't expect any of this, but the Design Museum did an amazing job and I'm so pleased that there is an extended opportunity for people to see what they created."

Tim Marlow, Director and CEO of the Design Museum, said: "It's been a remarkable year at the Design Museum with both the Barbie and Tim Burton exhibitions smashing our existing attendance records.

"What has been most heartening is how the design stories told in these exhibitions have resonated so strongly with visitors of all ages and backgrounds."

"While we're sad to see our Barbie exhibition close, for Burton fans, we're delighted that we can offer five more weeks to visit — or revisit — Tim Burton's creative world."

The next major exhibition to open at the Design Museum will be **Splash! A Century of Swimming and Style**, which will examine our enduring love of water over the past 100 years. It will feature star loans including Pamela Anderson's sensational red bathing suit from Baywatch.

-Ends-

Notes to Editors

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Exhibitions opening in 2025 at the Design Museum

- **Splash! A Century of Swimming and Style** | 28 March — 17 August 2025
- **More Than Human** | 11 July — 05 October 2025
- **Blitz: the club that shaped the 80s** | 20 September 2025 — 29 March 2026
- **Wes Anderson** | 21 November 2025 — 26 July 2026

Exhibition produced by the Design Museum London in collaboration with la Cinémathèque française and in partnership with Wes Anderson and American Empirical Pictures

About the Design Museum

The Design Museum is a multifaceted museum, an ever-changing space for the public, industry and education to come together and explore new ideas. A registered charity, the museum's innovative exhibitions, partnerships, research and learning programmes evidence how design can enable this planet and its inhabitants to thrive. Our landmark building in Kensington is the centre of our national network and a global hub for the transformative potential of design.



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About Harvey Nichols

Founded in 1831, Harvey Nichols is one of the world's leading luxury retailers, renowned for its exclusive edit of the most prestigious brands across Women's, Men's & Kid's Fashion, Beauty & Beauty Services, Food, Wine & Hospitality.