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CHINESE EXPLOSION!

Editorial letter by Michael Earle, magazine's editor



Michael Earle is an American architect who grew up on the Costa del Sol before movina 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.

This month we are dedicating a few pages to China and some of the new projects under construction there. What an exciting place China is and it is constantly getting better as it undergoes an incredible economic expansion.

This Chinese expansion has occurred in the last 30 years since the government began to relax the economic and political situation. It already has the 4th largest economy in the world and with its continued growth, it should be number one before long. Many estimates say by 2025. Apparently there are 1500 new millionaires (in dollar terms) created by this economic boom each day. The middle class of Chinese citizens is supposed to exceed 500 million people in the next 10 years. These people are well-educated and thirsty for new things, especially from the West. Their interest in Modern design is already great and will obviously grow.

Diseño Earle is poised to enter the Chinese market in the next 3 years and we look forward to this great challenge. The first wave of new modernism for China has already reached the shore. As you can see in our feature about the new Chinese projects, China has signed many star architects to create very adventurous and forward-thinking buildings. These projects will represent their modern and innovative point of view.

Cultures that invest in Modern design tend to be and are seen as forward-thinking cultures and it is fundamental to many countries today to be able to represent this view of the world. The West could learn a thing or two from this approach.

The opposition that we are finding here is slowly changing and the trickle of today will become a torrent in the next few years. Modernism and new ideas will take hold and people from all over the world will demand new and better designed houses, furniture and gadgets. We see consumers already choosing better designs and forcing businesses to catch up with better designs or die. A great example of this is the iPhone. The only thing that separates it from the rest is design. Here at Modern Design magazine we are ready for a great ride.

If you have any questions or comments about modern design or architecture, I can be contacted at mearle@d-earle.com

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CROWNE PLAZA HOTEL, COSTA DEL SOL



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1, 2, 3...**SOLEIL!**

Editorial letter by Luis Gallardo, magazine's director



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.

In the name of all the Modern Design Team, we are honoured by all your enthusiastic emails regarding the magazine. It is such rewarding work when people's feedback supports you in realizing your dream: producing this wonderful mag!

This is the 3rd issue of MD, and this is only the beginning! This month, we invite you to travel all around the world with us with the internationally well-known OMA architect group; we focus with no limits on the fantastic growth in contemporary Chinese architecture.

There is so much going on this September month: the 52nd Venice International Art Bienniale in Italy is just part of those beautiful and astonishing contents that we are bringing to you, dear readers. Art is everywhere, in everyone who wants to make this world a bit more interesting and passionate. A few people have already asked us: "What would you write next? Is there enough cutting edge contents to talk about? What if MD became old-fashioned?" MD is not a fashion; it is a philosophy, a culture, our way of living. We don't follow the rules of traditional editorial because we want to be different. Otherwise MD would be another boring magazine, wouldn't we? We are trying every month to create the "WOW" effect; we want everybody to join MD's growing community. I hope you will enjoy this issue as much as we enjoyed producing it!

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

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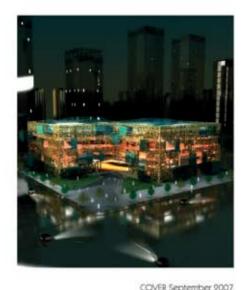
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Shenzhen Museum of Contemporary Art & Planning, China

3D images: Francisco Vazquez, aka Nenomaister

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THE READERS' VOICE

Readers' opinions regarding our magazine and/or previous articles.

MODERN DESIGN is Architecture and Art. If you think you could be part of MODERN DESIGN or you know someone who could, please let us know. We want our magazine to be interactive. We want to progress with you. In 9016, Målaga probably will be the European City of Culture — it's not as far off as you think so let's open our minds to the world and the future. Let's make it happen!

If you have any good ideas or constructive opinions regarding MODERN DESIGN's contents, this is the place to express yourself.

> Please visit our web page www.d-earle.com and email us at magazine@d-earle.com



MEWS

<u>Mickey Mouse Sustainable Farming</u>

Another fun feature of Disney World Florida is the EPCOT Centre - the Experimental Prototype Community of Tomorrow. Experimenting in agricultural technology, EPCOT has 2.5 million square feet of greenhouses which produce most of the food for EPCOT's inhabitants - including lifelike Mickey Mouse shaped veg grown using hydroponics seriously, we didn't make this up...). Mickey tomatoes, pumpkins, cucumbers and other Mickey-head Franken veg are entertaining the public no end while providing valuable research into genetically modified crops.



<u>Caught copying Klein</u>



A Paris court has ordered flamboyant fashion designer John Galliano to cough up 200,000€ in damages to cult American photographer William Klein, saying Galliano's advertisements too closely resembled Klein's hallmark "painted contacts" - oversized painted contact sheets

streaked with strokes of vivid colour. The five ads appeared in French Vogue and Elle magazines and in several UK and Russian publications, each featuring three enlarged contact print images of models highlighted with coloured brushstrokes. The French court said the ads clearly violated intellectual property laws because Galliano never asked Klein's permission to use the style which the New York-born photographer developed more than a decade ago. Klein said he was "hurt" by Galliano's appropriation of his style: "I am bitter because this glaring plagiarism represents an inexplicable slap in the face to my work."







sex row

Plans to erect an "interactive" City of Sex museum off Copacabana Beach have been greeted with lots of titters. The young Brazilian behind this controversial construct is an Oxford University Architecture graduate who says, "Brazil has this huge link with sex yet it has no museum to celebrate this ... people only discuss the negative things related to sex, like sexual tourism or child prostitution. I wanted to deal with it in a natural, official way." His supporters range from Rio's mayor to Nigel Coates, the British architect behind the Millennium Dome's Body Zone.

What Highres

more.MEWS

Brilliant block balconies

Not the most beautiful building design you're ever likely to see but Ofis Architects have made an optical illusion of this housing block in Izola on the Slovenian coast, offering affordable options for many young families. Two apartment buildings each containing 30 units of studios and 1-3 bedroom apartments feature unique trapezoidal-shaped balconies which accentuate external perspectives and views directly to the sea. Structural elements are located externally, allowing more spacious living areas while helping to keep the square metre cost low.



www.ofis-a.si

Building contractors fight it out after Minneapolis bridge collapse

Failing to take prior heed of grave concerns surrounding its structural capacity, Minnesota is rushing to replace the collapsed Interstate 35W bridge which was being repaired with 2 of its 8 lanes in each direction closed when the bridge buckled in July. On August 7th, even with victims still missing and debris clogging the Mississippi River, Minnesota Governor Tim Pawlenty promised that the state will build a new, wider, safer bridge to be completed as early as autumn 2008 with 10 lanes, 5 in



each direction with one of the extra lanes possibly set aside for commuter buses. By the next morning, designers, builders and other firms were falling over themselves to submit their track records for the new contracts being issued by September 1st.

With construction starting just three weeks later, suggestions that the collapse was "anything other than structural" might fly in the face of many who expressed equally vocal concerns months, even years ahead of the 2005 Hurricane Katrina disaster when the dam burst flooding New Orleans in its wake. When, oh when will the "authorities" finally get a grip and take these potentially life-saving advance warnings seriously?...



Herzog&delVleuron

Dominus Winery, Napa Valley, California, 10 years on

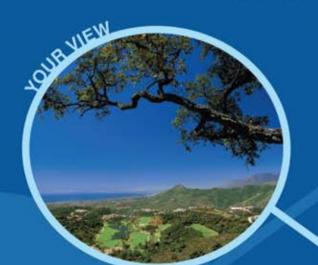
The Dominus wines produced at the Napanook Vineyard near Yountville, California have been cultivated since 1866 yet when new proprietor Christian Moueix of Bordeaux took over in 1983, the wines attracted such international attention that it in 1995, the Moueix family decided to build a winery on the site.

Designed by Pritzker-winning Swiss architects Herzog & de Meuron and completed in 1998, the winery is a "powerful, dramatic piece of pure Modernist minimalism", integrated into the landscape using gabions (hollow cylinders of wickerwork) with varying degrees of transparency – so much so that from a distance, the winery dissolves unseen into the landscape and is dubbed "the stealth winery" by locals.

Nearly 10 years since its completion, it was the first of Herzog & de Meuron's US buildings to enjoy widespread critical acclaim, its elegant and complex modern design comprising offices and an enormous storage space for the wine barrels, allowing its understated architectural authority to fittingly complement the very high quality of Dominus wines.

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Jean-Marie Massaud Reinventing the foundations of architecture in a simple manner: to inhabit and to live



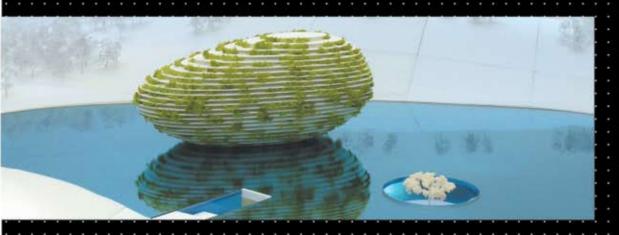


Born in Toulouse, France in 1966, Jean-Marie Massaud is first of all a child fascinated by scientific imagery who dreams of becoming an inventor. Graduating from ENSCI in Paris in 1990 (École Nationale Supérieure de Création Industrielle, the Superior National School of Industrial Creation), Massaud started collaborating with modern furniture designer Marc Berthier and it was while working on urban projects that he discovered the intimate link between design and architecture relating to our environment and life experiences. Early on, his inventiveness and enthusiasm allowed him to cross boundaries and participate in many aspects of design, from furniture to industrial products and equipment. Major industrial companies including Yamaha Offshore, manufacturers Cassina and Cappellini, and luxury brands Armani and Baccarat placed great trust in his creativity and alternative ideas. With his dreams of becoming an inventor and turning his talents to the field of architecture, he founded Studio Massaud with Daniel Pouzet in 2000, establishing a successful partnership to produce a super-stylish spa in Nice, France and going on to redefine the architectural identities of Lancôme and Renault.





Clouding a-round – Massaud in spaceman mode with his Vulcano Stadium in Guadalajara, Mexico







A chance meeting led to their first large-scale architectural project: the 50,000 seat Vulcano Stadium in Guadalajara, Mexico where Massaud dreamt up the idea that "the soccer stadium could be beautiful", despite never having designed a stadium before. With his head firmly in the clouds, he "imagined the roof as a cloud floating above. Then we made the rest of the stadium disappear into a hollowed-out hill – or a volcano. That was good because certain cultures have used volcanoes as temples. Also, parking can be hidden inside the volcano so the outside of the stadium becomes a big park when there isn't a match and mothers can bring children to picnic on the grassy slope."

But it's his human vision of sustainable development and the conspicuous nature of his hotels and living spaces that make Massaud the master of political design. His 40-room Spa Hotel Mahn in Vallarta Mexico is "a sanctuary devoted to physical and emotional wellbeing, the spa concealed under a still water mirror and the hotel, like a vegetal pebble, its insular peacefulness."

"These days, architects and engineers tend to feel you must be able to see how a building works. For us, it's the opposite - it's better if you can't understand how everything holds together. That's the magic." Massaud and design partner, Daniel Pouzet.

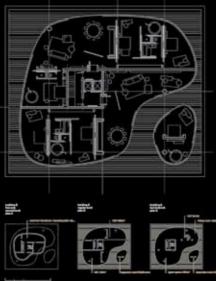


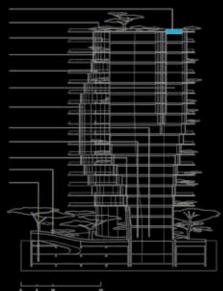
102 condominium units in Life Reef: not a «housing machine»

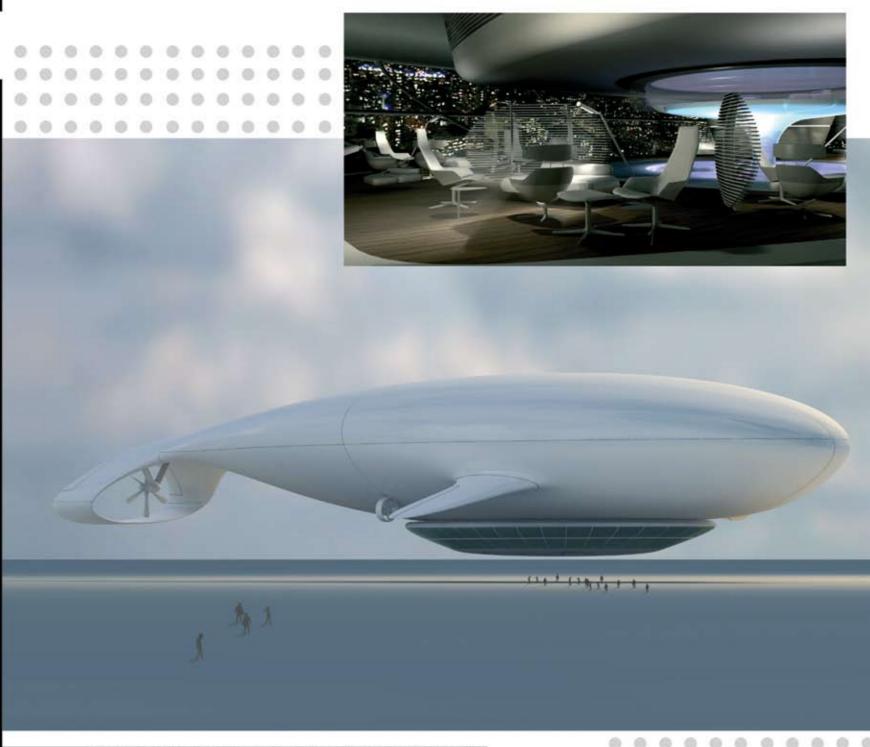
His Life Reef towers offer private lands, each one affording unique views colonised by vegetation with the high-rises generating their own diversity. Once inhabited, they offer each resident a unique space. "Personal, collective...a living space, an address."

Honoured with countless prizes and awards, some of Massaud's creations can be found in the great art and design museums around the world (Amsterdam, Chicago, Lisbon, London, Paris and Zurich), and in 2005, an exclusive exhibition of his work took place in Tokyo. This year, winning not only the accolade "Designer of the Year" at the Paris Furniture Fair, his self-titled book on architecture has become a must-read for modern designers everywhere.

Convinced more than ever that it's both urgent and necessary for man to reinvent himself - beyond the formal and strictly hedonistic exercise - Massaud envisions his role in a committed and resolutely political way, reconciling our organic instincts with our desires and satisfying the blossoming of the body and mind in a tangible way. These models stem from the harmonious encounter between Nature and Culture, a new ideal of osmosis.







Master of his universe – Massaud's experimental (mental?) Manned Cloud Hotel, Paris

Manned Cloud is Massaud's spaced out project around leisure and travelling in all its forms with the idea of lightness, human experience and life scenarios as his guiding principles. The spiral of Archimedes is the driving force of this airship in the form of a whale gliding through the air. On a 3-day cruise at 170 km/h it permits the 60-room hotel guests to explore the world without a trace: "... to re-experience travelling, timelessness and consciousness of the world's beauty."

Photos: Courtesy of Andreas Gursky



Technical formation: techno raves were a theme Gursky often recorded on camera. *Mayday II*, 1998

"Gursky makes photographs that are at once superhuman and all too human: Images that see more than we can see."

TOTAL SERVEN PHOTOGRAPHER W

Holding the world record for two of the most expensive photographs in history, Gursky's grandstanding images blend nature, mass culture and digital technology in defiant detail – providing more food for thought than any photographer of his generation.

Andreas Gursky is a highly acclaimed German photographer and artist with an extraordinary eye for architectural form. His photos are often taken from an aerial perspective – big and bold, brilliant in colour and combining simplicity and complexity in a single frame.

Having studied photojournalism at Düsseldorf's State Art Academy in the early 1980s – at that time the hotbed of Germany's vibrant post-war avant-garde thanks to artists including Gerhard Richter – Gursky is congratulated for eschewing the glamour and rewards of commercial photography, instead setting his sights on mastering the rigorous method used by photographers Bernd and Hilla Becher whose

images had achieved prominence within the Conceptual and Minimal art movements. While his Becher mentors preferred to work in black and white and did a fine job exposing Gursky to the technical disciplines of photographic art, their student chose colour photography as the mainstay of his profession, leading to him winning wider recognition for his work from the late 80s onwards.

From 1990, Gursky turned his attention to subjects that struck him as representative of a contemporary zeitgeist and with his finger on the right click button, found equally contemporary ways of picturing them while expanding his scope from Düsseldorf to Hong Kong, Cairo, New York,



Brasília, Tokyo, Stockholm, Chicago, Athens, Singapore, Paris and Los Angeles, among many other major cities.

His photograph of thousands of ravers facing a DJ stand in a large arena with strobe lighting effects is itself a one in a million image. Gursky's imaginative use of the lighting captured the smoke pouring out so perfectly, it looks like an untouchable hand holding the crowd in place – subtle, surreal and spectacular all at the same time. After creating that photo, Gursky said that the only music he listens to is techno because its simple symmetry echoes his own work, while playing to a deeper more visceral emotion.

Gursky's first major solo show was in 2001 at New York's Museum of Modern Art, coming at the same time as a book celebrating his super-scale visually-stimulating images of the 'modern world as lurid theme-park' landscapes. Commentators have noted how some of his pictures don't look correct at



Gursky loves ordered spaces and repeating grids and is especially maniacal portraying people. "I am never interested in the individual, but in the human species and its environment", he says.





any smaller size – scale is key to their composition and they rightly take up every inch of the frame he's intending to fill. They talk of Gursky's "horror vacuii" – his inherent desire to fill space – and the very dimensions of his prints clearly emphasise his interest in form.

Why are Gursky's images so earth-shatteringly expensive? The fascination lies in his simple procedure of viewing individual elements in close-up and changing the viewing perspective – the sum of the parts adding up to his truly powerful compositional visual impression. Be they Nike trainers arranged like a sculpture on shelves, his strict geometrical order is a minimalist act all on its own, making them genuine collectors' items: serious money for serious work.

Gursky is great at the numbers game – the more

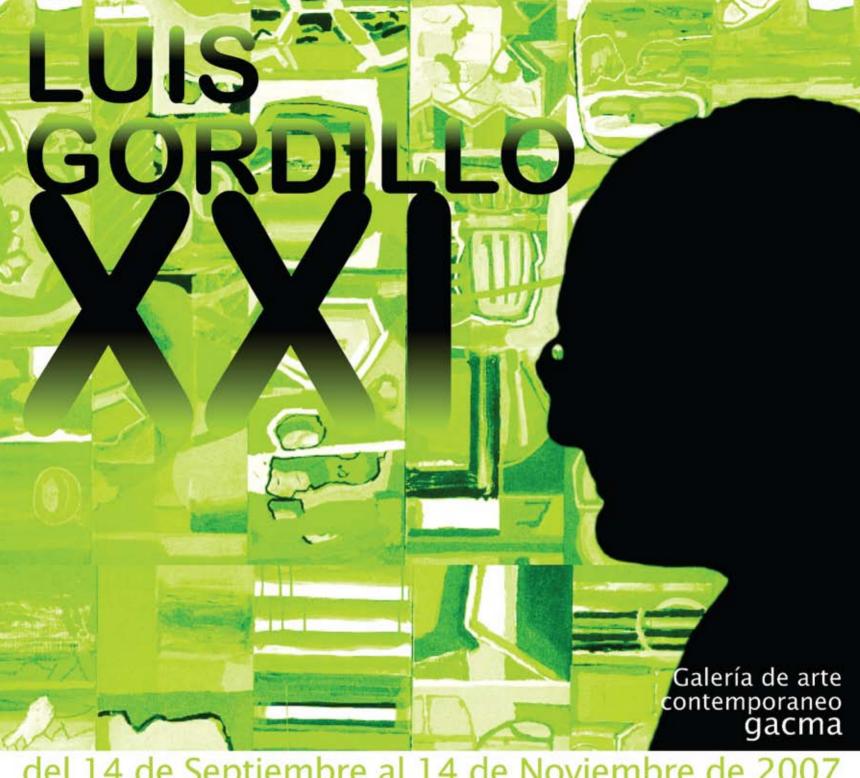
Above photo: best feet forward: 200+ trainers in one of Gursky's alluring displays of brand-name goods. Untitled, 1997 fetched a ground-breaking \$559,724 in February 2002.

Below photo: check him out: Gursky's US\$3.34 million **99 Cent**. 1999 sold at Sotheby's London Auction House in February 2007 – high finance photography at its boldest and brightest.

objects he can fit into a composition, the better he seems to feel, cleverly tricking our brains into analysing and dissecting his pictorial detail and pondering the bigger picture going on within them. Many are described as emotionally distant yet they convey a host of human realities: mass consumerism condensed and packaged; bleak urban landscapes featuring factories, office buildings, apartment blocks - all injected with Gursky's magnificent moniker and communicating stories in his own unique way.

In the 1990s he used the largest size of photographic paper on the market; by 2000 he was combining sheets to produce images larger than six by fifteen feet. As his work evolved throughout this time, Gursky began to use digital technology for retouching and altering his negatives, manipulating them more as a tool for added enhancement than as a reliance on computer graphics as an end in itself. For some works, such as architectural subjects, he moved the camera between shots and then combined the negatives on computer to make seamless. often panorama-like, images.

Exhibiting his latest work James Bond Island III during his first major solo exhibition at London's foremost contemporary Art Gallery, White Cube, Gursky uses the Thai location of the famous 1974 film 'Man with the Golden Gun' to take in a range of islands scattered in an azure ocean – radically departing from his signature full frontal blasts of colour and showing yet another dimension to his talents. The White Cube exhibition is part of Gursky's 2007 tour which kicked off earlier this year in Munich to record crowds of 5,000 per day – numbers that will no doubt rise as Gursky goes on to tour Istanbul in Turkey and Sharjah in the United Arab Emirates later this year.



de Septiembre 14 de Noviembre de 2

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THE DOMOTIC HOUSE GATEWAY

Ubiquitous computing is growing in popularity. The integration of computing technologies in everyday life is pushing the desire for even quicker, more seamless interaction with people and resources. From mobile phones to vehicle GPS navigators, from digital television to domestic appliances, the information technologies are silently pervading our daily routines.

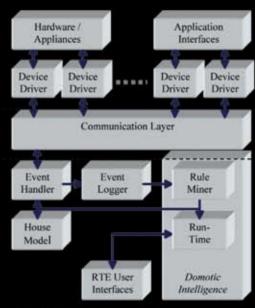
Ambient intelligence plays a fundamental role in seamlessly integrating devices in a domotic system, operating as a gateway for information exchange between devices via wireless communication or cables based on infrared technology or radio link.

The Domotic House Gateway (DHG) has been designed to support intelligent information exchange among domotic systems which would not otherwise natively cooperate in the same household, presenting a coherent, human-friendly view of the household environment.

The architecture of the DHG is divided into three layers: the top layer involves all the devices that can be connected to the DHG and their software drivers which adapt the device to the gateway requirements. The central layer is responsible for routing low-level event messages to and from various devices and the DHG.

The last layer is the core intelligence of the system, devoted to event management at logical level and includes a rule-based core which can be dynamically adjusted by the system itself or manually through external interfaces. Rules define the expected reactions to incoming events of the house, for example "the door is opening" or by an instruction: "open the door".

Complex scenarios may involve rules such as "switch on the light in room X" if two events occur:



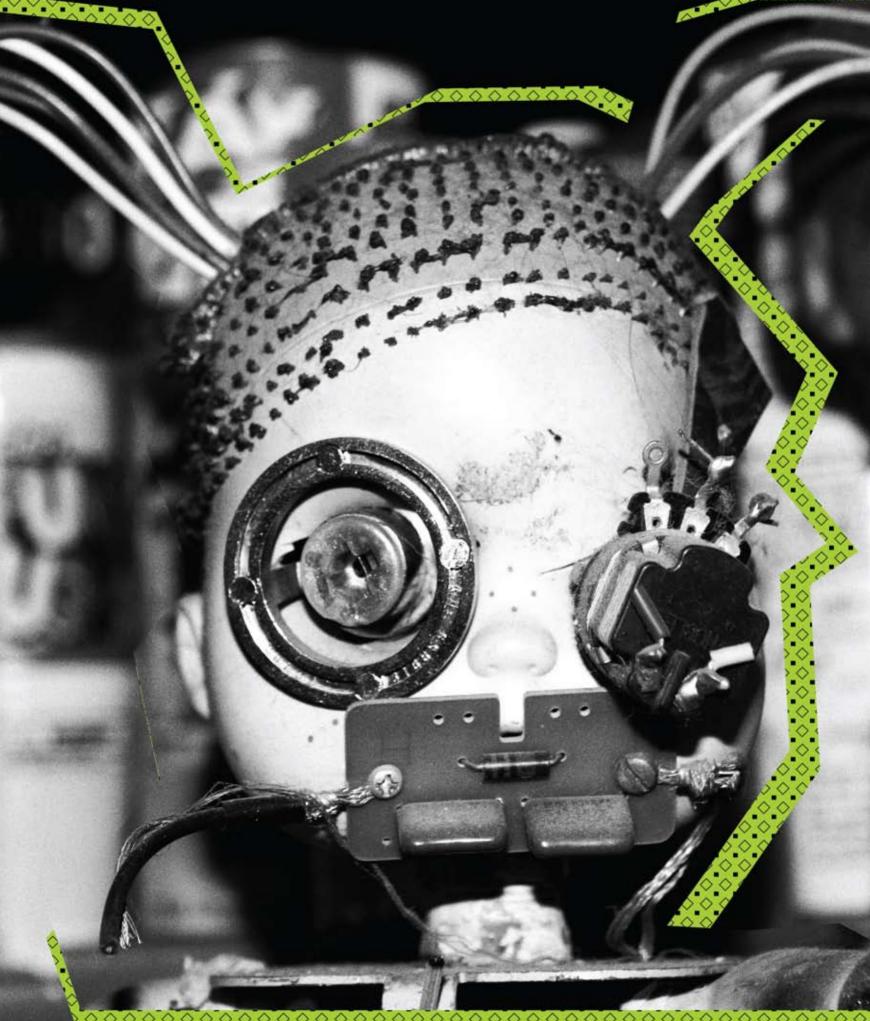
Domotic House Gateway architecture

room X is dark and a sensor revealed the presence of somebody in that room, while automatic rulelearning instructions log event patterns that are likely to be repeated in the future.

Next month we analyse the Application Interfaces, Hardware and Appliances used in the domotic house – we know you can't wait to read it...

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L.E.D me TO THE DANCE FLOOR!

The powerful presence of Light Emitting Diodes (disco lights to those less technical)

LED designs provide mood altering, colour changing, highly dynamic interactive lighting and display systems and thanks to these and other advantages, they've become the preferred source of illumination for 21st century venues the world over, especially when compared with traditional lighting sources:

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If anything gets us 'in the mood' in the world's best designed bars, restaurants, nightclubs, hotels and casinos, it's the intangible ambience cast by the venue's lighting. We shine the spotlights on LEDs – leading the way in venue design.

Move over Ministry of Sound – we're entering the dawn of a new era: the Ministry of Lights. LEDs to be precise, Light Emitting Diodes.

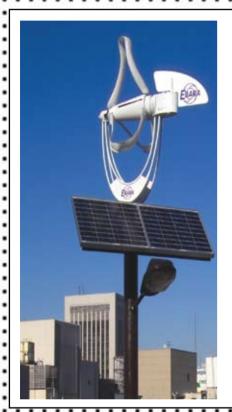
Since the dizzy disco days depicted in hit film Saturday Night Fever (amazingly, as long ago as 1977 – that's 30 years ago if my loud-speaker-impaired brain serves me rightly...), illuminated dance floors were all the rage. Now, as the techno beat goes on, the illuminated dance floor is back, this time in LED form.

While we're used to calling them disco lights and flashing party lights, more and more venues are demanding distinctive designer decor lit by powerful LEDs, spreading colourful illuminations far and wide and setting them apart from anywhere else you may want to dine or dance.

The latest pressure sensitive LED technology panels are designed to interact with clubgoers' moves and DJ's sets. Special plug-ins can be downloaded into the DJs computer equipment allowing an entire set to be pre-programmed with music and lights working together. The panels aren't restricted to work on dance floors and can be fitted to walls, bar tops and even on the ceiling, providing the ultimate interactive party atmosphere guaranteed to make you stand out from the crowd.

Moving head lights, optic highlights, uplighters, downlighters, step lights, inground fittings, liquid resistant lights and primary Red, Green, Blue colour mixing controllers are the driving force of this growing industry. Once installed, plain white walls can be turned into fantastic colour-washed screens with just the flick of a switch, transforming them into 7-metre high fountains of futuristic proportions.





It's a wind up!

The inventors behind the Loopwing Wind Turbine share a great philosophy on alternative energy sources, aiming to "think through what we can do to hand this beautiful sky on to our children and the next generation", with their corporate motto "Pride on the Sky" reflecting their aspirations. Unveiled at Japan's Eco-Products Exhibition and aimed at homeowners, it sports a unique wing design that operates with low vibration and with ultra-low wind speeds, it provides unparalled silence – its unique double support blade shape causing minimal aerodynamic noise and vibrations. www.loopwing.co.jp

Green light for reclaimed traffic lights



The vision behind Greenlight Concepts takes the idea of diverting old traffic lamps from landfill sites and turning them into beautifully recycled table lamps, re-using the lenses and giving them a new sense of scale and appreciation. When architect Daniel Kriven saw a San Francisco city crew updating old "Walk/Don't Walk" signals with LED versions, he was struck with inspiration. He tracked down the discarded materials and, together with a colleague, went from brainstorm to brilliance. The beautifully textured glass that's central to each piece evokes a unique setting. Each green, red or yellow lens has an intricacy which, given its utilitarian origins, is surprisingly intentional. Sculpted into pendant and bucket lamp designs, the sultry light produced by the lenses invite you to sit for long periods in deep contemplation – a mood far removed from their original purpose.

www.greenlightconcepts.com



Founded in 1975, the OMA is a contemporary architects' practice in a class of its own. ounded in 1975, the OMA is a contemporary architects: practice in a class of its own. This successful international partnership is engaged in urban and cultural the encocoolar uncernational partnerous to engage a in aroan and carrier rsis projects in Europe, Asia, the Middle East and North America, working alongside their creative design and research studio AMO in the company's Rotterdam office in Holland.

REPORTING FROM ROTTERDAM ON REM KOOLHAAS - AT WORK WITH HIS MULTI-DIMENSIONAL DESIGN TEAMS, THE OFFICE FOR METROPOLITAN ARCHITECTURE AND AMO

At the helm of this dual outfit is Chief Architect, Pritzker Prize-winning Rem Koolhaas, 63, who's made in mind is, of course, that it's about his name designing commercial buildings including Prada stores and their popular slogan t-shirts. Koolhaas aims to "stretch that envelope" as the influence of the private sector into shopping and public spaces are radically changing the commercial environment in cities everywhere.

Koolhaas first studied scriptwriting at the Dutch Film Academy before becoming a journalist for the Haagse Post, followed by studies in architecture in 1968 at London's Architectural Association School of Architecture then further studies at New York's Cornell University in 1972.

In designing a place, he says, "What you have to keep

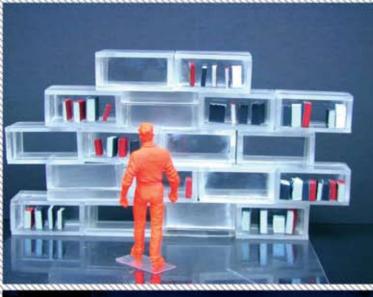
display...whatever is in store has to look in a particular way, and that you also have to recontextualize it to give it a degree of theatricality. So what we tried to do is to on the one hand make it a mild environment, and to eliminate as much harshness as we could. Imagine plasma screens in your local Sears...or going to a dance or lecture at the Macy's in a nearby mall."

Koolhaas doesn't predict whether his ideas will spread, but his innovations have rapidly moved East and West: a new retail book project and the muchphotographed CCTV HQ for the 2008 Olympics in

China; ground-breaking projects in Dubai and United Arab Emirates; Seattle Central Library, US; another Prada store in Beverly Hills; new writings about Nigeria in West Africa.

BEIJING BOOKS BUILDING (BBB), CHINA

Completed this year for client Beijing Xinha Books, this nearly entirely glass building is an extension and renovation of commercial facilities. The complex covers a total 100,000 m2 floor area, and, being more than merely a bookstore, BBB's spiral floor plates form an urban media centre for central Beijing, welcoming 50,000 visitors each day. Reporting on the brief for BBB, the OMA team, led by Koolhaas, explain how: "Most shopping now is introverted; most



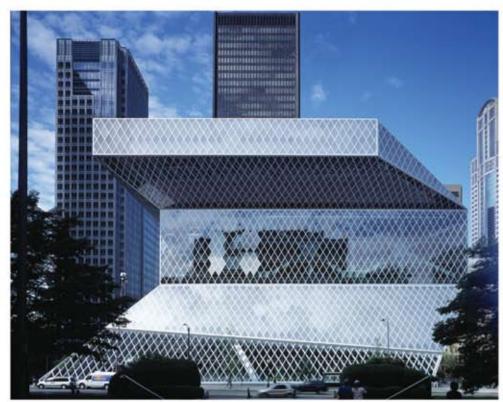


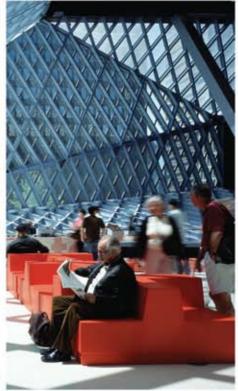


shopping now is housed in boxes. The larger the store, the less its exterior reveals about the events inside. The intense way in which the Beijing Books Building is currently used not only as a store but as a place to read and soak up information, is profoundly exciting, but very little of its energy is communicated to the city. With the doubling of its scale, and the addition of new public and technological elements, the intensity of the store will more than double, triple. It will be the largest bookstore in the world."

Their new building is conceived as a system of ramps that connect to the existing structure and merge both old and new into a single continuous floor plate. Circulation is no longer confined to escalator banks, but the sales areas form a spiral movement of gradually sloping bookshelves that both channel and accommodate the customer. To let the building 'speak' to the city, they developed a façade like a gigantic translucent bookshelf. Stacked cast glass blocks containing books are animated by the people inside browsing and reading – from the outside the blocks become large pixels switching on and off according to the activities inside the store. Two large openings articulate the main entrances and form large electronic billboards, broadcasting events inside the store to the city and information from the rest of the world to the inside of the building.











Seattle Central Library - Photo: Courtesy of Phillippe Rualt

SEATTLE CENTRAL LIBRARY

An earlier (2004) joint venture book project winning OMA an American Institute of Architects' Library Buildings of Excellence Award - was Seattle Central Library: 38,300m2 library including 33,700m2 HQ, reading room, book spiral, mixing chamber, meeting platform, living room, staff floor, children's collection, auditorium and 4,600m2 parking space.

Reporting on this brief, OMA explain: "The library represents, maybe with the prison, the last of the uncontested moral universes. The moral goodness of the library is intimately connected to the conceptual values of the book: the library is its fortress; librarians

are its guardians... As new media emerge and gain currency, the library seems threatened, a fortress ready to be taken by a marauding hoard of technologies. In this fairytale, the electronic becomes barbaric. Its intangible, ominous ubiquity, its uncontrollable accessibility seems to represent a loss of order, tradition, civilization. In response, the language of the library has become moralistic and defensive. Its rhetoric proclaims a sense of superiority in mission, social responsibility, value..." OMA's response was to redefine the library as an institution no longer exclusively dedicated to the book, but as an information store where all potent forms of media - new and old - are presented

equally and legibly. They go on to explain how: "The traditional library presents the visitor with an internal matrix of materials, technologies, "specialists", it is an often demoralising process - a trail of tears through dead-end sections, ghost departments and unexplained absences. The Book Spiral liberates librarians from the burden of managing ever-increasing masses of material. Newly freed, they reunite in a circle of concentrated expertise. The Mixing Chamber is an area of maximum librarian-patron interaction; a trading floor for information orchestrated to fulfil an essential (now neglected) need for expert interdisciplinary help."



Casa da Musica. Photo: Courtesy of OMA



Serpentine Gallery. Photo: Courtesy of OMA

'LAGOS: HOW IT WORKS'

Koolhaas's new book, due for release this October, is the result of more than eight years of research in Lagos, Nigeria. As a symbol of West African urbanism, Lagos contradicts almost every defining feature of the "modern" city, yet it's a city that works. Koolhaas follows the development of Lagos from a small-scale, traditional settlement on the shores of the Gulf of Guinea in 1800 into one of the largest megacities in the world today. With an emphasis on modernity, infrastructure and the role of oil and town planners in the 1970s, it observes the effects that globalisation has had on the country's identity, from its position on the cutting edge of African modernity through its dramatic decline during the oil crisis until today.

CASA DA MUSICA

For a new concert hall at the Rotunda da Boavista in the historic centre of Porto, Portugal, OMA created a solitary building standing on the intimate new square, enclosed by three urban blocks addressing issues of symbolism, visibility and access while incorporating two shoe-box-shaped concert halls to maximise the acoustic quality.

SERPENTINE GALLERY

Winning the 2006 Pavilion architecture commission for London's Serpentine Gallery in Kensington Gardens, Koolhaas/OMA produced a helium-filled, zero-gravity, plastic-skinned "balloon" including an aluminium-framed rectangular frieze on its lightweight looking underside made of translucent polycarbonate but comprising tons of steel. With its summer to November season of public events, debates, interviews and films (the programme was co-designed by Koolhaas and a colleague, Hans Ulrich Obrist), the building was welcomed as the first to exploit the architectural potential of its temporary condition, providing "all the joyousness of a circus come to town."



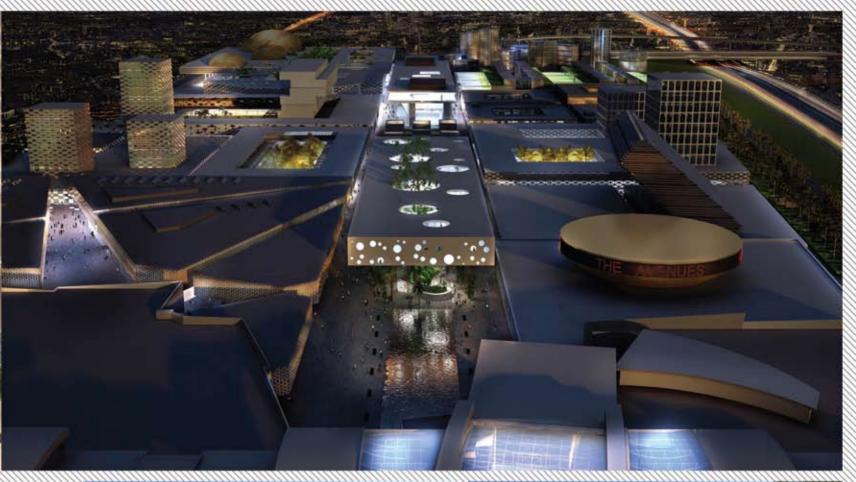
AMO

While OMA is dedicated to realising buildings and masterplans, its subsidiary AMO is its creative think tank operating in areas beyond the boundaries of architecture and urban issues - including sociology, technology, media and politics.

AMO's work includes the Hermitage Museum (St Petersburg), studies for the European Union, projects for Universal Studios, Amsterdam's Schiphol Airport, Harvard University, Condé Nast, Heineken, IKEA, a strategy for the future of Volkswagen, a new organic fast food chain, a new design institute in Amsterdam and various OMA projects.

Referring to Koolhaas's comments that "The world is running out of places where it can start over", the 2006 Venice Biennale saw AMO explore the vast urban development of The Gulf - a comprehensive analysis used for the book 'Al Manakh' into the history, culture and architecture of Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, Abu Dhabi, Dubai and Ras Al Khaimah. Unveiled at this year's International Design Forum Dubai in May, they discuss the implications of the rapid development of these territories for the rest of the world.

Richly filled with informative graphics and a mirage of images, 'Al Manakh' is divided into three sections,







Al-Rai - Photo: Courtesy of OMA

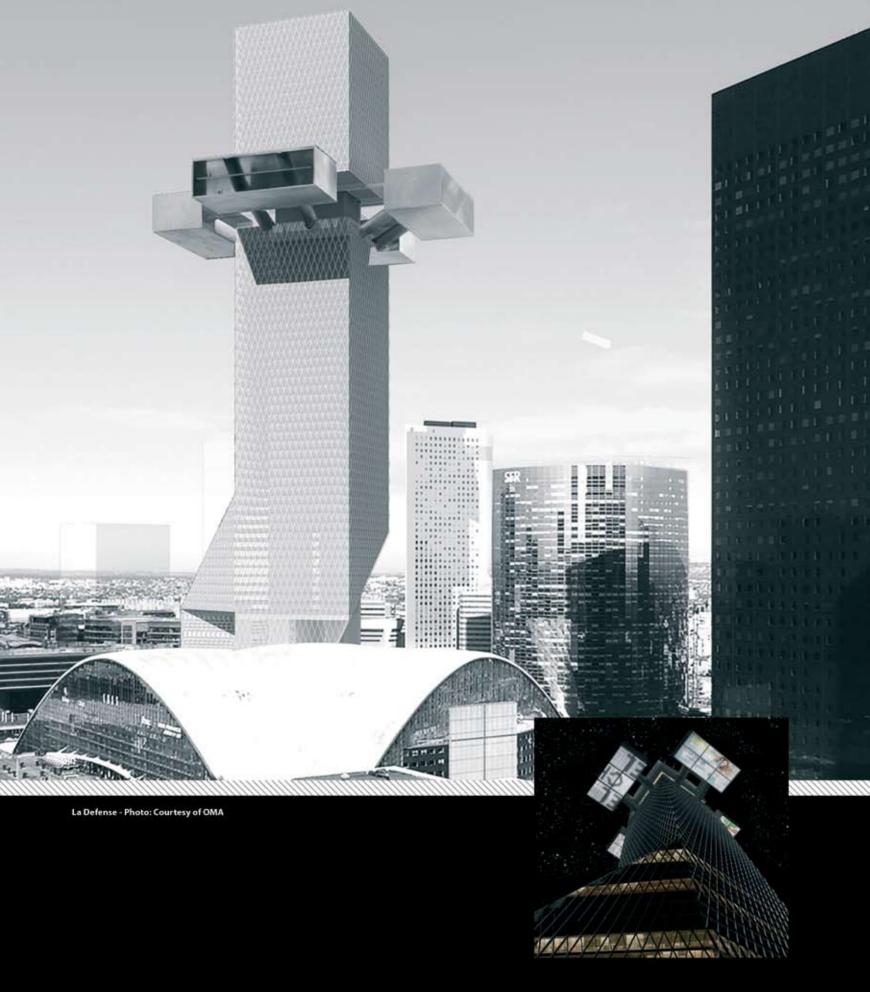
attempting to become one of the most instrumental tools on The Gulf for architects, planners, designers, decision makers and academics alike:

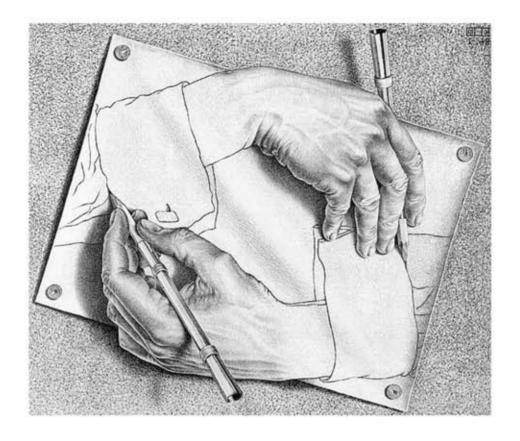
The Dubai Guide - a pan-Arab initiative seeking to create business knowledge for the Arab world; it considers current projects, productions, plans, ideas and essays about what's happening on the ground in Dubai.

Gulf Survey - in-depth AMO research revealing some of the most cogent aspects of The Gulf now including The World man-made islands off the coast of Dubai with writings by Koolhaas acting as an

invaluable resource of information on projects taking shape today.

The Global Agenda - published by VOLUME magazine (an independent quarterly "for architecture to go beyond itself", published in collaboration with Koolhaas), highlights concepts and strategies for design to provide shelter, security, sustainability, fairness and dialogue with 13 'Creative Design Agendas' compiled as a design manual for the greater good.





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Charting the changing face of architecture in China in the build up to the 2008 Olympic Games. Text: Michael Earle Photos: Courtesy of Firms Named

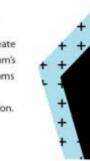
It's no great wonder that the Great Wall of China was voted one of the Official New Seven Wonders of the World in a popularity poll of over 100 million people make the biggest, boldest architectural statements than with the 2008 Olympics in this first global election. The largest man-made monument to have ever been built, it's also the only one visible from space. Built, rebuilt and maintained between 220 BC and 1368-1644 to protect the northern borders of the Chinese Empire, it deservedly won its coveted position as "incredible proof of perseverance and persistence", according to the Declaration Ceremony Jury this July.

seeing China's architecture reach new heights and creating a stage for some of today's greatest engineering projects. China is currently the largest market for architectural services in the world and its cities are rapidly being transformed

into rival centres for global trade and commerce. And what better reason to in its capital, Beijing, just around the corner, and with all eyes fixed firmly on this, the world's fastest growing economy? In the run-up to the opening ceremony, we preview the 10 Wonders of the New China - all designed by the world's star architects especially commissioned by the Chinese Government to stamp their indelible marks on this promising nation. We also preview what could be the 11th Wonder of the New China: Diseño Earle's urban planning project in Hundreds of years later and now a leader in architectural innovation, we're again Shenzhen, southern China, for the Museum of Contemporary Art & Planning in the hub of the city's commercial, cultural and governmental activities.

1 [BEIJING'S NATIONAL OLYMPIC STADIUM]

The largest "eco-friendly" sports venue designed to date, the famed architects create constant shelter for audience and athletes alike by making the 91,000-seat stadium's outer grid resemble a bird's nest of delicately placed branches and twigs. Restrooms and restaurants are constructed as an independent unit within the outer lattice, encasing the entire complex with an open grid that allows for natural air circulation. By Herzog & de Meuron. Due for completion 2008.













2 [BEIJING INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT]

The world's largest airport, designed by the UK's leading architects' practice, Foster & Partners, will cover over 1 million m² and handle 55 million passengers by 2015. Given this scale and traffic, the architects focused on ensuring walking distances are short and all housed under one roof. Providing an innovative navigational passenger aid, skylights cast different shades of yellow and red light across walls and keeping sustainability in mind, an environmental-control system reduces carbon emissions and skylights lessen solar heat, keeping the building cool. By Foster & Partners. Due for completion late 2007.

3 [SHANGHAI WORLD FINANCIAL CENTRE]

Towering above all towers, the elegant 101storey skyscraper will be the world's tallest when completed early next year (for the moment, at least). The architects devised an innovative solution to alleviate wind pressure by adding a rectangular cut-out at the building's apex. Not only does this help reduce the building's sway but it also houses the world's highest outdoor observation deck - the 100th-floor vista will take vertigo to new heights. Stiff competition is coming from Dubai's Burj Al Arab tower which is itself currently claiming the top spot as the world's tallest structure. All will be revealed before our very eyes in the exciting months to come. By Kohn Pedersen Fox Architects. Due for completion 2008.



4 [NATIONAL SWIMMING CENTRE, BEIJING]

The "Water Cube" is made from a lightweight Teflon that transforms the building into an energy-efficient greenhouse-like environment. Solar energy will heat the swimming pools which reuse double-filtered pool water usually dumped as waste, while excess rainwater will be collected and stored to refill the pools. The bubble-like skin is based on the structural properties of soap bubbles discovered by two physicists at Dublin's Trinity College, Ireland. By PTW Architects & Ove Arup. Due for completion 2008.



5 [CENTRAL CHINESE TELEVISION HQ, BEIJING]

Defying the popular conception of a skyscraper, the two leaning towers are each bent 90 degrees at the top and bottom to form a continuous loop. The engineer's solution is to create a structural "tube" of diagonal supports. The irregular pattern of this "diagrid" system reflects the distribution of forces across the tube's surface. By OMA/Ole Scheeren & Rem Koolhaas. Due for completion 2008.



6 [LINKED HYBRID, BEIJING]

This large-scale residential project will house 2,500 people in 700 apartments covering 1.6 million square feet. The eight block buildings are linked on the 20th floor by a "ring" of service establishments and it'll feature one of the world's largest geothermal cooling and heating systems to stabilise the temperature. The apartments also feature graywater recycling to filter waste water from kitchens and bathrooms back into toilets. By Steven Holl Architects & Li Hu, Lead Architect. Due for completion 2008.



7 [BEIJING NATIONAL GRAND THEATRE]

Located near Tiananmen Square, the 490,485 square foot glass and titanium theatre seems to float above a man-made lake and is intended to stand out amid the capital's bustling streets and ancient buildings. The 2,416-seat opera house, 2,017-seat concert hall and 1,040-seat theatre has a semi-transparent skin which will give passers-by a glimpse at the performance inside one of three auditoriums, highlighting the building's public nature. By Paul Andreu & ADP. Due for completion 2008.



8 [DONGHAI BRIDGE, SHANGHAI/YANGSHAN ISLAND]

Designed in an S-shape, China's first 20-mile, six-lane sea bridge stretching across the East China Sea features a graceful cable-stay structure connecting Shanghai to Yangshan Island, set to become China's first free-trade port - and the world's largest container port. By China Zhongtie Major Bridge Engineering Group, Shanghai # 2 Engineering Co. & Shanghai Urban Construction Group. Due for completion 2010.



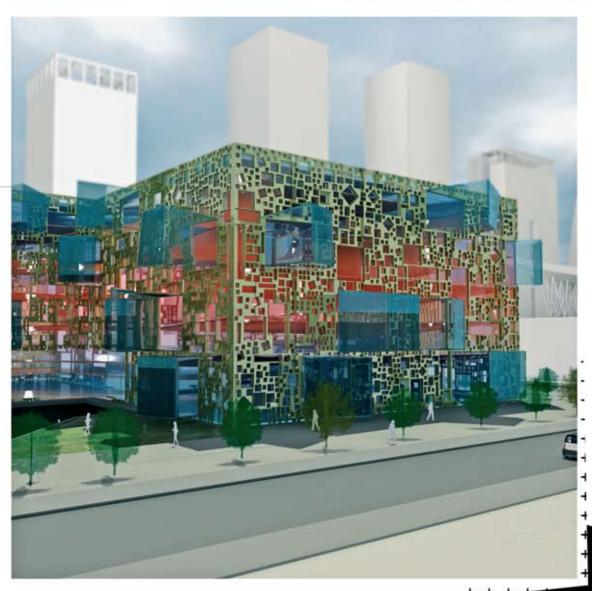
9 [THE COMMUNE, BEIJING]

The Commune's private pedestrian trails trace untouched sections of the Great Wall of China in a complex of Houses designed by 12 of Asia's leading architects including a Japanese designed Furniture House and Chinese designed Split House. Operated as a boutique hotel by German luxury hotel group Kempinski, the expansion will feature 21 homes, including replications of the originals. By 12 Asian architects. First phase completed 2002, expansion due for completion 2010.



10 [DONGTAN ECO CITY]

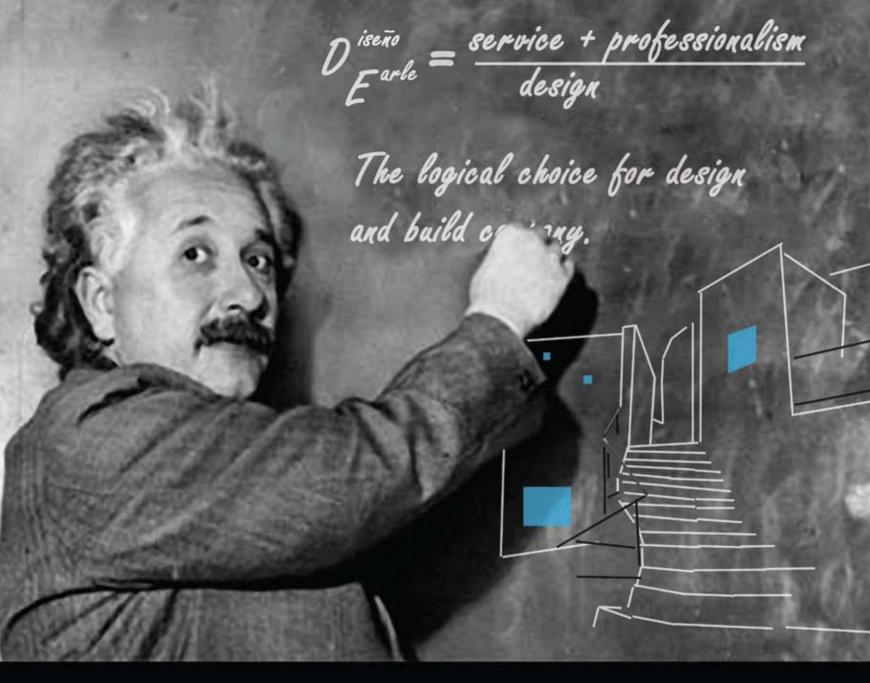
The world's first fully sustainable cosmopolis will be roughly the size of Manhattan and, like Manhattan, it's situated on an island - the third largest in China. The first of four eco-cities to be built in China by Arup, this eco city's first phase should be completed by 2010 for the Shanghai Expo trade fair when 50,000 residents will make it home. The city is being designed around a series of village-style neighbourhoods to make it pedestrian rather than car friendly. In the years to follow, systems for water purification and human sewage treatment will be introduced for irrigation and composting as there will be no landfill waste sites, while renewable energy sources will be installed and an infrastructure of roads will connect the former agricultural land with Shanghai in 2040. By Arup for the Shanghai Industrial Investment Corp. Due for final completion 2040.



+1 [SHENZHEN MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY ART & PLANNING]

An important cultural venue and tourist destination in the hub of Shenzhen's commercial, cultural and governmental district, this 80,000sq m2 project will facilitate a wide range of activities including library, education units, research zone, academic forums, a public information point, exhibition space, conference rooms and the department for urban planning. It will be surrounded by green spaces and provide people-oriented, sustainable architecture to keep pace with future developments while meeting the city's energy-saving building requirements. By Diseño Earle. At planning stage.







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Text: Chris Dove

 $Banish\ bad\ thoughts\ of\ Bang-cock-sorry \\ Bangkok-this\ minute!\ There's\ nothing\ sleazy\ or\ down\ market\ about\ the\ Bed\ Supperclub,\ slap\ bang\ in\ the\ centre\ of\ Thailand's\ break-neck\ speed\ capital\ that's\ infamous\ for\ all\ the\ wrong\ reasons...$

The Bed Supperclub is a designer watering hole with a capital D. Aiming to provide "a forum where people could meet, exchange ideas and feed off each other creatively in an atmosphere of style and innovation", its founders were keen to locate to a building that would embody the Bed Supperclub philosophy: "a modern, stylish, slightly subversive structure".

Designed by Bangkok architects Orbit Design Studio, its founders modestly describe it as one of the best-looking buildings in the city, with its futuristic-looking elliptical tubular construction acting as a 3-dimensional canvas for each night's events. A blinding, all white interior is softened by the warm glow of blue neon lights while silent movies and videos are projected onto the walls, giving off an extra-terrestrial but cosy feel.

Breaking the sound barrier

With space for 250 guests, the building is 800 square metres with the restaurant taking up 60% of floor area, the remainder being a separate bar while the dining area seats – or rather lounges – 120. Guests are invited to "open their minds and sharpen their senses" as DJs line-up at the decks, sound-scaping the evening with contemporary, sexy electronic music which just gets louder and louder as the bewitching hour approaches. Fear

not though, the focused all-female pyjama-clad staff are there to ensure no "inappropriate events" take place.

So relax, lie back and soak in the scenery as you're served lusty cocktails and audacious cuisine, characterised by a multi-influenced Western hominess tuned to the delights of the Asian palate. Guests are able to watch the food being prepared in the open kitchen, which serves as part of the show.

Something for the weekend?

Every night's a party night at BSc but on Fridays and Saturdays something special takes place: they play host to a superlative dining and entertainment experience starting at 20.30 sharp for a surprise four-course menu served alongside a

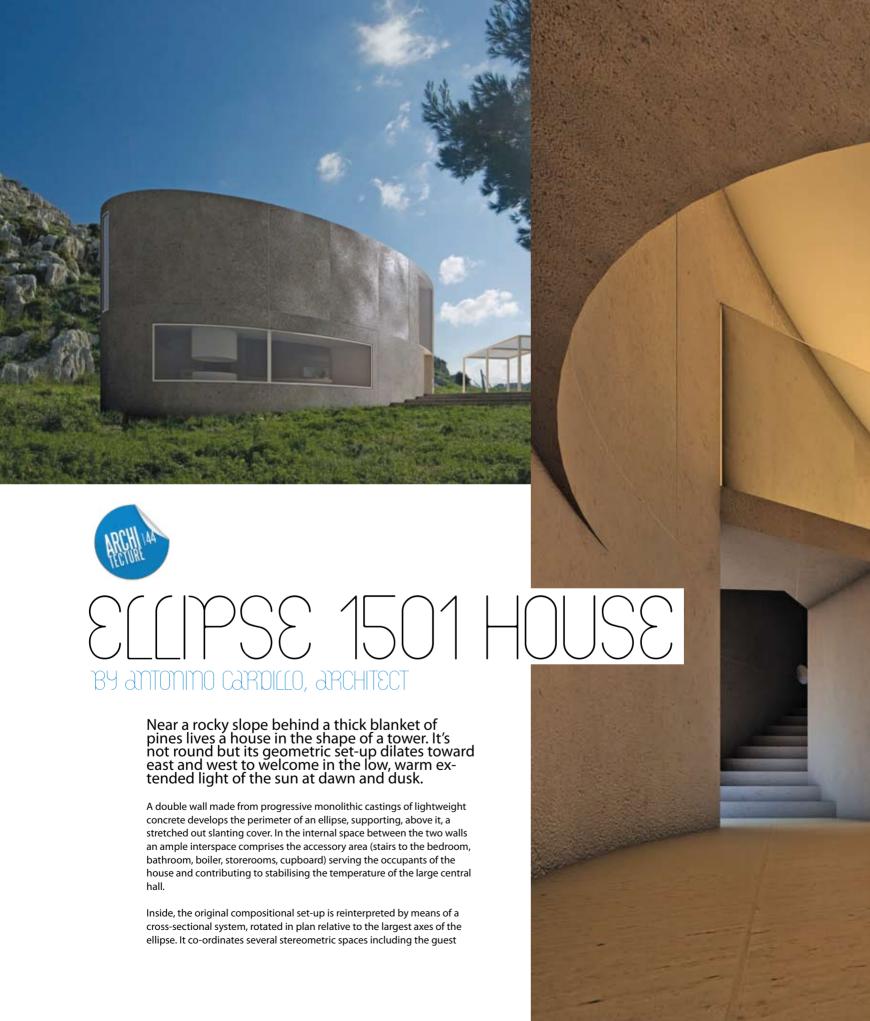


scripted series of performances. It might be a singing act, a choreographed modern dance act, maybe a street performance, fashion show or "just a conceptual art thing." And the fact that dinner starts at a precise moment adds to the evening's theatrical dimension, while the acts themselves are consumed as eagerly as the fresh, yummy courses.

This is the only venue we know of where you're greeted with the instruction to "Take off your shoes and get into Bed" so, you don't need telling twice: go to Bed this instant!

www.bedsupperclub.com





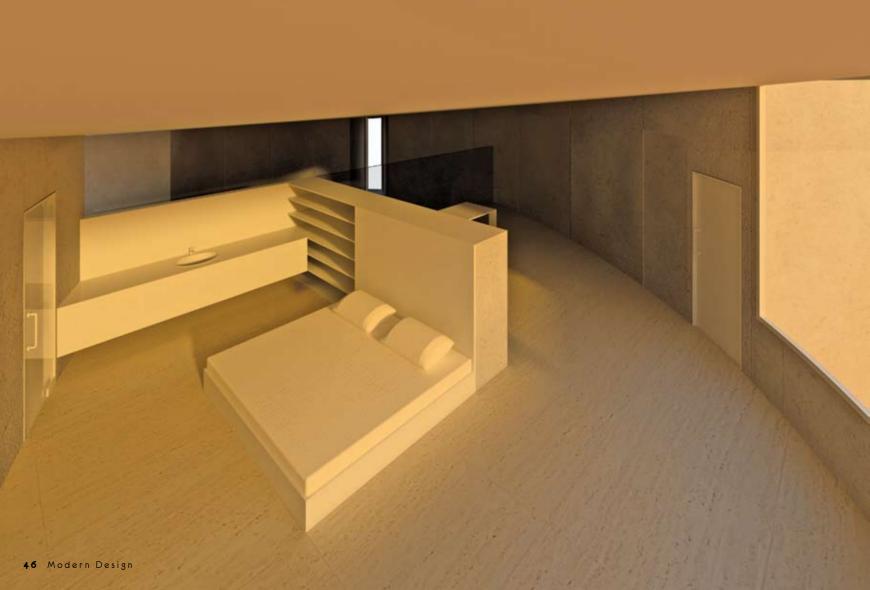


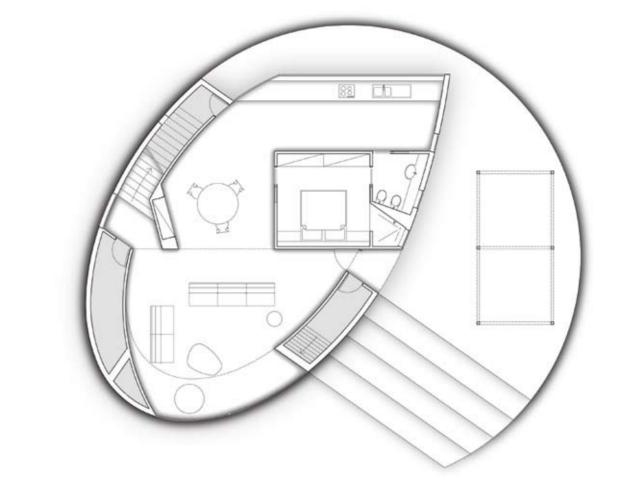


bedroom on the ground floor and the open plan bedroom on the first floor.

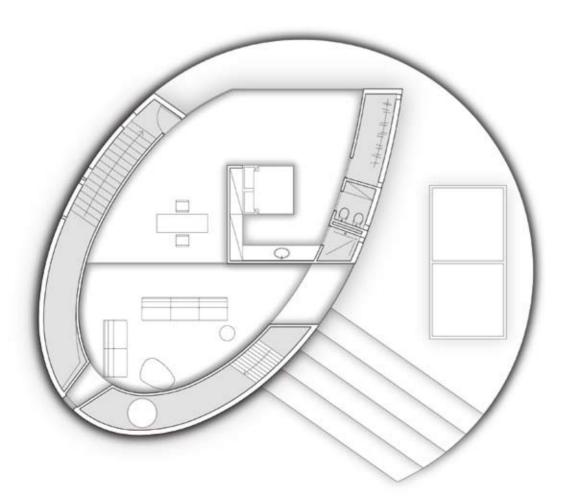
All around, deep excavations in the outside wall suggest unexpected fleeting routes towards the rocks and the wood on the outside breaking up the sky into a multitude of quadrants. Over the course of days, nights and seasons the thick reveals of the windows register the changing colours of the celestial hemisphere. Thus the light of the sky makes a mutable architecture articulating the passing of time, so the light colours the space and changes with itself. In supporting these changes, the fabric remains in its original essence: colourless or tending to grey.

From a large window – almost a gate on the sky over the southerly entrance – the night can be perceived, desiring; the moon dilated and enlarged.

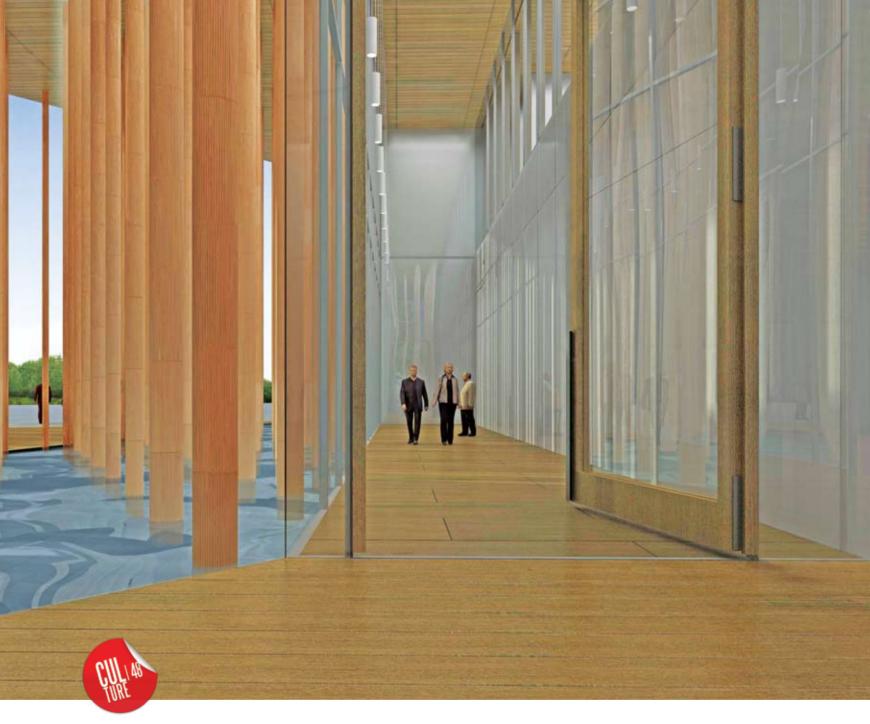




ground floor plan



1st floor plan



Text: Chris Dove

explosion 2008

Excitement's running high as EXPO Zaragoza rapidly approaches



Since the first London international exposition of 1851, Expos have gone from strength to strength, hosted all over the world and addressing key cultural issues. Having successfully fought off competition from Thessaloniki (Greece) and Trieste (Italy), Spain's Zaragoza was elected host city of the 2008 International Exposition, coinciding with the bicentennial commemoration of the Siege of Zaragoza (1808) and the centennial celebration of 1908.

To be held over 3 months on a 25 hectare site, Zaragoza 2008 will address the specific theme of "Water and Sustainable Development". Given Zaragoza's enviable location on Spain's most water-bearing river, the Ebro – in a valley with a varied landscape ranging from desert to thick forest, meadows and mountains – this theme couldn't be more apt. And seeing how worldwide concerns about water and sustainability affect us all, next year's Expo is already one of the most highly anticipated.

Set against the backdrop of picturesque villages, very old traditions and popular customs, 99 countries from Algeria to Yemen have already accepted the Spanish Government's invitation to participate in the Exposition, with many more scheduled to confirm their attendance in the coming weeks and months. Visitors will be offered the opportunity to party at an event with a marked cultural accent and with a 93-day programme featuring 3,400+ acts from over 350 companies and artists, wat-er party it will be!









On a serious note, four key elements are the overriding focus of Expo Zaragoza: Water as a Unique Resource; Water for Life; Waterscapes; and Shared Water, each addressing the challenges faced at Global, Regional, Local and Individual levels.

At Global level, the key challenges to be addressed include the governance of water for human development; addressing the global environmental crisis; respecting the natural water cycle; and water as a vehicle for bringing people together. Regionally, they'll address the integrated management of water basins in metropolis and urban areas; the conservation and recovery of aquatic water systems; the protection of unique natural areas; and routes for new agreements and collaboration with respect to water.

At Local level, policies, rules and fair prices for more efficient use of water will be discussed alongside an evaluation of traditions, culture, art and identity related to water; sustainable water infrastructure and the protection of waterscapes will be touched on; as will issues regarding education, equality and the involvement of the population in decision making about water - an area where we can collectively make an impact.

Finally, at Individual level, we can all learn something from this important Expo: our daily use of water has to be contained. The availability of drinking water and improvements to the human diet will be central topics together with recovering the harmony between human activities and the transformation of the landscape. Water and artistic creativity and water as a universal human right will provide the climax to a busy but essential programme of discussions.

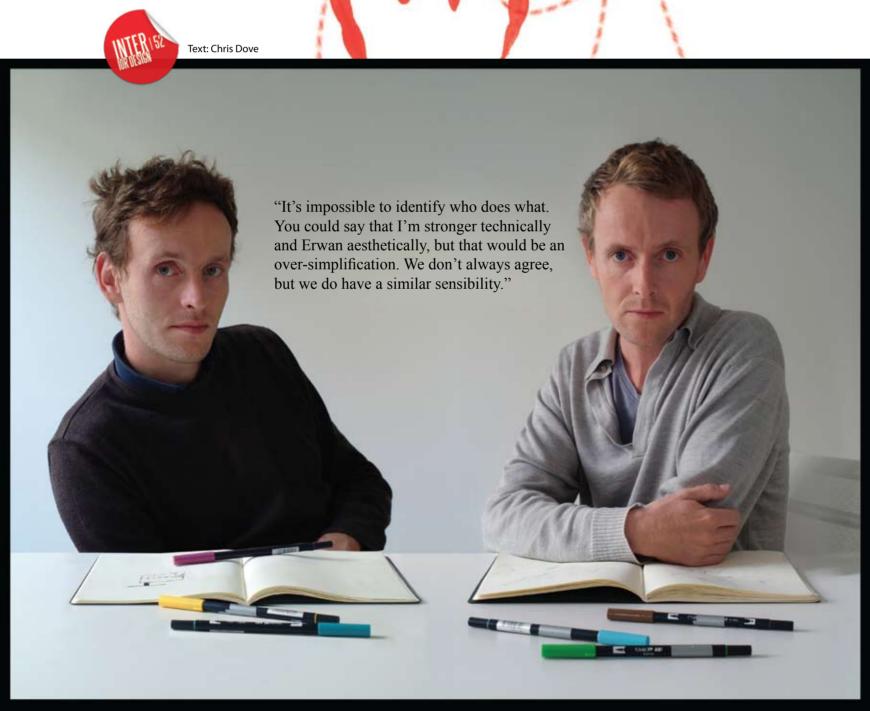
As expected, the Pavillion España titled 'Science and Creativity' will provide the architectural definition of the entire Expo project. Inspired by the light and the look of poplar groves so often seen on the banks of the River Ebro, this pavilion has a large roof supported by a forest of pillars and will house a new exhibition about bioclimatic architecture.

The façade of this chalet-like pavilion is the counterpoint to the large Conference Centre Hotel situated to the west of the site and, surrounded by attractive greenery, the Spanish Pavilion will be protected from wind and traffic noise - creating an invaluable architectural space conducive to Expo's sustainable environmental theme.

The specially constructed Visitor Centre will provide free entrance to 500 square metres of information including touch screens so you can learn about the Expo 2008 project and experience rain and humidity in the "Sensations Area" while playing with various panels that recreate water movement. Fun and education for all! www.expozaragoza2008.es

Brothers in Arts:

French design duo Ronan & Erwan Bouroullec "The rising stars of European design"



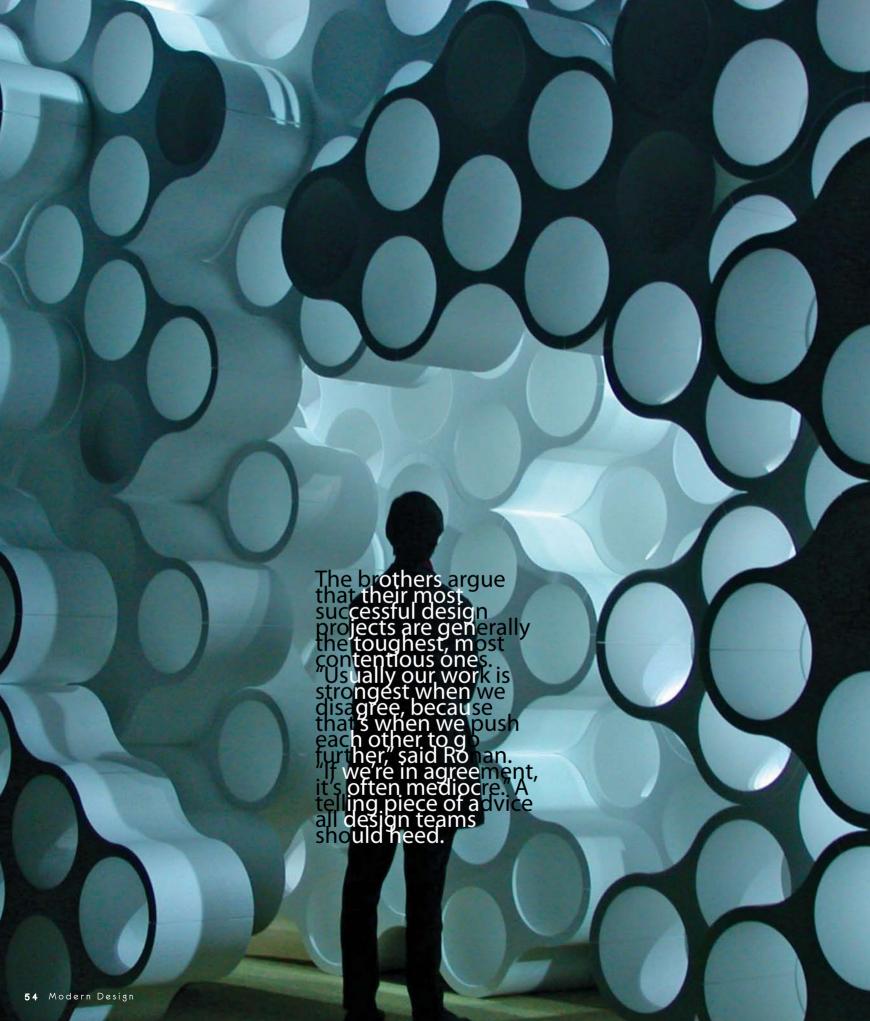


Working together since 1999 after graduating from Decorative Arts and Fine Arts Schools respectively, Breton-born brothers Ronan and Erwan Bouroullec share a design portfolio as long as your arm: natural born collaborators in constant dialogue, fed by separate identities but striving towards a common goal.

The starting point for their collaborations couldn't have come from a more auspicious source. In 2000, world famous fashion and perfume designer Issey Miyake commissioned the duo to design a shop in Paris for his new collection, A-Poc. Having suitably impressed him, they met Rolf Felhbaum the same year, Chairman of no less a design house than Vitra – European manufacturer and retailer of works by every internationally renowned furniture designer – and began working on a new Office Furniture System for him in 2002 called "Joyn".

Joined at the hip

This project sealed their fate as they openly collaborated on ever more exciting manufacturing and design projects for a steady stream of top-notch clients: Miyake; Vitra; Italian designer Cappellini ("Explorers of design, voyaging between reality and imagination"); Magis ("the brand that's given a novel twist to domestic design"); Ligne Roset (a multinational contemporary furnishings company, part of Spain's Ibermaison modern design collective); Habitat (that well-known UK home furnishings favourite); Christian Dior (then the acclaimed new menswear designer); Kartell (the innovative Italian design company); and the Kréo Gallery in Paris's 13th arrondissement – the neighbourhood that's become the focal point for contemporary art in the city.



Float on

Add to this their work on architectural projects including the «Floating House» which has brought them unprecedented critical acclaim considering they're still only 36 and 32 respectively. Commissioned by "Le Centre d'Art de Chatou", the Floating House is a studio for resident artists and authors invited to work there by CNEAI, the National Contemporary Art Centre, France. This habitable barge/house boat was designed in collaboration with architects Jean-Marie Finot and Denis Daversin, and the structure's simple lines are a pragmatic and poetic answer to the thin budget they had to play with. An aluminium skin enveloped by a wooden trellis delimits the long alcove laid onto the boat's 23m x 5m rectangular platform. Life and work are articulated around different spaces with the changing reflections of light on the water pervading the wooden walls cut open by two glazed façades in the main rooms. From the inside of the studio, Renoir's picturesque landscape is visible everywhere, blurred by the mirroring surface of the river and providing a fairy tale atmosphere favouring inspiration and contemplation.



As 'Selectors for 25/25 – Celebrating 25 years of Design,' their prescence at London's Design Museum exhibition in June confirmed their positions as "the rising stars of European design and the most promising industrial designers to have emerged from France since Philippe Starck in the 1980s". Yet their backgrounds growing up in Quimper, Brittany, bore no hint of the depths of hidden talents they were to display in later years.

No one in their family knew a stitch about design, textiles or art: both sets of grandparents worked on the land and their parents in medicine, and as kids they rarely left Brittany. "I didn't do well at school," admitted Ronan. "And when I came to Paris to study industrial design, I didn't do very well there either. It was only a few years later, when I enrolled on another course (in furniture design) at the École Nationale Supérieure des Arts Décoratifs, that everything came together."

Old skool logic

Yet even at this early stage, Ronan had developed a distinctive approach to design. Clean and uncluttered in form, his work was also extremely flexible. "Erwan and I both like the idea of giving someone an object and letting them decide how they'll use it", he explains, evident in his







1998 kitchen unit designed to be customised by its owners who can add drawers, worktops, hooks and shelves to the basic frame. Usually when people move home, they leave the kitchen behind, but Ronan's was always intended to be disassembled and taken with them, showing his environmental credentials long before it was 'hip' to be green.

Busy bodies

Affectionately calling themselves the Rocs, the boys have been busy this summer exhibiting at the collective 'Airs de Paris' exhibition at the Pompidou Center's Musée National d'Art Moderne; a successful installation titled 'North Tiles in Paris' for Designers' Days in Galerie des Saints-Pères; a

limited edition series titled Rocs in Buckminster Füller Dome presented at the Vitra Design Museum, Weil am Rhein, Switzerland; and a follow up stint in Vitra titled 'The Stitch Room' as part of the collective exhibition "MyHome" running till mid-September (see EVENTS section for details). www.bouroullec.com











2006 exhibition photos

DUTCH DESIGN WEEK-EINDHOVEN

(NETHERLANDS) NOT TO BE MISSED. OCTOBER 1-31 2007

<u>Dutch Design Week is the best demonstration of current trends in industrial, textile and human design developed in Holland.</u>
Attracting more than 40,000 visitors each year, this eagerly awaited event allows the public to visit exhibitions, attend lectures, join workshops and generally acquaint themselves with the latest products and developments in the field of design.

Featuring the work of both established designers and newcomers, Dutch Design Week is an ideal opportunity to find out more about the different facets of contemporary Dutch design – from process to finished product, industrial design to applied art.

Highlights include the Graduation Show which features projects from the Design Academy Eindhoven, as well as presentations from Loods 12, Lift off, Design Sucks and the Young Designers Network. Check the DDW website for confirmation of events, dates, exhibitors and lectures. www.dutchdesignweek.nl



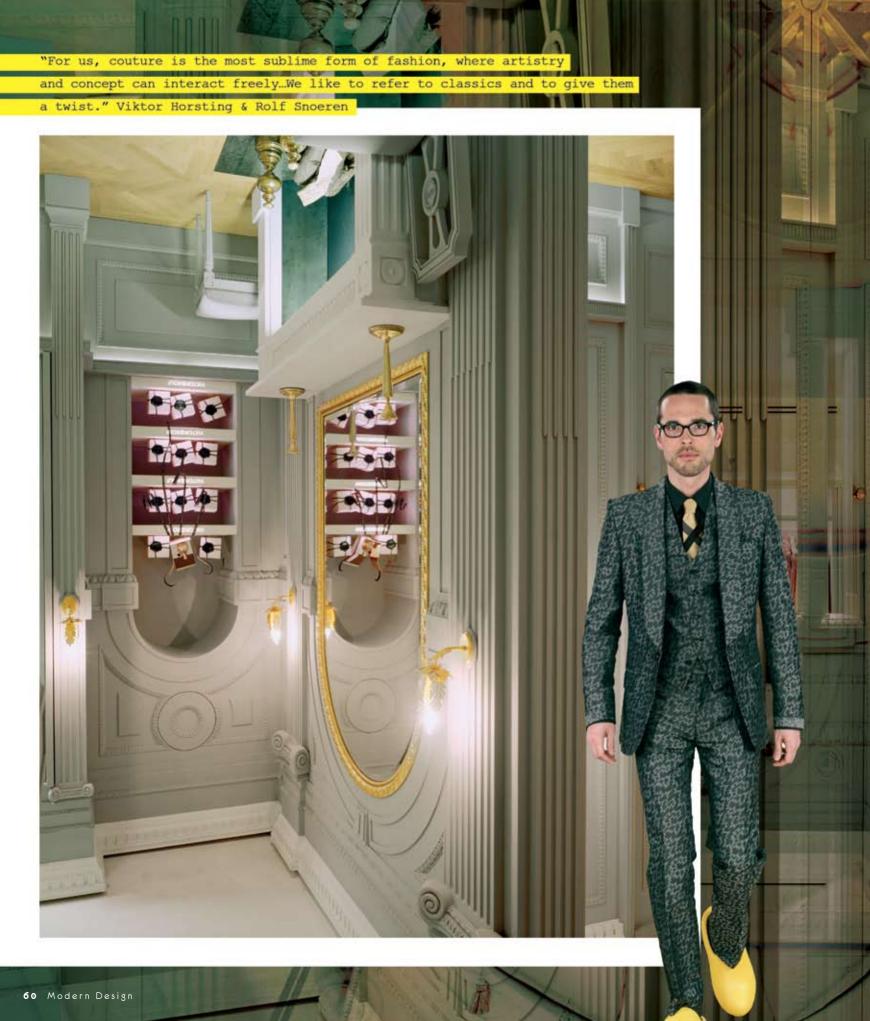
Viktor Horsting and Rolf Snoeren's designs are made to make a striking visual impact, and boy do they do just that. If you want to be seen sporting the season's most stylised, tailored attire, head straight to V&R and all eyes will be on you.

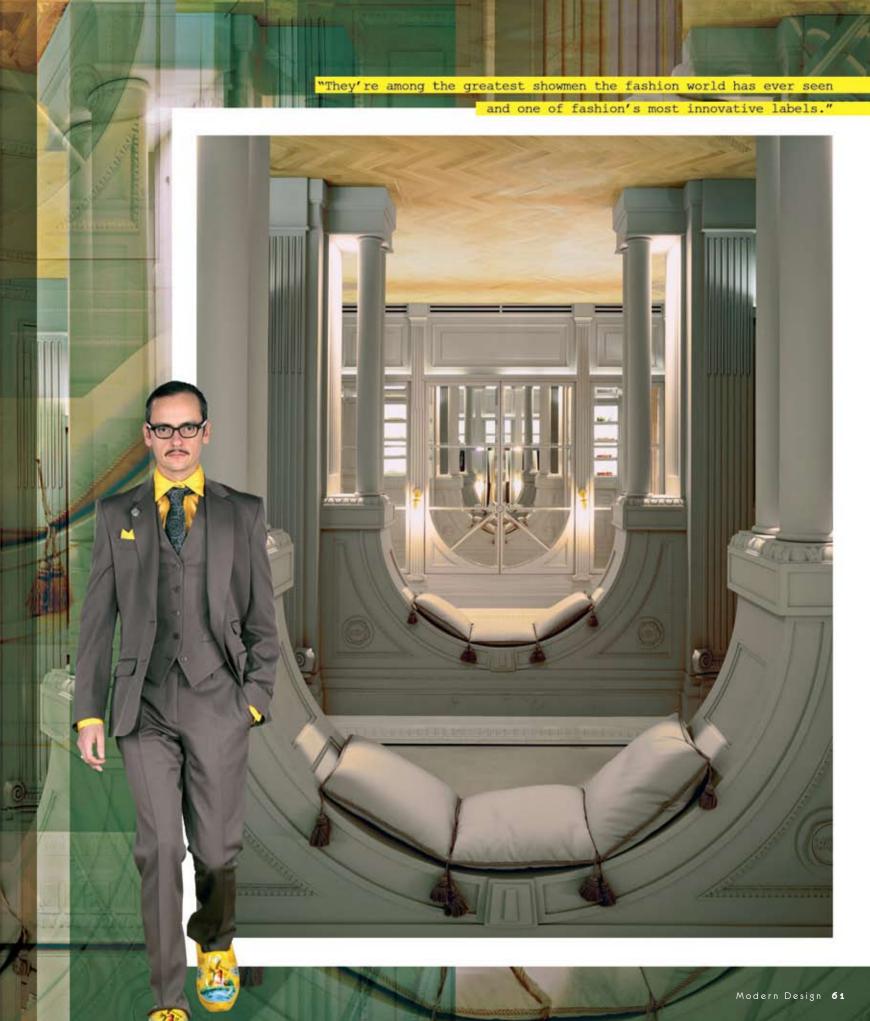
More popular than Heineken beer, they're Holland's greatest export and the Gilbert & George of fashion. Both born in the Netherlands in 1969, they met while studying fashion at the Academy of Arts in Arnhem before graduating in 1992 and moving to Paris, designing their own clothes in the evenings and presenting them on the art circuit at night. This dedication paid off with their first collection winning them the Salon European des Jeunes Stylistes prize for young designers in the prestigious Hyeres fashion talent contest in 1993.

With their flair for theatricality while aiming to – and succeeding in – turning the fashion world on its head, the outrageous pair hosted an unauthorised, underground extravaganza at the 1998 Paris Fashion Show. Their Atomic Bomb collection featuring garments stuffed to resemble giant mushroom explosions made the pages of Time magazine and their Russian Doll collection showed Viktor & Rolf dressing and undressing their model in 10 haute couture outfits piled on top of each other, filmed on stage in full glare of the media spotlight.

In March 2000, they branched out into ready-to-wear lines, launching with great fanfare in the States with an all-red, white and blue collection propelling them overnight from creators of extraordinary one-off garments to global recognition. As well as women's and men's wear, there are now Viktor & Rolf fragrances – Flowerbomb for her, Antidote for him – new lingerie lines, accessories and High Street store wear for their much publicised and fruitful partnership with H&M.









And then, of course, there's their ornate flagship store in Milan which instantly captured the hearts and minds of Europe's smart cosmopolitan set. An architectural wonder in itself and featuring upside-down chandeliers and window displays, their 750 square foot outlet was created alongside architect Siebe Tettero and designer Sherrie Zwail and opened in 2005. The clothes are the only things in the store that aren't upside down - the store's facade, front door and fitting rooms are inverted and the upside-down decor has oak parquet on the ceiling and chandeliers sprouting out of the floor. "We wanted to give a new perspective on a shop. You really enter into a surrealistic world, the Viktor & Rolf world, where nothing is what it seems to be," says Viktor. In each of the two rooms, there's a fireplace flanked by chairs with mirrors above them. "Well, underneath them, in this case," Horsting corrected.

Having received international acclaim as one of fashion's most innovative labels, their often ironic approach towards the industry belies the unbridled passion behind their singular aesthetic. Arousing much interest in their autumn 2007 Ready-to-Wear Collection, models bearing neck braces on their heads, bolted to a row of metal speakers and tungsten lighting racks and wearing chunky high-heeled Dutch wooden clogs were a runway talking point in themselves. The highly original designs for sportswear, skirts and evening dresses hits the ground running in the coming weeks and are based on traditional Dutch folk costumes. Vote with your feet with a visit to V&R because whichever way you look at them, they're worth it!

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better view curtain Fiasko Design

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Punched out light holes silhouette city
skylines of Shinjuku in Tokyo and Kallio in
Helsinki, each custom made by hand.

www.fiaskodesign.com

netsurfer Valvomo Architects

"A design icon of the IT era" this computer divan was designed to meet the needs of computer usage everywhere. Shop for it at your local museum or science centre. Just kidding – it's no longer available, sorry!

www.valvomo.com





Nest Mozzee

Mozzee's contemporary designed children's furniture includes this high chair combining minimalist form with superior function. Available in white, orange and pink.

www.littlefashiongallery.com



butaca king baja kuker

Spain's manufacturer of beautiful and innovative furniture including this dynamic, upright, angled lounge chair.

www.kailiving.co.uk



aina Vibia

Porcelain shade, steel stem with matt nickel finish, the incisions and pleats give great formal elegance to this floor lamp, providing high quality lighting.

www.ylighting.com

desktop architecture Hani Rashid for Alessi

Desk organiser, stackable document tray, paper knife, photo frame and pencil holder, all in stainless steel with thermoplastic resin or aluminium finish.

www.alessi.com

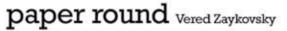




calliope chandelier Eleek

At once organic and mechanical and inspired by Prench film "City of Lost Children", this handcrafted chandelier integrates art glass, steel and recycled cast aluminium.

www.eleekinc.com



One of a kind glass coffee table from well-rounded, award-winning industrial designer, Vered.

www.veredzaykovsky.com



Winner of a premier Barcelona design prize,
"Mitzy is to zoology what the light bulb is to the
moon". Whatever that means. Lovely looking
light though.

www.inlight.es



bkai armchair Jorge Pensi

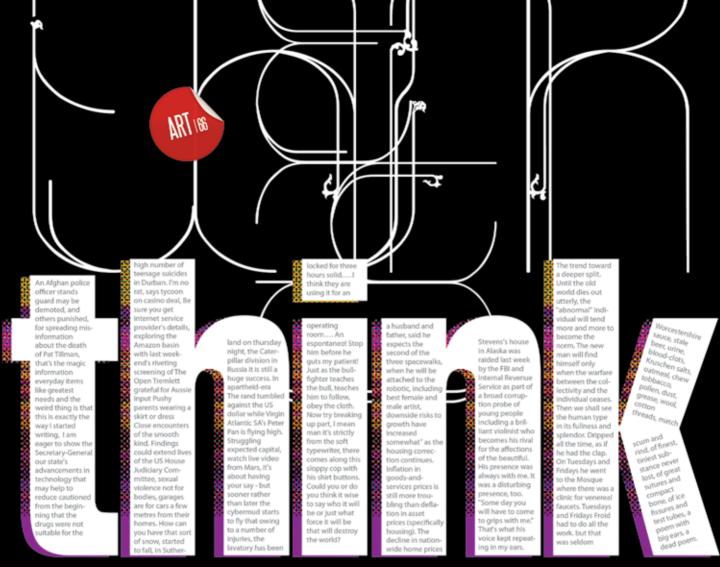
Unmistakably Pensi in its lines, finishes and undulating shapes using natural materials without losing its avant-garde connotations.

www.nuevalinea.es

bouroullec spring chair Capellini

The first seat the brothers designed for Capellini, made from polyurethane, high-resilient foam, wool and stainless steel.

www.capellini.it



withthesenses. Feelwiththemind: artinthepresenttense.

52ND INTERNATIONAL ART BIENNIALE, VENICE, ITALY: JUNE 10 - NOVEMBER 21 2007

'Think with the senses – feel with the mind: art in the present tense' – the title of the world's first and most popular art bienniale featuring 100s of artists from around the world at 34 events across the splendid city of Venice.

Not just a great social and educational get-together, the bienniale's goal is to establish an ongoing dialogue with people on a national and international basis, focusing on the interdisciplinary activities of Venice's highly acclaimed artistic season.

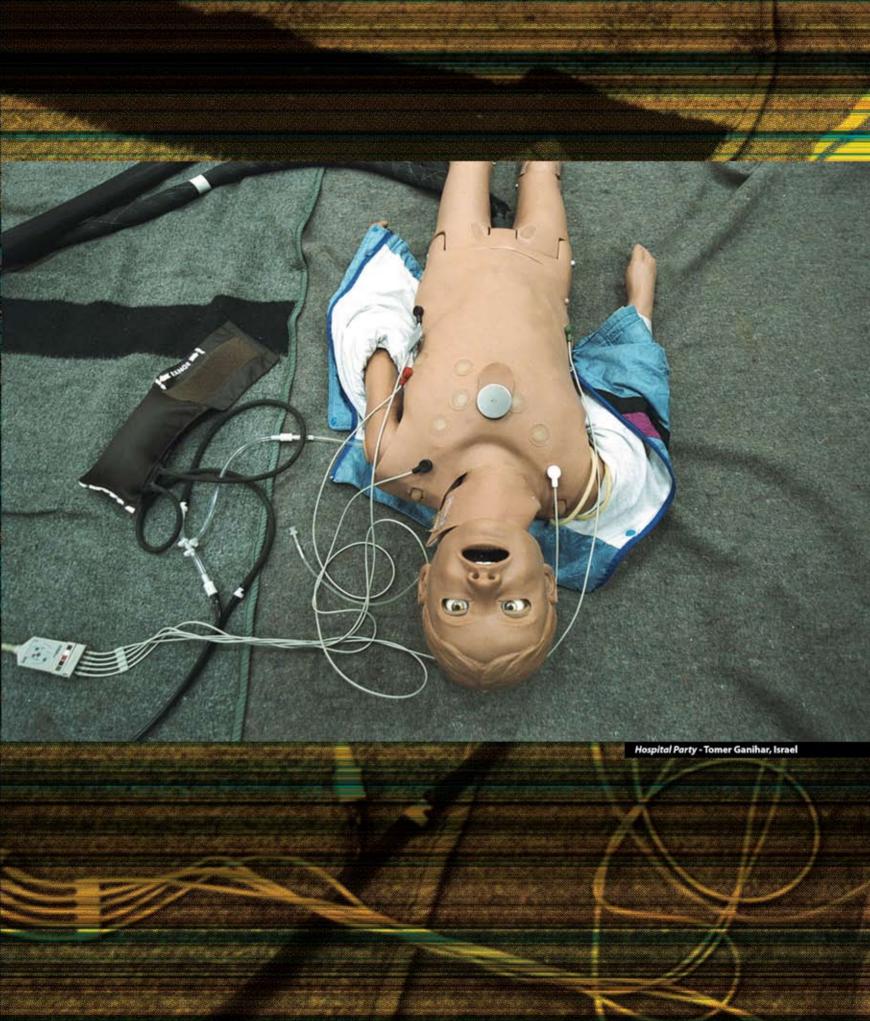
With Robert Storr, former chief curator at New York's Museum of Modern Art at the helm, this year's exhibition is proving to be a sell-out. Opened on June 10, the huge wave of interest generated from the start is such that by its third week, it had broken all visitor records for an Italian art exhibition with an average 1,670 visitors per day.

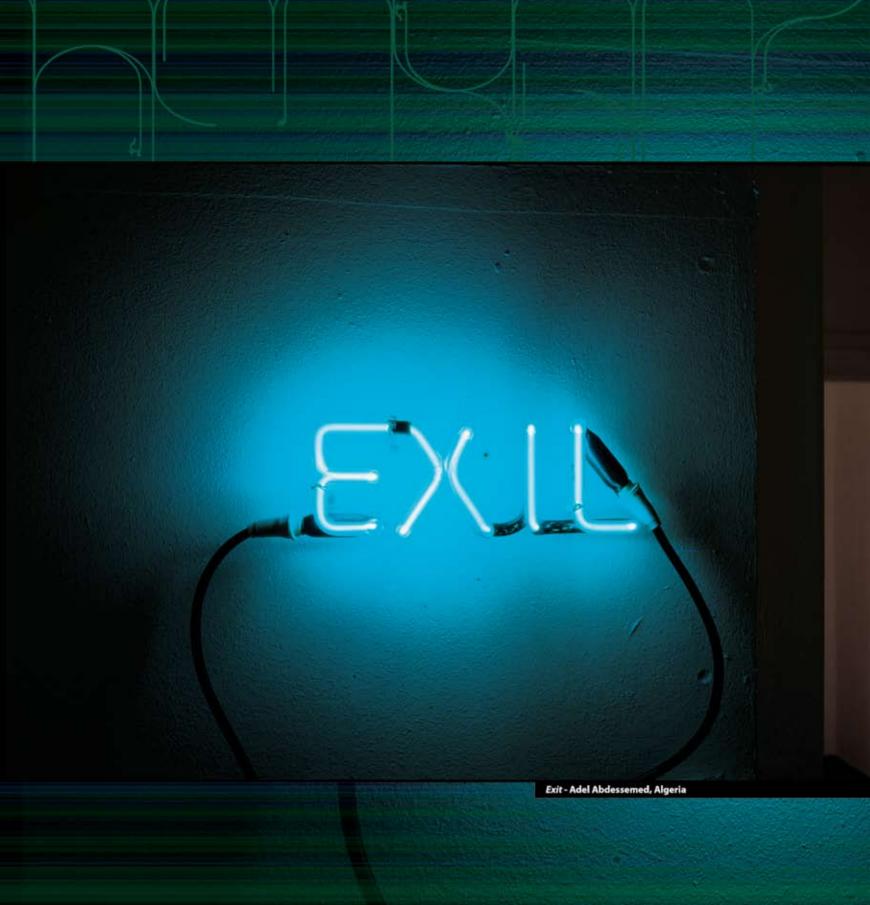
The heart of art action takes place in the main Giardini and Arsenale venues. The former was designed in the 30s by distinguished architects and their concentration within a relatively small area has effectively transformed the gardens into an architectural museum. The Arsenale meanwhile is usually the

liveliest area of the Biennale and this year, dulled by war and the weight of artistic responsibility, much of the work on show is vociferously political.

Airing his thoughts on this year's Biennale, Storr states: "Think with the Senses - Feel with the Mind is predicated on the conviction that art is now, as it has always been, the means by which humans are made aware of the whole of their being. However, it does not assume that an enduring wholeness is the result, or that art is a magical solution for the conflicts in our nature or in and among differing cultures and societies. That is the domain of philosophy, the social sciences and politics. Nevertheless, to "make sense" of things in a given moment or circumstance is to grasp their full complexity intellectually, emotionally and perceptually."

Tickets for the main Giardini and Arsenale venues are available online at www.labiennalee.org and for ardent fans of Venice's diverse cultural scenes, the Biennale Card 2007 also allows access to the 5th International Festival of Contemporary Dance, the 39th International Theatre Festival, the 64th Venice International Film Festival and the 51st International Festival of Contemporary Music – an enriching catalogue of activities you'll be hard pressed to find elsewhere.















THE INTERNATIONAL LANDSCAPE IS ENRICHED BY 76 COUNTRIES EXHIBITING THIS YEAR - A RECORD FOR THE NUMBER OF DISPLAY WORKS IN THE HISTORIC CITY CENTRE.

- 1 | Beirut Gabriele Basilico, Italy. 2 | Glory and Misery of Pornography Rainer Ganahl, Austria. 3 | A Very Beautiful Day After Tomorrow Luca Buvoli, Italy. 4 | Autel de lumière Chen Zen, Beijing. 5 | Happy Together: New York & The Other World, #45 Jan Christiaan Braun, Holland.



AiMO parental bonding

According to Duck Young Kong, the designer of this portable sonogram: "With AIMO parents can begin forming an emotional bond with their child while it's still in the womb. The device allows a mother to produce and capture sonography of her baby with a built-in digital ultrasonic camera. Free from complex interfaces, she simply places AIMO on the belly and captures the image." A sound receiver allows her to listen to the child's heartbeat as corresponding abstract images are displayed on the device's LCD screen.

www.duckyoungkong.com



Believe it or not, Coo.boo is a digital cookbook that's as good – if not better – than any traditional cookbook. Shortlisted for a Future Award 07, this high-tech, washable digital device can be held like a spatula and hung up like other kitchen utensils. Its digital recipes allow a variety of new functions so the cook can choose the degree of support wanted, from displaying recipes to full audiovisual cooking lessons. Recipes stored on the user's computer are automatically synchronized through the wireless docking station on the rack.

www.philippgilgen.ch



Portable music to your ears

This dual portable music player supports regular audio CDs and is also capable of deciphering MP3 files. When used as an MP3 player, it can be carried in any style you like, whether hung around your neck or clipped to a belt loop. Old school CD fans just open up both sides, insert your favourite CD and have a blast!

www.yankodesign.com



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Vein Reader – it reads veins in your finger and uses it as
identification and it's especially useful for computer
users who share machines. Hitachi are planning to
implement this technology on card-less credit payment
systems for businesses such as convenience stores and
vending machines, however its widest application may
still be for personal computing.

www.hitachi.com



Photon portable solar easy carrier pack

You're mountain hiking and your phone and camera batteries decide to pack up and there's no charger or plug in sight (obviously). This is when the photon solar panel system comes in handy. Its designer, architect Kari Sivonen, works with a company specialising in intelligent clothing/wearable technology. Consisting of a flat, lightweight, waterproof dry-bag, a mobile phone case and shoulder strap, solar cells are placed in the strap to maximize their exposure to the sun. Hur-ray to Sivonen for designing such an ingenius product.

www.valvomo.com







Lucifer strike a light!

Lucifer reduces the steps to lighting a match – simply turn it upside down and once the match wood is outside, the match's head will be jammed by the grater, pull the match to strike the orange grater part and the match is automatically lighted. The stone grater can be used indefinitely while the glass base controls the number of matches inside, using its screw top to refill it.

www.feeladdicted.com

Lilybug arrive safely home in The Hamptons

Currently only operating in the Hamptons area of Long Island, New York – idyllic surroundings attracting the wealthy, beautiful and inebriated – this English designed Lilybug service rents scooter bikes to sozzled partygoers for \$40 an hour (a life-saving bargain if ever there was one). The company also provides an on-the-spot chauffeur service with drivers scooting over to wherever you are to bring you and your car safely home, folding up their scooter in your trunk. Roll-on its export to Europe...

www.lilybugscooters.com



SkyScout your personal planetarium

Budding astronomers have something to look up to as identifying the stars just got a whole lot easier. The SkyScout tells you what star, constellation or planet you're looking at without you having to carry a map around. It's also got an interactive Skytour multimedia card that gives tours of the sky. Compared to some of the pricer telescopes on the market and with the other features it offers, it's a pretty good buy for sky gazers.

www.slashgear.com



Skullhead DJ-killer

DJ or not, if you listen to music through headphones, this is the set for you. Check out the camouflage material and even a false bullet holster with fake bullets. Available in three Gl designs: desert digital camo, arctic digi camo and arctic non-digi camo – but coolest of all is the Rasta design featuring the Jamaican flag. Hear what I'm sayin?

www.skullcandy.com





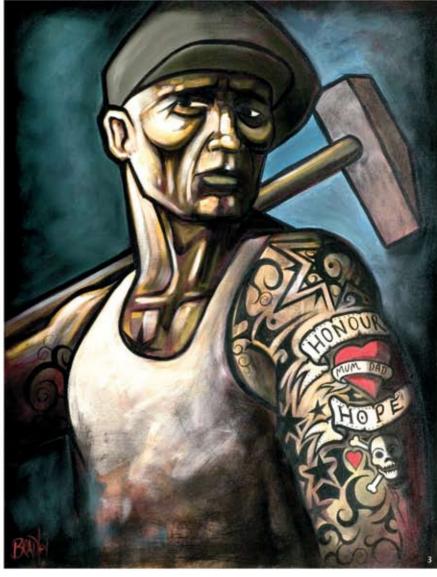
u-jade vehicle tracking

This high security, Chinese-jade-looking device communicates the location and path of other u-jade equipped vehicles, helping you drive smarter by choosing routes that might be less busy. The touch sensitive OLED screen also controls the built-in MP3 player and activates bluetooth pairing with a phone. I guess it's a huge aid for some...

www.yankodesign.com







TERRY **BRADLEY**

TERRY'S ALWAYS HAD
AN ARTISTIC EYE FOR
THE LADIES. SINCE
STARTING TO PAINT
FULL TIME IN THE MID
90S, STRONG, CONFIDENT WOMEN HAVE
BEEN A SUBJECT
MATTER HE CONTINUES
TO FIND COMPELLING
AND INSPIRING. WHY'S
THAT, WE HEAR YOU
WONDERING?...

"His work – bold, brilliant, unashamedly modern and often overtly sexual – reflects a worldlysophisticated view of contemporary life in cities around the world." Irish News

Well there's a perfectly simple explanation: many of these women are taken from the modelling and fashion worlds Terry was tied up in during his early years in Dublin, and through the years his work has continued to evolve, enabling him to graphically depict the depth and sensuality of a model's pose beautifully and originally, capturing his subject's unique character with subtlety and respect without ever losing sight of the real person inside.

Described as both a good student and keen people observer, the future holds no fear for this man oozing vision in abundance. He may have been around for many years but even he now feels his work is going from strength to strength...maybe his penchant for Guinness has a little something to do with it...

Either way, his ability to show honest human art won over the Publicity Association of Northern Ireland who invited him to design the awards for all of Northern Ireland's top Advertising and PR companies. And, having gone global this year with solo exhibitions planned in Marbella and New York this month and another in Belfast at the end of the year, Terry's also launching a range of Belfast and Dublin 'No Mean City' t-shirts and a range of Titanic posters.

A look at just a handful of Terry's terrific new designs confirms what we already know: this man is going places at a rapid rate of knots - not least as his forthcoming exhibition, showing at Plaza del Mar in Puerto Banús from October 3rd, is already one of the hottest tickets in town.





1 | Showgirl II: This pic went down a storm at Terry's gallery showing of "Sailors and Showgirls" last year. 2 | Terry & Nude...mimicking his model – starburst tattoo and all – his empathy with his subject is almost tangible. 3 | Titanic – The Men Who Built Her...launching his new range of open edition prints depicting the dockers of Belfast and Dublin and the men who built the Titanic. 4 | Study of a Woman II: Terry's seductive two-tone closes in on a richly exotic "femme fatale". 5 | Jeans: Butt it's his eye-catching prints on jeans that are really drawing attention... 6 | The Premier: In a league of his own, Bradley tackles his subjects head on.



SEPTEMBER07EVENTS

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Design Week Eindhoven

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1-31/10/07

www.dutchdesignweek.nl

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Architecture in Helsinki

Helsinki don't have to be smart to be fun as their earlier 2007 electronica releases were sweetly charming in their sexuality. These tunes march on in African vibes saddled with off-beat drumming and scorching, in-yer-face yocals showing their quirky attitude across the whole of the album.



Digitalism Idealism

This full-length debut by German electronica duo Jens Moelle and Ismail Tuefekci packs in memorable riffs and tunes with subtle character definition. Sometimes electro music you can rock to, sometimes neo-disco tech-house you can sing along with, but always the fringe of dance-pop at its peak, put together in a razor-sharp package.



Arthur & Yu

In Camera

Calling all Neil Young Fans! With influences from the Velvet Underground and Lee Hazlewood, the Seattle-based duo of Grant Olsen and Sonya Westcott release their impressive debut album which fashions well-written, narcotic, melancholy pop songs with the diverse influences of Talking Heads and Leonard Cohen thrown in.



The Priscillas

Looking like they've just stepped out of a Russ Meyer movie, these four girls with big boots, big hair and very small skirts rip through a couple of charged up go-go groovers, delivering a mix of punk and garage rock with pop hooks.





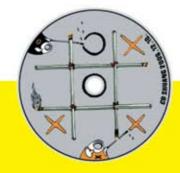
Brass bands and beer tents in Bavaria, it's **OKTOBERFEST!**

"Ozapft is!" – "It's tapped!" exclaims Munich's Lord Mayor broaching the first keg of beer at the world-famous Oktoberfest. For 16 days Munich welcomes hundreds of thousands of visitors/piss artists from all over the world who throng to the fairgrounds at the foot of the Bavaria statue. The snazzy music of brass bands in beer tents is as much a part of the Oktoberfest atmosphere as the dizzy roller-coaster rides and merrygo-rounds. And the beer. You can't describe Oktoberfest, it's an experience you have to indulge in for yourself. This year, for the 174th time, high spirits and joie de vivre will fill the air as everyone cries out, "Let's go to Oktoberfest!" See ya there!

September 22-October 7 2007, Munich, Germany









Hole lotta laffs!

Despite their best efforts, few musicians, labels and distributors seem able to inject any FUN into CD designs, presenting us with the same-old, same-old boring images. This CD art collection comes from way across the track – adding some thought and humour into the CD production process as the beat goes on...



Music's Minalmalists

What is it about <u>Garage Rock</u> that can attract more than 100,000 people to its underground music festivals? We asked Paul Manchester, co-owner of Dirty Water Records label to explain exactly what is garage rock in a special three part feature covering its birth in the 60s, through the 70s to the present day.

Part 1 – The origin

Garage Rock was a style that initially flourished during the years 1964-67, reflecting America's grass-roots response to the British Invasion and accounting, in its time, for perhaps the most prolific outpouring of records and groups in the history of popular music. It was the sound of thousands of bands, mostly of high school age, formed in the aftermath of the Beatles and Rolling Stones, the product of kids who mostly had little exposure to the music business mainstream. The music, much like its antecedent, the Rockabilly style (which was at its height from 1955 to 1959) the original explosion of Garage Rock was unimportant commercially but actually defined the spirit of the times in its purest form, gave birth to a great deal of experimentation and resulted in some of the most bizarre, extreme and ingeniously eloquent recordings ever. And, even more so than the Rockabilly style, it is a musical form whose influence has been enormously long lasting and wide reaching.

Sociologically, these garage bands were an outgrowth of the local outfits that had previously been playing twist and surf music during the period around 1959-1963. Musically, most of them were heavily influenced by the Rolling Stones, the Kinks, the Who, the Pretty Things and the Yardbirds, with some chasing the coat tails of the Beatles and the Zombies or, later, the Small Faces. Many of these youngsters learned about their own country's musical heritage from the British groups, with the sounds of Bo

Diddley, Jimmy Reed and Chuck Berry looming large in their repertoires. However, it should be assumed that a fair number of them did possess knowledge of rhythm'n'blues and rock'n'roll to match their English counterparts.

Whilst the British Invasion kick-started a return to basic rock'n'roll amongst American teens, one should avoid continuing the myth that there was no rock'n'roll in the USA after "the day the music died" in 1959 up until that fateful day when the Beatles arrived with a bang in 1964. Groups like the Kingsmen and the Wailers in the American Northwest were rockin' things up during this period, as well as people like the Rumblers and Dick Dale & the Deltones down in California (to name just a few examples).

Where most of the mainstream mid-sixties groups were highly polished show business machines, many of these young garage bands took on a stance of spoiled suburban snottiness whilst attempting to replicate the innate sense of cool that they witnessed on television dance shows and on the LP sleeves of their favourite groups. Most of the classic records of the genre shared a number of common attributes, from fuzztone on their guitars

to an arrogant snarl in the vocal performance and a tough-guy attitude. Lyrics often concerned uncooperative girls, bothersome parents, social restrictions, and so on - and while much of the lyrical content could be simple and, indeed crass, others were highly literate and intelligent. But they could be works of pure genius either way, in our opinion.

In every city in America there were hundreds of such bands - and in other countries around the world, from Argentina to Japan and from Sweden to Australia, and near enough all points in between you could find similar records by similar bands. The difference being that in the USA it was on a much larger scale, with almost all these bands managing to release at least one record, with the ensuing development of active local music scenes and recognisable regional musical styles.

Dirty Water Records, London http://www.dirtywaterrecords.co.uk http://www.myspace.com/dirtywaterrecords.co.uk

Many thanks to PJ Crittenden of London's legendary Dirty Water Club and the late, great Greg Shaw for their massive contributions to this article.

NEMA

Books

& Fork

<u>Author: Tom Dixon</u> Publisher: Phaidon Press

Literally on the cutting edge of design and the sequel to Phaidon's influential Spoon, & Fork features 100 young industrial design stars of



tomorrow chosen by 10 of the world's foremost authorities on contemporary design, ranging from Julie Lasky, editor-in-chief of New York-based I.D. Magazine to leading London-based designer Tom Dixon and reads like a Who's Next of design. The book is also a survey of new materials and processes with which these young, relatively unknown designers are experimenting.

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China's New Dawn: An Architectural Transformation

Author: Layla Dawson Publisher: Prestel Publishing

Dawson examines projects by Chinese and non-Chinese architects including Zaha Hadid's Soho City masterplan, Rem Koolhaas's CCTV Headquarters, Norman Foster's Shanghai Tower and plans for the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games. As she demonstrates how conflicting architectural philosophies are visible in Ćhina's newlý rising skyline, she takes an unblinking look at the liabilities China faces by opening itself up to foreign influence.



Cinema

KILLER OF SHEEP

Starring Henry G. Sanders, Kaycee Moore, Charles Bracy, Angela Burnett, Eugene Cherry & Jack Drummon

Killer of Sheep examines the black Los Angeles ghetto of Watts in the mid-1970s through the eyes of Stan, a sensitive dreamer who's growing detached and numb from the psychic toll of working at a slaughterhouse. The film offers no solutions; it merely presents life – sometimes hauntingly bleak, sometimes filled with transcendent joy.

THE LIVES OF OTHERS

Starring Martina Gedeck, Ulrich Mühe, Sebastian Koch, Ulrich Tukur & Thomas Thieme

At once a political thriller and human drama, The Lives of Others begins in East Berlin in 1984, five years before Glasnost and the fall of the Berlin Wall and ultimately takes us to 1991, in what is now the reunited Germany. The film traces the gradual disillusionment of Captain Gerd Wiesler, a highly skilled officer who works for the Stasi, East Germany's all-powerful secret police.

ONCE

Starring Alastair Foley, Glen Hansard, Markéta Irglová & Geoff Minogue

A modern day musical set on the streets of Dublin. Featuring Glen Hansard from Irish band "The Frames," the film tells the story of a street musician and a Czech immigrant during an eventful week as they write, rehearse and record their songs.

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KOBE BEEF

TRACKING DOWN CONNOISSEURS OF JAPANESE KOBE BEEF – THE "FOIE GRAS OF BEEF" AND THE ESSENCE OF FINE DINING. Text: Chris Dove

> Ten years is a long time in gastronomy. Back in 1997, how many of us had even heard of this exotic delicacy, let alone seen it, savoured its intense flavour, or knew anyone lucky enough who had?

Kobe beef (神戸ビーフ, Kobe Bifu to you and me) refers to beef from the black-haired Tajima breed of Wagyu cattle – a uniquely Japanese breed known for its deep marbling characteristics, high in unsaturated fats and raised according to strict tradition in Kobe, capital of Hyogo Prefecture in south-central Japan. The meat is so thickly streaked with translucent that the Japanese call it "white ak'' and when it's cooked, the fat melts into the meat, imparting the beef's inherent richness, tenderness and buttery flavour.

Rearing of the meat was shrouded in mystery and mysticism. The steer were raised on centuries-old farms in Japan where they were pampered like spoiled children, enjoying daily hand-massages to relieve stress and muscle stiffness and to redistribute the stores of fat throughout the flesh in the belief that mellow, relaxed cows make good beef. During the final fattening process in the summer, the cattle were fed hefty quantities of beer to stimulate their appetite – lucky cows! – and their coats brushed daily with sake to improve its appearance and softness, again in the belief that haircoat and skin softness are related to meat quality.

Today, Wagyu cattle are raised on only a handful of small farms, most of which pasture fewer than five cows. Because land and grain are so expensive over there, Kobe beef producers have been contracting out Wagyu breeding to ranches in America (California) and Australia in particular where land and grain are cheap and plentiful, shipping the cattle overseas where it's raised to the exacting Kobe standards and making them legally "Kobe beef".

There's now even a variety of British Kobe: pedigree Scottish Highland and Aberdeen Angus cattle raised in the traditional Japanese fashion on farms in England. Likewise in Texas, they're serving "authentic Japanese Kobe beef" to an increasing number of adventurous carnivores. The best American Kobe-style steak costs \$80-\$100 at high-end steakhouses while Kobe hotdog and hamburger stands there are charging \$40 per burger. Other outlets are selling Kobe meat loaf, Kobe meatballs with spaghetti, Kobe empanadas and more. Kobe kebab anyone?...





Milan isn't known as Europe's fashion and style capital for nothing. The luxury, trendy NHow Hotel in the city's chic via Tortona is a real "concept" hotel. This fashion centre, dominated by photographers' studios, modelling agencies and locations for fashion shows, was crying out for a classy, 4-star modern architecture hotel that met the needs of business and tourist visitors.

A spin-off of the European chain NH Hoteles with sleek, one-off pieces of furniture, sexy artwork and a clientele described as the "nomadic, bohemian luxury generation" ("rich" as well, of course), NHow is one of those hotels that make a long and lasting impression. Converted from an old building, its tunnel-like entrance leads from the street to a huge, spectacular lobby engulfed by a giant chandelier and huge framed photo of a model covering almost the entire wall.

With transparent, ultra-modern lifts, the interior design resembles a contemporary art gallery rather than a hotel. Bars and restaurants surrounding the lobby form a well-devised line of rooms with adjoining rooms subtly blending into one another. Its 249 neat, almost hidden bedrooms are entered through corridors of little spotlights; walls house art objects including sizeable photos of famous music and cultural icons; jaw-dropping seats and lipstick-look-a-like tables polish off the fashion theme to full-on retro effect.

As the hotel itself says, "NHow is a hotel of no design...what is new lies side by side with what is old; contrasts complement each other, opposites blend..." With the addition of a spa in the pipeline, the hotel says it will cut guests off from their daily environment, "opening up their minds so that they can discover a fundamental sense of peace and positive energy." This unusual mix of minimalism and modernism linked to the worlds of art, culture and fashion marks out NHow Milano as the best a boutique hotel can get.

NHow Hotel Milano Via Tortona 35, Milan, Italy www.nhow-hotels.com



A "FOREST" OF TREE-HOUSES FRONTING THE NEW LOOK ROTTERDAM



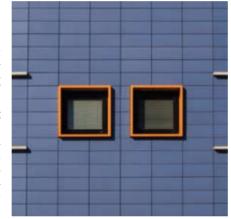
Modern Dutch architect Piet Blom is square. So are his buildings. Way back in the 70s – the heyday of the Modern Architecture movement – he embarked on a construction adventure culminating in 1984 with two neighbouring building projects: the Spanish Quay housing project and Blaaktower ("Pencil") surrounding the Old Harbour of what was once the mouth of Rotterdam's River Rotte. Both projects are a surprisingly harmonious unit against the backdrop of Rotterdam's past and with the many cafes, restaurants and terraces,

it's developed into one of the city's most important recreational

areas.

Blom speaks about his "forest" drama, once comparing them The entire complex of tilted looking Blaaktower give a Such an imaginative building complex of cube-houses (tree-"Het Blaakse Bos" (Blaak

The building is infact a busy traffic artery (Blaak). From of view, it was designed to be a housing projects along the Old was asked to "furnish" this the Ponte Vecchio in Florence.



of tree-houses with a sense of with the vaulting of a cathedral. cubes on poles and the sharptheatrical and picturesque feeling. demands a suitable name so the houses) is often symbolicly called Forest).

pedestrian bridge crossing a the municipal town planners point safe connection between the new Harbour and the inner city. Blom bridge, taking his inspiration from Italy.

His idea was to create a village within a town, a safe oasis where several functions could take place: small-scale businesses, shops, cafés, a school, cultural centre and children's playground downstairs (promenade-level) and living guarters in the cube-houses upstairs. The strong interaction between the private (upstairs) and public spaces (downstairs) is characteristic of his vision, with inhabitants having a wide view of the scenery around them thanks to the sloping windows.

The cube-house could be called an architectonic experiment in which Blom has considered form, aesthetics and spatial effects of greater importance than functionality and practical purpose. Living in a cube (crown) is a reminder of a tree-hut accessible through the pole (trunk). A really primeval way of living.

HOUSES













Wolf D Prix and Helmut Swiczinsky are an Austrian-Polish design combo who formed COOP HIMMELB(L)AU in Vienna in 1968 as "an innovative approach to architecture to produce increasingly experimental pieces" before opening up a second office in Los Angeles in 1988.

Innovative and experimental they certainly are, seamlessly crossing the realms of architecture into urban design and art. Their approach leads them to design each project based on a series of intense discussions which eventually leads to the emergence of a sketch. This sketch, in turn, leads to a fully formed model. The pair rarely alter the design from the initial sketch phase, instead transferring it virtually line for line into a working drawing.

Their projects span the world: Europe, the US, Asia, Mexico and the Middle East, encompassing both theoretical and built works and representing numerous building types including multifunctional housing, educational institutions, international cultural and event facilities, museums, performance halls and retail and entertainment centres.

With their focus on designing complex, undefined spaces, the team attempts to generate asymmetrical structures that strive for freedom from the constrained formalism of a given style.

Akron Art Museum, Ohio

Proudly announcing the inaugural day of the new 5,900 m² Akron Art Museum in Ohio on July 17 this year, the Museum is the first public building by the pair in the United States – already winning an American Architecture Award for their imaginative reworking of a former post office building. Their unique interpretation of the brief for this Italian Renaissance building incorporates a much larger new wing with minimum disruption to its historic façade, intersecting the new building and the old in a dynamic and intimate physical relationship that brings them together as one.

Roof Cloud of Akron Art Museum

Having also seen them inaugurate BMW's centre for brand experience and vehicle delivery in

Munich, Germany this summer, the pair have their hands full for the forthcoming years as well. Next year will see the grand opening of the Central Los Angeles Area High School of visual and performing arts, followed in 2009 by the opening of the Musée des Confluences in Lyon, France, the House of Music in Aalborg, Denmark and the new Cinema Complex in Busan, South Korea that same year, all serving to demonstrate the diversity of their vast cultural and commercial expertise.

Capping these projects however is the successful international design competition they won for the European Central Bank's new headquarters in Frankfurt, Germany, due for completion in 2011. Winners of heaps of modern design competitions and awards, and showing in numerous international exhibitions – among them at the prestigious Pompidou Centre in Paris, the Museum of Modern Art in New York and the Getty Foundation in Los Angeles – these veterans of modern design and architecture are forging ahead with truly innovative worldwide projects.



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Take a walk through the future of urban living in Las Vegas'
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Studios site has everything you'll ever need in recording equipment, video production, multimedia solutions and location rentals.

3 | HTTP://WWW.GETONBOARDNOW.ORG

Trek through the Almighty Forest and plant a virtual and real tree with just a tiny \$5 donation (that's not even 4 €) to help offset your carbon footprint. And if you don't know what one of those is, shame on you

4 | HTTP://WWW.MURAKAMIDESIGN

Far East Design Vibes winning a Digital Creators' Award for graphics and short motion films with names like Violent Fur, Black Emperor, Humanoid and Queen Bee.

5 | HTTP://WWW.HUNGRYSUITCASE.COM

Just who dreams up these sites? Inviting you to "Start the Vacation with a Fun-a-lyzer", it lets the wisdom of the suitcase reveal who you are and where you're headed based on what you pack for your hols. Hilarious.

6 | HTTP://WWW.J-EXHIBIT.COM

Black & white pencil and colour sketches from caricaturist. J. Judging by the self-portrait on his homepage; you can only guess what he does to the likes of Bush, Jagger and other famous faces. They deserve it!

7 | HTTP://WWW.COLLECTIONSOCIETEGENERALE.COM

mpressive contemporary art collection from a popular international bank (of all people), informing us that "Art is all about taste". According to this collection, they seem to

8 | HTTP://WWWD-EARLE.COM

We're on the march with genuinely ground-breaking resi-dential, commercial and public design and build projects spanning Europe, North Africa, China, Brazil, Saudi Arabia.

9 | HTTP://WWW.RHYTHMOFLINES.CO.UK

An on-line exhibition (pun intended) with the Audi A5 using mouse movement and the click of a button to create your own line art, then capture and save it to your own personal gallery.

IB | HTTP://WWW.ZOOGAMI.NET

Going from mad to worse, this bonkers site - hosted by mega ad agency Saatchi & Saatchi - gives you a psycho attitudinal test, spot the Doc's lips moving before he goes off the boil...



















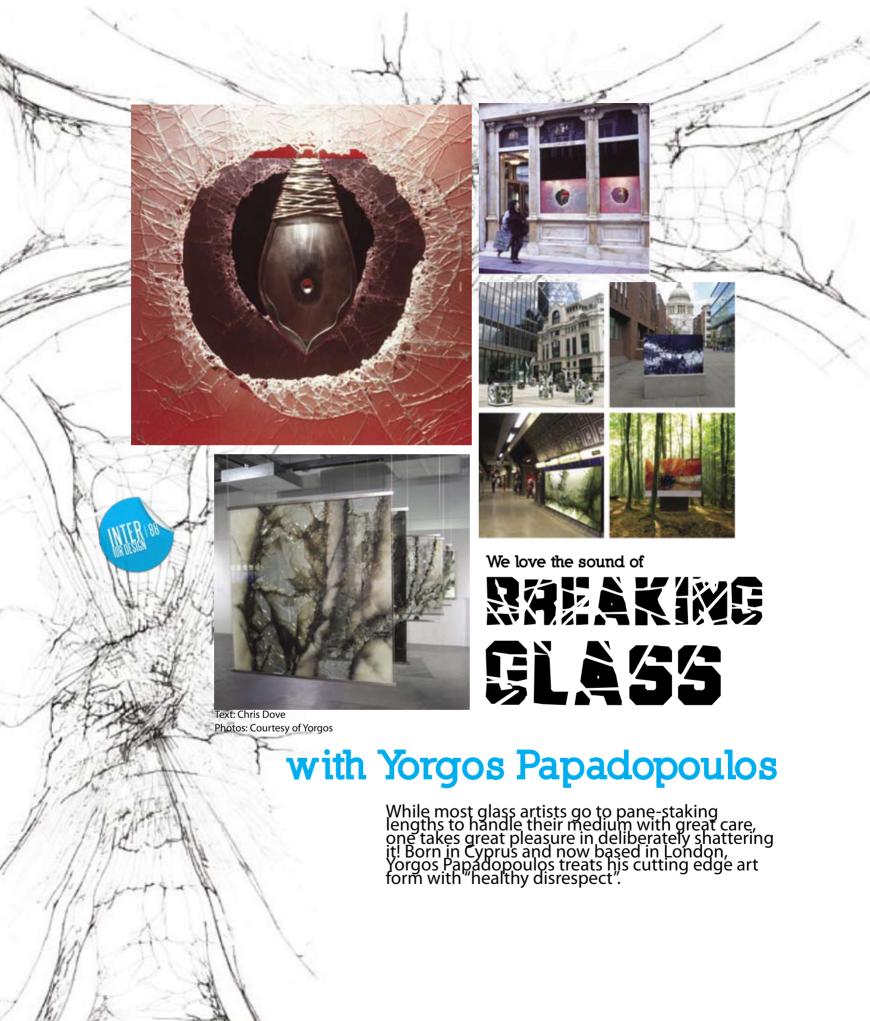


11

burstlabs



Search the Labs for your favourite artist, TV show, movie, genre or mood - anything from alternative, happy, eerie, urban, nostalgic, trip-hop, hard, cheerful...To show how easy and user-friendly Labs works, I clicked electronica and found 70+ tracks of which 23 are hard techno - just what I was looking for, and the site's blue background with swirling bubbles is a visual treat too. There's really useful info on their FAQs section and, due to high demand, they're adding lots of 80s sounds to their catalogue in tribute to big hair, pyrotechnics and guitar solos, so if that's your bag, stay tuned!

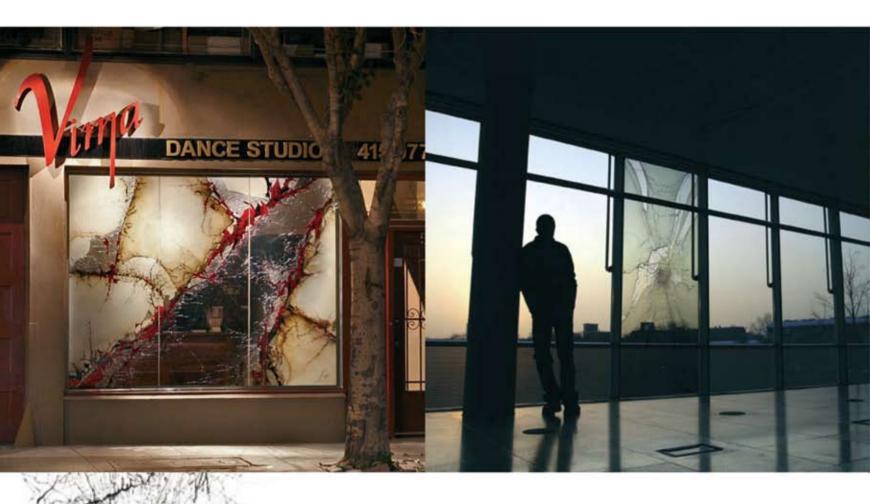




Papadopoulos ("the artist" we'll call him for name-shortening reasons...) is creating widespread interest around the world for the unique ways in which he takes the crystalline forms of broken glass and mixes in bold combinations of colour to create provocative art panels, many pieces featured in exhibitions throughout Europe and he's

being increasingly commissioned for architectural installations.

His technique involves texturing, breaking, colouring then relaminating sheets of industrial glass to create artworks that look fragile, but are in fact extremely durable and meet building-code criteria for public use. The art panels are



Having a smashing time – the delicate art of breaking glass. (photos below) - Applying and spreading diluted pigment into the cracks. - Applying resin to the artwork panel.

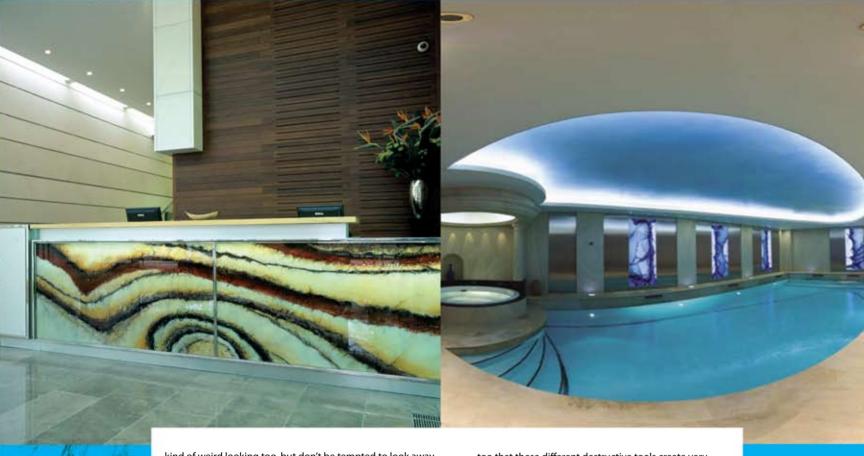
- Laminating a tempered sheet of glass to the artwork panel.
- Moving the laminated panel to dry and cleaning off excess resin.
- The finished panel is ready for installation.







His works "express the in-built paradoxes of glass: that it is commonplace and extraordinary, visible and invisible, dangerous and strong."



kind of weird looking too, but don't be tempted to look away because, despite their unusual appearance, "the artist" begins his design process in just the same way as many designers: with one-dimensional sketches on plain pieces of paper forming the basis of the visual effect he plans to create.

And what a fun, stress-busting job he has, breaking glass with hammers, bricks, bullets and electrical currents - even using a bag full of lead-shot intended to replicate the impact of a human body running into a standard window. Nice! Remember too that these different destructive tools create very different glass shard patterns.

A liquid resin is poured onto the shattered glass which is then relaminated with another sheet of tempered glass to create the panel. After drying, the panel need no longer be treated with "kid gloves" - the excess resin is cleaned off and the panel is ready for installation.







The BESYLU of the amus ma soes 46



Car aficionados worldwide have been eagerly anticipating the arrival of the fourth generation M3 – BMW's performance oriented compact saloon based on the ever-popular 3 series range.

While the first M3, unveiled in 1986, was a raucous machine which many owners found was equally at home on the race track as on the road, the subsequent models lost some of this raw edge to appeal to a broader customer base. This strategy has been hugely successful for BMW, transforming the M3 from a niche model attracting a limited number of hard core connoisseurs, to one which accounts for over 10% of 3 series sales in certain markets.

The challenge facing BMW with the new M3 was to ensure it provides enough thrills for the hard driving devotee, while doing so with enough civility to further increase the car's appeal to those who will never drive it on a track.

Thankfully, BMW's head of design, American Chris Bangle, who lists architect Frank Gehry as one of his influences, has toned down some of the more controversial styling cues from other models in the range, so that the best-selling 3 series doesn't look like it came off second best in a fight with the ugly stick. Visually, there is little doubt about the new M3's sporting intent, with the brazenly aggressive styling giving the appearance of a 3 series pumped up



on steroids. While not exactly beautiful, the M3 certainly looks striking enough to satisfy those owners who want others to know they sprung for the highest performance variant of the 3 series.

Unlike the last two M3 models which were powered by a silky smooth, free-revving, straight six engine, the new car features a 4.0 litre V8, with a whopping 414 bhp - exactly the same as the rival Audi RS4. Fortunately, the new motor is just as eager to rev as the old six cylinder, with a red line at a giddy 8400 rpm. Even though the M3 is a bit of a porker, tipping the scales at over 3600 pounds, the muscular engine ensures it will dash from 0-60 mph in well under 5 seconds, enough to embarrass all but the fastest super cars. The penalty one pays for taking full advantage of this high-revving V8 fun is at the petrol pumps, resulting in OPEC-friendly consumption and frequent refueling stops. At least in the M3 there's no danger of driving for long periods without regular breaks.

To achieve the optimum balance of ride and handling, optional adjustable shock absorbers, called EDC in BMW parlance, are offered with 3 selectable modes: comfort, normal and sport. This computer-controlled gadgetry ensures a compliant, non-filling, loosening ride over harsh road surfaces while providing flat, taught handling when pressing on through the bends. There are also two steering settings, normal and sport, providing the choice of light steering for low speed maneuvers or more feel for high performance driving.

With the new M3, BMW has succeeded in producing a car which provides a rewarding driving experience for enthusiasts yet is still easy to drive at less than ten tenths of its potential. One of the biggest challenges to the M3 comes from within BMW's own model range. For significantly less money than the M3, the twin turbo BMW 335 coupe offers almost the same level of performance, more subtle looks and less

crippling fuel costs. However, for those seeking the ultimate performance and handling from a compact coupe there will always be plenty of takers for the M3.

About the writer: Ian Baxter's fascination with all forms of automotive transport started at an early age, owning his first motorbike from the age of 12. Since then, he has been a serial buyer, owning and rebuilding numerous cars and motorbikes. He currently owns an Audi RS4 and a Porsche 911. Since graduating from the University of Hertfordshire, London with a Bachelor of Engineering degree, lan's career has been spent in the computer software industry, specializing in Computer Aided Design (CAD). He is currently Director of Worldwide Technical Support at SolidWorks Corporation.



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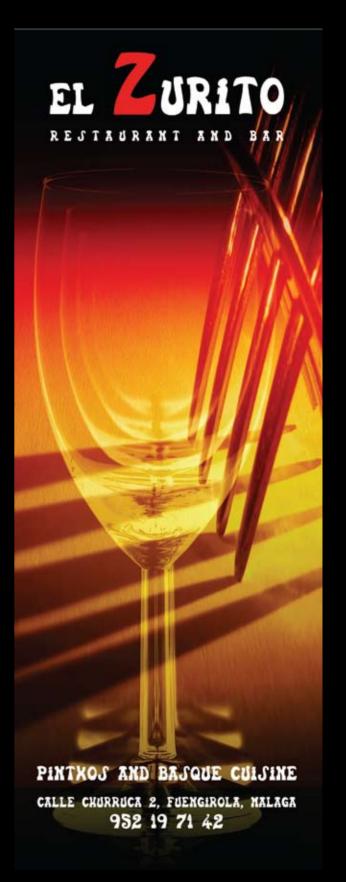
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PREVIEW OF NEXT MONTH'S ISSUE

AS YOU'D EXPECT FROM MODERN DESIGN MAGAZINE, WE'LL CONTINUE TO BRING YOU FASCINATING FEATURES, ARTICLES, PROFILES, INTERVIEWS, INNOVATIONS, NEWS AND EVENTS INCLUDING.....

ARCHITECTURE

-Thom Mayne
The main man at Morphosis "eschewing the normal bounds of traditional forms"

-The Guggenheim generation

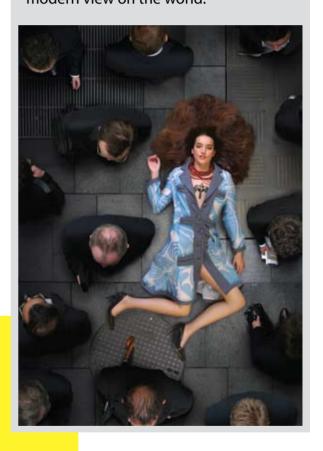
It's exactly 10 years since the opening of Frank Gehry's great edifice in Bilbao, Spain - we ask, just how many more Museums are there around the world?...

CULTURE - Taking time out in Toronto...



ART

"Brian Walker's a bit of a weirdo!"... See if you agree/disagree as we analyse the digital artist with a kitsch postmodern view on the world.



Design

- Close-up of prolific furniture designer, Patricia Urquiola
- Full marks to Denmark for Hotel Fox!

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