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Trendspotter: Design for humanity

By Nicholas Spencer

In an environment of slowing economic growth, people might be forgiven for focusing on their concerns about paying their mortgages, avoiding redundancy and/or keeping their businesses in the black. Yet there are definite signs of a trend for altruism developing.

This weekend at the 11th Biennale of Architecture in Venice, the five finalists for a new annual international humanitarian design prize are being unveiled. The \$100,000 Curry Stone Design Prize, administered by the University of Kentucky, will honour designers and inventors who are tackling the needs of the world's poorest people.

On Monday in London, Christie's, South Kensington, will play host to Heart and Design, an event in which 23 one-off pieces by some of the glitterati of the fashion and design worlds will be auctioned to raise money for the Royal Brompton & Harefield NHS Trust, one of the largest specialist heart and lung centres in Europe.

And in New York on Thursday, Francisco Costa, Alice Temperley and Michael Bastian will be among the artists, designers and celebrities who have redesigned the iconic Danish Vipp waste bin for a charity auction organised by model Helena Christensen.

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