



MODERN DESIGN

ARCHITECTURE & ART

CREATED BY DISEÑO EARLE | MAY 2008 FREE MAG No.11

BLOODY ART

JORDAN EAGLES' BLOODWORKS

Chanel & Zaha

ART ON THE MOVE

Ron Arad

EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW WITH THE DESIGNER

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American Idol



Michael Earle is an American architect who grew up on the Costa del Sol before moving back to his native Boston. He worked for several firms designing large projects including the 8,000-room Venetian Resort Hotel & Casino in Las Vegas. He was also Professor of Architecture in the Architecture Program at Boston Architectural Center before returning to Spain in 2002. Now, his firm Diseño Earle employs over 125 multi-lingual staff taking projects from design to construction in both residential and commercial architecture and building.

community, as well as reinvigorating community morale. This is demonstrative of the power that modern architecture can have to reinvent communities and cities. Think of the 'Bilbao effect' in Southern California. Thankfully, these efforts by Mr. Moss have gained great recognition. For his work in Culver City, Mr. Moss was awarded the Business Week/Architectural Record Award, which acknowledges excellence in business as well as design. I think this award represents him well, in his ability to mix the pragmatism of development projects with the passion and love for modern design. Mr Moss is also director of the Southern California Institute of Architecture, which is a hotbed of the latest architectural thought. As with many architects, his ideas are tested and refreshed by teaching in an intense environment. His office is a hive of activity and is always open late as his team work long hours to create work that can change the world, one neighbourhood at a time. Good for them.

Modern Design is also available online at www.d-earle.com

For any questions or comments about Modern Design Magazine, I can be contacted at mearle@d-earle.com

This month we are proud to present the work of Eric Owen Moss. He is an architect that has greatly influenced our work here at D-Earle, continuing to push the boundaries of modern architecture and design. I remember showing his work to a principal at a firm where I worked in Boston and nearly giving him a heart attack! That day I dreamt of doing work that would create real, honest reactions in people, not the same glossed-over, regurgitated imitations. The work of Mr. Moss is complicated and complex beyond belief, and shows off his great talent. I hope it provokes a reaction in all of you - it is not for everyone, but nothing good ever is. Mr. Moss was born and raised in Los Angeles, California, and he received architectural degrees from Berkeley and Harvard. One of his finest and longest-lasting projects is his work to revitalise a once-abandoned industrial area in Culver City, just outside of Los Angeles. His designs there really push the limits of building technology. In fact, it is much more than architecture he has developed there; his work has re-created a neighbourhood and brought many jobs to the



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Blood drop inspired by the work of Jordan Eagles (page 87).

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Design and Science



Luis's multicultural background stems from his birthplace in Paris to Spanish parents. There, he studied international business and worked on diverse interesting projects around the world including the first telephone directory in Laos in South East Asia. He joined the Diseño Earle team in January 2007.

As human life becomes increasingly complicated, with more inventions changing the way we interpret and experience the world, designers must keep up! They need to grasp shifts in technology, science and society, and convert them into objects and systems that people can understand and use. These include concepts offered by teams of designers, architects, scientists and engineers from all over the world and range from the simple to the complex. At Modern Design, we bring you the cutting-edge by studying both works-in-progress and completed designs across the globe. We also seek to examine the relationship between these new concepts with the all-important environment. Modern Design explores how design turns concepts

that may have been inconceivable just a decade ago into part of our everyday lives. In this issue we highlight a few examples of innovation based on ongoing research, as well as reflections on the future responsibilities of design. Of particular interest is the exploration of the relationship between design and science and the approach to scale. Design has expanded into new fields, including the interactions between people and objects. Many people have turned to design to give method to their productive tinkering. They all belong to a new 'modern design culture' in which experimentation is guided by engagement with the world. This is a new world where open, constructive collaboration with colleagues and other specialists gives shape to the embryonic dialogue between design and science. We live in an age when information is more prolific and widely available than ever before, and to visualise it is to understand it. The projects in this category demonstrate the ways in which designers and scientists tackle the 'extremely small' and the 'extremely large' in order to bring them to a human scale, thus facilitating our ability to comprehend great amounts of data. Contemporary designers view nature not only as a repository of harmonious forms, but also as a collection of sensible and sustainable structures that use less matter and energy, and are more efficient than traditional man-made systems. Ladies and gentlemen, welcome to Modern Design's world.

MD is also available online at www.d-earle.com

For any questions or comments about Modern Design Magazine, I can be contacted at lgallardo@d-earle.com

Reader's Views

We want to thank all our readers for your feedback. If you have any good ideas or constructive opinions regarding MODERN DESIGN's contents, this is the place to express yourself. Please continue to send us your opinions, suggestions, criticisms and/or comments to: magazine@d-earle.com

I love modern design but for me modern design is not about design forsaking function, to me that is just bad design. And I cannot abide design for the sake of statement, unless of course it is an artwork. Modern design should be about aesthetics which inform, enhance and reflect 21st century living. What I like about your magazine is that you don't just spout nonsensical opinions about designs. You recognize the importance design plays in all aspects of our lives and understand that anyone who is genuinely interested in design will be interested in the design of everything from food presentation to new construction techniques! I would like to see more debate on (a particular) design and discussion on its social impact.

Zoë Bond, UK

I'd like to congratulate you and your team for a very atypical product in the Costa del Sol area, such as your wonderful magazine. I hope you continue in this modern line by publishing contemporary architecture in the next issues!

Angel Taborda, architect, Marbella

Picked up your magazine in Puerto Banus - wow all that for FREE! I own and run a design company just outside Birmingham in the UK with my elder brother. It is great to see what other design companies are upto in other countries, what a great idea, a free design mag!

Darren, Birmingham, England

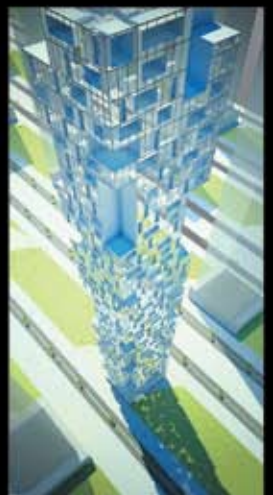
Match & Eat!

If at first you don't succeed...(yes, a new contest!)



If you failed miserably at our last competition, fear not! No sooner have we wrapped up the last one have we come up with a brand new one! We're generous souls here at Modern Design, which is why we're offering you and five friends the chance to win a slap-up meal at one of Marbella's finest eateries. All you have to do is find five friends - we know, it can be stretch! - and correctly match the famous artists to related images on the back cover. If you've got a creative bone in your body - and presumably you have, otherwise you wouldn't be reading Modern Design - you shouldn't have too much of a problem. So get to work and see whether you can snag that lipsmackingly good dinner on offer. For more information please see the back cover.

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LUCK BE A LADY

Congratulations **Amparo García**! The proud holder of a juicy cheque worth 2,008 euros, the lucky lady will certainly look fondly on the day she picked up a copy of Modern Design and saw those famous faces on the back cover!

After drawing the finalists from a hat – not literally, you understand, they have better things to do than to be crammed into a top hat David Copperfield-style – we finally have a winner for the competition the whole Coast has been talking about. And, as fate would have it, our winner is something of a creative spark herself, specialising in personalised digital art made from photos. Check out her website for more info on this talented lady's work.

www.amberarte.com



Michael Earle presenting Amparo García with the cheque.



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BRIDGING THE GAP

Not content with having the world's only seven-star hotel, the largest artificial islands and the tallest skyscrapers, Dubai now has its sights set on having the world's longest arched bridge. They're an insatiable bunch, those Dubai-dwellers! With a price tag of \$817 million - is money no object to these people? - the bridge, which is being built by New York-based architects FXFOWLE, will be Dubai Creek's sixth crossing, including four bridges and one tunnel. Set for completion by 2012, the bridge will stretch 667-metres in length and 65-metres in width, meaning it will eclipse the 550-metre Lupu Bridge in Shanghai, currently the world's longest. With huge archways, 12 lanes of traffic and a dual-lane for the Dubai Metro, the bridge will be capable of handling no less than 20,000 vehicles an hour. If that doesn't improve the rush-hour bottlenecks, then nothing will!



IS THAT A GUN IN YOUR POCKET...?

Capable of spotting hidden objects under clothing - such as weapons, explosives, narcotics, liquids, metallics, plastics and ceramics - ThruVision's T5000 Security Imaging System is a step in the right direction for the fight against terrorism. Based on technology developed by the European Space Agency for studying stars, the camera is small, discreet and exactly what paranoid civilians need to calm their Prozac-worthy nerves. The only downside is that the gizmo doesn't reveal any gratuitous body info, so would-be perverts will have to keep scouring the Net for a camera that does.



iHOME SWEET iHOME

Fans of the iPod will be overjoyed to learn that a new 25-storey tower is going up in Dubai inspired by Apple's iconic MP3 player. Developed by real estate firm Omniyat Properties and to be designed by architects James Law Cybertecture International, the tower will sit at an angle of 90-degrees in a 'docking station', just like the real thing, and will feature more than 200 homes and offices. The tower is expected to open in 2009 and will be a place of worship for geeks everywhere.



CULTURE VULTURE

The new \$94-million Caixa Forum in Madrid is finally open and is shaping up to be the capital's hottest new cultural centre. Herzog & de Meuron is the architecture firm behind the concept, successfully extending the brick shell of the Mediodía power station with shimmering iron and converting it into an architectural masterpiece. Talking of the exposed brick elevations at the base, a Herzog & de Meuron spokesperson said: "The removal of the base of the building left a covered plaza under the brick shell, which now appears to float above street level. This sheltered space offers shade to visitors... and is at the same time the entrance to the Forum itself". With the main building sat adjacent to a 600-square-metre vertical garden, designed by French botanist Patrick Blanc, the centre is as much a work of art as those it houses. Inside, the centre comprises an entrance lobby, gallery spaces, restaurant, café and administrative offices, while an underground extension features a theatre, service rooms, parking and a 650-square-metre public space. Located in a prime position on the tree-lined Paseo del Prado, this is a must-visit for culture-vultures everywhere.



SKIN DEEP



We can change the look of our desktops, mobile phones and MP3 players, so why not our buildings? Well now you can, thanks to Hong Kong-based James Law Cybertecture. In response to the changing nature of buildings in the city, The Visual Building in New Town Plaza, a mixed commercial/retail block, features an intelligent, interchangeable 'skin'. Capable of altering its façade, The Visual Building can sport looks such as Art in the City, Nature in the City or Information in the City, each with their own distinct creative style. Incredible!

PAPER HOUSE

In an attempt to highlight the ecological cost and throwaway nature of the free newspaper - of which there is an increasing amount in London - artist Sumer Ereik built a house from 60,000 of them. Part of an art installation by Creative City in Gillett Square, East London, Ereik asked the public to participate by writing messages on their own papers and donating them. Ereik then made 'sticks' out of the newspapers by rolling them up tight, sealing them with glue and running them through a special machine that tightens them; he also made the newspapers into 'bricks' by folding them inwards and rolling them lengthways. Ereik built the house behind a black curtain before unveiling his design earlier this year in March. He said: "We all



believed that moving into the digital era would diminish the use of paper. On the contrary, there seems to be a resurgence of printed material and newspapers, much of it free and everywhere - yet we don't think much about where paper has come from and where it goes after we've used it".



THE WINNER TAKES IT ALL

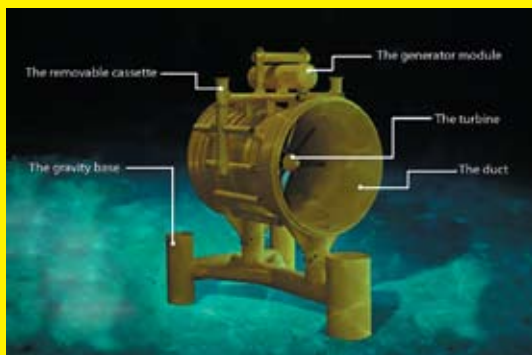
While the Pritzker Prize isn't the be all and end all for architects, the feeling of pride must be undeniable when you're awarded the highest architectural honour. Take renowned French architect Jean Nouvel, for instance; he's been grinning from ear to ear since news broke that he had been chosen as the 2008 Pritzker Architecture Laureate. Nouvel's incredible portfolio can be

seen throughout the world, from the United States to the United Arab Emirates, and includes masterpieces such as the critically-acclaimed L'Institut du Monde Arabe in Paris. Nouvel joins fellow Pritzker-holders Richard Rogers, Philip Johnson, Tadao Ando, I.M. Pei, Paolo Mendes da Rocha, Frank Gehry and Zaha Hadid to become part of one of the world's most exclusive clubs. A ceremony will be held in Washington D.C. on 2nd June in his honour, where he will receive a medallion and a \$100,000 grant.

POWER TO THE PEOPLE

British firm Lunar Energy and the Korean Midland Company are joining forces to build a \$500-million tidal power scheme in South Korea. Using power from fast-moving tidal streams to turn 300 60-foot-high turbines on the seabed, it is expected the scheme will power 200,000 homes by 2012. Built by partners Hyundai Heavy Industries and Rotech Engineering, the turbines are

similar to those used by oil companies and feature a 2,500-tonne frame into which a 'cassette' (containing a pump, generator, motor and electronics) is dropped. While the scheme is certainly a better alternative to tidal barrages - which are being blamed for erosion and other ecological damage - tests on a pilot turbine will be run next year to establish exactly what the environmental impact would be.



Lend A Helping Hand

PAD (Protección de Animales Domésticos)



Fendi, pictured here, was adopted one month ago. With his puppy-dog eyes his new family couldn't resist taking him home.

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TRAVEL BAG

>>>>>>>> MOBILE ART>>>> CHANEL CONTEMPORARY ART CONTAINER BY ZAHA HADID

That Karl Lagerfeld is a crazy guy. Not only does the white-haired wonder wear wacky clobber and a ponytail that went out of style circa 1980, but he's always coming up with off-the-wall concepts that will drive his treasured Chanel brand forward. Enter [Mobile Art, a moving exhibition inspired by Chanel's iconic 2.55 quilted bag](#), which was designed by Coco herself back in 1955. Inside the futuristic pavilion – born from the mind of renowned architect Zaha Hadid – 20 contemporary artists exhibit works that are inspired by the brand's signature chained accessory. Artists commissioned for the exhibition include Daniel Buren, David Levinthal, Fabrice Hyber, Leandro Erlich, Lee Bul, Loris Cecchini, Michael Lin, Nobuyoshi Araki, Pierre & Gilles, Soju Tao, Stephen Shore, Subodh Gupta, Sylvie Fleury, Tabaimo, Wim Delvoye, Yang Fudong, Yoko Ono, Y.Z. Kami, Stephan Crasneanski and Russian collective Blue Noses, all of whom have risen to the challenge with a range of innovative sculptures, installations, photographs and videos. We're sure you'll agree, it's quite the collaboration!

Text: Nick Clarke

The big-name 'artistes' were brought together by curator Fabrice Bousteau, editorial director and editor-in-chief of prolific French publication *Beaux Arts Magazine*. To completely immerse his chosen ones in the Chanel brand, Bousteau took them on a grand tour of Coco's apartment at the prestigious *Hôtel Ritz Paris*, where she lived for more than 30 years, and offered them a glimpse into the factories where Chanel handbags are made. No doubt a few of them were missing from the production line the next day! _____ Having opened first in Hong Kong, the exhibition will embark on a two-year tour of the world's fashion capitals, moving through Tokyo, New York, London, Moscow and Paris. Bousteau said of the exhibition; "It's a sort of UFO that lands for a number of weeks in the middle of some of the largest cities in Asia, the US and Europe". Indeed, the location for the Hong Kong exhibition is, bizarrely, on the rooftop of the Star Ferry Car Park next to the city's harbour. While it is a prime location in the Central district, the site isn't the most obvious place for a celebration of fashion and design. Nevertheless, guests at the neighbouring Mandarin Oriental will be able to sneak a peak at the container from many of their ocean-facing rooms. _____ The structure itself is a collapsible tubular form that completely reinvents the conventional gallery space, with reducing arch

Photos: Courtesy of François Lacour

"It's a sort of UFO that lands for a number of weeks in the middle of some of the largest cities in Asia, the US and Europe"

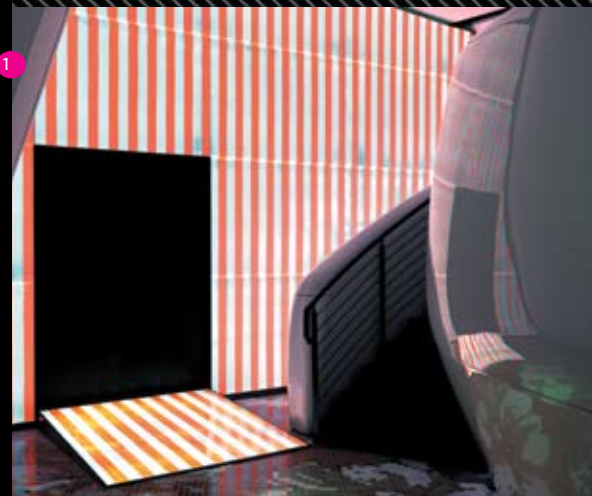
Crasneanski's Soundwalk; a heady mix of original music and ambient sounds, visitors will be equipped with an MP3 player that will guide them both physically and mentally. Inside, they will come across artworks such as Nobuyoshi Araki's nude, Blue Noses' imposing sculpture and Yoko Ono's Wish Tree, where you pen your wishes on rice paper and attach them. Inspired by the shapes found in nature, the organic interior has more than enough space to showcase the

"Conceived as an experiment, the exhibition aims to move art away from the traditional museum setting and transform it into something more flexible, accessible and dynamic"

segments, large-scale white tiles, undulating walls, swooping curves and an overall graceful aesthetic. Hadid said; "I think through our architecture, we can give people a glimpse of another world, and enthuse them, make them excited about ideas. Our architecture is intuitive, radical, international and dynamic. We are concerned with constructing buildings that evoke original experiences, a kind of strangeness and newness that is comparable to the experience of going to a new country. The Mobile Art pavilion for Chanel follows these principles of inspiration". Mirroring Coco's designs, which are simple, elegant and minimalist, Hadid's creation would certainly do the fashion world's most famous mademoiselle proud. _____ Mobile Art is more of an experience than an exhibition. Visitors are invited to wander through the container together with a soundtrack created by Stephan

artworks, including a 128-square-metre terrace and a 65-square-metre courtyard. Conceived as an experiment, the exhibition aims to move art away from the traditional museum setting and transform it into something more flexible, accessible and dynamic. By associating the 2.55 quilted bag with contemporary designers, the exhibition will breathe new life into the classic design and reaffirm its position on modern-day catwalks. Coco herself once said, "I want to be part of what's happening", and with so many 'happening' talents contributing to this, she'd undoubtedly approve. Blurring the lines between art, architecture and fashion, Mobile Art transcends not only geography, but industry, to embody the exhibitions of the future.

For more information visit:
www.chanel-mobileart.com





“The fascination of Mobile Art is the challenge of translating the intellectual and physical into the sensual – experimenting with completely unexpected and totally immersive environments for this global celebration of the iconic work of Chanel. I see Mobile Art as a kind of total artwork that continually reinvents itself as it moves from Asia, to the USA and Europe.” **Zaha Hadid**



1| Designer interior: installation to look like the inside of a Chanel bag; © Fabrice Hyber, *Comfortable*, 2008, installation, courtesy of the artist. **2| Think pink:** Thanging sculptures and mosaic floor; © Loris Cecchini, *Floating Crystals (Incoherent Extensive Formations for my Deepest Vibrations)*, 2007-2008, sculptures, courtesy of the artist; © Michael Lin, *Untitled*, 2007-2008, installation, courtesy of the artist. **3| Double act:** wall-mounted photos and standing tree; © Stephen Shore, *Handbag factory*, 2007, photography, courtesy of the artist; © Yoko Ono, *Wish Tree*, 2008, installation, courtesy of the artist. **4| Mirror, mirror:** Futuristic installation; © Lee Bul, *Light Years*, 2007, installation, courtesy of the artist.

Photos: Courtesy of François Lacour



Animal print: Avant-garde installation; © Wim Delvoye, Jesus, Love & CHANEL bags, 2007, installation, courtesy of the artist. **Photos:** Courtesy of François Lacour



Image courtesy of Jordan Eagles

Inside Out Bottle Klein House

SINCE ITS UNVEILING LAST YEAR, BOTTLE KLEIN HOUSE – NAMED AFTER THE MATHEMATICAL CONCEPT OF THE SAME NAME AND **DESIGNED BY AUSTRALIA-BASED MCBRIDE CHARLES RYAN ARCHITECTS** - HAS GOT EVERYONE'S KNICKERS IN A TWIST OVER ITS WARPED FORM AND JAW-DROPPING AESTHETIC. CONCEIVED IN CONJUNCTION WITH A GROUP OF MATHEMATICIANS (THEIR BOARD MEETINGS MUST HAVE BEEN A HOOT!), THE DESIGN'S DEFINING CHARACTERISTIC IS ITS NON-ORIENTABLE FORM, WITH NO APPARENT DISTINCTION BETWEEN THE INTERIOR AND EXTERIOR SURFACES. KNOWN IN THE MATHEMATICAL WORLD AS A TWO-DIMENSIONAL TOPOLOGICAL SPACE – YES, THAT IS A WORD – **THE HOUSE EFFECTIVELY BRINGS THE OUTSIDE IN, AND VICE VERSA.** WHILE IT'S NOT REVEALED WHO THIS MASTERPIECE WAS COMMISSIONED BY, WE CAN IMAGINE EINSTEIN WOULD HAVE FELT RIGHT AT HOME HERE.

Text: Nick Clarke **Photos:** Courtesy of Mc Bride Charles Ryan Architects

Nestled amongst the trees outside of Melbourne, Bottle Klein House works to challenge our sense of perception, depth, linear orientation, interior/exterior spaces and pretty much every notion of what a house should look like. In fact, its complexity is enough to bring on a migraine. Nevertheless, the architects – who can be credited with other Aussie wonders, such as Monaco House and the much-lauded QII apartments – have done wonders with the design, making what could have been cold and calculating warm and inviting. Not that this house isn't calculated, mind; everything from its precise angles to its jutting lines are painstakingly worked out. Somehow though, it still manages to look effortless, almost as if it was beamed down from space or assembled quickly like

one of those paper fortune tellers you used to make as a kid. Cutting-edge in more sense than one – in fact, an uninitiated houseguest could very easily poke out their eye if they were to fall awkwardly into one of its corners – the 258-square-metre house features a grand staircase that connects all levels and revolves around a central courtyard. Indeed, there is a sense of being both near and far to all occupants at the same time, perfect for the close-knit family unit. While McBride Charles Ryan wanted to be true to the concept of a Bottle Klein, they also wanted the design to function as a home – this, after all, is the whole point of a residential project. Material-wise, the exterior is clad with sleek BlueScope Lysaght metal sheets, fibre cement sheets and large mosaic glass windows, while the interior features stylish white Signorino tiles, dynamic Tretford carpet and an ecologically-friendly bamboo floor. Inside the house is painted

red – though it's a cinema-style burgundy, rather than the kind of red you'd see lots of in a Scorsese flick – while the outside is a contrast of black and white. So effective is the colour palette, in fact, that it quite rightfully earned itself the prestigious Dulux Colour Award for its exterior. Incredibly, Bottle Klein House is just a holiday home, so you can only imagine what the owners' full-time residence – and bank balance! – must look like. At a guess, we'd say this mathematical marvel was a weekend retreat for the likes of Stephen Hawking, or someone of that intellectual ilk. Certainly, anyone of a lesser brain-capacity may have trouble finding the front door! While E may indeed equal MC2, form and function equal Bottle Klein House.
www.mcbridecharlesryan.com.au



1

1| **Anachronistic abode:** modern design in natural surroundings.

2| **Mathematical marvel:** exterior view of main entrance.



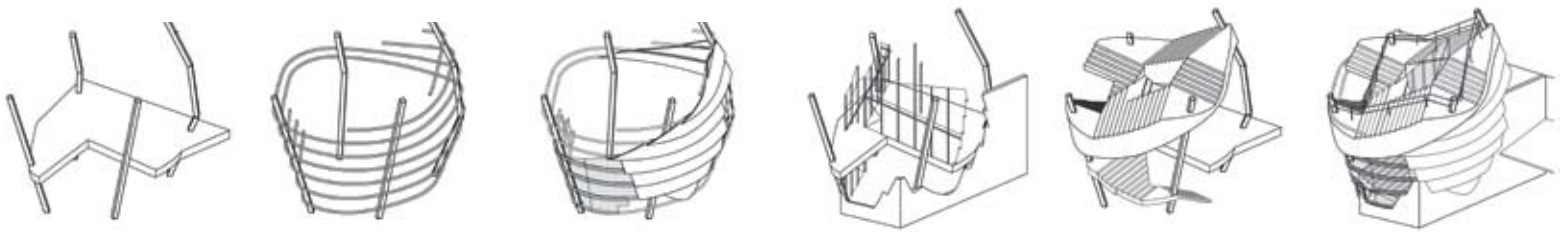
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1| **The shape of things to come:** Exterior view of Bottle Klein structure. 2| **Cutting-edge interior:** Staircase connects all levels. 3| **Glass house:** Revolves around a central courtyard.





Above image: Cylindrical structure... architectural drawings of Beehive (© Eric Owen Moss Architects)



California Dreamin'

As synonymous with California as sun, surf, sex and silicone, native architect *Eric Owen Moss* has spent his 30-year career trying to make Los Angeles remembered for something other than the Hollywood sign. And he's succeeded, with a portfolio that spans university facilities, corporate headquarters, cultural institutions, exhibition spaces, galleries, theatres, restaurants, public arenas and swish movie star-style private residences. In fact, it seems the Hollywood sign is the only thing in L.A. that Moss doesn't have a design claim on.

Opposite page
counterclockwise
from top:

Iconic façade...

exterior view from street, Beehive (© Eric Owen Moss Architects)

Undulating glass...

exterior view of roof from above, Umbrella (© Tom Bonner)

Steep slant... exterior view of canopy from roof deck, 3555 (© Eric Owen Moss Architects)

As a youth Moss wasn't your usual Californian beach-bum surfer dude; in fact, he was probably teased by the cheerleaders at his high school for being a bookworm, going on to earn his Bachelor of Arts from the University of California, LA, his Masters of Architecture from the the University of California, Berkeley, and his second Masters of Architecture from the Harvard University Graduate School of Design. But with an impressive portfolio and an even more impressive bank balance, who's laughing now? Certainly not the cheerleaders, who are probably shackled up in trailer parks with rednecks in string vests. Having set himself apart from his contemporaries with innovative building techniques and a kind-hearted focus on community development, Moss has effectively become the Mother Teresa of the architectural world. Or something like that.

Over the years, Moss has worked tirelessly to breathe new life into the once-defunct industrial segment of California's Culver City. Set to the west of Los Angeles County, the town, which featured in movies such as *Grease* and *City Slickers*, had fallen into disrepair since the decline of the studios in the 60s and 70s. It is here, in the Hayden

Industrial Tract, that Moss has channelled his creative energies. With an emphasis on renovation rather than new-build, Moss has committed himself wholeheartedly to introducing vibrant designs and affording Culver City a new lease of life. And it's paid off, simultaneously boosting community morale and spawning exciting jobs in the area.

Standing testament to Moss's dedication is the Beehive, a honeycomb-inspired extension built onto an existing two-storey warehouse. Adding show-stopping cultural forms to classic architecture is Moss's signature, and it certainly works to full effect here! The client, reportedly a medical company, wanted its otherwise anonymous-looking office to feature some kind of recognisable landmark, and now it certainly does. Formed by four columns that are grouped together by steel tubes, the cylindrical structure is fairly simple by Moss standards. What defines it, however, is the pre-weathered steel and glass that act as its façade, making it reminiscent of a shell that's evolved naturally around the fast-paced activity of its 'worker bees' (cut-away glass strips reveal glimpses of what goes on inside to the public).



2



3



Umbrella House:

1| Ascending order... stairway to the rooftop terrace

(© Eric Owen Moss Architects) **2| Like a broken**

umbrella... exterior view of the north-east corner

(© Eric Owen Moss Architects) **3| Jutting out...** exterior

view of the balcony (© Eric Owen Moss Architects)

Meanwhile, the main entrance of the office is situated at the front of the structure, with a staircase that winds its way up along the inside to a glazed conference room, while a second staircase leads to a majestic rooftop terrace. The perfect place for a coffee break or a sneaky cigarette, this space relaxes and inspires with its incredible views over Culver City and beyond. Acting as a unique, curving frontage that contrasts with the jagged, Escher-like angles of the rooftop stairs, the Beehive is arguably one of Moss's most accomplished designs, and, in a city obsessed with novelty, one of his most revered.

With a soft spot for performance spaces, Moss couldn't resist helping out with Green Umbrella, either, an experimental concert series hosted by the Los

Angeles Philharmonic Orchestra. Commissioned to build an outdoor performance balcony on two old warehouses, Moss came up with the off-the-wall (quite literally) Umbrella balcony. A cascading series of laminated glass panels mounted onto a steel structure, the balcony accommodates different performance arrangements for a number of small venues inside and outside of the same building. A specialist glass subcontractor – California Glass Bending – worked alongside Moss to create the undulating, wave-like form of the panels. The balcony doesn't only act as an aesthetically-pleasing platform, either - which, incidentally, looks like an umbrella broken up by strong wind - but enhances the venue's acoustics and enables flexible seating arrangements. Now the Philharmonic Orchestra has



Above photo: Glass houses... exterior view of the south wall, 3555 (© Eric Owen Moss Architects)



Above photo: Tunnel of light... exterior view through skylight canopy, 3555 (© Eric Owen Moss Architects)



1| Grand entrance... exterior view of façade detailing, Perm Museum (© Eric Owen Moss Architects) **2| Altering the skyline...** exterior view of the east elevation, Perm Museum (© Eric Owen Moss Architects) **3| High-rises...** exterior view of Republic Square design (© Eric Owen Moss Architects) **4| Mixed-use...** interior side view of Republic Square building (© Eric Owen Moss Architects) **5| Public plaza...** interior side view of conjoined public plaza, Republic Square (© Eric Owen Moss Architects)

left, the building is occupied by an Internet and graphic design firm. Because of such, the interior performance space was revised by Moss to accommodate the new tenant, with the architect installing open production areas, private offices, conference rooms and exhibition spaces. Moss said of the Umbrella's structural flexibility: "This is a place with no hierarchy, but of fluid and flexible spaces". A dramatic but elegant sight in Culver City, we can certainly think of worse places to do a 9-5 shift.

Another of Moss's industrial innovations is 3555, a bevelled third-floor extension on a Culver City 1950s red-brick warehouse. Commissioned

by a national broadcasting company, the design was built to add office and conference space to an existing soundstage. In order to distribute the weight of the new floor, Moss installed a foundation of steel beams that run along the perimeter of the existing roof. Steeply slanting glass characterises the north side, allowing room for a courtyard that cuts into the building's façade. The roof itself is supported by steel and wood columns, and undulates in and out in accordance with the strict 43-metre high building regulations to distribute interior volume. Wooden beams are exposed on the inside of the roof, which is intersected by two skylights, and adds warmth,

character and old-world style to the normally cold corporate sphere. What's most impressive about 3555 is that the redesign anticipates future expansion, adding office space over time through three additional fibreglass modules.

While it may be his favourite playground, Moss doesn't only focus on California. Occasionally he branches out and lends his talents to chillier climates, such as Russia. Last year an open competition was arranged by the Centre of Contemporary Architecture for the design of a new museum in Perm, which is situated between Europe and Asia near the Ural Mountains and has nothing whatsoever to do with the frizzy hairstyle

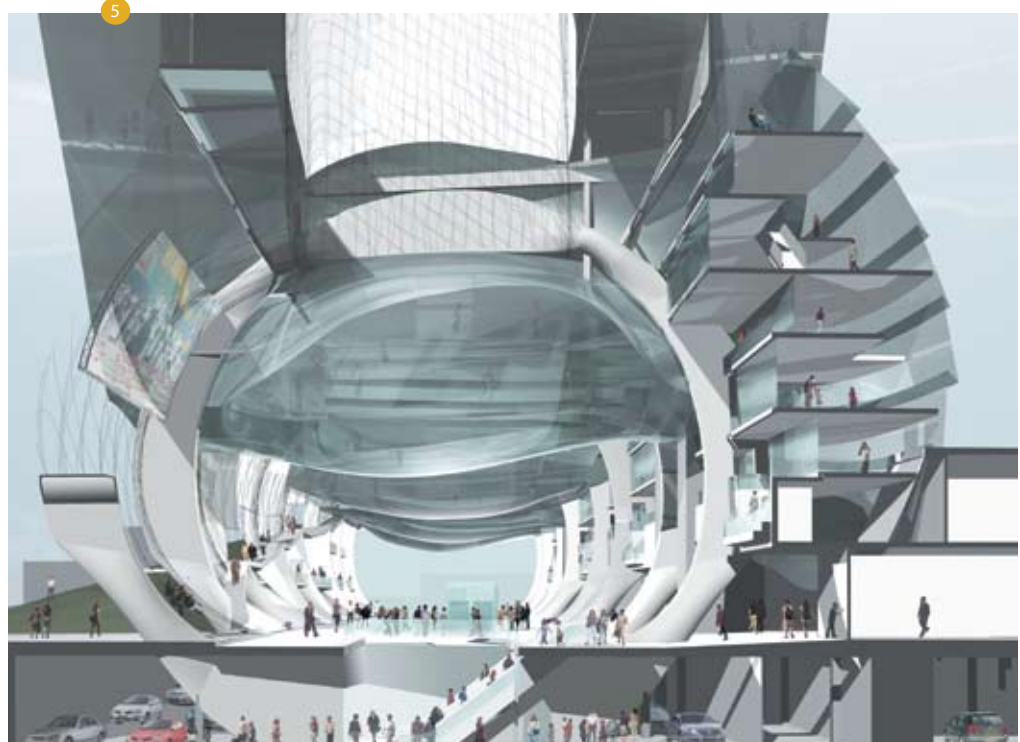
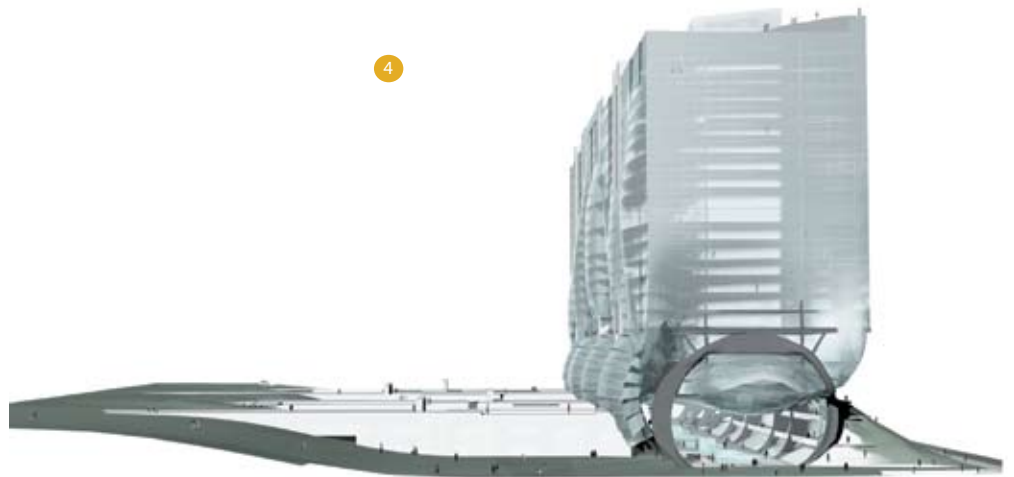


favoured by the elderly. Moss entered the contest with an iconic design but was pipped to the post by Moscow-based Bernaskoni. If it had been selected, Moss's proposed design for the Perm Museum XXI would have been as commanding as any tsar. Viewable from pretty much everywhere in the city – like the Eiffel Tower is in Paris – the design certainly delivered on the initial brief that it must be 'a calling card for the city and its region in the manner of Frank Gehry's Guggenheim Museum in Bilbao'. Made up of five main building 'blocks' that lie close to the Kama River, the design housed a stunning glass lobby and more gorgeous gallery space than you can shake a stick at, with the contemporary collection on the second floor of the West Bridge Block and the regional collection in the East Bridge Block. With soft, landscaped gardens juxtaposed against weathered industrial exteriors, the design represents Perm's transition from past to present, as well as bridging the gap between Europe and Asia.

Russia isn't Moss's only foreign foray, either. Thanks to the man with the golden touch, Kazakhstan will soon be known for something other than Borat. To be built next to the former capitol building of the Republic of Kazakhstan, the project, which will revitalise the last remaining section of Republic Square, is part of Almaty's large-scale, city-wide development. Having battled it out with Zaha Hadid in yet another design competition, Moss's design snagged the winning vote and is set to be a 126,000-square-metre centre of culture and entertainment. Comprising a five-star hotel, luxury residences, offices and retail units, the mixed-use building will represent the new-found affluence of this Central Asian nation. The brief required five separate high-rises, each defined by their various sectors. Moss's response is five separate buildings that begin as one, separate and then merge together again as they ascend, with a conjoined public plaza at ground level.

Having started his practice in 1973, Moss works out of his treasured Los Angeles and currently employs 25 likeminded creative professionals. With his awe-inspiring designs gaining recognition locally, nationally and internationally, it's hardly surprising that his firm has won over 50 prizes. While the prestigious Pritzker may not be among them, it certainly isn't out of reach for this innovator. Fusing everyday life with artistic imagination, turning industrial wastelands into inspiring spaces, and bringing long-forgotten sites into the present, Moss is the undisputed master of reinvention. All hail the new king of California.

www.ericowenmoss.com





A Modern Dubai Hotel Experience

The dizzying pace of construction in Dubai is hard to come to grips with for all who experience it on a regular basis, but especially for architects who must keep up with the demand of designing block after block of similar buildings.

This new Dubai hotel breaks the mould with an innovative skin which seems to billow in the wind, curving, lurching and reacting to each interior program use. This movement is interrupted at the entrance, welcoming its visitors to pass under the veil of glass and into an ultra-modern, friendly and unique interior. Inserted within a row of block-like, mundane structures with little or no character, the hotel will make its unique presence felt with its complex form and unique user experience. Designed by Costa del Sol-based Diseño Earle, the project pushes the limits of building technology with its intelligent use of glass. The curving forms are created by individually formed panels that bend, contort and change size to meet the demands of the constantly changing design.

Glass manufacturing technology is evolving and adapting to new and advanced wall systems which allow architects to design forward-thinking and interesting forms. It is always exciting for architects to be able to expand the palette of choices available to them. When the technology is there to build anything that we can imagine, it frees up the designer to really push the boundaries of the imagination. The façade will also use environmentally-sensitive smart glass technology to reduce its cooling load. These smart glass systems change their level of opacity and sun shading depending on the time of day and the amount of sunlight that is directly hitting the glass. This allows for a considerable reduction in energy use

during the time of the day where 80% of the energy is used to keep a building cool in a desert climate like Dubai. When innovative technology and design come together, the building is better off for it. The leaders and developers in the United Arab Emirates are currently showing a lot of interest in creating more environmentally-sensitive buildings and the hotel project represents this new emphasis. New buildings are being designed and built every day in Dubai and with the massive scale of construction there, it is great to see that green architecture and environmental sensitivity are also playing a part in the growth.

Streets overpopulated with the façades of similar buildings can create a hulking presence. Developers are usually, and understandably, trying to maximise build volume and increase the return on their investment. The design decision to create glass curtain walls that subtly fold and appear to move, has allowed the building architects to create site-specific changes without reducing the build volume by too much. Just as the external treatment distinguishes different areas of the hotel from the outside, the interior lobby form allows the visitor to always keep a central point of orientation. Throughout the hotel there are surprising experiences where contorted walls confront the user and change the experience of the building from point to point. The entrance sequence cuts diagonally through the centre of the building allowing glimpses of the central atrium. Completion is set for 2011.



Image left: The hotel's exterior is imagined as a glass curtain, gently waving in the breeze. Sculptural and dynamic, the undulating wall creates a striking and memorable entry experience.

Image above: The gentle curves of the building's exterior are reflected within the lobby, which features a meandering 'river' flowing under a glass floor.



Street art has added another string to its bow in the form of this colourful English artist's virtual reality paintings. His amazing images are drawn in such a way as to give them three dimensionality when viewing from the correct angle – viewed from the wrong angle and you end up staring blankly at a pile of chalk dust, scratching your head and wondering what all the fuss is about!

Text: Chris Dove

Julian Beever

is his name and optical illusions are his game!



Well believe me, Beever's work generates lots of fuss not only in his native England but in Belgium, Germany and France, and even as far afield as Australia and the US. That's a whole stack of calcium carbonate to be humping around the world. Creating artworks using a distorted projection technique called anamorphosis, his drawings have been adorning pavements and sidewalks since the mid-1990s, including his extremely effective renderings of old masters, his large pastel portraits in homage or obituary to celebrities and his wealth of highly original inventive pieces – all playing tricks on the eye in a modern example of *trompe l'oeil* – literally meaning 'trick the eye'.

Three words neatly describe this guy and his work: clever, patient and mind-boggling. Yet dare I add genius to his glowing list of accolades? Injecting a sense of fun into people's daily lives as they go about their routine business gives his work a community spirit with the interactive nature of his work allowing people to walk around

the art, watching him create his illusions first-hand.

Of course the only sad element to all this (and remember, ALL good things come to an end...) is that each carefully crafted piece eventually gets washed away! So, with sunny Spain providing the ideal location where the longest lasting impression of his work could be appreciated by all ages and nationalities – we hardly have any rainfall! – perhaps Beever could be tempted to pave the streets of Fuengirola this summer to help brighten things up while leaving his indelible mark on our world famous Paseo Marítimo? Hmm, now there's a thought...

Check out more of Beever's breathtaking creations at <http://users.skynet.be/J.Beever/> or why not go one better and commission this uniquely talented guy for your very own visuals to decorate fun family functions (kids will love him!), business events or other commercial occasions aiming to draw attention to themselves with Beever's 3D illusions, wall murals and collages.





Image courtesy of Jordan Eagles



Arad

the Ronvolutionary

An interview with **Ron Arad**

Best described as a maker of sculptural furniture – though it is difficult to pin down exactly what he does, having designed everything from rocking chairs to cocktail shakers for the likes of Driade and Alessi – Israel-born Ron Arad is to the design world what Dolce & Gabbana is to the fashion world. In other words, bloody brilliant! In fact, the two powerhouses came in close contact in 2006 when the Italian fashion house sponsored one of Arad's exhibitions, pulling out all the stops to showcase the designer's seven-piece 'Bodyguard' collection in Milan. But when's he's not jet-setting around the globe with flamboyant chums Domenico and Stefano, Arad is based at his London studio, Ron Arad Associates. Here he delights in creating his signature surrealist designs with as many high-tech materials as he can get his capable hands on, such as the famous Rover Chair and the Bookworm Shelf for Kartell. With an instantly recognisable aesthetic, Arad's work has become something of an institution, with his original designs selling for thousands of pounds. Having kindly taken time out from his busy schedule, Modern Design sits down for a little one-on-one with the man who, it appears, has pretty much everything. www.ronarad.com

Text: Nick Clarke **Photos:** Courtesy of Ron Arad

Modern Design: Describe your design style in three words, please.

Ron Arad: New, exciting, surprising.

MD: Could you tell us about your company, Ron Arad Associates? How many people do you have working for you?

RA: I employ 20 people. Half the people are architects and half are designers.

MD: What kind of people do you employ?

RA: New, brilliant, surprising.

MD: How do you manage to drive them in the same direction?

RA: With good signage! Everyone is conjoined in the same approach. They knew what they were joining.

MD: Function or form?

RA: Both.

MD: What inspires your projects?

RA: Everything, but mainly my previous work. As you work you form ideas of things you want to try the next time.

MD: What would you never design? Why?

RA: A bomb. Weapons.

MD: Was it a competitive experience when you were working on Hotel Puerta America?

RA: We worked alone. It didn't feel competitive. It wasn't collaborative work. We each had a slice. That was the nature of that project. It was very unusual.

MD: We presume you often collaborate with architects in interior design. Is there a big gap between these two fields?

“Sometimes I look at something old, and I think, how could I possibly do something like that?”

RA: When we work abroad, we have local architects looking after the day to day running of projects, dealing with local administrative issues etc.

MD: Have you ever made a mistake and designed something people didn't like?

RA: Not that they tell me about it! Sometimes I look at something old, and I think, how could I

possibly do something like that? But mostly when I look at something I haven't seen for a long time, I look at it fondly. Normally people seem to be happy with what we have done for them, when you're talking about architecture. When you're talking about things and objects, people are generally happy with what fell into their hands.

MD: Do you have any other creative outlets?

RA: Ping-pong. Snatch – it's like scrabble. I play less guitar than I used to when I was younger.

MD: Which designers' objects would you use to furnish your home?

RA: I have things I have accumulated and collected – I have a Porca Miseria! chandelier [by Ingo Mauro], which seems to get a response from people who see it. It's made from broken white plates and crockery.

MD: We know you like to listen to radio. What kind of music do you like?

RA: I prefer Radio 4, which isn't music. I do listen to lots of music, though, and I fall asleep to music. I also work with music late at night. When you have 20 people working, you're subjected to all kinds of genres.

“When I look at something I haven't seen for a long time, I look at it fondly. Normally people seem to be happy with what we have done for them, when you're talking about architecture”

MD: Finish the sentence, please:

Design is...

RA: What I do.

Design is not...

RA: Such an important occupation.

Design could be...

RA: Fun.

MD: Have you got any projects in the pipeline you can tell us about?

RA: We're designing my retrospective at Centre Georges Pompidou in Paris at the moment, which will open on 19th November this year and run until 2nd March 2009. Then we're going to the MOMA [The Museum of Modern Art, New York] and to other museums. The first stop is Paris, though; it's

a very exciting project, both for content and exhibition design.

“Some things are done without any such consideration, but it doesn't mean they don't have any commercial value”

MD: If you weren't designing, what would you be doing?

RA: I'm jealous of dancers.

MD: How do you keep up-to-date with the design world? Do you read design magazines, blogs, etc?

RA: No, I give them the material to write about.

MD: Do you like to travel? If so, where to?

RA: I travel too much. I'm trying to cut down travelling, because you can lose your centre if you travel too much. This is the first time I've been in the studio for a long time. I've been to Marrakech where we were designing a villa, and I've come back from Paris, where I was designing a show. I travel to lots of places where we have projects on-site.

MD: How many languages do you speak?

RA: I speak three and half languages, Hebrew, English, French and I'm OK in Italian – I can hold a conversation with suppliers.

MD: Has growing up in Israel influenced your designs?

RA: Everyone is a benefactor of their own childhood. Of course, it has influenced me – I can't tell you how exactly. But I spent most of my adult life in a place that's not native and the influence from being somewhere else is bigger than the influence from where you're from.

MD: Where do you draw the line between commercial projects and art?

RA: I don't draw that line. We are very lucky to do what we want to do. Some things are industrial for commercial distribution, but it doesn't make them artless. Some things are done without any such consideration, but it doesn't mean they don't have any commercial value.

MD: Finally, do you have any advice for future designers out there?

RA: Not to follow in people's footsteps. Not to try and desperately join whatever happens to be the current trend.



Designed by Ron Arad, **Hotel Duomo** in the historic city of Rimini, Italy, is a mecca for fashionable travellers everywhere. Featuring a beautiful bronze façade, red lacquer doors and a reception desk made out of a curved ring of steel, it's so hedonistically hip it hurts. With signature Ron Arad style in every stylish nook and cranny, this 41-room boutique beauty is what future hotels look like, or at least what they should look like. www.duomohotel.com



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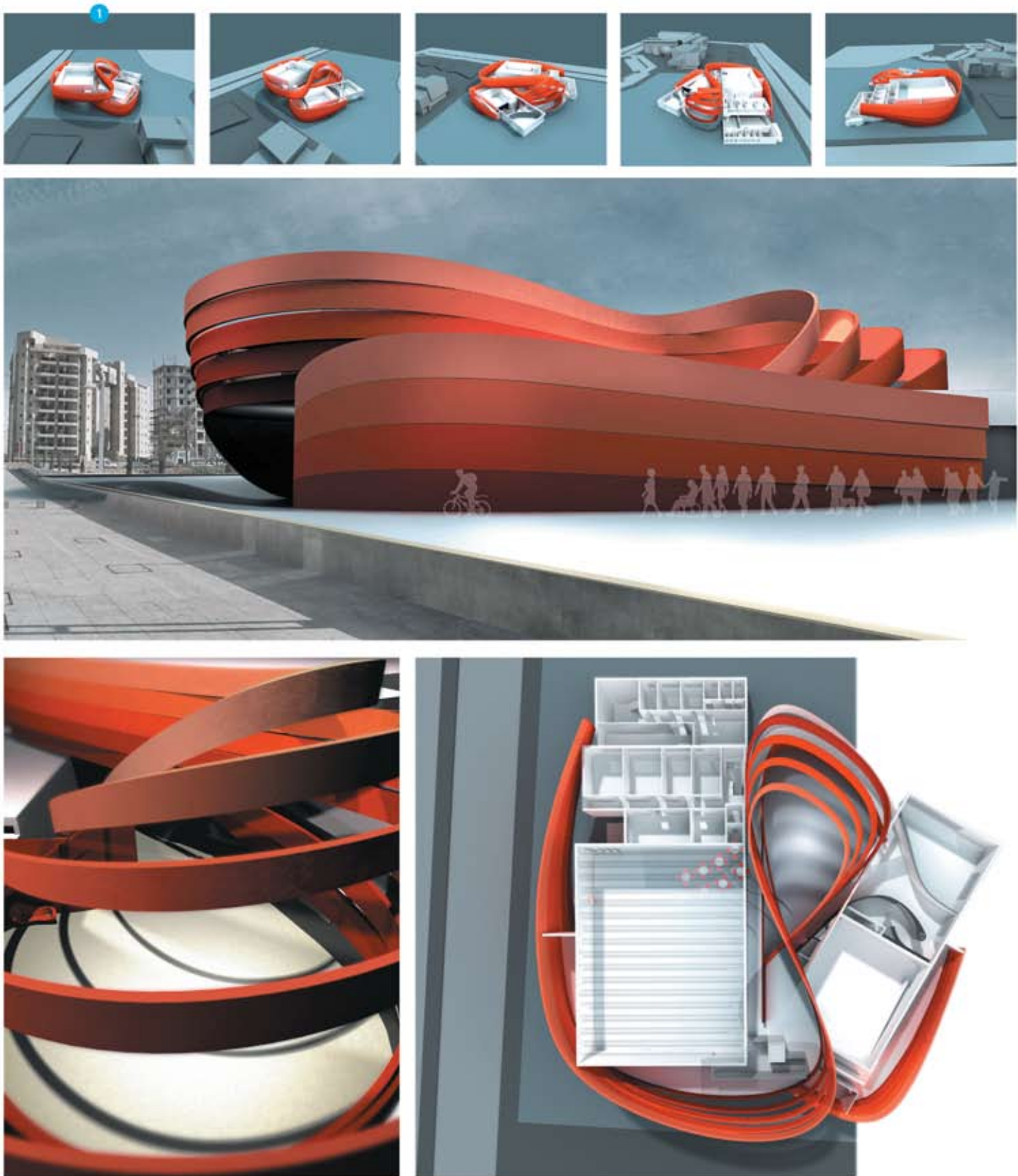
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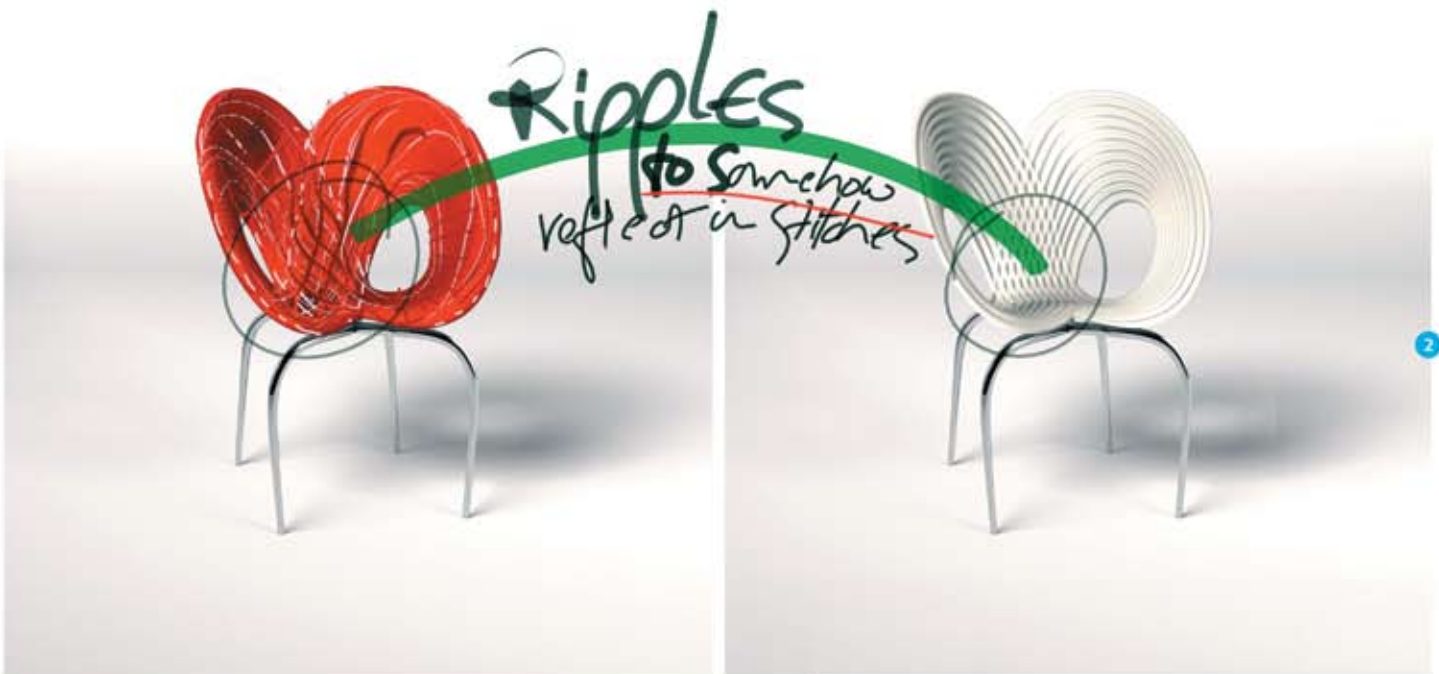
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1| **Seeing red:** Renderings of National Design Museum, Holon, Israel.

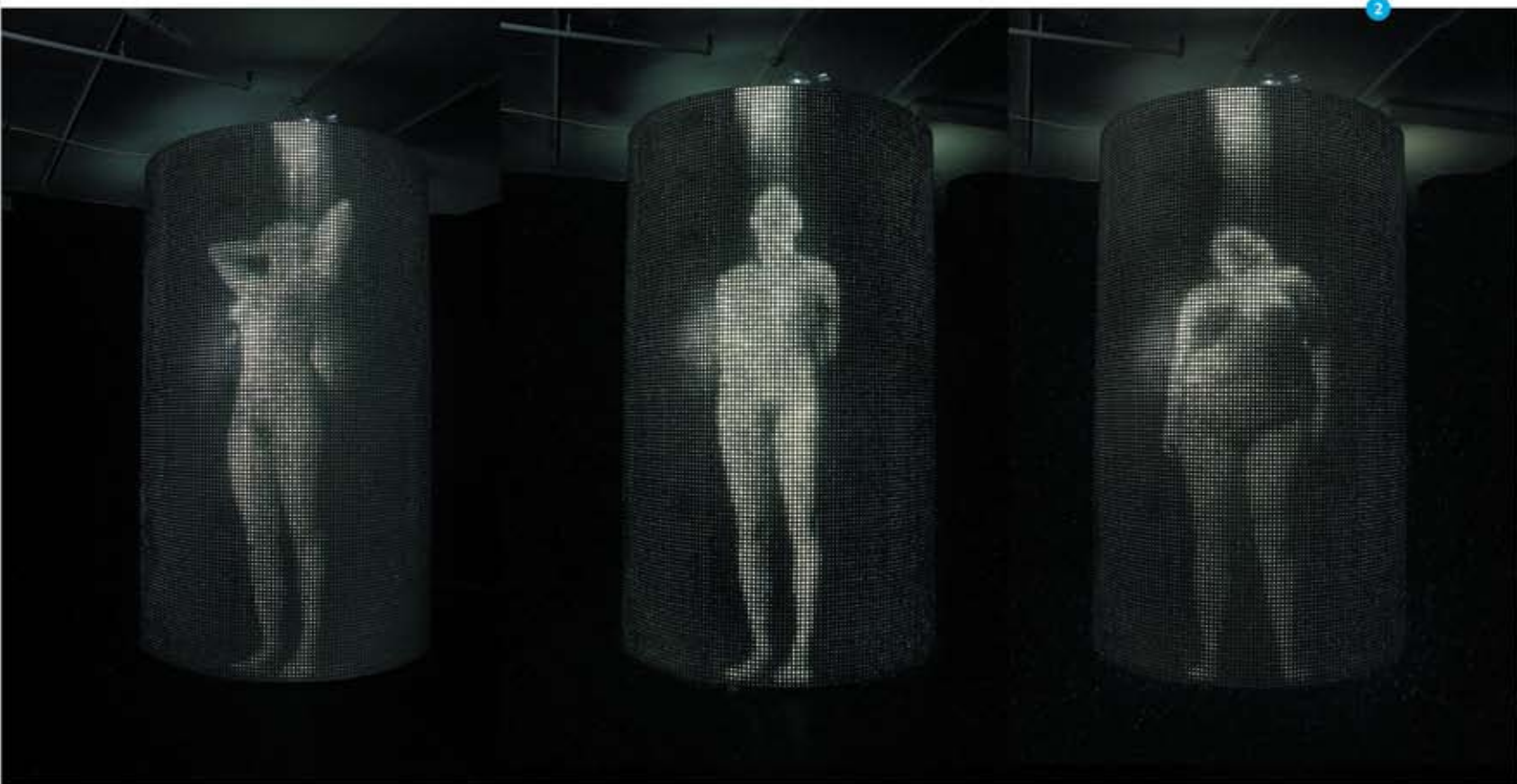


2| **Stitched up:** Ripple chair for Moroso. 3| **Chair man:** MT Rocker (Moroso) for the Interni Garden. 4| **Take a seat:** Screw barstool for Draide.
5| **Easy chair:** MT1 Rocker chair for Draide. 6| **Big softy:** MT1 soft chair for Draide. 7| **Be seated:** MT3 chair for Draide.



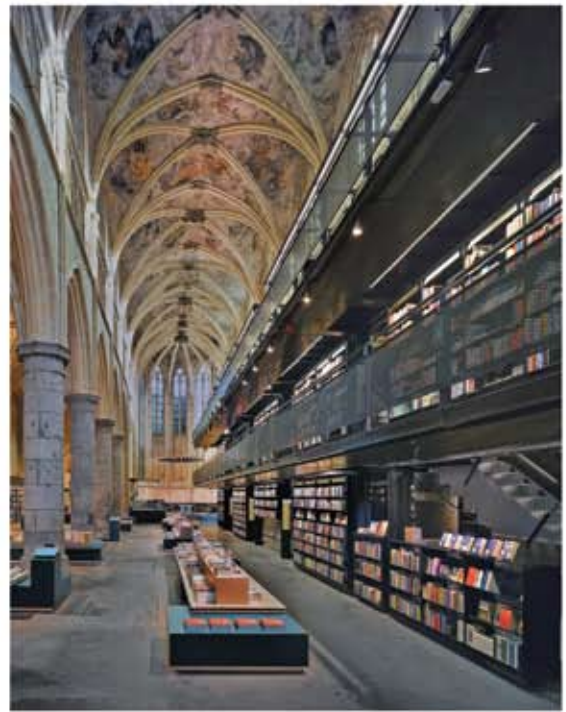
1| Retail therapy: Y's Store, Roppongi Hills, Tokyo, Japan.

2| Fibre-optic illusion: Commissioned by Ron Arad, thousands of tiny lights give the impression of movement to the Lo-Rez-Dolores-Tabula-Rasa installation.



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Selexyz bookstore

Perhaps if more bookstores looked like this, we'd be more inclined to get stuck into a good book every now and then. Like the Bible, for instance. Located in the Netherlands and designed by Merkx + Girod, the revamp respects the church's original classical architecture while introducing a modern flare ♦




DESIGN INTERVENTION

COME ALL YE FAITHFUL; WORSHIP WITH US AT THE ALTAR OF MODERN DESIGN

IMMACULATE RENOVATIONS

Unless you like cold stone, classic arches, stained glass, eerie relics and musty smells, then you probably won't appreciate the beauty of churches. In a bid to make them more aesthetically-pleasing to the mainstream congregation, an architectural trend has arisen in design that sees the traditional place of worship transformed into places even the sexy, stylish and sophisticated would worship. We can't work out whether there's something sacrilegious about the whole thing, but we're fascinated by it, nevertheless. So much so that we've cleverly coined our own term for the movement; *divine design*.

Text: Nick Clarke **Photos:** Courtesy of mentioned churches

Converting churches into homes, shops, restaurants and nightclubs, there's seemingly no end to the possibilities when it comes to outing the old and introducing the new. Call us a stick in the mud, but we do imagine we'd feel a little uncomfortable downing tequila shots and revelling like rock stars under the watchful eye of the Virgin Mary or the looming shadow of a crucifix. But the innovative reuse of churches is bringing people back through their heavy wooden doors, even if it is to a Sunday booze-up rather than a Sunday mass.



Alma De Cuba

The Lord provides... You'll get to enjoy more than wine and bread if you take your communion here. Built inside St Peter's Catholic Church, Alma de Cuba is one of Liverpool's most lavish venues ♦



We're particularly devoted to Chapel Utrecht (right page), which sees a simple church building converted into a minimalist, city-slicker pad by Marnix Van De Meer and Rolf Bruggink's Utrecht-based architecture studio, Zecc. The redesign incorporates many of the church's original features, such as the gothic-style stained glass windows, stone crucifixes and original choir organ, while simultaneously implementing super-modern aspects, such as whitewashed spaces and abstract shapes. The organ, which sits on the balcony, acts as both a focal point and room divider, successfully section-

to think the sacrifice would be worth making. Using an 800-year-old Dominican church as its latest branch, upscale Netherlands bookstore Selexyz has found home is where the holy water is in Maastricht, a bible's throw from the Belgian border. Just 100 miles from the aforementioned Chapel Utrecht, this conversion is courtesy of Amsterdam-based architects Merckx + Girod and makes the best use of minimal floor space by building upwards rather than outwards. A temple to literature, the Boekhandel Selexyz Dominicanen overlays a sleek, minimalist design onto the framework of



ing off the living room, bedroom, kitchen, dining area and study. The lead of the windows remains, too, creating a striking contrast with the polished white finishes. The design even reuses the church benches as a dining table. New elements include a number of skylights installed in the slanting roof and a completely new window introduced at the front of the building. Indeed, with angelic light shining onto its inhabitants, this could well be the perfect pad for a superstar looking to change their image from wild child to born-again Christian. Perhaps a post-crack Whitney Houston or a recently rehabbed Britney could have a viewing? While it would be a little strange indulging in any sinful activities in this Netherlands nest, we're inclined



Chapel Utrecht

Going to the chapel... While it may look like a city-slicker-style bachelor pad, this beautiful abode is actually built inside Chapel Utrecht. Stark but stylish, this is one place we wouldn't mind congregating at. Photos courtesy of Cornbread Works ♦



the original classic architecture, clashing dark steel bookcases against intricately carved stone walls. A Coffee Lovers café has been installed near the end, where bookworms can sit against tall pillars and get lost in The New Testament. As with another conversion in the area – The Kruissherenhotel, a former monastery – local authorities insisted that

is also marked by dark wood furniture, chandeliers made from antlers, religious paintings and a mezzanine restaurant that overlooks the ‘pulpit’ below. While it’s still used as a church, that didn’t hold back Finland-based JKMM Architects when they were asked by the Parish of Helsinki to come up with a modern design for the chapel at the Viikki

Viikki Urban Centre

You’ve gotta’ have faith ... With a wooden interior, the church at the Viikki Urban Centre draws is vaguely reminiscent of Noah’s Ark. Minus the animals, of course ♦



Chapel Utrecht Mondrian style windows



the bookstore conversion could be reversed easily and inexpensively in the future. _____ Meanwhile, a little closer to home in Liverpool, Alma De Cuba is one of England’s most striking church adaptations. A mecca for peroxide-blond footballers’ wives everywhere, the snazzy Latin restaurant and bar fuses glamorous décor with the original architecture of St Peter’s Catholic Church in Seel Street. With vaulted ceilings, labyrinth-like passageways, authentic church candles flickering in darkened nooks, green palms set against stained glass and Mojitos served on an altar-like bar, this hip hang-out is devilishly decadent. Set against the sound of salsa music rather than a chorus choir, the design

Urban Centre. Characterised by aspen shingles, many of which have turned grey since it was built in 2005, the wooden interior also features a luxurious golden silkscreen behind the altar and dozens of rectangular lights that dangle from the ceiling. Huge glass windows run along one side to allow for sweeping views across the adjoining field, while also shedding light where there was none. Naturally, traditional church elements still remain, and the adjoining congregation hall is like a giant wooden cathedral or the upside-down hull of Noah’s Ark. Filled with light that’s almost blinding at the end of the tunnel-like structure, churchgoers may feel like they’ve already crossed over

to the other side. _____ With most resurrected churches being houses of Christianity, it’s only a matter of time before Tom Cruise drives funds into the building of a slick Scientology shrine or Madonna forgoes another adopted child in place of a cool Kabbalah centre. Who knows, perhaps Bin Laden has transformed his local mosque into a Batman-style hideout? Now when you say you’re going to the chapel, you’re not necessarily going to get married. It might be for a bite to eat, a little retail therapy, a boogie on the dance floor or even for a little rest and relaxation in the comfort of your very own home. Whatever it is, this is what we call design intervention.

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WWW.KITCHENCONCEPTS.INFO

SNEAKERS WITH SOUL



A staple part of any geek-about-town's wardrobe – and we mean that in the nicest possible way! – Converse's All-Star sneakers come in all shapes, styles and sizes. Now they even come in a limited-edition 'band-aid' style, though it's not another charity venture of Bob Geldof's, thank God! As part of project RED – a charity that fights against HIV and AIDS in Africa – Converse has brought together 100 artists from across the globe to create unique designs for the brand. Part of the cleverly-named 1HUND(RED) campaign – geddit? – these snazzy sneakers are designed by Darren Romanelli and feature leather with laser-etched graphics and a subtle skull print on the sole. With 10% of all sales in the campaign donated to the cause, we certainly wouldn't mind slipping our weary feet into a pair of these!

www.drromanelli.com



WHAT AN ENSEMBLE

Designer Roel Vandebeek sure knows how to bring people together. His latest creation for Wolters, a firm that specialises in products for the street, is a bench called Ensemble© that encourages social interaction through its clever design.

Comprising three separate benches that are connected by metal strips, the unusual angles created enable people to sit either individually or in groups. Incredibly, the arrangement allows everyone to feel included, without encroaching on one another's personal space. Made from wood and metal, the benches feature pure, minimalist lines and bold colours that can be customised to suit any setting. Certainly, this is one bench tramps won't mind kipping on. Tel. (+34) 902 900 679

www.streetdesign.es



RING ME

While we can't imagine a woman being best pleased if she were proposed to with a concrete ring instead of a diamond one that comes in a turquoise Tiffany & Co. box, these handmade rings are the perfect antidote to all the girly jewellery out there. Available with smooth or jagged edges for both women and men, the handmade rings are available exclusively through designboom.

www.designboom.com/shop.html

NICE RACK

This colourful creation is an imaginative take on the traditional magazine rack, and we recommend you buy one immediately so you have a suitably chic place to store all your back-issues of Modern Design. Created by design team Giusi & Fabio Lombardo for Casamania, Print, as it has been cleverly named, is made from only one transparent methacrylate sheet and is sculpted into a series of curvaceous waves. Whoever said print was dead was clearly very much mistaken.

www.casamania.it





LET IT SHINE

A series of suspension lights in four distinctive shapes, Tom Dixon's Beat Light is sure to bring glamour and luxury to even the grottiest crack den. Featuring wide, fat, tall and stout shapes, the light sounds suspiciously like a description of Take That, but we're loving it, nevertheless.

www.tomdixon.net



GOING ROCOCO

Specialising in the rococo style popular in the latter part of the eighteenth century – characterised by an ornate, floral style – Smånsk Design Studio successfully brings the past back into vogue. Offering a fresh spin on the design principles of the old-world concept, the Haupt commode takes its signature swirls and flourishes and translates them into an angular design, complete with jutting lines and boxy shapes. Nevertheless, the modernised white unit is unmistakably rococo, and would make a fantastic feature in any stark, minimalist abode.

www.smansk.com



ZiG-SAW

While you may not be familiar with the furniture of Ryan Frank yet, you soon will be; he was recently named in The Observer's 'New Faces of 2008', as well as appearing in Time Magazine's 'Who's Who: The Eco Guide'. One of his designs, named ZiG, is garnering particular attention for its looks and dynamism. A modular display/storage system made from solid bamboo, the two separate units link together like a jigsaw to create a striking array of negative spaces. Easily moveable on castor wheels, ZiG can be pushed around your apartment as much as you like; one day you might want it in the living room, the next you may think it would look better in the study. Using only sustainable, salvageable materials to build what he dubs as 'free-range' furniture, everyone will want a piece of Frank soon, so get in there quick.

www.ryanfrank.net



DINNER PARTY

If more people had dining tables like this, perhaps there would be more dinner parties to attend! Part of the stunning collection at BoConcept, one of Denmark's most influential furniture chains, the Amari Dining Table is sophisticated, stylish and sleek. Tucked underneath are the ultra-swish Mariposa Deluxe Chairs, which would have even the ugliest duckling sitting pretty. Topped off with select pieces from BoConcept's gorgeous accessory range, such as the flamboyantly-shaped Black Aluminium Candlestick, this set-up will ensure that your guests well and truly outstay their welcome.

www.boconcept.com

SITTING PRETTY

We love pretty much all the seating B&B Italia churns out, but we're particularly enamoured with the Mart Chair. Designed by Antonio Citterio, the Mart Chair sits on a swivel base – which can be disc-shaped or cross-shaped, depending on your preference – and is available in both larger and smaller variations. With a choice of leather or fabric upholstery, as well as a low or high back, the Mart Chair is as dynamic as our everyday lives. Now sit.

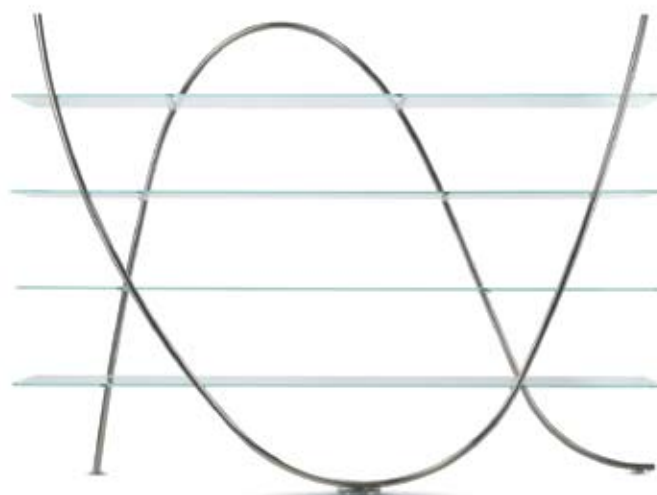
www.bebitalia.it



BOOK IT

Designed by Mehdi Izemrane, the Paraphe bookcase is everything you need to store your treasured tomes on art and architecture. Featuring chrome metal and four glass shelves, it's a sleek, sophisticated way to show off how well-read you are – even if you do only own glossy photo-books.

www.rocheboboiss.com



*Much of this month's shopping appeared in the **Salone de Mobile 2008**. We'll go into more depth next issue, but for now feast your eyes on this little lot.*



Image courtesy of Jordan Eagles



SKYLINE RESIDENCE

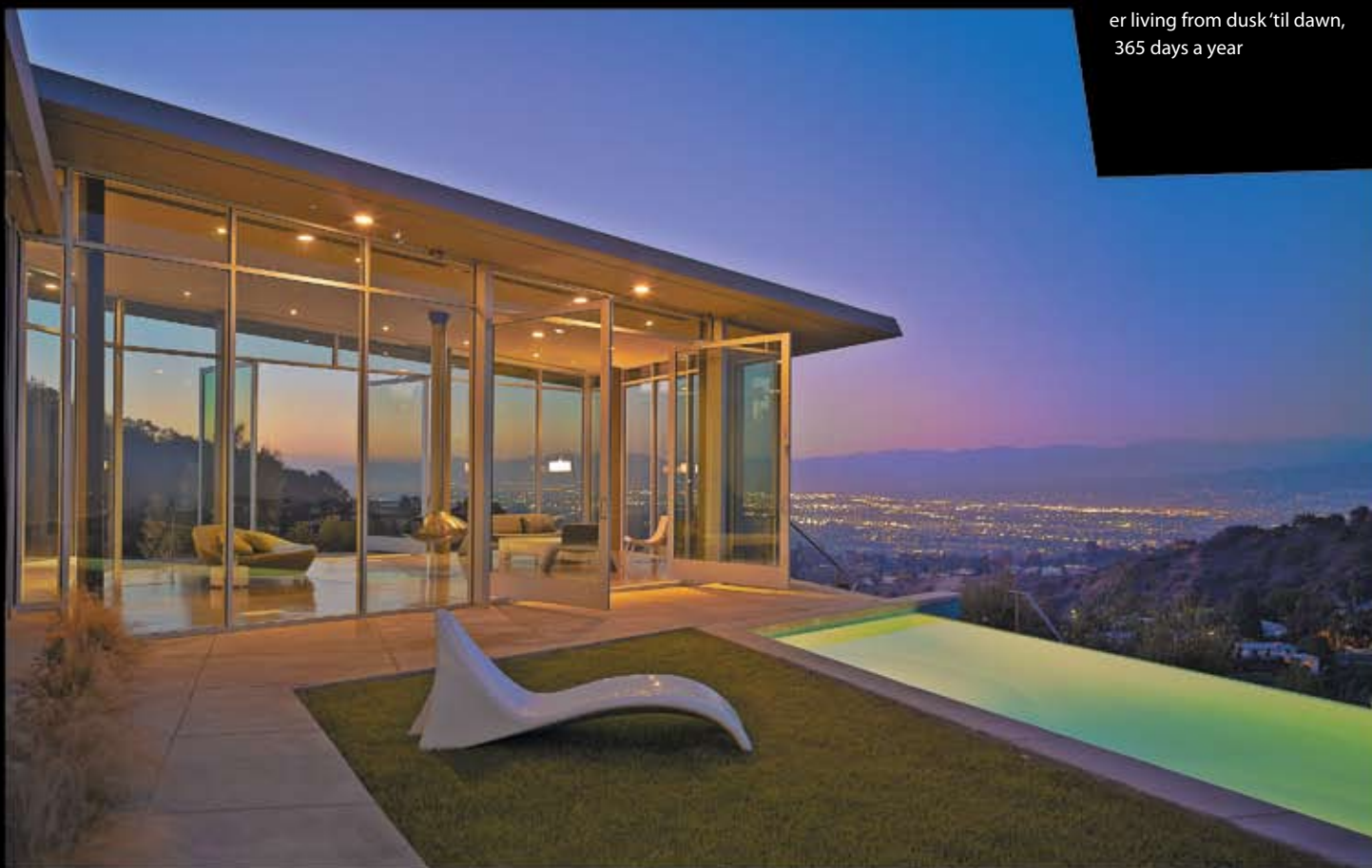
BEST SEATS IN THE HOUSE

.....

THE LIGHTS, THE CAMERAS, THE ACTION; EVERYONE WHO'S ANYONE WANTS A HOME IN THE HOLLYWOOD HILLS. BUT EVEN MOVIE STARS WOULD STRUGGLE TO MATCH THEIR SPRAWLING HILLSIDE HOMES AND MALIBU MANSIONS TO THIS, THE APPROPRIATELY-NAMED SKYLINE RESIDENCE. OVERLOOKING DOWNTOWN LA AND HOLLYWOOD, THE MINIMALIST DWELLING BELONGS TO ARCHITECT HAGY BELZBERG, WHO, INCIDENTALLY, INTERINED WITH FRANK GEHRY, AND FEATURES CUTTHROAT LINES, UNINTERRUPTED SPACE, UNCLUTTERED ROOMS AND EXTENSIVE DETAILING. DESIGNED BY THE 13-STRONG TEAM AT HIS SANTA MONICA-BASED STUDIO, BELZBERG ARCHITECTS, **THE HOUSE WAS BUILT WITH BEAUTY, BUDGET AND THE ENVIRONMENT IN MIND,** AND WE HAVE TO ADMIT, WE'RE IN LOVE WITH EVERY SQUARE FOOT IT (5,000, TO BE PRECISE).



When the director shouts 'cut!', the Hollywood fantasy usually melts away as sets are deconstructed and reality steps into the frame; not so with the Skyline Residence, whose architecture and ambience make for blockbuster living from dusk 'til dawn, 365 days a year



1



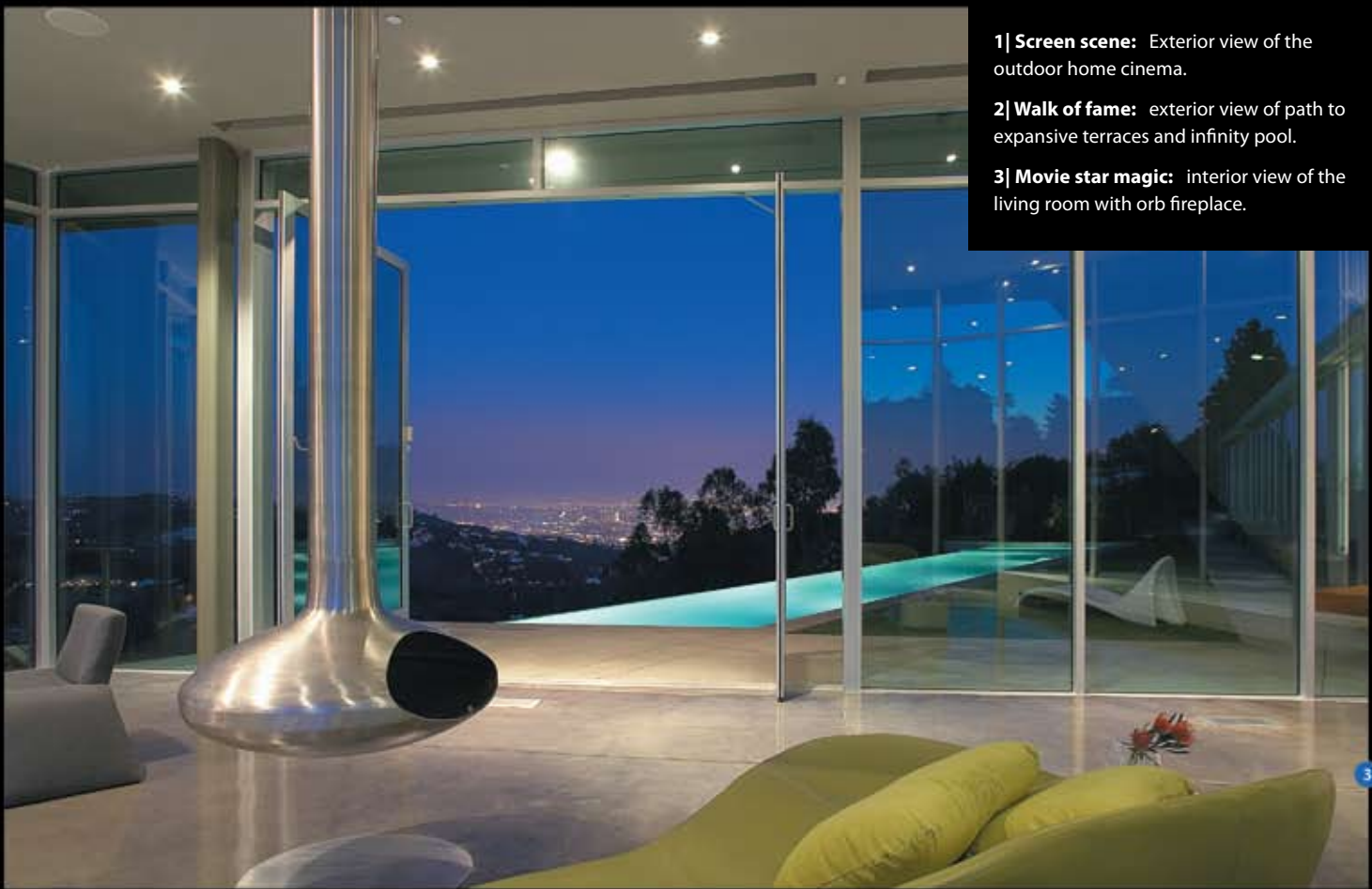
Developed for no more than \$180 per square-metre, the Skyline Residence is proof that sustainability and style don't have to be at the cost of bankruptcy, with eco-concepts incorporated into the sleek design; air-conditioning is replaced by natural cooling that harnesses the wind from the valley; electric lighting is reduced by natural sunlight that filters in through floor-to-ceiling windows; and all-natural resources are gathered from nearby sites to reduce transportation emissions. Because of these features and the way it is built, the design has very little impact on its surroundings. Making the best use of the difficult construction site – a compressed ridge with only a narrow slither of workable land – the Skyline Residence demonstrates that a consideration for site conditions and local climate reduces architecture's imposition on a landscape. The earth beneath Belzberg's house is partially composed of granite, making the prospect of excavation extremely difficult; fortunately, the architect discovered that a network of underground roots – supplied by the thick brush that grows across the hillside – made the land more solid, meaning extensive excavation and complex foundations weren't necessary. Interestingly, the little granite that was dug up was used under concrete slabs to level drainpipes and as a walking surface for the viewing platform. Aesthetics aren't given a backseat, either, with upscale fittings and at least one wall of each room made from glass to make the best use of the picturesque Californian views. We particularly like the floating orb fireplace in the living room. The main feature

of the house, though, is the outdoor home cinema, where movies are projected from the ground onto a screen that's mounted on an outside wall and watched from a viewing platform situated above the garage. Indeed, there would be nothing better than snuggling up beneath the stars with a wannabe actress, the twinkling lights of the city in the distance and Clark Gable and Vivien Leigh getting it on in front of you. Certainly, it's more private than a viewing down at Sunset Boulevard's Grauman's Chinese Theatre! In addition to housing its own premiere-worthy, drive-in-style screen, the Skyline Residence also boasts a 65-foot infinity pool that overlooks the valley, spacious terraces that are perfect for dining al fresco on and a secluded guesthouse where Belzberg undoubtedly accommodates visiting friends and family.. One of the most interesting aspects of the Skyline Residence is that it was built on such a small budget, proving that even those watching their pennies can achieve modern design and economy. While this abode is inspired by the glamour of Hollywood and its celluloid-starring inhabitants, you don't necessarily need a movie star's payroll to realise your architectural dreams – though let's face it, it would be nice.

More info> www.belzbergarchitects.com

2





- 1| Screen scene:** Exterior view of the outdoor home cinema.
- 2| Walk of fame:** exterior view of path to expansive terraces and infinity pool.
- 3| Movie star magic:** interior view of the living room with orb fireplace.

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VM House

first class function and fusion

Text: Dave Vickers **Architect:** JDS / Julien De Smedt Architects

It is undeniable that we feel certain levels of comfort in the synergy of familiar company logos; for instance, there is no accident in the perfect alliance of the V and W on Volkswagens notorious corporate stamp! A quick fly-over inspection of the plot of this prevalent housing project in Denmark would certainly reveal a similar reassurance. The first residential construction in Ørestaden, the gleaming new residential quarter of Copenhagen, is home to the award winning VM house, a residential project designed with the resident predominantly in mind.

.....

From the ground, the 'V' house could be mistaken for an abandoned three dimensional 'Tetris Puzzle' made up of diverse living spaces. The growling sharks tooth appearance of the rear balconies look poised to pounce in to the adjacent canal ready to devour any offending submerged junk that might risk abusing this tidy neighbourhood._____The synergetic assembly of this construction is of course not just for the air born, the V form eliminating the 'vis a vis' dilemma with fellow neighbours and unlocking extensive views to the vast open fields around. These roomy apartments drink in the spectacular panoramic views to the south and offer double height spaces to the north supplying maximum air and light to the occupant._____The Logic of the diagonal slab utilised in the 'V' House is broken down in to smaller portions for the aluminium clad 'M' House, reinterpreting and improving the layout of the individual habitations. The resulting short, well lit corridors intelligently link all the apartments and public spaces and give easy access to the expansive roof terrace for sun worshippers, who perhaps need a touch more UV exposure than the south facing balconies afford._____As the first residential complex in the area, it was important for the architects to create an inviting environment. The apartment footprints are completely individual, and by not dictating the layout, the architects kindly allow the occupants to put their own design stamp on the living space they themselves have to move around in. This compassion extends to providing occupants with enviable Attic style spaces, the light filled uncluttered ambience perhaps gently steering them on to the correct design path._____Small but essential design features round off the individuality of the complex, wood floored open walkways, open island kitchens and helical stairways – even the oversized door numbers point to a well thought out graphical process. Finally a large ground-floor mural of Høpfner, the developer, is permanently glazed to the lobby entrance wall in a mosaic of bathroom tiles. Perhaps here he keeps watch over the mood of the residents and makes sure all stays just so in this bold, razor-sharp monument to high rise communal living!



photo by Johan Fowelin



photo by Nikolaj Møller



photo by Jasper Carlberg

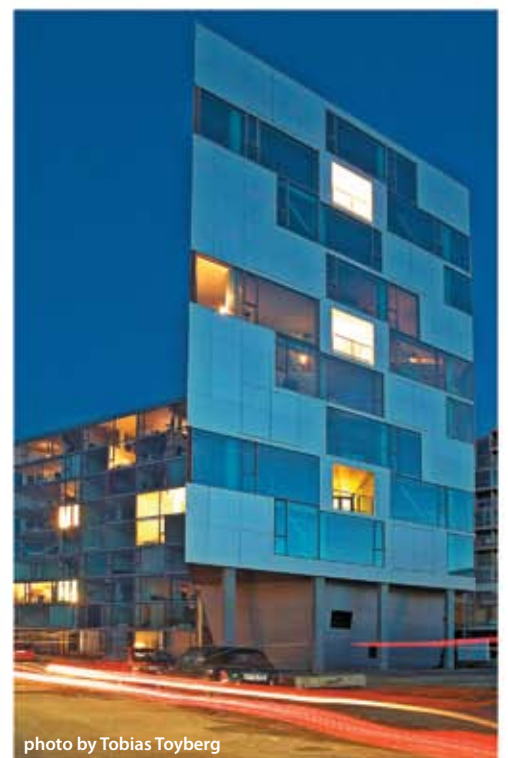


photo by Tobias Toyberg

Text: Dave Vickers



Richter Scale

Great to see the German contingent represented in such an awe-inspiring light; CAC Málaga, known for its fancy to the German arts is currently presenting an exhibition by large format artist Daniel Richter.

This, the artist's first retrospective exhibition in Spain, is an in-depth study of his ever morphing style represented by a decade of work created between 1995 and 2006. For the first time the artist is displaying some never-before-seen small-format sketch paintings, perhaps showing us parts of the process of his unique approach. This compelling display promises to be a feat for the soul, challenging the observer's imagination in a colourful world of ambivalence, scale and rapid thought transportation between eras. Beginning somewhere in Richter's psychedelic, almost graffiti-like past, the tour will take you through his turbulent millennium driven detour via abstract representations of the human form and ending in his more ambiguous present day style. The affixed and never-seen smaller pieces promise to be exploratory by nature, a thrilling visual personal diary of the man and his vision.

The exhibition runs from 11th April to 13th July.



Daniel Richter

11 abril- 13 julio 2008

Co-organiza: **Bancaja** 
el compromiso social

Rodney Graham

A Glass of Beer

21 abril
15 junio 2008



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IN IT TO WIN IT

Text: Nick Clarke

Design Museum, London



When you're next jetting back to London on that all-important business trip of yours be sure to sneak in a visit to the often overlooked Design Museum. Located in the capital by the River Thames and next to London Bridge (a location most property entrepreneurs would give their left leg for, no doubt), the museum is the perfect place for culture vultures to sink their teeth into a range of creative outlets. With an emphasis on product, industrial, graphic, fashion and architectural design, there's certainly plenty for design aficionados to feast their beady little eyes on here, having hosted exhibitions by the likes of shoe designer Manolo Blahnik, graphic designer Peter Saville and renowned starchitect Zaha Hadid.

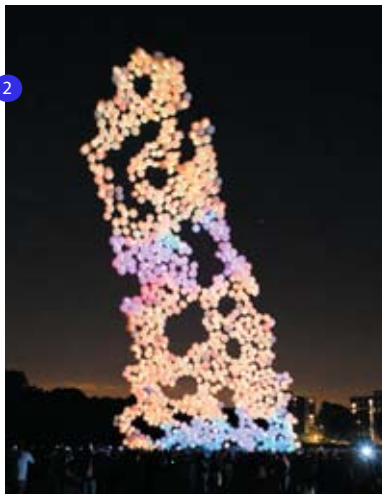
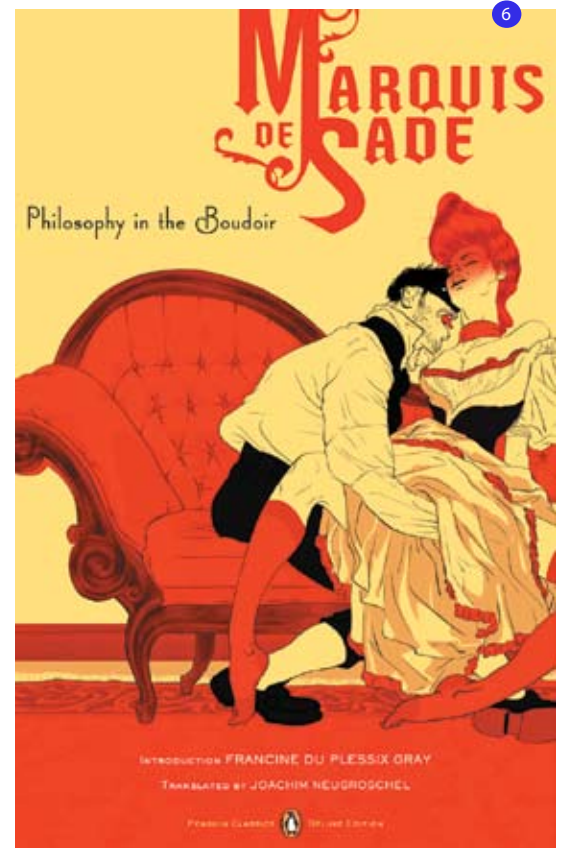
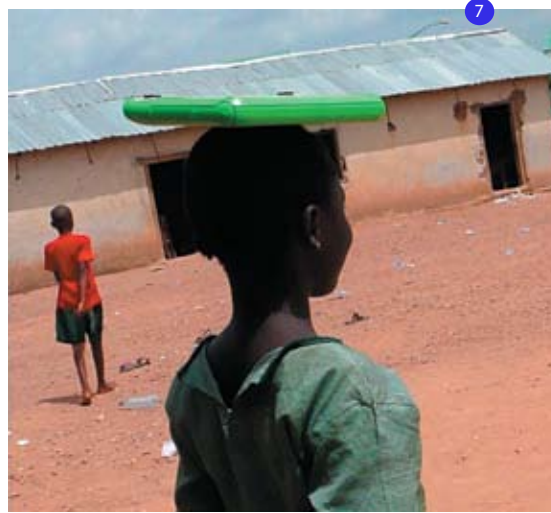
While the museum is small in comparison to other London museums, with only a foyer, two floors and limited exhibition space, its size does enable it to change its exhibitions frequently. Incidentally, the museum claims to have been the world's first museum of modern design when it opened its doors to art buffs in 1989. While you wouldn't know to look at it, the museum is, in fact, housed in a 1940s warehouse. Having been completely overhauled by the Conran Group - which was founded by designer, retailer, restaurateur and writer Sir Terence Conran - the museum boasts a modernist façade that belies the original architecture.

What has thrust the museum into the limelight recently is the Brit Insurance Design Awards exhibition, which ran until 27 April. Covering all kinds of design categories, from architecture through to fashion, the £25,000 prize money has solicited some great - and controversial! - entries since its inauguration in 2003. Most notably, graphic designer Jamie Hewlett's work on Gorillaz, an animated band, snagged an award over humanitarian architect Cameron Sinclair in 2006, whose work helps countries plagued by disaster. But then again, it wouldn't be a design competition if there wasn't a clash of super-creative egos somewhere along the production line! Judged by a panel of experts, the competition is always fierce, and this year was no exception. With designs that ranged from the functional to the downright fantastic, including a hand-wound computer for undeveloped countries, the awards aim to "stimulate public debate about design and to raise awareness of its role enhancing the quality of daily life". Read on to find out who won what.

Design Museum,
illuminated for late
night opening
© Amelia Webb

Design Museum
Shad Thames, London, SE1 1YD
www.designmuseum.org

1 | **Brit Insurance Design Award 2008, One Laptop Per Child**, design by Yves Béhar of Fuseproject, for OLPC & Quanta Computer Inc. 2 | **Brit Insurance Interactive Award, Burble London**, design by Haque Design + Research Ltd, with Seth Garlock and Rolf Pixley 3 | **Brit Insurance Fashion Award, Airborne Autumn/Winter 07**, design by Hussein Chalayan 4 | **Brit Insurance Furniture Award, 100 Chairs in 100 Days**, design and manufacture by Martino Gamper



5 | **Brit Insurance Transport Award, Mex-x**, wheelchair for children by Meyra-Ortopedia Vertriebsgesellschaft mbH 6 | **Brit Insurance Graphics Award, Penguin Classics Deluxe Edition**, Creative director Paul Buckley and co art director Helen Yentus, design by various artists for Penguin Group USA 7 | **Brit Insurance Product Award, One Laptop Per Child**, design by Yves Béhar of Fuseproject, for OLPC & Quanta Computer Inc. (see first product) 8 | **Brit Insurance Architecture Award, National Stadium**: the Main Stadium for the 2008 Olympic Games, Beijing, China, architect: Herzog & de Meuron, client: National Stadium Co. Ltd Beijing, China

Photos courtesy of British Insurance Design of The Year and The Design Museum

Agenda & Events

MAY → JUNE 2008

► Art

► Architecture

► Design

► Theatre & Music

► Others



► Hummer Adventure 2008 Morocco

Hummer-owners struggle to make the most of their not-so-micro machines on Spanish motorways, which is why the Hummer Adventure 2008 is an exciting event indeed. Up to 70 hummers can participate in the Morocco-based experience, which starts and ends in Tangier and takes drivers 2,500 kilometres across difficult desert terrain.

11 → 18 May
Tangier, Morocco

www.hummeradventure2008.com



► The Malaga Philharmonic Orchestra

Under the direction of José Eusebio, the Málaga Philharmonic Orchestra will be performing at the Teatro Ciudad de Marbella on 9th May. With spellbinding performances of Beethoven and Dvořák, it's a must for classical enthusiasts. Tickets are available from El Corte Inglés.

9 May
Teatro Ciudad de Marbella
Plaza Ramón Martínez s/n, 29603 Marbella, T: (0034) 952 903 159

www.marbella.es



► Cine Club Buñuel

Avoiding box office blockbusters, Cine club Buñel in San Pedro gives the opportunity to view a more refined selection of big screen independents. It's not all black and white and subtitles however. Ang Lee's *Deseo*, *Peligro* should provide some moments, among other titles such as *'City Heat'* and *'Atonement'*, this a great cine-culture venue.

Tel: 952.77.46.38

www.2000.com/marbellaws/cineclub.html

● Architecture Week NEC Birmingham

The UK 'Architecture Week' calendar is as diverse as ever, including a China design exhibition in London taking some of the heat off the Olympics 2008 debate. 'Sustainability Live' 2008 runs at the NEC Birmingham.

20 → 22 May
Birmingham, T: (0044) 208 651 7100

www.architectureweek.com

● Docville (international documentary festival)

The Belgian documentary festival is designed to move you, appeal to the senses and open you up to new realities. With titles by the ever shocking Louis Theroux it won't disappoint!

10 → 17 May
City of Leuven

www.docville.be

● FotoGrafia

Public areas throughout Rome become the playground of the photographers. This year's theme is 'See Normality', aiming to examine everyday matter through photography. With such a diverse subject, things could get very interesting!

4 Apr → 25 May
City of Rome

www.fotografiafestival.it



▲ NATALIA PIETSCH EXHIBITION

If anyone is proof that culture's alive and kicking in Marbella, then it is colourful painter Natalia Pietsch. Her latest kaleidoscopic paintings are on exhibition at the Salamanca car showroom in San Pedro.

May → 1 Jun
Salamanca car showroom, San Pedro

www.artenata.eu



▲ NIGHT OF JAZZ

Anyone who likes live music will love the night of jazz taking place at Casino Marbella on 17th, 24th and 31st May. A toe-tapping time to be had by all, let's hope your gambling doesn't go as offbeat as the jazz!

17, 24, 31 May
Bajos Hotel Andalucía Plaza, 29660 Marbella

www.casinomarbella.com



▲ Duchamp, Man Ray and Picabia

Tate Modern explores the relationship between artists Duchamp, Man Ray and Picabia. The exhibition displays paintings, objects, photography and film produced by the three friends made during the 'Dada movement' period.

21 Feb → 26 May
Tate Modern

www.tate.org.uk/modern



▶ CAC Málaga

Touch base with the World of the arts at CAC Málaga. This month we have a flavoursome mix of themes and therapies, including temporary exhibitions by Daniel Richter and Rodney Graham's multi-disciplinary, 'A Glass of Beer' road show. Among the permanent fixtures we are gifted with a large-format human landscape exhibition and an exciting photographic therapy workshop, aimed at narrowing your depth of field to the ills of modern life. Anne Berning presents an A-Z of the arts, categorising the world of painting in orderly fashion, while British artist Rachel Whiteread shows around 40 pieces in the study of her peculiar vision of everyday objects.

CAC Málaga, Calle Alemania s/n, 29001 Málaga
T: (0034) 952 120 055

www.cacmalaga.org

● Europ'art Fair

Geneva plays host to this annual 'bring and buy' forum for artists, agents and buyers. With over 50,000 visitors, this is a biggie for enthusiasts the world over who faithfully flock to the fair every year.

30 Apr → 4 May
Geneva Palexpo

www.europart.ch

● Andalucia Rocket festival

A great lift-off for the summer, the annual ex-hippy venue hosted near the beautiful village of Alhama de Granada is a must for music revellers. A mix of electro, drum 'n' bass and local flamenco music. Headliners include UK acts the Coldliners and Bad Manners! Giddy Up...

15 May → 19 May
Alhama de Granada

www.rocketfestival.com

● First Thursdays

This open-attic style exhibition sees over 80 of London's art galleries open their doors to the public. If you find that a touch overwhelming, take the 'First Thursdays' guided bus tour – where a selected artist will take the mic and point you in the right direction.

First Thursday every month
London

www.firstthursdays.co.uk

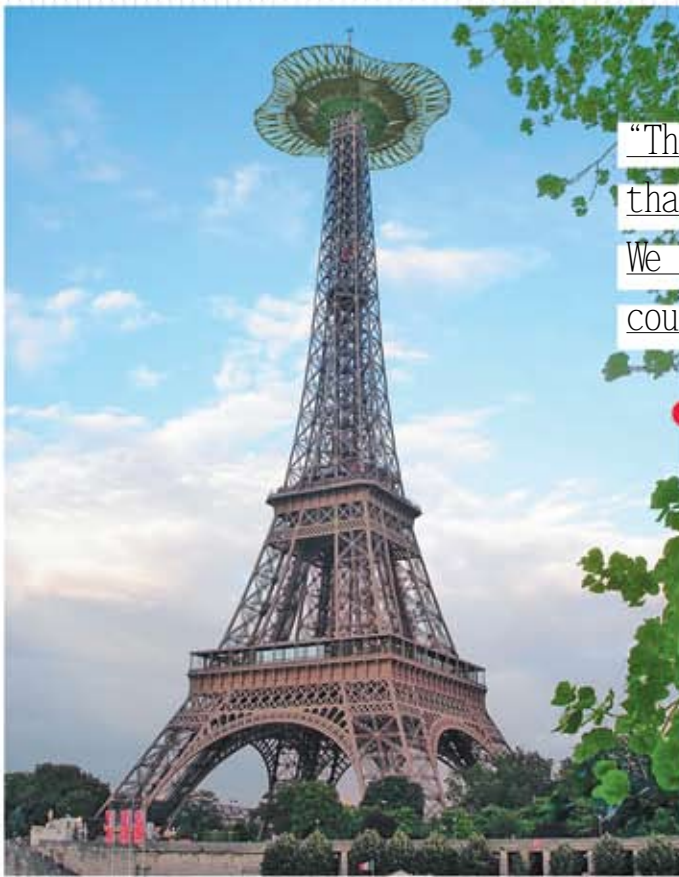


Text: Nick Clarke

Photos: Courtesy of Serero Architects

April Fool's?

While Parisians may not be known for their light-hearted sense of humour, they certainly had everyone going last month when the Internet was ablaze with rumours of a **grand makeover for the Eiffel Tower.**



“There is no question of changing the way that the Eiffel Tower looks, even temporarily. We have plans for the 120th anniversary, of course, but nothing like this”

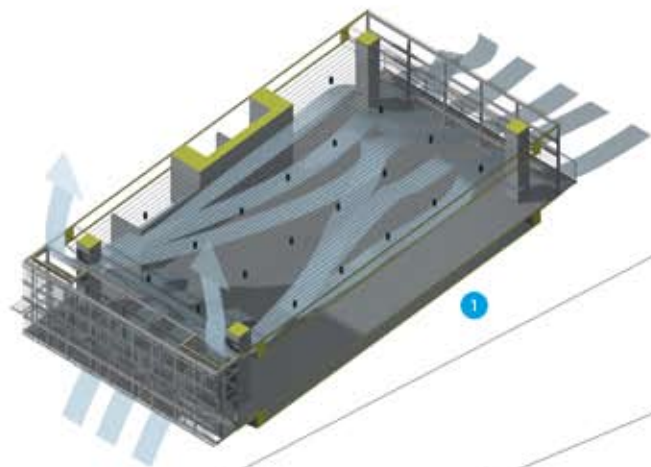
Designed by Serero Architects, it was said that the extension – which would attach to the top of the tower without any modification to the existing structure – was created as part of a ‘competition’ to celebrate the 120th anniversary of one of the world’s most famous landmarks. The only problem was, the competition was a fake. The Société d’Exploitation de la Tour Eiffel (SETE) declared the supposed competition as a hoax, with a spokesperson spitting; “This is a hoax. We have no idea where this came from. The whole thing is preposterous. There is no question of changing the way that the Eiffel Tower looks, even temporarily. We have plans for the 120th anniversary, of course, but nothing like this”. Nevertheless, Serero Architects insist that while the design is not part of a competition organised by SETE, the design itself is not a hoax. According to the firm, the design is an unsolicited proposal that has been discredited thanks to the misinformation printed in respected blogs and prestigious newspapers across the globe. Indeed, even The Guardian, The Daily Telegraph and the New York Times fell hook, line and sinker for the competition angle. But the Paris-based firm can’t be too mad; after all, the story is better than any marketing campaign they could have ever paid for._____ If it were to be erected – highly unlikely now, we think! - the design would involve bolting a temporary Kevlar structure to the top of the tower to double the surface area of the viewing platforms. Comprised of three structural weaves, the design would enable more visitors to the tower, as well as improving the 360-degree views of the surrounding city. But the Eiffel Tower is a touchy subject for the Parisians, who have a love/hate relationship with the structure, and the go-ahead for a design like this would have unleashed a Pandora’s box of hell. Critics were already getting their French knickers in a twist over the design, with one saying that it made the tower “look like a steel mushroom or an avant-garde lampshade”. For more information > www.serero.com



1| French fancy: Design would alter Parisian skyline (© Serero Architects) **2| Man with a plan:** Architect David Serero (© Serero Architects) **3| Room with a view:** Structure would double surface area of viewing platforms (© Serero Architects)

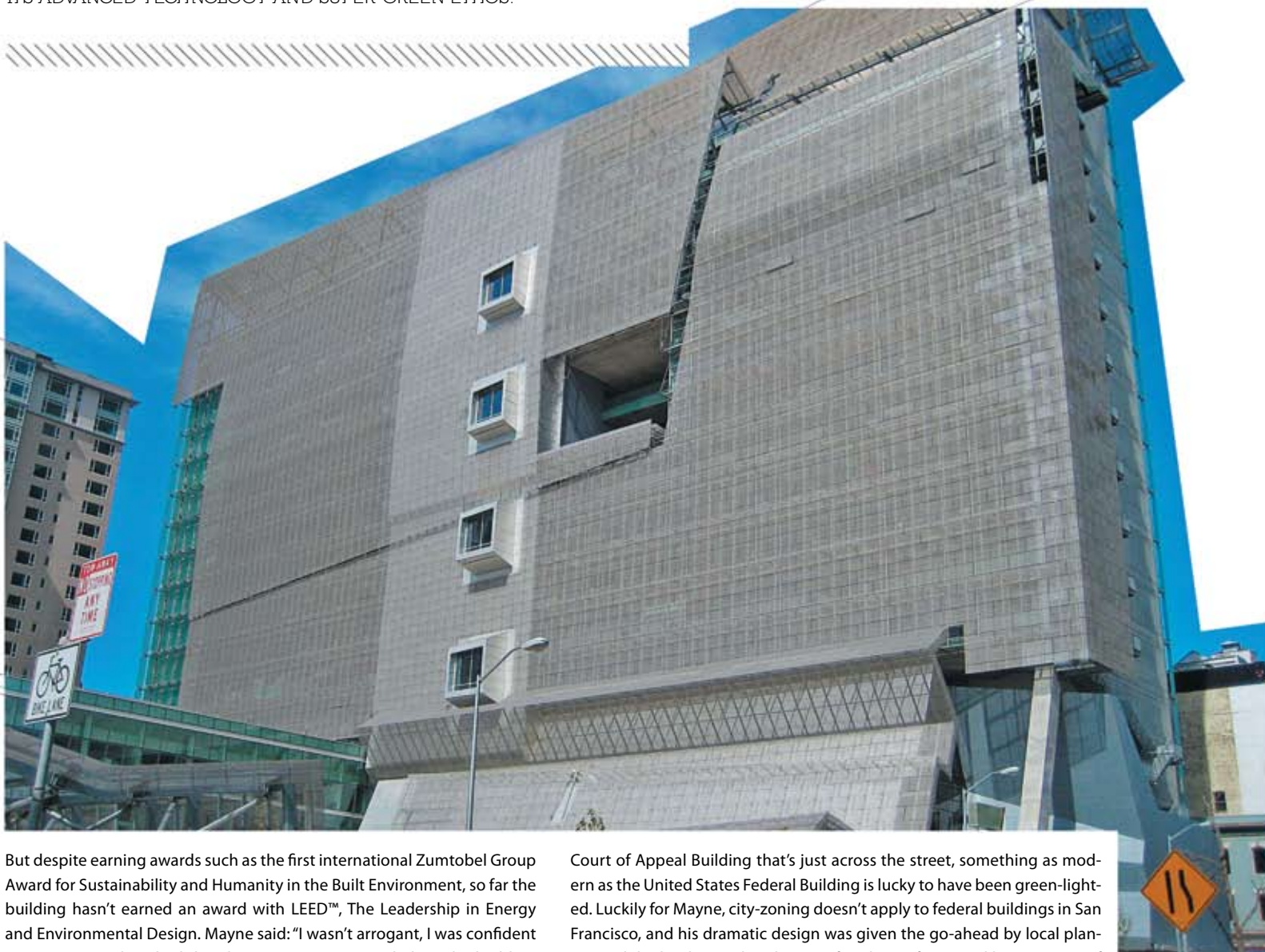
Text: Nick Clarke

Photos: Courtesy of Steve Proehl and Nic Lehoux



Eco-Warrior

DESIGNED BY THOM MAYNE, HEAD OF SANTA-MONICA-BASED ARCHITECTS MORPHOSIS AND WINNER OF THE PRESTIGIOUS PRITZKER PRIZE, THE 234-FOOT SAN FRANCISCO FEDERAL BUILDING IS WOWING THE WORLD WITH ITS ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY AND SUPER-GREEN ETHOS.



But despite earning awards such as the first international Zumtobel Group Award for Sustainability and Humanity in the Built Environment, so far the building hasn't earned an award with LEED™, The Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design. Mayne said: "I wasn't arrogant, I was confident – I just assumed we had the platinum rating". Nevertheless, the building stands loud and proud as a new icon in the city most people only associate with the Golden Gate Bridge and Alcatraz._____If this had been anything other than a federal building, Mayne's design may still be a blueprint. With surroundings that are low, unimposing and elegant, such as the 1905 US

Court of Appeal Building that's just across the street, something as modern as the United States Federal Building is lucky to have been green-lighted. Luckily for Mayne, city-zoning doesn't apply to federal buildings in San Francisco, and his dramatic design was given the go-ahead by local planners. While the design does have its fair share of critics – like any piece of architecture – Mayne defends his decision to opt for modern over classic by saying that he didn't want the building to be under "the anachronistic illusion of some other time"._____Like a huge billboard for contemporary architecture, the \$144-million site is located on the corners of Seventh

“When architecture engages social, cultural, political, and ethical currents, it has the potential to transform the way we see the world and our place in it”

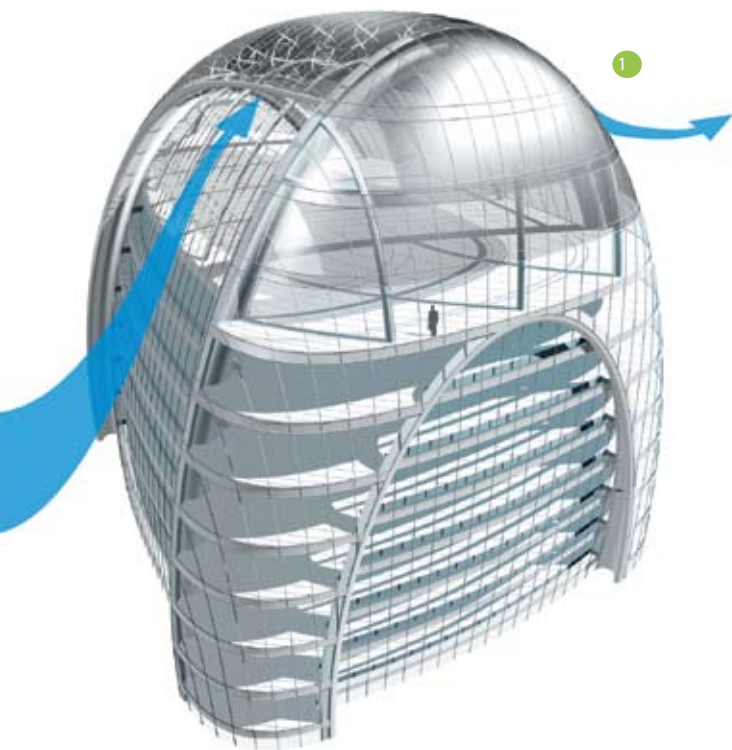
Thom Mayne

and Mission and comprises 18 floors of office space, a four-storey annex, an 11th-floor ‘skygarden’, and a public plaza that frames a small cafeteria building where people can eat, meet and greet. Built using a concept of ‘resistance’, whereby grey concrete walls are juxtaposed with sustainable 9Wood ceilings, the design strives to make work a more enjoyable place to be. Said by Mayne to consume about half the power of a regular office building, the south side is clad with panels of perforated steel, while the north side boasts floor-to-ceiling glass that sits behind a grid of metal and 55 rows of opaque glass fins. Shaped by environmental concerns, the tower features a moveable glass façade that acts as a ‘living’ skin to ventilate and light the building naturally; three climate-specific layers are used to give the building its unique look. A groundbreaking computer system, known as the Building Automated System (BAS), is used to open and close windows, vents and sunscreens in response to temperature changes both inside and outside the building. Indeed, 70% of the building is heated and cooled naturally and energy for lighting is reduced by about 25%. As well as green issues, there’s also a concern for post-9/11 safety here, too, with windowless concrete walls beside sidewalks, airport-like security checks at the entrance and a completely blast-resistant front lobby. Not content with stopping there, the building also responds to the worldwide concern for increasing obesity levels, with design elements that promote health and incorporate productivity. To help motivate employees, the lifts stop at every third floor, meaning workers often need to use their legs to get to their desired level. To encourage them, Mayne built wide staircases that wind past stunning atriums with picture-postcard views. Naturally, there is a lift that stops at every floor for those who require it, as well as a service lift for those all-important office essentials. Another exercise-promoting concept is the cafeteria, which is located across the square at ground level. The location forces workers to take a much-needed breath of fresh air and to mingle with other workers over lunch, a winning combination in any workplace. _____ Boasting innovative architecture and a positive focus on energy conservation, the United States Federal Building is giant step in the right direction for public architecture. Indeed, 9-5 just got a whole lot more appealing.

For more information> www.morphosis.net



- 1| **Air flow:** Diagram showing how the natural cooling system works.
(Photo courtesy of Steve Proehl)
- 2| **Bird’s eye view:** Design from above.
(Photo courtesy of Steve Proehl)
- 3| **Breaking the surface:** Exterior view of the sky lobby.
(Photo courtesy of Steve Proehl)
- 4| **Going up:** Interior view of the staircase.
(Photo courtesy of Nic Lehoux)



Text: Dave Vickers

The 11th Hour...

and the Carbon-Conflict

Government ideology is slowly waking up to the green alarm, slightly akin to a slovenly teenager slapping the sleep button and nodding back off to pursue less significant dreams, but it is happening. So as time ticks on, should we take a lead from them and just lumber on through this global crisis? In a word - no!

As disheartening or inconvenient as it may seem, we all have a touch of greenhouse guilt to address. After all, it is mainly us - the masses - who ruthlessly exploit the natural resources that our poor planet so selflessly provides. Okay, we are dutifully encouraged to do so in some ways, but we don't really see too many putting their hands up to this inexcusable crime!

Yes, 'tis a depressing subject this ecological apocalypse stuff, one that is sensibly confronted by many and pitifully swept under the eco-carpet by many more.

Modern Design has recently presented an indispensable 'need to know' series of factual and occasionally alarming features on the subject. So if you've been reading, you know what we know,

and unfortunately you have no more excuses for breaking the rules (reader turns off spare TV and guiltily glances at 'high mileage' tumble dryer).

So besides unchecked industrial emissions by the USA, China and Russia or the fouling of the oceans, the continuing and slightly alarming disappearance of our rainforests plus a billion cars and airplanes pumping out carbons like there actually is no tomorrow - is there anything to halt the ecological time bomb we ourselves have foolishly set and fused?

However, not to end the series on a low, we would like to bring you some hope, a positive in amongst all the howling global gaffs mankind has inflicted upon

his stricken satellite. And the positive is? Mankind itself!

The most important thing is that we know what needs to be done and the brains we need are out there, merrily ticking away at cracking our most pressing and vital ecological codes. We are well informed on the under-funded big boys doing a sterling job on harnessing the wind, solar energy and wave power. We hear all about debates on bio fuels, recycling and hydrogen fuel cells, but there is so much more out there. Small companies, individual inventors, architects and scientists are busying away in back rooms the world over sculpting cutting-edge ideas that will fuel the future and feed our technology-hungry homes.

It's those famous tree-hugging eco' architects again, Adrian Smith and Gordon Gill with yet another magical mode of harnessing the elements. Not content with the latest mediocre building-integrated wind turbine technology, they have to go and re-invent the whole wind capture thing again, and to top it all it looks amazing! Certainly not just for show, the design for the Clean Technology Tower – Chicago is certainly an environmental eye-opener, creating a marvel of biomimicry that utilises site-specific air streams to feed the tower's power-producing dynamos. The giant atrium-style shell of the building employs strategically-located air funnels, drawing air in and maximising wind velocity. The turbines sandwiched within the structure are literally axle-bent as a result, and coupled with the solar roof cap produce ample power for the intended 1.8-million-square-feet of office space, spa, hotel and retail spaces below.

Smooth Operator

Green product design is one of the world's fastest growing industries and the rewards can be massive; be they prize donations or just sound product sales, there are potentially bundles of green dollars at the end of the rainbow for successful candidates. At the end of last year Sir Richard Branson announced a \$25-million prize fund, tempting scientists to devise an innovative process of extracting greenhouse gases from the atmosphere. His theory is that man created the problem, so man should solve it. Perhaps, then, he should tear down his Virgin Galactic complex and

replant the trees, helping plug some holes in the ozone layer rather than trying to bust through it and escape our impending doom?! Sadly, the competition remains open and the problem unsolved, but hats off to him if it bears fruit.

Meanwhile, it's down to the inventions to hook us up, the ones that make a bit of difference, and if employed correctly can make a bit of difference a billion times over. That's where we all come in, of course - but our chronically habitual souls remain very hard to sway.

Images 1 & 2 (opposite page)

- Clean Technology Tower....

rendering shows atrium-style shell that utilises site-specific air-streams to power the building. (© Adrian Smith + Gordon Gill Architecture)

Images 3 & 4 (this page) -

Zerohouse.... erected in a day, this self-reliant abode could very well be the shape of homes to come.

(© Scott Specht for Specht Harpman)

Welcome to Zerohouse, a shining example of prefabricated living space designed to be completely self-reliant and, of course, luxurious. This comfort mini-home started as a pet project for Architects Specht + Harpman, but on release it had eco-home buyers queuing round the block for a piece of the pre-fab action. This fervent demand

Off The Grid Housing

should put the concept in to production very soon. The luxury mini-home can be erected in a day, provides its own power generation, water collection and storage, and waste processing. Occupants will literally melt in to a wall of comfort with the luxury fittings and furniture, all bespoke-mounted within the thermal structure to maximise living space. The home is also fully-automated using the latest power-saving smart gadgetry. We are convinced that Zerohouse will do more than just provide guest housing for people with large plots of land, its primary intended purpose (and at 600 grand a pop I should say so too! A small price however for something of such cool design stature, with such a delicate footprint on the planet).





How's this for advanced architectural innovation? A design competition for the skyscraper of the future has thrown up some interesting results. A pair of independent architects have ingeniously come up with a design that has rocked the very foundations of sustainable architecture.

Fog Tower

This spiralling **Fog Tower** is intended for use on the edge of the Atacama Desert, northern Chile where it would render one of the driest areas on earth habitable and productive. The huge surface area of this amazing symbiotic super- structure would capture the moisture from a dense north Chilean sea fog and channel the water down to its processing underbelly. Here trace minerals from the sea would be filtered using an efficient reverse osmosis system. The resulting 20,000 to 200,000 litres of water produced per day would allow for the development of a sustainable agriculture environment that the area and its occupants badly need.

A late sixties invention that kind of caught on – slowly at first but now pretty much operates everything we lay our hands on. While rapidly shrinking in size, science has yet to devise a similar decrease in the amount of power the miniscule microchip consumes. All that calculating makes these tiny electronic critters seriously energy-hungry, a problem that restricts technology mobility. But how would it be if microchips were more energy-efficient? A question a group of scientists at MIT asked themselves and set about solving. They have now devised a chip that barely snacks on power, and consequently can be recharged by

Microchips operating from body heat

our own body heat! This ‘weight- watcher’ chip operates at less than one third voltage-consumption than its predecessors and the prospects are looking good. Hundreds of applications such as pacemakers and mobile phones will be powered or recharged purely by the energy we produce in hauling ourselves around. A few technical difficulties lay in the manufacturing process but the scientists believe the chip will be available commercially within five years.

(continue from page 54)

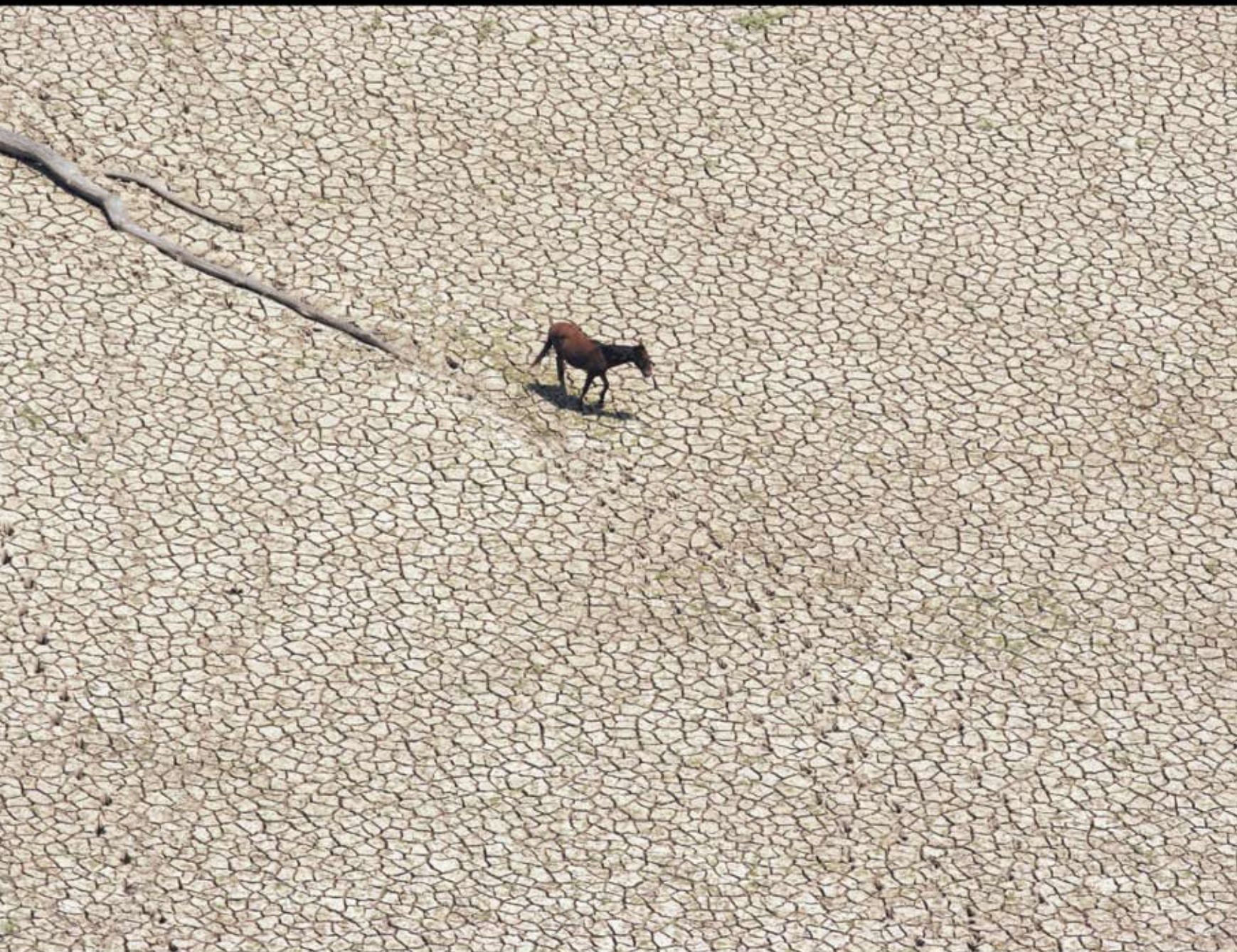
Opportunely, these revolutionary designs are incredibly appealing and cultivate an evolving trend that finally runs in tandem with our delicate eco system. The trend is gathering momentum too; history dictates that war is the mother of invention, the great conflicts generating a rush to create war-winning technologies. This relatively new carbon-conflict is no exception to the rule and things are getting quite exciting. And don't worry; the big corporate companies, oil industries and governments will eventually sit up and listen as this colorful industry swells into a viable revenue platform - it's now up to us to get it to that point.

We have picked but a few of our favorite structures, energy ideas and sustainable concepts for your perusal - some of which we are sure can make the difference, or at least give us that morsel of hope we all desperately need to act on... while there is still time!

To be able to extract Co2 from the air is one thing, but then what do you do with it? There are only so many ways to dispose of the copious quantities of this noxious gas. This problem has been tackled by researchers from the Los Alamos Research laboratory who have recently announced a groundbreaking new project called Green Freedom. They have devised a way to capture the greenhouse gas

Harvesting Fuel From The Air

and convert it into fuel to power cars and aircraft; at least that is the idea. The technology would involve smothering existing Co2-emitting energy plants with carbon-capturing equipment; a kind of giant ‘carbon condom’ if you like, charged with shielding the fertility of mother nature! The gases would be retained and then converted using a form of electrochemical separation. This magical process would create a double edged eco-sword, attacking the existing problem of greenhouse gases already at large and preventing new ones being released in to the air. Green Freedom would provide a large-scale production method for carbon-neutral, sulphur-free fuels and organic chemicals from air and water. The idea is yet to be proved economically viable but it remains a very encouraging concept in the ensuing battle of the gases, so fingers crossed on this one.



We are surrounded by terrifying images of global climate change. Rising seas. Melting glaciers. Burning forests. Sometimes, the human misery caused by environmental destruction seems overwhelming. But it's not too late. Greenpeace believes in the power of the many to change our world for the better. Together we can challenge those in positions of power and inspire individuals to take action.

Inspiring Action...

GREENPEACE

Books

The Polaroid Book: 25th Anniversary Special Edition

Author: Barbara Hitchcock

Editor: Steve Crist

Comprising key works by the likes of David Hockney, Helmut Newton, Jeanloup Sieff and Robert Rauschenberg, the Polaroid Corporation's photography collection is arguably the best in the world. The 25th anniversary edition of The Polaroid Book by Taschen is a glorious tribute to the collection, and to the medium that defies the digital age. Despite production of the traditional Polaroid camera coming to an end, the medium is still favoured by photographers who appreciate its quirky, vintage-style images – and the proof is in the pages of this hallowed tome! Featuring over 400 works from the collection, this 352-page marvel has more than enough substance to keep you up reading well into the small hours.



Architecture Now! 3: 25th Anniversary Special Edition

Author: Philip Jodidio

Good old Taschen, we can always count on the luxury publisher to come up with something to feast our greedy eyes on. This month they've released a 25th anniversary edition of Architecture Now! 3, a stunning tome covering the hottest designers and projects around the world. Stuffed with enough cutting-edge editorial and large-format colour photos to make a grown architect weep tears of joy, this sexy book is a must-have for your bare coffee table. Featuring big-name designers, including Zaha Hadid, Philippe Starck, Jean Nouvel and Santiago Calatrava, as well as a host of up-and-coming bright young things, we couldn't think of any more nourishing reading material this month. Order it, open it and get stuck in.



Cinema

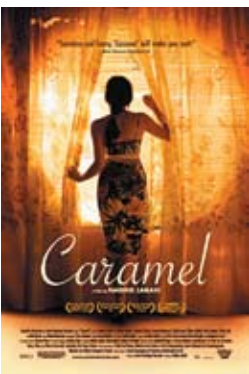
Cannes Film Festival 2008

Roll out the red carpet, the Cannes Film Festival is here again – and it's in its 61st year! The world's biggest celebration of cinema, the 2008 festival will be just as spectacular as previous editions when it is held from 14th to 25th May at the seaside resort's Palais des Festivals. Judged by a panel of industry experts – actor Sean Penn will be leading the panel this year – films on show span every genre imaginable, ranging from big-budget blockbusters to under-the-radar Indie flicks. Only time will tell who'll be walking away with the prestigious Palm d'Or award for best film this time round, though the industry's elite will stop at nothing to get their filthy little mitts on it. So if gorgeous film stars, glamorous premieres and gigantic P Diddy-style yachts are your thing, you know where to head this May. Not that us mere mortals would ever get past the velvet ropes, mind.



Caramel

Director: Nadine Labaki



The first feature-length film by Lebanese director/actress Nadine Labaki, Caramel follows the lives of five female friends in a Beirut beauty salon as they struggle

with forbidden love, restrictive traditions, repressed sexuality, getting older, desire over duty and a culture that's caught in the divide between the modern and traditional. The film is noted for its simple but effective storyline and its realistic characters, as well as for showing Beirut as a warm, exotic locale, rather than a war-torn hellhole. Also co-starring Labaki, the young talent truly shines in this stunning, honey-tinged debut.

Summer Palace

Director: Lou Ye

As politically provocative as cinema gets, Lou Ye's Summer Palace centres around the real-life shootings of protesting students at Tiananmen Square. As a result, the national bureaucracy banned Ye from filmmaking for five years - but it was a sacrifice Ye made to tell a story he obviously feels passionately about. Of course, the political thread of this movie is used as a backdrop against a passionate love story between the central protagonists, Yu Hong and Zhou Wei. Falling in love during a time of political revolution isn't easy, as this film graphically shows. A wonderful, wide-screen romp – in more ways than one in a number of sexually candid scenes! – we urge you to see this film so that Yu's sacrifice wasn't in vain.





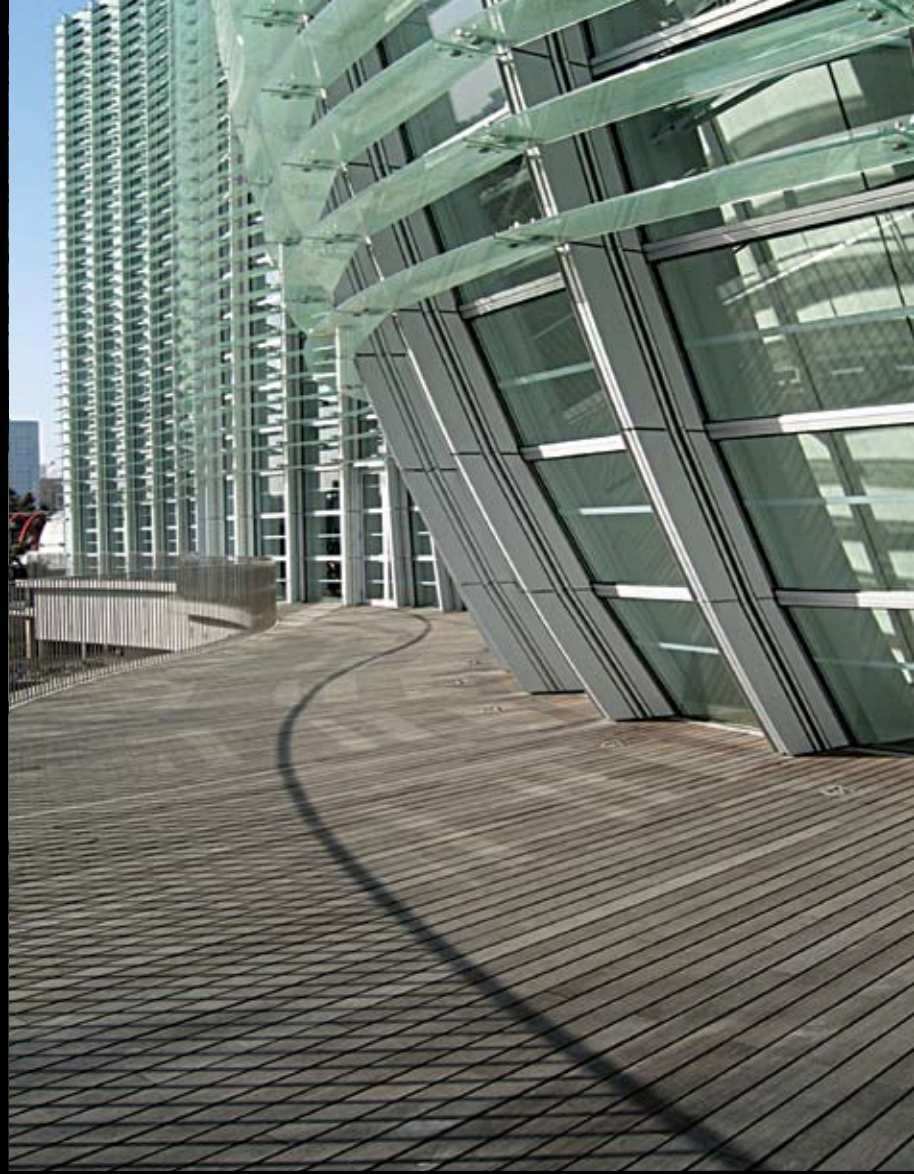
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TOKYO
JAPAN



Kurokawa Art Centre

Text: Chris Dove Photos: courtesy of Kisho Kurokawa

"One
of my
intentions with
the design was to
be fuzzy..."

Great art and
architecture
should be
fuzzy."



Fuzzy thinking design by architect Kisho Kurokawa

The new National Art Centre Tokyo is a perfect expression of his philosophy of symbiosis. Rather than trying to iron out irregularities and resolve contradictions into what he calls a "dull, flat harmony," his distinctly non-Western idea seeks to apply conflicts and tensions in positive ways to achieve interesting and energising effects.

His fuzzy thinking can be seen in the wavy line of the art centre's façade. He has created a melodious surface that is, like waves or hills, harmonious but never repetitive. This surface provides the perfect backdrop to a small section of park that has been preserved from the original site

Speaking of great art and architecture, he says: "If it is easy to understand, it is functional like a factory. People can say, 'this is the entrance way, this is the exit' But this is not art. I wanted to create ambiguity and a little bit of confusion. This is what makes people think, or takes them into a maze."

The fuzziness Kurokawa talks about is evident in the wavy line of the art centre's façade with glass curtains, which cut the invading ultraviolet light. He has created a melodious wavy surface that's never repetitive, providing the perfect backdrop to a small section of a park that has been preserved from the original site. Rather than forcing a building to "act like a building" Kurokawa's philosophy allows ambiguity so that the building is as natural in its own way as the trees through which we first glimpse it. www.kisho.co.jp

Text: David Vickers
Photos: Courtesy of Dan Corson

Beam me up, Danny

'EMPYREAN PASSAGE' IS THE LATEST SIGNIFICANT INSTALLATION CREATED BY ARTIST DAN CORSON. IN AN AUDACIOUS MOVE FROM HIS EPHEMERAL WORK – SOMETIMES INVOLVING PERILOUS VIEWER PARTICIPATION – CORSON IS NOW CREATING LARGE-SCALE, HIGHLY INTEGRATED PUBLIC ARTWORKS. WITH THE ETHOS NOW CENTERED ON EMPLOYING A 'VISCERAL' EXPERIENCE, HIS LATEST SCULPTURES INTEND TO ENVELOP THE VIEWER AND INVITE THEM IN TO CO-CREATE.

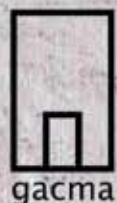


- 1| **Dan the man:** innovative sculptor Mr Corson.
2| **The Empyrean Passage:** spiralling out of control.



American sculptor and serial pyromaniac Dan Corson has frequently proved he can mix fire and water and he certainly has his believers. He's had great success in convincing followers to paddle within an inch of 3rd degree burns in his controversial 'Night Fire Swim' installation. Fortunately no one ended up in the local emergency room!_____In his battle with the elements Dan has now gone galactic and decided to tackle the mystery of time and space in the form of his latest sculpture, the Empyrean Passage. Resembling one of those old skirting-mounted spring door stoppers, this 'Slinky' 20 foot high sculpture represents both a 'theoretical black hole form and a portal to the celestial worlds'._____The spiral sculpture sprang from Dan's mysterious inner cosmos with a great amount of empathy for the conventional world around it, using space age alloys and super efficient electroluminescent lights for nocturnal display, when the sculpture really comes in to its own. However, coming back down to earth, we find that rather than existing on the border of time and space, the sculpture actually resides at a busy junction on the border of Hollywood and Beverly Hills boulevards. So, we wouldn't advise stopping for too long to try and peek up through this winding window to another dimension – unless you think time travel is a realistic escape from assailants and muggers!

enrique Brinkmann



del 18 de Abril
al 18 de Junio
de 2008

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Back to Black

SHE■■■ING LIGHT ■■■ DINING IN THE ■■■■

IF YOU'VE EVER BEEN ON A BLIND DATE AND WISHED YOU WERE, ER, BLIND
WHEN YOU CLAPPED EYES ON YOUR DATE – WHO, INCIDENTALLY LOOKS
NOTHING LIKE THE CALVIN KLEIN/VICTORIA'S SECRET-STYLE PHOTO HE/SHE
SENT YOU VIA EMAIL – THEN DANS LE NOIR? MAY BE THE RESTAURANT FOR
YOU. WITH BRANCHES IN LONDON, PARIS AND MOSCOW, DANS LE NOIR?
USES TOTAL DARKNESS AS ITS DINING CONCEPT, MEANING YOU'LL NO
LONGER BE PUT OFF YOUR DELICIOUS ESCARGOT BY YOUR LYING
COMPANION'S QUASIMODO-LIKE LOOKS.

Text: Nick Clarke Images: Courtesy of Dans le Noir



Follow the leader... guest being lead through in the pitch-black dining room.

Described by French owner Edouardo De Broglie as "a unique sensory experience", dining in the dark heightens the senses, meaning you'll taste each and every ingredient used to make up your chosen dish. He says: "It's a sensual feast. Your other senses are awakened by the dark. Your nose, fingers [and] ears make you face the reality of the taste of the food." Naturally, there are unbreakable wine glasses to avoid any accidents with red wine and white outfits, but other than that everything at Dans Le Noir? is as civilised as the lightest capital eatery, not allowing its concept to override its world-class menu or sophisticated ambience. There's even real knives, rather than the plastic airplane kind you'd expect - but just because diners are entrusted with them don't be tempted to do away with your blind date, however much they talk about their ex (infrared CCTV cameras are installed to catch any inappropriate behaviour on film, such as murder).

Diners begin their experience in a well-lit reception area, where they are served drinks and shown the menu. Those who'd prefer to can choose what they'd like to eat here, while the more adventurous can opt for a surprise tasting menu, which is recommended for getting the best out of the experience (naturally, diners are asked for any allergies they may have, as collapsing beneath the table and choking to death on a swollen tongue isn't part of the experience). Diners then place their hand on the shoulder of the person in front of them and are taken through a heavy set of curtains into the blacked-out dining room, which holds 60 patrons. Shown to their table by the partially-sighted and blind waiters and waitresses who work here, diners are seated and left to make conversation, as they would in any other restaurant. If they need anything, like more bread or the toilet, for instance, they are required to call their server by name rather than stumble around themselves. Naturally, no digital watches, mobile phones, lighted cigarettes or any other form of illumination are permitted into the dining room, and personal belongings are left in a locker room in the reception area to avoid servers tripping over ill-placed handbags.

When the food arrives the real fun begins. While blindly jabbing at your food doesn't sound like a laugh-a-minute, the dining room is usually alive with laughter and excited conversations, as people attempt to put food to mouth. In fact, because diners aren't able to judge on looks, social barriers are lowered and interaction occurs between complete strangers. Sometimes the noise in the dining room becomes unbearably loud, as people rely solely on sound to communicate. Most of the time people give up with the silverware

INFRARED CCTV CAMERAS ARE INSTALLED TO CATCH ANY INAPPROPRIATE BEHAVIOUR ON FILM SUCH AS MURDER

and eat with their hands, and, because nobody can see anyone it's not considered rude. Here the act of eating is an interactive experience, where the diner must guess what they're chewing on by texture and taste alone; indeed, diners will be surprised how some foods are bursting with scent, while others have none at all, and that some ingredients are almost impossible to identify. Drink is less confusing, with wine provided in a square bottle and water provided in a cylindrical one.

In the outside world the waiters and waitresses of Dans Le Noir? are disadvantaged, but inside the restaurant customers must put their faith in them as they are guided around tables, chairs and other people. While the restaurant does rely somewhat on its gimmicky nature, De Broglie wanted Dans Le Noir? to show other business owners that there is a place for disabled people in the working world. In fact, the restaurant kindly donates 10% of its nightly takings to a blind charity.

While Dans Le Noir? may not be the kind of place that attracts regulars - merely for the fact that most people like to be able to see their friends and food - it does attract novelty-seekers through its doors and, interestingly enough, blind people who want their friends and family to share the blind experience. Many of its guests are journalists, too, undoubtedly frustrated that they can't write notes on a pad under the table between courses. Themed restaurants never come cheap, but the experience of Dans Le Noir? is priceless; it may also be the only city restaurant that doesn't care if it's a place not to be seen in.

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When you touch me

Freemasons
feat. Katherine Ellis

The Brighton duo's latest offering is a disco house number featuring Katherine Ellis, who has the vocal attitude of Gossip's Beth Ditto. Thankfully, her vocals give this track attitude where the house beat doesn't - that's not a diss to their work, it's just not the Freemasons style. In contrast to the lead vocals, the harmonies soothe and sit sweetly on an unobtrusive house beat. If you like your house music funky, then try this.

Count to 10

Ben Onono

Feel like listening to a song you can whistle along to? Well, here it is! An assortment of percussion instruments introduce this folksy, barn-yard dance-style number. Although busy with horns, piano and percussion galore, it's not a cluttered sound, all the instruments getting time to shine at some point - even the kazoo! A lazy beat holds the tune together, placed alongside Ben's simple lyrics and slightly quirky delivery.



Warwick Avenue

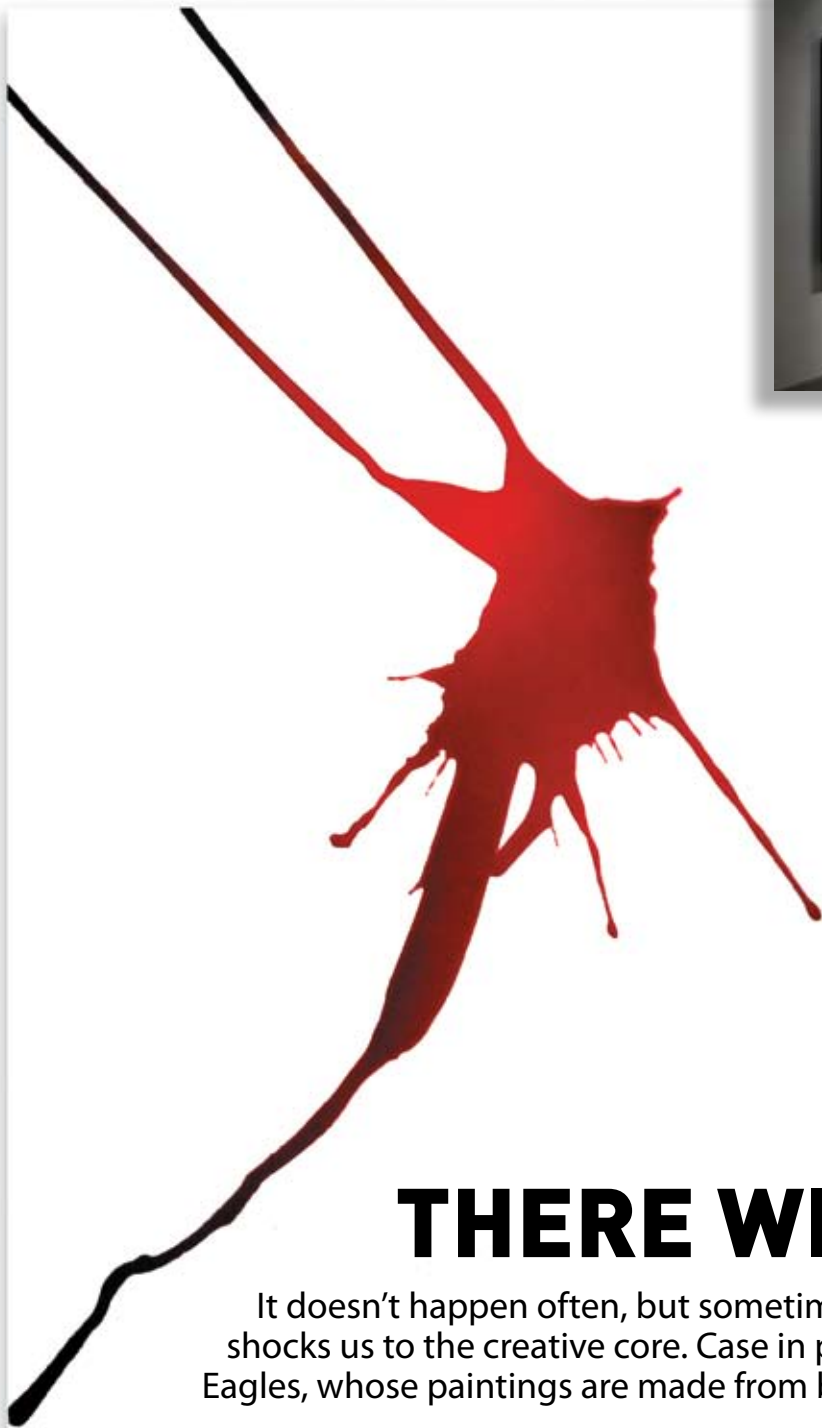
Duffy

The Welsh songstress delivers yet again. A carefully plucked guitar intro leads us to Duffy's engaging vocal entrance. With a teasing start she tells about walking away from a romance, the song building to a raspy crescendo. Gentle taps on the drums don't overshadow the strong presence of the guitar licks, the song then topped off nicely with a clever string outro!

Where's the *real* live music at?

Now this isn't a rant and please stop me if I do start. A friend invited me to go and see a live jazz band. Great, I thought, I can finally feed my live music addiction! Well, the 'jazz band' turned out to be a female vocalist accompanied by a guitarist! Band I think not, and jazz? Well, the vocalist sang covers and didn't even make the songs her own! No scats, no improvisation... nada! So we endured this for about 30 minutes, with intermittent returns to the bar, then left. But why promote a jazz band when quite clearly it wasn't? _____ My live music experience here on the Coast hasn't been all bad, I hasten to add. _____ I went to a fantastic small festival last summer in Benhavis. All Spanish artists and various genres of music. I've also been to a couple of bars playing live flamenco in San Pedro. I would like a salubrious musical experience and I know I can find it... but where is the real live music at? _____ No word of a lie, just as I'm typing this article and beginning a rant that is now deleted, my phone got a message: 'Come and see the Shine Junkies rock the house at Pachamama in Tarifa!' Cool, I thought, I have heard this band very briefly in Marbella and they were very cool and funky, from what I could recollect. So off I headed to Tarifa to hear what the Shine Junkies had to offer. _____ A four-piece band from various parts of the world, who have no drummer-just a beatbox dude, the Shine Junkies are as funky as it gets! From Prince, Stevie Wonder and even Terrence Trent Darby, the band turns these already familiar classics and gives them an extra dose of funk! As the text message promised, they certainly did rock the house. Romel, the lead singer, subtly directs the band and certainly feels the funk in his vocal delivery. So much so that the band are starting to get a small following, which, for their genre, and the fact they've only been together three years, is certainly a good sign! A friend turned to me and said; 'Standing still whilst listening to funk is as hard as having a fruit pastel in your mouth without chewing it'. How right she was! As I looked around I saw that nobody was standing still, with heads bobbing and feet tapping. My faith in real live music on the Costa has been restored... hooray! Now I'm spreading the real live music vibe, I have a date for your diary: On 3rd May 15:15 featuring Bai Kamara are playing at Pachamama in Tarifa. I know I'll be there to get my fix... will you?

Check out the Shine Junkies at:
www.totalmusicitarifa.com and
www.myspace.com/1515baikamara



THERE WILL BE BLOOD

It doesn't happen often, but sometimes we stumble across something that shocks us to the creative core. Case in point is the coagulated work of Jordan Eagles, whose paintings are made from blood, the most primitive of mediums.

You know, the red stuff that pumps around your veins; the crimson liquid Dracula draws from women's necks; the scarlet juice Quentin Tarantino splatters everywhere in his movies? Thankfully, Eagles obtains his blood from animals rather than the drained bodies of slain human victims, but that still isn't soothing the controversy that surrounds his 'bloodworks'. In fact, an animal advocacy group stormed one of his shows, with picket signs and all, slamming his work as 'offensive'. But on the contrary, Eagles doesn't use blood for shock value or to frighten art buffs; instead, his work is largely representative of life's cycle, and is surprisingly soothing to look at. Left untreated, blood turns brown, which

is why Eagles preserves it by interspersing layers with resin (an additional UV coating is applied to ensure they stand the test of time). Poured or painted onto Plexiglass, then titled or brushed to create shading and other effects, the blood used in Eagles' work is anything but accidental. In fact, his work has become more precise over the years, with intricately splattered forms and textured geometric shapes making up his latest works. To the touch, the works have surfaces that are smooth, almost glass-like, with light bouncing off the surface. Whether it's looked upon as gorgeous or gory, one thing's for sure; Eagles work is always inspiring. www.jordaneagles.com



Text: David Vickers

COOL TIME WASTING WEB SITES

IF MAN WERE TO RECEIVE AN ACHIEVEMENT AWARD FOR THE LAST THREE OR FOUR MILLENNIA, WW+W WOULD BE FIRST UP TO ACCEPT THE PRIZE FOR INNOVATION, JUST AHEAD OF THE TROGLODYTES WHO FASHIONED THE FIRST WHEEL AND THAT BILLIONAIRE PAPERCLIP GUY. FOR THIS REASON NO ONE EVER DARE CALL THE INTERNET USELESS – BUT IT CAN BE, IN SUCH A COOL AND DAMN ADDICTIVE WAY! WELL, WE DARE WHERE OTHERS DARE NOT; LISTED BELOW ARE THE TEN FUNKIEST, ABSOLUTELY USELESS WASTE OF TIME SITES WE CAN GET OUR PAWS ON. WELCOME TO THE NEW PROTOCOL, THE 'WORLD WIDE WASTE O TIME'! HAVE FUN...I'M OFF TO DO MORE RESEARCH!



1. WWW.REDBULL.COM/FLIGHTLAB/

Test-fly your own aerodynamic design skills without losing the seat in your pants. This armchair-friendly way to join in the fanatical 'Red Bull Flugtag' proceedings is a must for all budding avionic technicians. Design and build your crazy craft in the detailed 3D workshop, then pop it in your virtual hangar for a breather before launching yourself off the famous plunge. It's not all easy, just like the mad-cap spoof aviators themselves you have to flap, loop de loop, drift and corkscrew to gain points and feature on the prestigious high-score panel.



2. WWW.VOLKSWAGENDRIVEIN.NL

Volkswagen Netherlands has cleverly combined our love for the retro with our eternal desire for the younger years. This sixty-year celebration site winds back the years with a compelling multiple choice game that tests our music knowledge of yesteryear. Bring your pop-tastic prowess in to play by matching the year of the tune to the decade of the love buggy. This game is serious fun and surprisingly not as easy as it sounds, the odd Dutch track sliding its way in to the musical fray. Where would we be without bands like 2-Untalented and Golden Earring! There are prizes to be won but nothing as good as the classic tunes and enormous satisfaction of thrashing your mates.



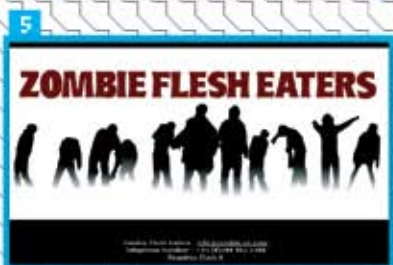
3. WWW.ALLSTATEGARAGE.COM

Pull on your chaps and get over to this interactive Chopper-bike workshop. Show West Coast Choppers what it's all about by assembling your own speed machine, take it through the spray shop and kit it out with tassels 'n' stuff. No expense has been spared on this Easy Rider induction course; this is a truly indulgent journey through the chopper build process that'll swiftly take you from the office chair to the throbbing saddle in style. Is there any point? Not really, save joining the throng of heady Harley delusionists who proudly display their creations in the 3D showroom. Next stop can only be a bandanna e-store.



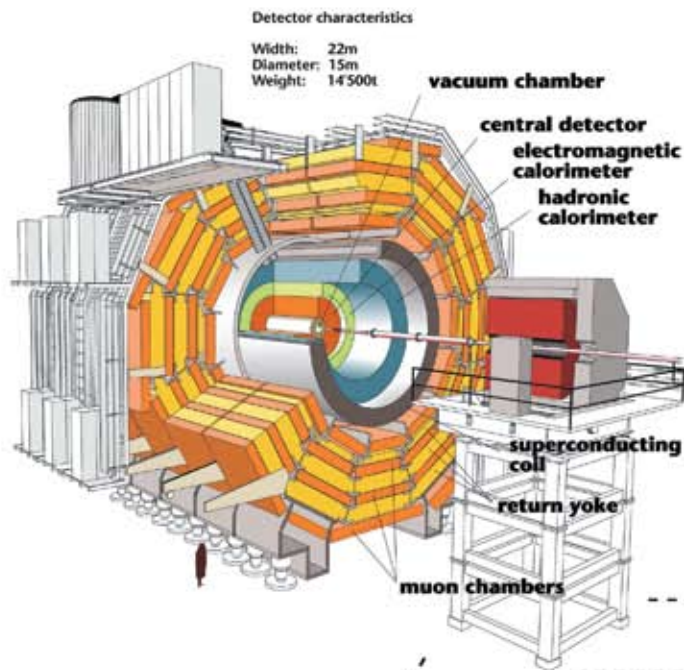
4. WWW.LETYOURWORRIESGO.COM

Take your worries away in this dreamy anxiety busting site. The choice is yours; convert your burdens to ballast and watch them float away in a hot air balloon; submerge your strains in a stress sub and condemn them forever to the depressive deep; or pile all your worries in to a 'misery missile' and blast them out to the stressosphere! The site has a rather strange angle on the sort of problems that life may throw up, but it takes allsorts. After initially calming your pants, the owners bump you back down to earth by trying to sell you life insurance. 'Oh yeah, I forgot my days were numbered too – thanks!'



1. WWW.ZOMBIE.UK.COM

They're coming to get you! This is a vaguely blood curdling shoot'em up screen game with the usual zombified guts and gore. As ever the zombie genre is the biggest waste of time imaginable! The second this site loads up, these hulking lumps of skin start coming for you, and there is only one thing to do, start shooting! Mouse clicks kill and mutilate the un-dead but time is short, if you're not careful you'll be joining the ranks of the damned and almost departed. This is a great stress-buster, the senseless carnage somehow quelling the strains of the day, all responsibilities diminished! Usual zombie rules apply so don't forget; shots to the head = don't waste lead!



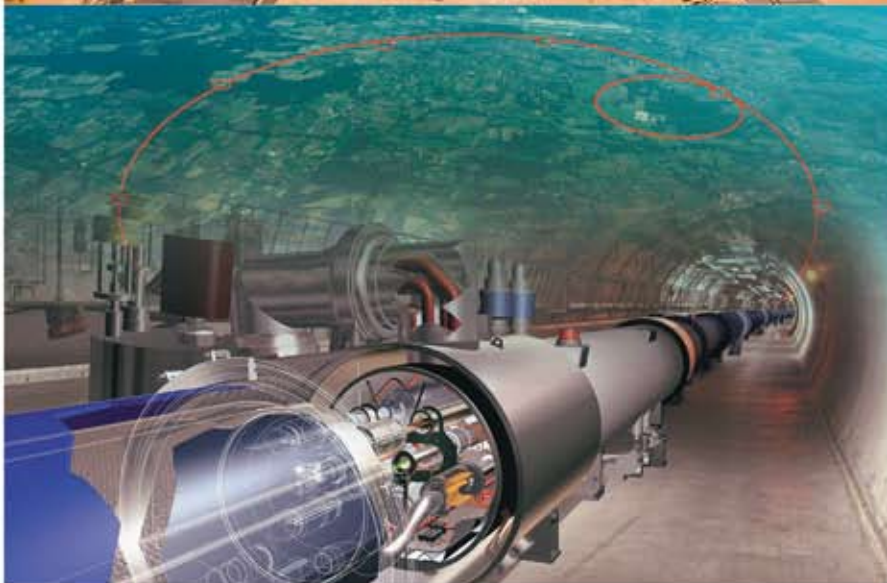
Text: Nick Clarke

Turn Back Time.....

WHILE YOU MAY THINK THAT TRAVELING BACK THROUGH TIME IS THE STUFF OF A DODGY DR WHO BOX-SET, RECENT REPORTS SUGGEST THAT IT COULD BE POSSIBLE IN THE NEXT COUPLE OF MONTHS.



We can't tell you exactly what this is... actually, we haven't a clue. All we can say is that these are diagrams and images of CERN's Large Hadron Collider.



We kid you not. An experiment that is being carried out in underground tunnels in Geneva this month could, claim Russian scientists at the European Organisation for Nuclear Research (CERN), cause a rift in the fabric of the universe and enable tiny particles to be transported to and fro. While it all sounds very 'Back to the Future', the boffins in white coats are convinced that 'atom-smashing' tests could create a wormhole or time tunnel between the present and the future. Apparently, forcing tiny particles to collide at close to the speed of light would force time to fold back on itself. But British brain box Dr Brian Cox isn't convinced, and says the concept is nothing more than "a good science fiction story". We have to disagree – it would be a bad science fiction story, as the time machine thing has been done to death. Nevertheless, the world is waiting with bated breath to see if this time next month we'll all be booking flights to the Caribbean circa 2500. But we have to ask; if time travel really was possible, wouldn't we have been visited by people from the future by now?

For more information:
www.cern.ch

LATEST 190



YOU'VE BEEN FRAMED

The ultimate camera for action-men and-women, the Digital HERO3 by 3prime Solutions straps to pretty much anything to capture your life as it happens. Whether you attach it to your wrist, handlebars or kayak paddles, the 3-MP camera

is capable of shooting a whole 54 minutes of extreme video and audio footage. Lightweight and easy to use, you're sure to get all the unfolding action on film – perfect for showing your buddies afterwards and boosting your ego.

www.3prime-store.co.uk



FOUR-EYES

The equivalent of an MRI scan for plants, the High Tech Plant Examining Glasses enable you to 'x-ray' your garden and spot problems before they arise. Developed by NASA scientists – who clearly know nothing about style but a lot about technology! – the geeky, 90s-inspired specs block out the green colour reflected by chlorophyll in plants. While healthy turf will show up grey or black, unhealthy greenery will show up as red, pink, coral and a range of other hues. While it's certainly a great idea for green-fingered garden-lovers, we can't help but wonder whether taxpayers' dollars are being put to the best possible use here.

www.cleanairstgardening.com

DRAG QUEEN

If smoking's becoming a drag – excuse the pun – then why not invest in a death-defying alternative? With more countries than ever banning smoking in public places, the craving for a hit of nicotine can sometimes be too much to bear. Enter the Gamucci Electronic Cigarette, which contains 16mg of liquidised nicotine with a tobacco scent to provide the user with a genuine smoking experience. Comprising a cartridge, an atomisation chamber, a smart-chip controller and a built-in lithium battery, the sophisticated device glows and creates a smoke-like vapour. While we aren't convinced macho men will take to this Cruella de Vil-style invention, it certainly deserves points for providing a healthy alternative.

www.gamucci.com



SMOOTH OPERATOR

Those of us who resemble our ape ancestors more than a fully-evolved human being can breathe a sigh of relief. The ultra-effective Silk'n hair removal device has just been approved by the FDA, meaning the previously hirsute can become as smooth as the day they were born. Created by Home Skinovations for home-use, the device harnesses the company's patent-pending Home Pulsed Light technology to zap unwanted hairs at the root. Looking as sleek and shiny as Barbie and Ken, you and your hairless loved one can look forward to parading your newly-smooth bodies on the beach this summer.

www.silkn.com



GRAMMY AWARD

If you miss the sound of a good old-fashioned gramophone, then we recommend you snap up Science and Sons' Phonophone immediately. The antique-inspired iPod dock uses the natural shape of the horn to amplify music and pump out 55-decibels of sound; true, it's only as loud as a set of laptop speakers, but with no power needed it's cooler than cool.

www.scienceandsons.com





INFORMATION STATION

We live in an age of digital media, where MP3 players, iPods, DVDs, CDs, online content, digital camcorders and TVs have become an essential part of our daily lives. The only problem is, up until now, the information we rely on is stored separately. You could, of course, hook everything up to your computer, but this isn't so convenient if you want to kick back on the sofa in your lounge. Enter M one, a 'one-box' solution designed by Tranquil PC to become the

centre of the digital home. Conceived to deliver a simple, affordable solution to storing, protecting and sharing digital media, M one will deliver multi-room digital TV entertainment and play all kinds of audio and visual content, as well as being able to access the Internet. A revolutionary concept, we can't wait to get our grubby little mitts on one.

www.tranquilpc-shop.co.uk



RISE AND SUNSHINE

While we all hate alarm clocks and the despair they bring at six-thirty in the morning, they are a necessary evil. And if you've got to have one, then you could do worse than the Quanty Solar Alarm Clock. Able to run for an entire year on a single charge, this shrill little number will have you up with the lark 365 days without having to stuff it full of Duracell every other week.

www.hippyshopper.com



TRANSFORMERS, IN DISGUISE

If you say you didn't want a robot of your very own as a child, you're lying. With the \$152-Kondo KHR-2 HV, all your childhood fantasies can finally come true. Not only does the miniature robot look like a retro-style Transformer, but it can play football, fight with other robots and, get this, dance salsa. Yes, this is a robot of many talents! What's more, you can even buy additional clothes for the robot to wear, including a paper football strip for just \$10. What's not to love?

www.audiocubes.com

SHORT CIRCUIT

As if life isn't stressful enough, the Phantom Keystroker will bring even more frustration and anger to any workplace. Looking like a simple circuit board, the clever contraption emulates a keyboard and mouse and periodically makes random mouse movements and types out nonsensical phrases. The best bit, however, is that you can set how often the randomness occurs! Simply plug it into a USB port on your co-worker's computer and watch with glee from your desk. Just don't let the joke run too long; your distressed victim may crack and jump out of the nearest open window.

www.thinkgeek.com



TURN(TABLE) BACK TIME



While the younger amongst us will have never heard the sweet, crackling sound of a vinyl record, those who lived through the swinging 60s will remember all the joy it brought. Nowadays, CDs and MP3s just don't have the same effect, which is why Ion Audio's iTTUSB will sell like hotcakes. Playing directly into powered speakers or a stereo system, your dusty old records will be recorded, converted into MP3 files and stored on your trusty Mac. Indeed, turning analogue into digital has never been so rewarding.

www.ion-audio.com



Good'n Morgan

Morgan Concept – hydrogen-powered Lifecar

What better than a concept sports car to get your eco senses into overdrive? Morgan Motors, a very British affair, has been designing and manufacturing the Morgan shape since 1910. A proven survivor then, its bumpy sports suspension confidently riding the economic ups and downs of a turbulent century. The profile of its celebrated 'two-seater' has altered relatively little over the last 50 years, Morgan closely coveting the trademark air guzzling front grill and famous 'frog eye' lamp assembly. Great to see that a leap in the hydrogen fuelled direction hasn't seen the end of the retro glamour; something that should see the company ride the ecological revolution with the usual winning combination of allure and vitesse. The hydrogen-powered 'Lifecar' is based on

the design of the Morgan Aero-8 roadster and produces only water vapour from its affable tail pipes. By dumping the giant customary V8 lump, frivolous extras like the CD player and the old steel chassis, Morgan has created a lightweight concept sports car with all the eco-bells and whistles. Impressively, a regenerative braking system feeds a bank of mid mounted ultra-capacitors, providing a vital extra power bulge the car needs to climb hills and accelerate to its top speed of around 90 miles per hour.

The only downside, of course, is the absence of the familiar Morgan growl from under the extended bonnet, perhaps it would be a useful idea to reinstate the stereo and pump out the recorded

sound of the old five litre V8 in gas guzzling action! Morgan, among an increasing amount of car manufacturers, has confidently demonstrated its ability to embrace the green ideology of the future without making too many compromises along the way. The sports car is a perfect model to demonstrate how far this new technology can be taken – performance being a big sore thumb of an issue with many motor critics. It may not seem important to all of us, but speed and performance set the bar for most of the big manufacturers, Formula 1 isn't out there just for fun!

Who knows, after some major valve-tweaking, we may yet witness Lewis and Fernando dog-fighting it out on a Formula Green arena.



Text: Dave Vickers

Honey.... I shrunk the HUMMER!

It wouldn't be such a bad idea considering the sheer size of the ravenous fuel cap on its granddaddy's two-tonne left flank!

This outrageous luxury H3 Hummer golf buggy is the ultimate bling accessory for any aspiring gangster golfers. The rugged replica is designed by the appropriately named 'Bad Ass Golf Carts' - custom cart builders to the stars and is an upgrade from the popular H2 version.

So what does 38,000 dollars buy you in the electric trolley market? Well, for starters you get a 48 volt rechargeable drive battery... then add a custom paint job and Gucci seats, slide on some 20" alloy rims with super low profile tyres and obviously modify the suspension to suit. Round off this crazy 'pimp my mini ride' custom job with a touch screen TV W/DVD player with headrest monitors and two visor TVs (for the caddy, presumably) and finally add a

couple of super heart-pumping bass woofers. It's a touch indulgent but very handy for blasting out your David Leadbetter DVDs between strokes.

Bad Ass originally designed this titan trolley for 14 year old Kolten King, and apparently, what Kolten wants, Kolten gets! He's rolling in it, and his bizarre requests are obediently backed up by daddy's blank cheques. Now the cart has gone on to the company production sheet - with an interesting listed build time of... 'however quick you want it at this price!' We think it's the ultimate in cool for the gorgeous game and if you ever play Texas Scramble, there's an eight-seater stretch version on it's way, another of Kolten's decadent demands. www.badassgolfcarts.com

Text: Nick Clarke

You drive me crazy

Nissan Pivo 2

While you may not always feel like talking on the drive home from work, you won't have a choice strapped inside the new Nissan Pivo 2. Looking as cute as a button with an R2D2-like shape, the eco-friendly motor contains a talking robot that can sense what mood you're in via facial and voice-recognition software. Called RA, it will help you drive safer if you're engulfed by roadrage or if you've had one too many after-work tequila slammers. Aside from a robotic companion, the funky little thing has a super-slim electric motor that's twice as powerful as a standard electric motor, with four motors distributed on each wheel. Because of its ingenious geometric shape, the nifty little number is also capable of turning 360-degrees, great for when you want to simulate the experience of a vomit-inducing fairground ride. Bringing driver and car ever-closer, you're sure to fall truly, madly, deeply for your Nissan Pivo 2. Though taking your four-wheeled partner down the aisle could prove difficult. www.nissan-global.com/EN/PIVO2/



Photos left: Despite its compact size, the interior sits three people surprisingly comfortably. Passengers get in through the front, which opens up completely like a door. A primary colour palette adds a touch of Noddy-style.



LEXUS IS-F

GENTLEMEN PREFER GREYS

I USUALLY GREET THE ARRIVAL OF ANY NEW LEXUS WITH THE SAME LEVEL OF ANTICIPATION AS I WOULD AN APPOINTMENT WITH A PROCTOLOGIST, ALTHOUGH AT LEAST THE LATTER MAY PROVIDE A FEW ENTERTAINING STORIES FOR MY FRIENDS, IN CONTRAST TO DRIVING A LEXUS. _____ AS THE HUGELY SUCCESSFUL LUXURY CAR DIVISION OF TOYOTA, LEXUS HAS BECOME SYNONYMOUS WITH BOTH LUXURY AND RELIABILITY, REGULARLY TOPPING CUSTOMER SATISFACTION AND RELIABILITY RATINGS. THEY'RE ALSO RATHER TURGID CARS, OFFERING ALL OF THE OWNERSHIP THRILLS OF A HOUSEHOLD APPLIANCE, ALTHOUGH THAT COMPARISON MAY BE A LITTLE UNFAIR ON SOME DOMESTIC DEVICES. HOWEVER, WITH THE IS-F LEXUS HAS DEPARTED FROM CATERING TO ITS TYPICAL GREY SLIP-ON SHOE WEARING CUSTOMER BASE, AND PRODUCED A CAR THAT COMPETES DIRECTLY WITH GERMAN SUPER SALOONS SUCH AS THE AUDI RS4, BMW M3, AND MERCEDES C63. **Text: Ian Baxter Photos: Courtesy of Lexus**



The first clue that the IS-F is not the Lexus your grandparents drive is the exterior, with an appearance more overtly aggressive than a strip club bouncer. Like the charges of the protective custodians of a gentlemen's club door it's only under closer scrutiny that it becomes apparent that some of the body modifications are more for show than go: the vents behind the front wheels don't appear to serve any practical purpose, and the unique quad exhaust configuration is fake, with the functional exhaust system terminating a couple of inches shy of this bumper ornamentation. Give Lexus some credit for those gorgeous 19-inch gunmetal grey BBS wheels though, as they do look the dog's bollocks.

Under the skin, there's nothing fake about this Lexus. At the heart of the IS-F is a muscular 5.0 litre V8, breathed on by Yamaha to produce 416 bhp. This puts the Lexus squarely in the same rarefied territory as its German rivals, and means that this Lexus will sprint to 60 mph (100 km/h) in under 5

seconds when you mash the loud pedal into the shag pile. The affect of the beast lurking under the hood is heightened by the short ratios of an eight-speed automatic transmission. That's right, eight gears, which can be shifted manually via steering column mounted paddles. A dashboard indicator allows you to keep track of which gear you're in, so no need to worry about running out of fingers.

LIKE THE CHARGES OF THE PROTECTIVE CUSTODIANS OF A GENTLEMEN'S CLUB DOOR, IT'S ONLY UNDER CLOSER SCRUTINY THAT IT BECOMES APPARENT THAT SOME OF THE BODY MODIFICATIONS ARE MORE FOR SHOW THAN GO

No modern performance car would be complete without an acronym to describe the computerised gadgetry controlling the suspension, and the Lexus does not disappoint with the VDIM system,

which rolls off the tongue a little easier than Vehicle Dynamics Integrated Management. This is Lexus's approach to integrating anti-lock brakes, stability systems, steering assistance, gear change speed and traction control to provide varying levels of driver control for the vehicle dynamics. In layman's terms, this means you can control the level of driver involvement from skid free safety to lurid, tire shredding, movie stuntman tail slides.

As one would expect from Lexus, it takes a market segment previously the preserve of the big three German luxury car manufacturers, and provides an extremely compelling option to its rivals. Although the Lexus brand holds limited appeal in this market niche, the IS-F is an extremely credible first attempt at a true sports saloon. If you're looking for an interesting alternative to one of the German uber sedans, yet with superior reliability, the IS F is a Lexus you'll want to own before your first pair of grey slip-ons.



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{ Preview of NEXT MONTH'S ISSUE }

A QUICK LOOK IN TO THE MODERN DESIGN 'CRYSTAL BALL' REVEALS THAT NEXT MONTH WE HAVE THE USUAL (AND NOT SO USUAL) FASCINATING FEATURES, ARTICLES, INTERVIEWS, INNOVATIONS, NEWS AND EVENTS – INCLUDING:

Architecture

Science and architecture collide to create 'Anti Smog'. We take a tour through the concept of **Callebaut's air freshening addition** [1] to the Parisian skyline. For the more cultural we check out one of the outlandish designs from the pioneering **Snoetta studios**; Oslo's sparkling new opera house with its resounding architectural theme that's deeper than a tenor's undertones!

Arts

We take the heat off the controversial Chinese Olympic flame with this stunning visual insight to the **Chinese contemporary arts** [2]. Hold your breath, Jason Taylor takes us through his unique submerged under-world of 'Scuba Sculpture'.

Design

Special **Salone de Milano 2008** [3] the fair that everyone is waiting for! An astonishing array of modern design concepts, fit only for the most contemporary of crash pads! Forget the ancient relics, we found the coolest architecture Athens has to offer in the shape of **Frame bar**, come out of the heat and in to the Frame. Plus; an exclusive insight to **Special Kitchen** [4] work surfaces you'd think twice about chopping on!

Technology

Can we really live longer, not as a rattling corpse-like being but a full on hard-body, only **nanotechnology** [5] has the answer! We take our very own 'Fantastic Voyage' through this incredible life-lending concept.

And lots more!

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Deli-Cius 2
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Hair Style
Hair Studio
The Norton Gallery

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Passepartouts (Galería de Arte)
Mai Tai Bar
Las Dunas
Café Del Mar
L'Attitude
Golf Atalaya
Hotel Guadalmina
Lagunas Village
Hotel La Quinta
Golf La Quinta
Golf Los Arqueros
Crowne Plaza Hotel
Golf La Resina
Heaven

CALAHONDA

Tennis Club Del Sol
Golf La Siesta
Spikes
Pool & Spa Center
Carma Beds

LA CALA

El Oceano Beach Hotel
Forum
New Home Solutions Ja
Golf El Chaparral
La Noria Golf
Calanova Golf Club
La Cala Resort & Golf
Mijas Golf
CIO Mijas
Solution (CLUB & BAR)
La Plaza

FUENGIROLA

Inga Lotza
Swing (Escuela de Baile)
Hotel Beatriz
Matisse
Decor Arte



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Match & Eat

Because the response to our last competition was so great, we've decided to run another one here at Modern Design. Match the artists above (denoted by letters) with a related image below (denoted by numbers) to win a meal for six at one of Marbella's best restaurants. It couldn't be simpler... or could it? Happy matching!

For full rules and regulations please go to www.d-earle.com

