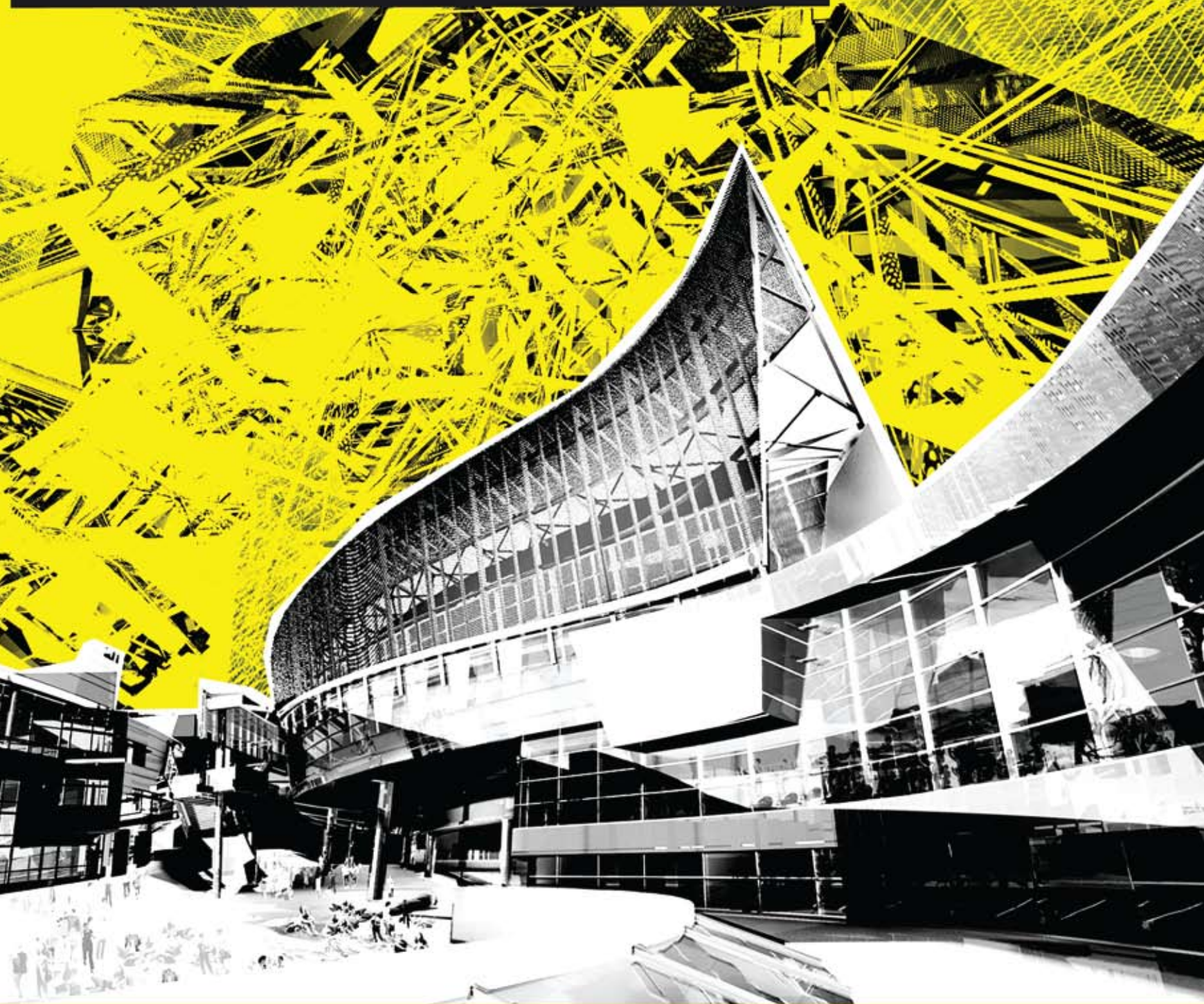


MODERN DESIGN

ARCHITECTURE & ART

MAGAZINE CREATED BY DISEÑO EARLE | OCTOBER 2007

FREE MAG No. 4



Thom Mayne & Morphosis | 100% Design London | Brian Walker...weirdo? | Kool Kidz' spaces



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THOM MAYNE: MY FAVOURITE MENTOR

Editorial letter by Michael Earle, magazine's editor



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

This month we are doing a feature article on Morphosis, the LA architecture firm that has become one of the most innovative firms in the world.

Thom Mayne, the principal of Morphosis, began with a practice that no one knew. He was the typical conceptual architect headed for obscurity with wild ideas that would never get built. He had no commissions, only great ideas. The name Morphosis comes from taking a project already designed and redesigning and improving it over and over to make it better and richer in ideas. You have to have a lot of time on your hands to be able to do this. Finally, he got something published when no one believed in him (working with then business partner Michael Rotondi), then got something else published, wrote a book, continued working, subsidising his work with a professorship.

Finally, after several years, he got something built. Soon there was another commission, then something else and finally he broke through to become the first American architect in 14 years to win the Pritzker Prize, the most prestigious award in architecture. This was better than the Rocky story!

Once, when asked to describe this methodology, Thom Mayne responded by asking the interviewer if he would ask a psychoanalyst how he or she works. This describes the work of Mayne and his firm Morphosis very well, as it has its own life. While his work has moved from conceptual (unbuilt) to connected (built and awarded), his design process continues to evolve and change based on each individual project.

We also are featuring several interesting projects from similarly gifted architects who have risen from obscurity such as Steven Holl. He has created a masterpiece museum expansion profiled in the magazine, working under very difficult conditions.

As Modern Design Magazine continues to evolve and grow, we take inspiration from great stories like that of Thom Mayne and Steven Holl. Rising out of obscurity to fight complacency and the status quo to create great works of architecture, design and art is what drives us today and will continue to be our mission in the future!

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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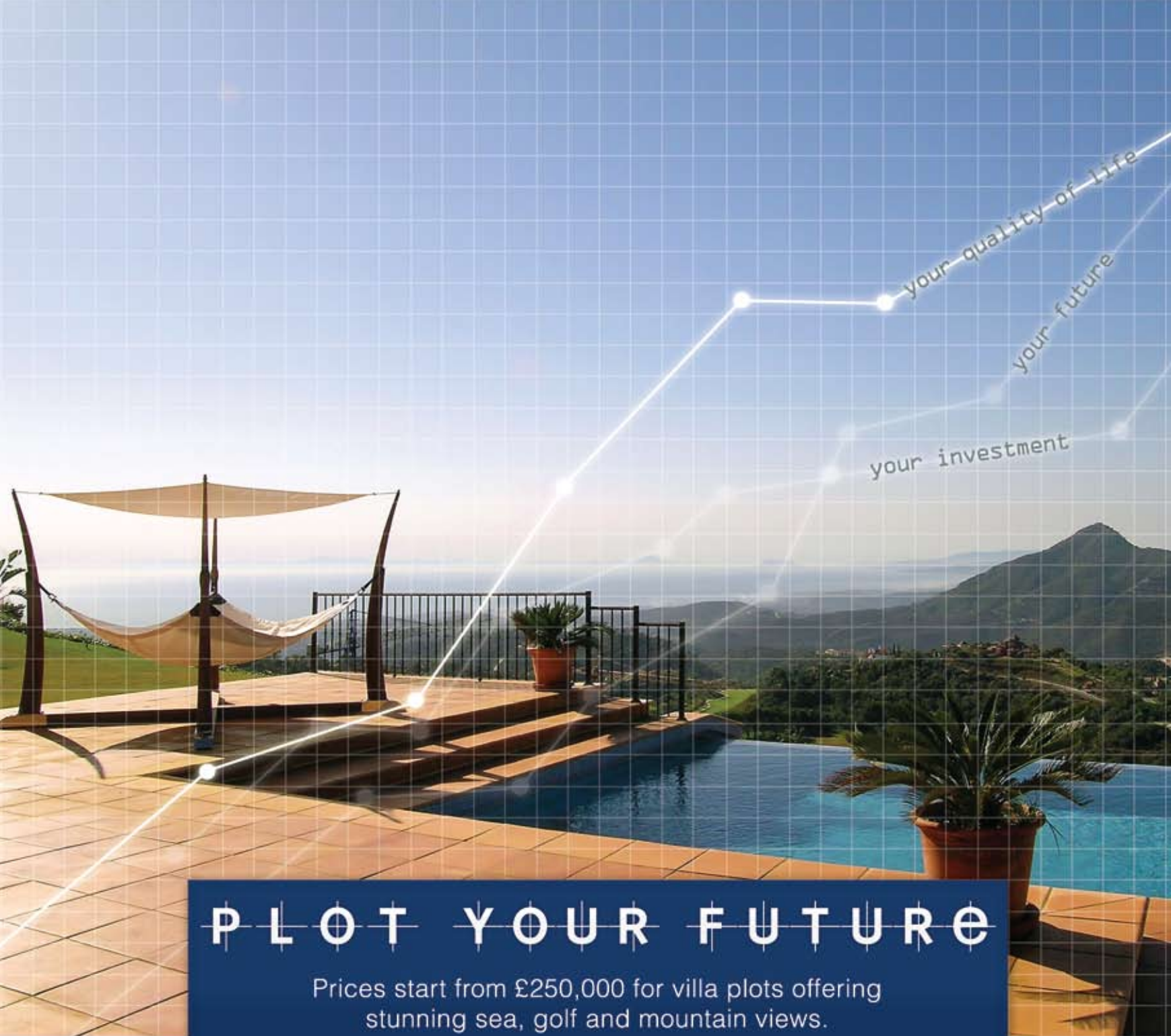
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Editorial letter by Luis Gallardo, magazine's director



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.

He joined the Diseño Earle team in January 2007.

Our magazine is not only about Architecture and Art, it is also about finding new solutions for a variety of basic needs.

With this edition of Modern Design Magazine, we wish to question traditional norms and methods to illustrate the need, the rethinking and the development of Modern Society: Renaissance every day!

Strategic design is a multi-discipline that combines a range of different competencies, including those brought by architects, designers and all kinds of artists who give form to our surroundings to create visual interest and functionality.

With the development of the knowledge society, the things that surround us are not only manufactured, but also virtual products, services and experiences.

We always have a hunger for knowledge, and a culture that never rests with what we know today. It is what we might discover tomorrow that drives a deeper insight, and through this incisive creativity.

Some people think design is art! More than this, we believe design is creating innovative solutions for people!

Sustainability has a high priority in Modern Home Architecture and Design. The same goes for the idea that innovative design is not just for the wealthy and all ages can participate.

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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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 2016, Málaga 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.

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NEWS

World Day of Architecture celebrated 1 October

Announcing its theme **"Transmitting Zero Co2 Emission Architecture"**, the Union of International Architects declared 1st October 2007 World Day of Architecture, celebrated in conjunction with the United Nations World Habitat Day. Both aimed to demonstrate architects' ability to drastically reduce carbon dioxide emissions through ecological design, construction and the maintenance of buildings and cities.



Modernist movements in Mumbai - it's spreading.....

Construction is underway in what was Bombay! India Tower is a new 60-storey (301 metres) Park Hyatt hotel, retail and residential tower in southern Mumbai, India. Aiming to become a US classified LEED Gold-rated building (Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design) and making the least possible impact on the environment, the thoroughly modern rotating tower on its 3 acre site (1.2 hectares) integrates innovative sustainable systems and technologies - solar shading, natural ventilation, daylighting, rainwater harvesting, green interior finishes and materials - making it one of the greenest skyscrapers in India. Designed by New York-based Fox & Fowle Architects (there's nothing 'fowl' about their work!), construction is due for completion in 2010.

No less than 50% of greenhouse gas emissions come from the construction and transportation sectors, so the mobilisation of the world's architects is crucial - it's their responsibility to pass on to future generations a built inheritance and urban environments that do not compromise our planet's future and climate.

Through this year's celebration, the Union aimed to highlight architects' understanding of the current ecological emergency and invited all its Members to set up agendas around this theme.



LEGO lands in China

The People's Architecture Foundation and ArtAsiaPacific Magazine are collaborating on a travelling exhibition titled 'Building Asia Brick by Brick' - a landmark LEGO-sponsored cultural and educational experience that's been touring the People's Republic of China throughout this year before legging it to New York City in 2008. Aiming to raise awareness of architectural preservation in Asia, each original model to be exhibited will be built entirely out of white LEGO bricks. Appearing at the Children's Science & Technology Pavilion in Beijing next spring, the tour comes to an end in New York with an exhibition and auction of the LEGO models.



more..NEWS

Hold up - a cardboard what????

You'd hardly expect cardboard to be strong enough to build a bridge, but that's what ingenious architect Shigeru Ban used in his latest innovative work and context-sensitive design for a bridge across the Gardon River in southern France. Made from 281 cardboard tubes with steps constructed from recycled paper and plastic, it's strong enough to carry 20 people at a time (daring people tested it, many lived to tell the tale...). Adjacent to an ancient Roman bridge and creating an interesting juxtaposition, Ban explains: "It is a very interesting contrast, the Roman stone bridge and the paper bridge. Paper too can be permanent, can be strong and lasting. We need to get rid of these prejudices." The cardboard masterpiece will be open to the public for 6 weeks before being dismantled prior to the rainy season.



Subway sunlight shows us the way to go home

I can't be the only one who's stumbled (literally) from a subway station after clubbing all night, only to be blinded by daylight though it was dead of night when I went out! Thankfully, a new Subway Light Project channels natural light into the dark recesses of pedestrian tunnels, incorporating sunlight transfer in public urban art, with the dual aim of saving the city money on energy and putting the travelling public in a good (better) mood!

First place winner in a 2007 school's Sustainable Design Review, student Caroline Pham from the prestigious Parson's Design School in New York City uses sunlight capture devices and fibre optic cables to channel sunlight into the enclosed corridors of a subway. Encouraging the use of energy-saving technology while promoting "biophilia" - the instinct of self-preservation - Caroline's winning conceptual submission "would be used to illustrate elements of natural and urban landscape integration", according to the Review Jury in August. Easy on our eyes as well, whenever we're travelling.

Watt a turn off

We're increasingly being reminded to save on our domestic electricity consumption by switching off non-essential electrical and electronic devices when we're not using them. Sound advice indeed. With the best intentions in the world though, it's so laborious going round every room, locating, kneeling down and untangling hard to reach cables and wires, unplugging them all. Now with the Whole House-Off Switch, you have no more excuses - and no more worries that you might have left the iron on as a single central button turns off all unnecessary items at once. Simply push the button to turn non-essential power off (excluding constant power supply to fridge/freezer, electronic alarms etc) and just push it on again when you return home. Simple. Designer J Godfrey Wood aims to make the green way the most convenient way in all our homes with the Whole House-Off Switch encouraging an 'everyday environmental' mentality where we don't even have to think about 'being green'. But you will have to think of keeping the kids' hands off it.

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M O R P H O S I S



THOM MAYNE THE MAIN MAN AT MORPHOSIS "ESCHEWING THE NORMAL BOUNDS OF TRADITIONAL FORMS".

THOM MAYNE, THE PRINCIPAL OF MORPHOSIS, IN ADDITION TO BEING THE DRIVING FORCE BEHIND AN INCREDIBLE PRACTICE, ONE THAT I HAVE DESCRIBED IN THE MAGAZINE INTRODUCTION AS A TRULY INSPIRING ARCHITECT, IS ALSO A DESIGN TEACHER CONTINUING TO WORK WITH VARIOUS ARCHITECTURAL UNIVERSITIES EVEN WITH HIS BUSY SCHEDULE. TEACHING HAS BEEN A FOUNDATION OF HIS PRACTICE, FROM THE DAYS WHEN IT PROBABLY KEPT HIM FROM BANKRUPTCY, TO TODAY WHEN THE ARCHITECTURAL METHODOLOGIES OF HIS WORK CONTINUE TO EVOLVE AND GROW THROUGH HIS TEACHING. THE TEACHING IS A KIND OF INQUIRY THAT CANNOT TAKE PLACE IN A PRACTICE, THAT IS UNFETTERED BY THE VICISSITUDES OF DAY TO DAY STUFF.¹

Text: Michael Earle **Photos:** Courtesy of Morphosis

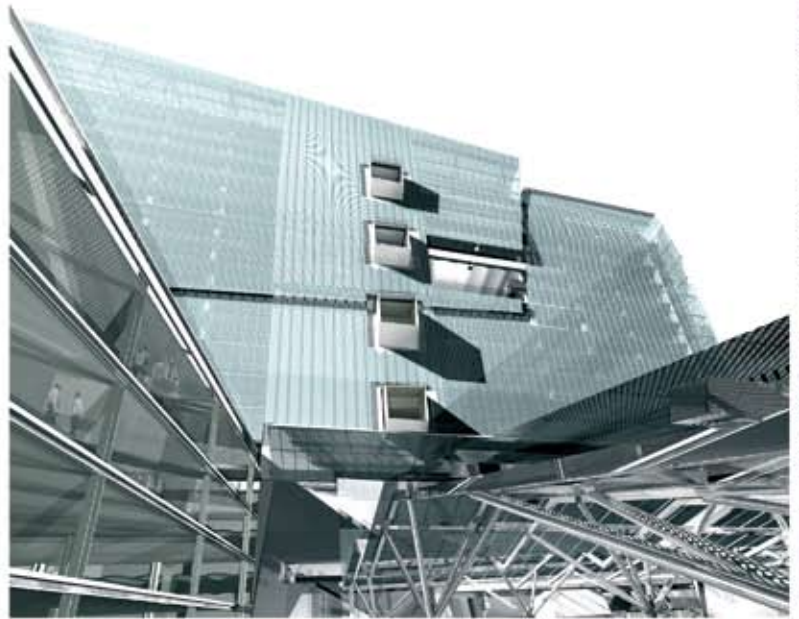
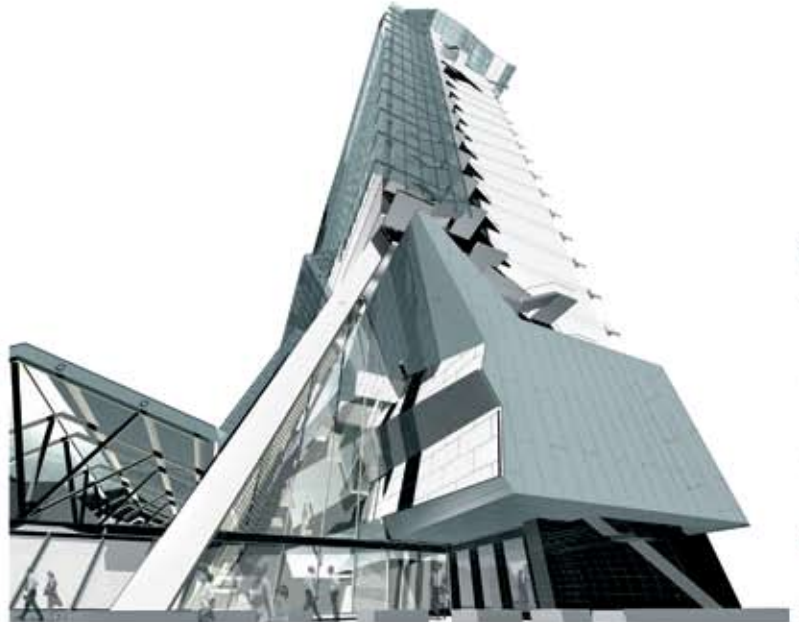
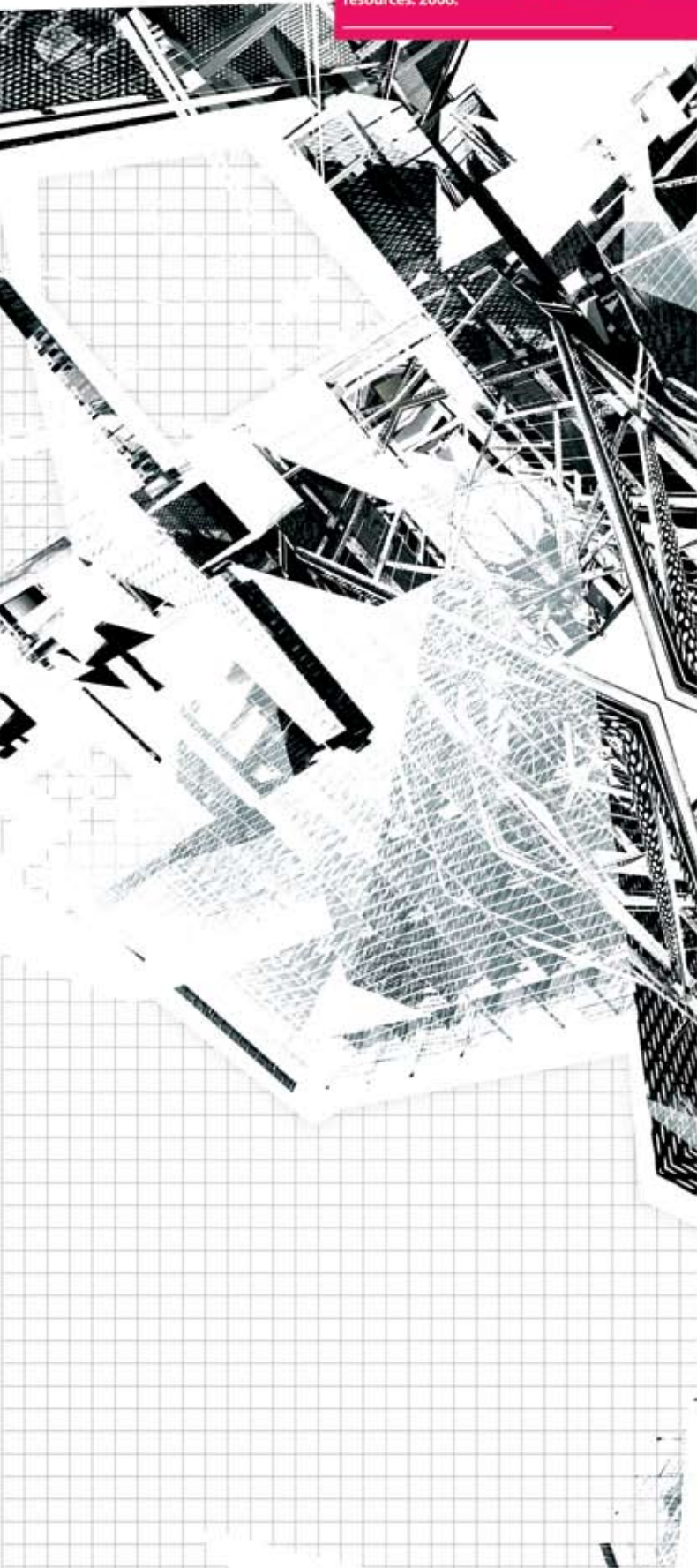
Mayne, along with then business partner Michael Rotondi, began with a practice that no one knew. This came as a natural result of getting fired from several architecture jobs. He was the typical conceptual architect headed for obscurity or burnout with wild ideas that could never get built. "As a younger architect, I saw it as my responsibility to protect my artistic and creative capital, and there was very little opportunity in my culture because architects serve business, they serve capital, and I had no interest in that at all."² He had no commissions, only great ideas and great rigour.

The name Morphosis comes from taking a project already designed, and re-designing, changing and improving it over and over to make it better and richer. You have to have a lot of time on your hands to be able to do this. Finally, he got something published when no one believed in him. A book based on his early conceptual work was published and sold well within the architecture

community. His early books were bibles of design development for modern architects. Young architects from my generation worshipped his strength of character and rigour, while the architectural establishment in America dismissed him as a fringe designer unable to build. Then, years later, he began to get public commissions, suggesting his bulldog mentality had finally paid off. When he became the first American architect in 14 years to win the Pritzker Prize, the most prestigious award in architecture, he joked at the Pritzker ceremony that the people who were there honouring him had been the same ones lambasting him 30 years earlier.³

I find many of Thom Mayne's quotes give us an insight into the way he thinks about design methodology. It reflects his non-linear path to an architectural solution.

San Francisco Federal Building. A landmark without precedent in the US and an iconic presence for the Federal government. Enhancing the SF community, radically redefining workplace culture and establishing a benchmark for building design through the intelligent use of natural resources. 2006.

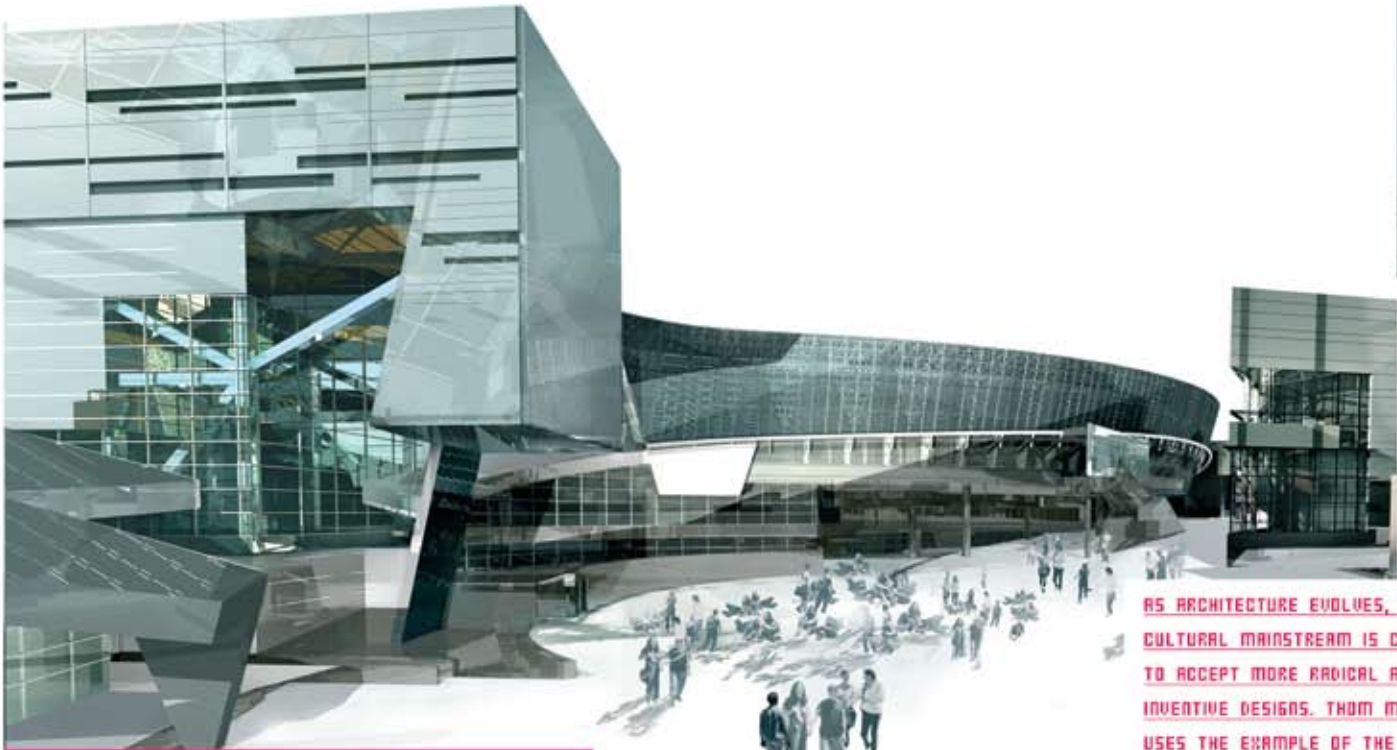




"Transcending the limited concept of the suburban house from its traditional roots", Blades Residence Santa Barbara, California. 2005.



Caltrans District 7 Headquarters: The building façade borrows its characteristic animation directly from the car – the outer layer functions like the car body to protect and shield its inhabitants. 2004.



University of Cincinnati Campus Recreation Center. A series of connective events engage peripheral flows, generating urban density. Weaving strands and pedestrian paths penetrate, intertwine and wrap the buildings, substituting a thick mat of cohesive trajectories in its place. 2006.

"Architecture is a public act."⁴ Mayne believes that architecture is where the social act and the aesthetic act come together. In a global sense, we must interact with each other each day in a more crowded world. Architecture makes this permanent, through serving the public realm, reacting to our social structures and how we live together. The social tissue of our society in Mayne's view is created by architecture.

Architecture can only be about our social structures. How we live together. New York, for example, is connected by architecture. A radically heterogeneous pluralistic society needs connective tissue and in Mayne's world, architecture provides this need.

"I believe very strongly in the power of architecture."⁵ He is convinced that architecture provides a way of seeing the world especially in a culture so dominated by big business. The economics of the world so overpower the realities of art and architecture, he felt for years he needed to work outside the mainstream and outside the large firm culture. He still feels like an outsider even though he has more work than most insiders and is doing large scale work all over the world. He is convinced that his studio in terms of culture and the methodology that he and his team use, are still the sensibilities of an outsider and it permeates their entire office culture, their passions and ideas come from outside the mainstream.

AS ARCHITECTURE EVOLVES, THE CULTURAL MAINSTREAM IS CHANGING TO ACCEPT MORE RADICAL AND INVENTIVE DESIGNS. THOM MAYNE USES THE EXAMPLE OF THE ORIGINAL RESISTANCE TO NEW AND INNOVATIVE BUILDINGS IN PARIS. BOTH THE EIFFEL TOWER AND THE POMPIDOU CENTER, WHILE BELOVED STRUCTURES TODAY, WERE VILIFIED AND HATED WHEN THEY WERE FIRST PROPOSED AND BUILT. MORPHOSIS, WE HAVE NO DOUBT, WILL CONTINUE TO PUSH THE BOUNDARIES OF WHAT CAN BE BUILT AND WHERE WE ARE GOING AS A SOCIETY.





I LOVE THE INDIVIDUAL LIFE OF
A DESIGN.⁶

THE WORK IS LIKE A CHILD, IN HIS MIND.
HE CAN PROVIDE HER WITH IDEAS AND
VALUES AND THE WEALTH OF HIS EXPERI-
ENCE BUT IN THE END HE DOES NOT KNOW
WHERE LIFE WILL TAKE HER. HE FEELS
THE SAME ABOUT HIS BUILDINGS. THE
PROCESS DICTATES THE END RESULT.
SOMETIMES HE LOOKS BACK IN AWE AT
THE CIRCUITOUS PATH THAT THE DESIGN
HAS TAKEN.



Morphosis won the competition to build the New York Olympic Village, redefining the heart of the area by instilling values of diversity and cooperation, and engendering a sense of optimism and civic pride. 2012.



Diamond Ranch High School, California. Set on a steeply sloped seventy-two acre site considered "unbuildable", slopes vary from 1:1 to 5:1 with a total relief across the site of 380 feet.

"I am interested in the process and the result of the investigation."⁷ Instead of producing an object, he is much more interested in the process of design. It is a very circuitous, laborious process. He asks the interviewer if they could describe what it is like to sit on a couch for 3 years with a psychoanalyst. The result is what comes from the inquiry. Fighting to release the inertia built up in the mind and letting it infuse the architecture.

PROJECTS

Blades House, Los Angeles The image of this early house shows that his ideas of confrontation have already begun to express themselves, albeit on a smaller scale. Even in the early days he did not back down from the innovative nature of his forms even when they were extremely complicated to build.

Diamond Ranch High School, Pomona, California This private high school was Mayne's first public project. A very complex site with a project built on a standard budget was a remarkable result. The spaces created are so generative of creativity and individuality that they encourage great interactive experiences for the students. It was his desire that it be clear that there had been great energy spent to represent a nurture and care in these young people's lives. As Mayne says "if this project evokes a reaction in these young people, we have been successful."⁸ Clearly it does.

University of Cincinnati, Student Recreation Center The task of this project was to unify several disparate surrounding buildings. This project weaves the edges of these pieces together to create a unified campus pedestrian thoroughfare. The edge of the stadium is repeated in the shape of the housing complex. The field house is given a new front. The main street develops into a passage through the building's main lobby, inviting views up to the fitness area and down to the pool and basketball gymnasium.⁹ This creates a complete weaving of the urban fabric in a modern, adventurous way.

Eugene Court House, Eugene, Oregon Mayne calls this the most unique building that Morphosis have ever done.¹⁰ It is based on an abstraction of the standard courthouse conventions and their evolution as ideas. Including the entrance level stair or piano nobile is a reinterpretation of the Supreme Court Building and talking about the evolution of our ideas through time and the evolution of the American legal system while maintaining continuity. What a project!

Caltrans District 7 Headquarters, Los Angeles This project created the highway headquarters for Los Angeles. The concept takes the idea of the infrastructure of the highway, the continuation of the highway itself and combines it with extension to the row of public buildings on the street creating a mix of cultural Los Angeles, the highway and the public.¹¹

Phare Tower, Paris, France _____ Morphosis won an international competition for this project which will become the centerpiece of the redevelopment of the La Defense business district outside Paris. This project integrates the building in a vision for the future of towers. It emerges from the site to become a landmark on the skyline. "Moving around the tower, it appears to shift continually, distinct from various vantage points – not a single image, but a dynamic structure that responds to the site, environment and performance requirements." In the spirit of the Eiffel Tower and its engineering innovations, this tower will be a symbol of sustainable design.¹²

Olympic Village, New York City _____ This unrealized project was a great opportunity that began as an international competition won by Morphosis. The strategy of 45 acres of park with 15 acres of building intervention on an island looking across to Manhattan was a gorgeous architectural creation.¹³

Cooper Union, New York School of Engineering _____ In this project, set in the middle of New York City, Mayne created a vertical public space with an entrance volume to re-create the energy of the street inside the building. He also wanted to display the creative energy and intellectual capital of the school in the public space and at street level.¹⁴

Kunsthau Graz, Graz Austria _____ Mayne describes this project in the following way:

"Our proposal for Kunsthau Graz is driven by the tensions within two fundamental ideas, one urban and the other programmatic. The demands of this institution as part of the existing fabric of the city are two fold – one requiring continuity, the preservation of the values of the found and the other demanding the initiation of the potentialities of the present. Our proposal resolves this seeming dichotomy through a conscious confrontation between the urban connectedness and the more autonomous, interpretative qualities of an architecture of idiosyncrasy, produced through a series of negotiations." In this quote you can feel the layers with which he has tried to deal and weave through the urban fabric and its programmatic complexity.¹⁵

Tsunami Asian Grill, Las Vegas. Their interior design for this eatery at the Venetian Resort Hotel and Casino judged *The Best Asian Restaurant* by *Las Vegas Review Journal*. 2005.

Footnotes

1-3 From Icon magazine June 2005.

4-8, 10-11, 13-14 Quotes from Thom Mayne on Charlie Rose TV program.

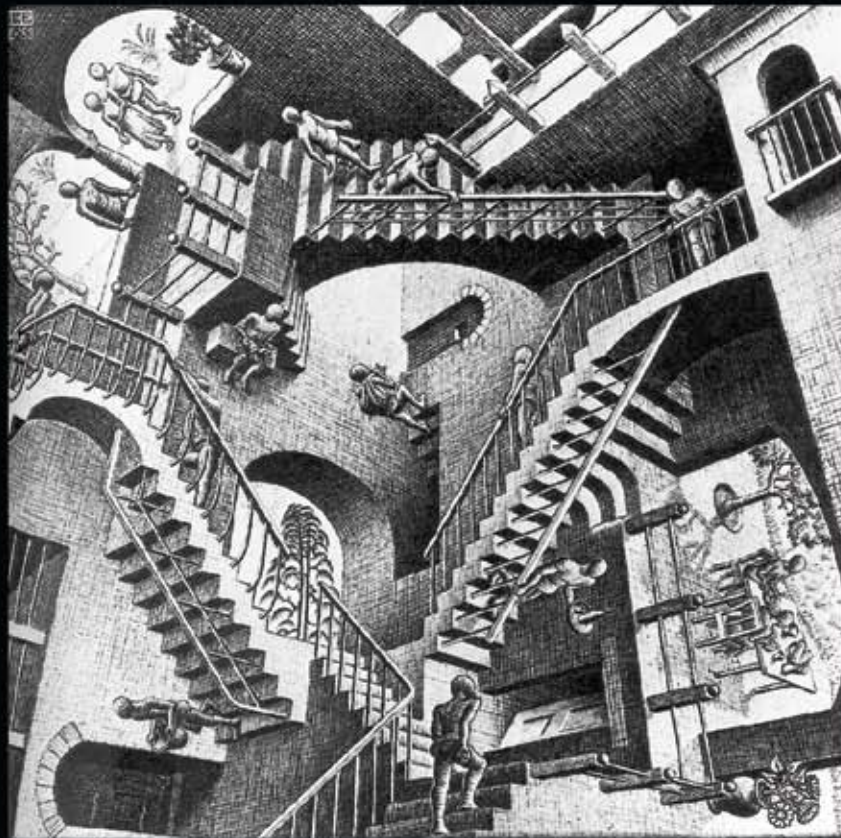
9, 12, 15 Arcspace website.

All references not attributed are from Charlie Rose 2005.



300 metre tall organic Phare Tower, La Défense business district, Paris the city's second supertall skyscraper. 2012





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"It is not because things are difficult that we do not dare,
it is because we do not dare that they are difficult."
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Images: Wide angle view over the most extravagant golf course in Spain from an urbanisation once part of a Moorish fortress.



Text: Michael Earle 3D Renders: Francisco Vázquez (nenomaister)



I N F I N I T E

Villa

A perfect fit for the new look Marbella

Spanish developments suffer from a lack of design development, both in their conception and in the innovation of the individual architectural pieces. As these developments mature, the clients building on them become more and more adventurous, as the demand for modern architecture grows.

Images: Sitting boldly in the landscape, you feel as though you're floating above the Med with commanding views towards Gibraltar and Morocco.



Set on a dramatic, steep site overlooking a golf course, this two storey villa creates a courtyard commanding views south and west towards Gibraltar and Morocco. Two splayed wings are separated by a 3 storey dramatic glass entrance volume, containing a sculptural stair curving up and down as a snake rising from the grass.

The building sits boldly in the landscape, its concrete, wood and aluminium skin complementing the brown and green hues of the landscape. However, when occupied it changes dramatically in form as its façades spring to life. Large sun screens on the façade help frame and reveal the life within and shade and protect the large glass openings, allowing the user to feel as though they are floating above the Mediterranean.

The large upper roof terrace adds another physical and aesthetic dimension to the complex. An inviting Whirlpool Jacuzzi with hydro massage bathtub dominates, serving as a therapeutic aid in dual collaboration with the oversized infinity pool beneath.



The spacious interior gives way to a vast, split level, open plan setting, separating the wide dining room from the living room as well as the kitchen area. A master bedroom and three more bedrooms complete the sense of abundance.

The project is at once tactile and thoughtful through its materiality and form of construction. Water is incorporated to help reinforce the verticality of the site and the uniqueness of the experience. Project designed and built by Diseño Earle.

PHOTOGRAPHY 22



Free Range Milk: Taking inspiration from the plasticization of the female form in fashion and online virtual dress up dolls.

Brian Walker

Sydney based-Brian Walker is a world renowned digital artist with a playfully kitsch post-modern view on the world at large.

"In a time where the line between hyper-realities and those of our own is becoming finer, the Sydney artist's work speaks a relative language. The digital artist is inspired by surreal landscapes, the evolution of fashion and changing popular culture" Cool Hunter

I N T E R V I E W W I T H B R I A N W A L K E R

Did your fascination with mutilation start from an early age and if so, what precipitated it? If not, at what period in your life did you feel this would be a worthy topic to follow?

I have always been interested by the surreal and the macabre. As a youngster I used to draw a lot. I wasn't interested in drawing 'real-world' objects or scenes, instead drawing expressive and abstract scenes. I mixed objects and creatures together, resulting in playful and bizarre representations, kind of like playing around with a visual 'genetic-blender'.

Within these early works I strived for as much detail and realism in my images as possible, though rarely added colour, as I generally didn't feel confident in achieving the desired effect I was after. Then, along came Photoshop, version 3.0 was the first one I toyed with. I realised that I could literally represent and recreate these fanciful images in my head and include all the detail, emotion and colour!

What excites you about photo manipulation and the escapists' realm of fantasy?

What excites me about photo manipulation and the escapists' realm of fantasy is the direct translation between my mind and my work. I am a very visual person who works extensively with sketches in planning and development. These sketches act as conceptual rough copies and blueprints for the final image with the final image generally ending up looking like a direct photographic representation of the original sketch. This direct translation means pure freedom to conceptually construct to my heart's content with the confidence that a precise photographic representation will result.

What do your parents and close family think about your style of artistic expression?

My family, friends and most of all my wife are very supportive of my artistic representation. Many of them have editions of my work on their walls. Naturally, taste is a factor and in pretty much all cases people will have some they love and others they don't like. They are not at all consistent across the board. I think that people simply see different aspects in each work to one another.

Whilst some of us see the funny, anarchic side to your work and you admit to getting a kick out of people's surprise reactions, can you describe the immediate responses they receive from the public at your viewings?

I am happiest when I see both a frown and a smile occurring on the audiences face at the same time as they initially approach my work. This gives the sense that firstly, there is enjoyment, both proclaimed through the use of colour contained in the works and/or the situations/concepts which have been constructed.

Secondly and most importantly, there is a line which is being toyed with between our reality and a conceived one. A person's frown indicating that there is something there which is either a bit twisted or challenging to view and calls on the viewer to consider the image more carefully.

Your photography always includes sensual, beautiful transformed models. Have you tried to work with other subjects?

My current work very much operates through the guise of fashion photography, luring the viewer in through the glamour and beauty of the subjects and then satirically incorporates aspects which challenge the viewer. Prior to this work I produced a number of images inspired by the likes of Hieronymus Bosch and Francis Bacon.

Plastic, kitch, sensual are obviously the words which describe your most fashionable artwork. Would you like to add some?

I would say, some playfully pimped Post-modern paradigm-shifting propaganda.

Are you a frustrated doctor or realised artist?

A little from column "a" and a little from column "b", in that as an artist I have a vision, though I tend to feel like a frustrated doctor having to actually construct my creation. This is due to my self-induced compulsion for perfection.

Who inspires you most?

Andy Warhol is a major influence on my work. The visual and social game he played with popular culture and those involved is very interesting. He really carved out his very own niche interpretation on what popular culture is and can be. Dali and Magritte are certainly influences as well. Such visual studies on dreams and the subconscious have been very influential in my own artmaking. Finally, David LaChapelle, a photographer with an ability to challenge the notion of beauty and certainly re-evaluate the notion of colour use within my photos.

Apart from photography, do you have any other passion or hobbies?

I love movies! Lost in Translation, Leon, Fifth Element, City of Lost Children, To Be and To Have, Brazil and then the cheesy B-grade horrors – Brain Dead, Puppet Master, Evil Dead, Scanners – all the fun ones. Creating the props for my photoshoots is a fun pastime. Apart from that, outdoor activities such as bushwalking and playing soccer are also fun.

A message to our readers?

Enjoy gently!



1 | Fifty Lashes: Quarter face female shot caked in make-up; eyelashes substituted for fine, long hair; chin resting on a mirror dripping with diamonds... **2 | Batteries Included:** Make-up artists, models and stylists make sure things run smoothly – like battery-powered clockwork. **3 | Downtown Girl:** Whichever way you like at it, this is a surreal, disturbing yet strangely elegant image, bringing the anonymity of the Big City into all too tangible reality. **4 | Greasy Spoon:** Severed arms are attached to mechanical devices, right 'arm' holds glass of OJ, left picks up greasy spoon next to incorrectly laid knife and fork; bowl brimming with dog food.



5 | **Zombie Kit V1:** Blood-drenched woman lies dying next to the decapitated head and foot of an undead woman, both surrounded by serial killer's tools; ivy leaves and devil worship book complete the non-too pretty picture. Weird guy.



Text: Chris Dove

MEXICO

Mexico's cultural hotpot welcomes Vincent Callebaut's exotic Eco Tower

The Plaza de las Tres Culturas (Place of Three Cultures) in the Tlatelolco area of Mexico City is soon to boast a sustainable new office tower with a visible difference: on one side it's located at the base of an Aztec pyramid and the 17th century Temple of Santiago, and on the other, surrounded by numerous modern buildings housing the Foreign Affairs Ministry offices. Before reading about the Eco Tower and its firm of French/Belgian architects, this potted history of the Place of Three Cultures will help put this striking structure in its proper context...

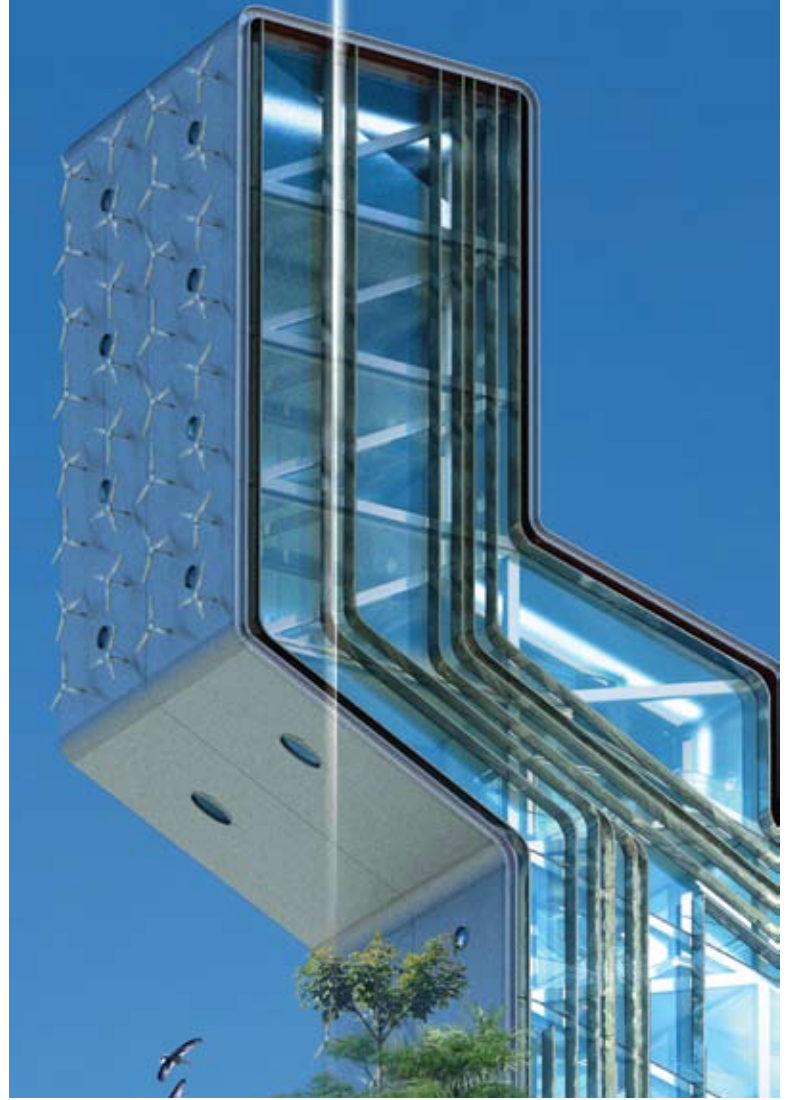
Stepping back in time

In 1521, led by Hernán Cortés, the Spanish Conquistadors seized the Aztec region of Tlatelolco, massacring all 40,000 Aztecs in the tribe's last stand and precipitating the subsequent fall of the ancient Aztec Empire. Mexico became known as the land of Three Cultures: a blend of influences from the Native Americans, the Spanish and the unique 'mestizo' European and Native American mixed race that developed over this time.

Nearly 450 years after Cortés' victory – and just 10 days before the opening of the summer Olympic Games in Mexico City in October 1968 – the "Masacre of Tlatelolco" took place in which more than 300 unarmed students were killed by police and

armed forces. Political unrest had been simmering throughout the year as Mexican students joined by sympathisers in France, Germany, Czechoslovakia, the US and elsewhere protested against the Games. On 2nd October though, those protests turned nasty as demonstrators rioted, chanting "¡No queremos olimpiadas, queremos revolución!" ("We don't want Olympic Games, we want revolution!"), only to be violently suppressed by their own national security forces.

Between the vestiges of a pre-Hispanic and colonial past and the Utopia of the Modern Movement (depicted in dramatic detail in the 1960's drawings by Mexican architect Mario Pani, designer of Hotel Reforma, the first modern hotel in the country), Tlatelolco's tortured cultural past is finally taking



a turn for the better. The Eco Tower project, formally titled the Ecological and Metropolitan Infographic Center (ECOMIC) creates a new symbol of insurrection “against the loss of freedom and the resignation of modernity”.

An ecological “freedom” Tower

Designed by French/Belgian Vincent Callebaut Architectures, the 1,450 sq m ECOMIC will be an archive and permanent exhibition of the different graphic expressions of Mexico City’s territory. Chief Architect Callebaut describes the Tower with each entity, office, workshop, exposure or file spaces as having its own expression: “Each course of the visitor is visible. The various graphic expressions of the territory of Mexico City are exposed on all the boxes of the tower”, including pre-Hispanic books on Aztec culture, plans of the colonial, revolutionary, modern and contemporary city.

Wind turbines along the building’s undulating sides with greenery along the entire structure project ECOMIC’s distinct ecological sensibilities. The Tower’s spinal column is linked all around by “an optical fibre network of glass boxes and showrooms. Thanks to this system the infographic data is shown on interior and exterior façades.”

ECOMIC is an interface between the past and future, creating a new skyline between the architectural landscape and the metropolis. This green tower is part of the ecology movement, incorporating renewable energies such as photovoltaic (solar-powered) wind mills. “Its vocation of information is clearly expressed to the citizens, as much as its flexible space mixing the pre-Hispanic, colonial and modern entities. It is an ambitious project talking with Mexico and her future development.” When completed, the Tower will be “a contemporary vertical landscape. A challenge to gravity. A recovered freedom!”



GUGGENHEIM WILHELM BILBAO

text: Chris Dove Photos: Courtesy of Guggenheim



REMEMBER WHERE YOU WERE 10 YEARS AGO THIS MONTH, ON 19TH OCTOBER 1997? IF YOU WERE AT THE OPENING OF SPAIN'S GUGGENHEIM MUSEUM BILBAO THEN CONGRATULATE YOURSELF FOR WITNESSING AN HISTORIC CULTURAL EVENT – ONE THAT CONTINUES TO MAKE WORLDWIDE HEADLINES IN MODERN ART AND ARCHITECTURE CIRCLES. _____ DESIGNED BY PRITZKER PRIZE-WINNING CANADIAN ARCHITECT FRANK GEHRY, NEWS SPREAD QUICKLY THAT THE MOST EAGERLY-AWAITED OF THE GUGGENHEIM BRAND HAD OPENED ITS DOORS: WITHIN LESS THAN A YEAR IT HAD RECEIVED OVER 1,300,000 VISITORS.

_____ IN 1991, BASQUE AUTHORITIES APPROACHED THE SOLOMON R GUGGENHEIM FOUNDATION WITH AN INVITATION TO HELP REVITALISE BILBAO AND THE BASQUE COUNTRY IN NORTHERN SPAIN. THE FOUNDATION WELCOMED THE PROPOSAL FOR MEETING THEIR OBJECTIVE OF HOSTING DIFFERENT CULTURAL CENTRES AROUND THE WORLD, AND WITH THE NEW SITE IDENTIFIED, CONSTRUCTION WORK BEGAN IN OCTOBER 1994. _____ RELYING HEAVILY ON SOPHISTICATED 3D SOFTWARE, GEHRY ADVISED THE STRUCTURAL ENGINEERS ON HOW TO BUILD THE BILBAO MUSEUM'S SIGNATURE RIBBONS OF METAL, GLASS, TITANIUM AND WOOD WHICH DRAMATICALLY SHOWS OFF ITS WATERSIDE LOCATION ON THE NERVIÓN RIVER. _____ COMMENTING ON THE MUSEUM'S COMPLETION IN OCTOBER 1997, GEHRY POINTS OUT IN THE FILM SKETCHES OF FRANK GEHRY*, "CREATIVITY IS ABOUT PLAY AND A KIND OF WILLINGNESS TO GO WITH YOUR INTUITION." WHILE GEHRY FANS ARE CALLING FOR "A BIG-BUDGET HOLLYWOOD PRODUCTION AS PROFOUNDLY MOVING AS THE BILBAO GUGGENHEIM", THEY CAN JOIN THE MUSEUM'S 10 YEAR CELEBRATIONS BY VISITING ITS SPECIAL ANNIVERSARY WEBSITE AT WWW.GUBILBAO.COM.



GEHRY FREELY ADMITS THAT ON THE MUSEUM'S OPENING: "PEOPLE WERE VERY UPSET ABOUT IT WHEN IT WAS FIRST PRESENTED. ONE GUY SAID THEY SHOULD KILL ME... NOW WHEN I WALK DOWN THE STREET IN BILBAO PEOPLE WANT TO HUG ME."

What's so special about Guggenheims?

The network of museums are owned and operated by the Guggenheim Foundation, a non-profit organisation founded in 1937 by philanthropist Solomon R Guggenheim and artist Hilla von Rebay.

The first Guggenheim opened in 1939 in midtown Manhattan as the "Museum of Non-Objective Painting", following which work began on designing a permanent new home for the collection. American architect Frank Lloyd Wright conceived the permanent new space as a "temple of spirit" to facilitate a new way of looking at the collection's modern art pieces.

The Guggenheim craze: how many are there?

This first landmark museum, named after its founder Solomon, opened in 1959 to large crowds and controversy for upstaging the artwork displayed, yet it's the buildings themselves that have helped cement the Guggenheim name in art and architecture around the world.

Architecture is an industrial art form and nowhere is art more prominently represented than in the surroundings of the great Guggen-

heims. The Foundation continues to develop its reputation for hiring the world's leading architects and building the boldest, most innovative designs – buildings raising more interest than the artworks they exhibit.

1. Solomon R Guggenheim Museum New York – opened 1959, designed by Frank Lloyd Wright.

2. Peggy Guggenheim Collection Venice – Solomon's niece donated her own art works, her personal art collection and her Venice home, the Palazzo Venier dei Leoni, to the Foundation in the mid-1970s with the collection opened to the public in 1979 following her death.

3. Guggenheim Museum SoHo, New York – opened 1992, designed by Japanese architect Arata Isozaki. During the renovation and expansion of Frank Lloyd Wright's building, the Foundation opened a small Guggenheim Museum in SoHo (South of Houston Street) which remained open after the main museum was re-opened but closed in 2002.

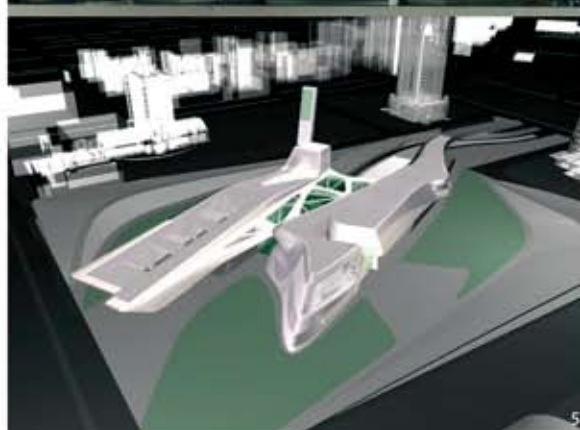
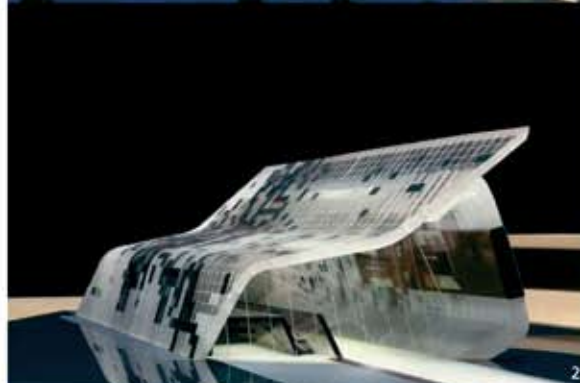
4. Guggenheim Museum Bilbao – opened 1997, designed by Frank Gehry.

5. Deutsche Guggenheim Berlin – A small gallery in Berlin, Germany opened in 1997 in a unique joint venture with Deutsche Bank. This German site has a special connection to the historical roots of the Guggenheim Foundation – both the Guggenheim family and Solomon's close friend Hilla von Rebay were Germans.

6. Guggenheim-Hermitage Las Vegas – opened 2001, designed by Dutch architect Rem Koolhaas and built to showcase highlights of the Guggenheim collection.

7. Also in 2001, Guggenheim New York opened its Sackler Center for Arts Education, an 8,200 square foot multi-media centre on the campus of its original Upper East Side facility. Designed by Gwathmey Siegel & Associates, the centre explores the latest arts-education methodologies and includes state-of-the-art studios, labs, two theatres and exhibition space. Construction plans in 2001 for a larger Gehry-designed Guggenheim in downtown Manhattan were shelved following the 9/11 attacks and it's still unclear if or when this new museum will be built.

8. Guggenheim Tokyo in Japan was designed in 2002 by Iraqi Pritzker Prize-winning architect



Zaha Hadid – a 10 year specific temporary museum in a dynamic area of Odisiba Island and a trendsetter in terms of the architectural identity of the area.

9.Guggenheim Abu Dhabi – Designed by Frank Gehry and due for completion in 2011, the 30,000 square metre landmark museum devoted to modern and contemporary art will establish the United Arab Emirates as a global cultural destination.

10.Guggenheim Taiwan in the city of Taichung aims “to copy the Bilbao experience” with plans by Zaha Hadid Architects to build an eye-catching gallery with moveable sections, an opera house and other cultural projects.

11.Guggenheim Rio de Janeiro in Brazil is also being considered, to be designed by eccentric French architect Jean Nouvel.

While the Foundation’s philanthropist chairman resigned in 2005 in opposition to Guggenheim’s continuing global expansion, saying he wished the Foundation would “concentrate more on New York and less on being scattered all over the world”, the growing popularity of modern art and architecture led to a 2006 exhibition of planned Guggenheims for major cities including Salzburg in Austria and Guadalajara in Mexico. This can only be a good thing for modern art observers and museum lovers the world over.

The most important art event this year – ART IN THE USA: 300 Years of Innovation:

The Guggenheim Foundation is hosting an exhibition featuring 200 artworks from public and private US collections. Showing in Beijing and Shanghai in China, Moscow and Bilbao, the exhibition demonstrates how art over the years reflected and contributed to a complex visual narrative of the US during times of discovery, growth and experimentation. See our EVENTS for details.

For information on the Guggenheim Foundation and Guggenheim Museums around the world, visit www.guggenheim.org

Guggenheim Bilbao’s special 10th anniversary website: www.guggenbilbao.com

* Sketches of Frank Gehry by filmmaker Sydney Pollack, 2005.

- 1 | Rem Koolhaas’s Guggenheim Heritage Museum Las Vegas. 2 | Zaha Hadid’s 10-year Temporary Guggenheim Tokyo. 3 | Zaha Hadid’s Guggenheim Singapore. 4 | Installation from Frank Gehry’s new Guggenheim New York – will it see the light of day post-9/11? 5 | Zaha Hadid’s Guggenheim Taichung in Taiwan.

THINK... 131



Photo Courtesy of Mark Jenkins



Freeze frame:

gazing into Kansas City's ice cool art museum

When the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art in Kansas City, US embarked on a major expansion in 1999, five of the six competing architects were keen to maintain the existing museum's magnificent frontage with its classical columns, austere presence and hill top position overlooking a vast lawn. Aware that there was ample space at the back to house the museum's extension, all five presented their designs along these lines. There was, though, one odd-ball:

Steven Holl.



As the sixth proposer, Holl had no interest in hiding his structure around the back. Described as “assertive by people who are trying to be complimentary and as a bull in a china shop by people who aren’t,” Holl came up with a typically upfront approach: five irregularly shaped boxes of translucent glass which he called lenses, cascading down one side of the hill, linked underground by a series of galleries – giving the old museum a thoroughly modern perspective which the Nelson-Atkins board immediately fell in love with, stating, “Steven was the only one who had a real idea.”

Opened this June, the building is described as not only one of Holl’s finest, but one of the best museum designs of the last generation. “Its boldness is no surprise but it is laudably functional with a clear layout, handsome and logically designed galleries, and a suffusion of natural light. His five glass structures don’t mock the old building; they dance before it and engage it.”

From his early drawings, Holl wanted the lenses to look like ice, deliberately disturbing the old museum’s symmetry so the new and old structures form a rectangular forecourt from which either can be entered. While in the middle of the forecourt is a square reflecting pool with a sculpture by Californian modern artist Walter de Maria as its centrepiece.

Named the Bloch Building, Holl’s extension with its irregular shape crisscrossed by ramps, stairs and balconies, polished white plaster and floods of natural light are designed to make you keep moving from one gallery to the next. People have commented on how Holl treats light as if it were a building material in itself and his extension is a true testament to this observation. There’s open wonderment at the “ethereal” effect of light on the Bloch during overcast days and particularly at night when, lit from within, the translucent glass lenses are “transformed into a family of weightless objects, a composition of immense light sculptures and every surface glows with the softness of the moonlight.”







Text: Chris Dove

SeXing Up Concrete

Concrete must be one of the dullest products ever invented, but now some clever folk in Finland have added an artistic touch to this basic building material.

We couldn't live without concrete. It's an essential man-made substance forming the foundation of any construction project, yet Finnish company Graphic Concrete have come up with 'concrete art' – managing to successfully glamorise it (a hard job if ever there was one) and offering the construction industry and home owners dramatic new design choices.

Adding a touch of class, a unique identity and a highly professional finish to any architectural structure, their patented Graphic Concrete technology involves applying a retardant to the surface of a special membrane – a method which allows pre-cast concrete manufacturers to produce high-quality concrete elements and slabs.

Tested, safe and cost-effective, the pattern on the surface results from the contrast between the fairface and the exposed fine aggregate finish, and offers developers, designers and the construction industry opportunities to use concrete in new and stylish ways.

Choose from the company's collection of graphic designs or develop your own unique style, with options for velvety smooth or a completely exposed fine aggregate finish.
Graphic Concrete Ltd www.graphicconcrete.fi

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Text: Chris Dove Photos: Courtesy of Christian Richters

A MODERN SUCCESS STORY STAGED IN THE SHADOWS OF WOODSTOCK

VILLA NM New York

AMSTERDAM ARCHITECTS UNSTUDIO SHOULD BE REAL PROUD OF THEIR ULTRA-MODERN SINGLE FAMILY HOME DESIGN IN UPSTATE NEW YORK. ACCORDING TO THE COMPANY'S LITERATURE, "THE 300M² SLOPING SITE IS USED AS A DEVICE FOR PROGRAMMATIC AND VOLUMETRIC ORGANIZATION. A BOX-LIKE VOLUME BIFURCATES INTO TWO SEPARATE VOLUMES; ONE SEAMLESSLY FOLLOWING THE NORTHERN SLOPE; THE OTHER LIFTED ABOVE THE HILL, CREATING A COVERED PARKING SPACE AND GENERATING A SPLIT-LEVEL INTERNAL ORGANIZATION. THE VOLUMETRIC TRANSITION IS GENERATED BY A SET OF FIVE PARALLEL WALLS THAT ROTATE ALONG A HORIZONTAL AXIS FROM VERTICAL TO HORIZONTAL. THE RULED SURFACE MAINTAINING THIS TRANSITION IS REPEATED FIVE TIMES IN THE BUILDING. FROM THE EXTERIOR THE REFLECTIVE GLASS SEAMS TO BECOME ONE WITH ITS SURROUNDINGS. FROM INSIDE THE HUGE WINDOW STRIPS FROM FLOOR TO CEILING ALLOW A FLUID CONTINUITY BETWEEN INTERIOR AND LANDSCAPE", WHILE OFFERING A RELAXED, HOLISTIC 360° VIEW OF THE VALLEY AND MEADOWS FROM ALL AROUND THE HOUSE.

THIS HIGHLY INDIVIDUAL SUMMERHOUSE DESIGN COMBINES CONCRETE AND GLASS WITH A LIGHT METAL CONSTRUCTION. THE GROUND FLOOR KITCHEN AND DINING AREA ARE CONNECTED BY A RAMP TO THE LIVING SPACE ABOVE; A SIMILAR RAMP CONNECTING THE LIVING AREA TO THE MASTER AND CHILDREN'S BEDROOMS ON THE SECOND FLOOR. ALL THE FUNCTIONAL FACILITIES (IE. BATHROOM, KITCHEN AND FIREPLACE) ARE LOCATED IN THE VERTICAL AXIS OF THE HOUSE, FREEING UP THE OUTER WALLS. ROOMS REQUIRING A HIGHER LEVEL OF PRIVACY ARE PARTLY CLOSED OFF TO THE EXTERIOR. SITUATED IN A HILLY, WOODY AREA TWO HOURS DRIVE FROM NEW YORK CITY, THE CATSKILLS AREA BECAME WORLD FAMOUS DURING THE SUMMER OF '69 WITH THE WOODSTOCK FESTIVAL. SUBSEQUENTLY SUFFERING A DECLINE IN POPULARITY, THE AREA HAS RECENTLY REGAINED POPULARITY AMONG YOUNGER CROWDS DESPERATE TO ESCAPE THE MANIC NATURE OF THE CITY THAT NEVER SLEEPS. WHO ON EARTH CAN BLAME THEM WITH SUCH A GRACIOUS BOLT HOLE TO RETURN HOME TO?

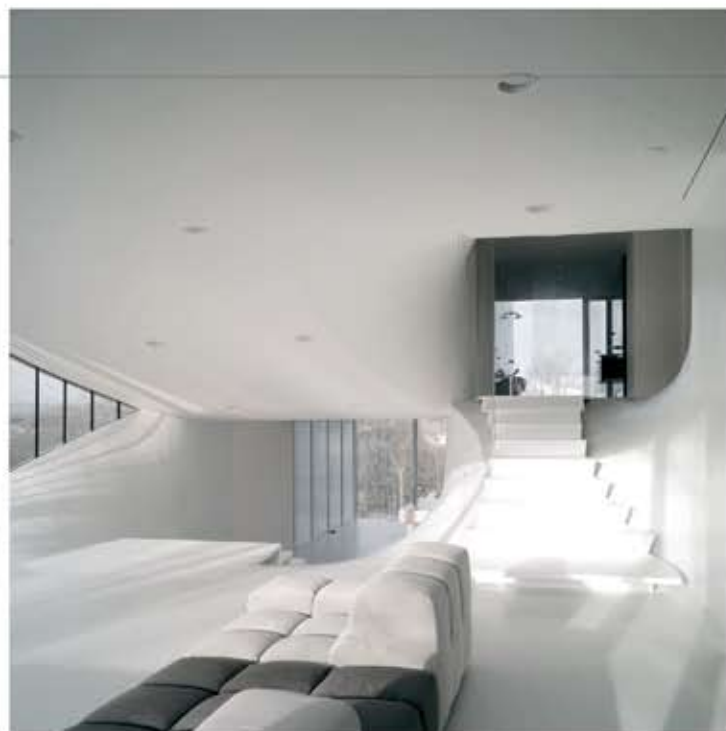
WE'RE BRINGING YOU MORE FASCINATING UNSTUDIO PROJECTS IN THIS AND FUTURE ISSUES OF MODERN DESIGN MAGAZINE.



Villa NM at night

Standing in the shadow of Woodstock





Interior space takes advantage of the split-level organisation

A black and white photograph of Albert Einstein, looking towards the camera with a slight smile. He is standing in front of a chalkboard, with his right arm raised as if drawing. On the chalkboard, there is a hand-drawn architectural sketch of a building with a staircase. The sketch is drawn with white lines on the dark surface. There are three blue rectangular highlights on the sketch: one on the wall of the building, one on the staircase, and one on the ground level. The text "Diseño Earle = service + professionalism / design" is written in white cursive at the top right of the chalkboard. Below it, the text "The logical choice for design and build company." is also written in white cursive.
$$D_{\text{Earle}}^{\text{iseño}} = \frac{\text{service} + \text{professionalism}}{\text{design}}$$

*The logical choice for design
and build company.*



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Photo Courtesy of Mark Jenkins



100% DESIGN EXHIBITION

Drawing crowds of 35,000+, no one does 100% Design like London

Late last month saw Earls Court Exhibition Centre turn into the world's leading destination for 100% Design London – the most important, must-be-seen-at event for movers and shakers in the industry.





From heavyweight designers to furniture retailers, it's become "the UK's premier contemporary interiors event...connecting the worlds of architecture and design with innovative, interior products, creativity and an exciting mix of new and established talent."

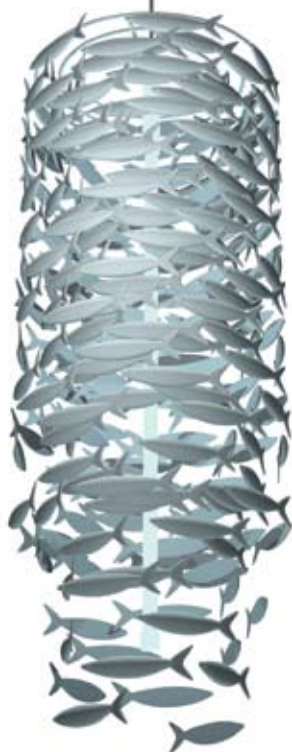
As highlighted on our EVENTS pages last month, an electric atmosphere and frantic programme of exhibitions, seminars, workshops, special features, awards and parties provided the perfect platform to quickly build relationships. New products were shown with stands turned into impromptu showrooms and where lots of international business was done with primary customers from around the world: architects, designers, stylists, distributors and reps.

As the UK's premier venue for showcasing the most innovative and inspired furniture, kitchens, bathrooms, lighting, floor and wall coverings, textiles and fabrics, its popularity is going from strength to strength. According to one creative director, "If you show at 100% then you're of a certain calibre", a sentiment put in context by another who explained: "It's the only UK show we do and the only European one other than Milan", while yet another gives their backing to the annual event for its "...good mix of ages, materials, products

Previous page: Tête à tête rocker by L. Beckerman. While away your time on this groovy dual rocking chair. **This page: Simply Beautiful Candelabra by Black+Blum.** Used individually or linked to create a cluster with natural balanced curves attracting the human eye.

Right: Shoal by Scabetti. Creating a dramatic sculptural form inspired by the ocean depths, a mass of fish act as one to protect themselves against predators.

Below: Lucille Chaise Lounge By Wambambo. A marriage between natural unprocessed bamboo poles and modern design, the stylised shape and foam slip reduces the corrugations against a person's body.



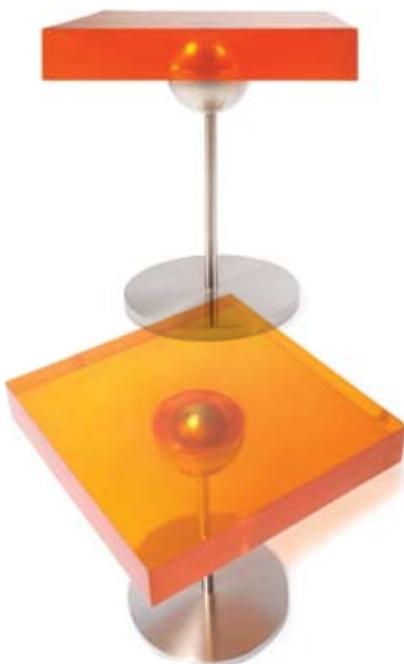
and the right people – that's the most important thing."

This year's event maximised the show's creative content with a series of special features designed to entertain and inspire visitors, as well as providing additional hubs of activity, networking and ideas exchanges for the designers and architects.

Overwhelmingly popular was the launch of 100% Futures – an exciting new showcase of the very best emerging design talent with awards presented for the most ground-breaking designs; most extraordinary design details and innovations for better building design; most sustainable products; most innovative, decorative and architectural lighting techniques; most leading edge and novel materials; new directions in manufacturing processes; an award for international entrepreneurship; as well as other categories of products chosen for the resonating impact they'll make on the increasingly diverse and dynamic design world.

Exhibitors and visitors to 100% Design London know they're not operating in a vacuum. Nowadays, this is a design world that has to be looked at in a global context extending far beyond its conventionally celebrated hotspots in Europe, the US and Japan. There's no turning back as we're seeing developments among creative young designers in the emerging Indian and Chinese markets start to make equally impressive inroads on this important artistic discipline – where aesthetics is the name of the game and it's a game everybody's in to win.

1 | Climbing light by Black & Blum. This striking wall lamp holds on to any single screw with the silver topped bulb creating an effective funky downlight. **2 | PlusOneTree Garden Seat by Casamania.** Our breath "connects us to the earth...but...if you run out of breath as you chop down a tree, don't blame it on the tree..... What a load of rubbish! Okay the real description: Modular pot and seat in polyethylene suitable for outdoor and public spaces. **3 | Key Lamp by Shimashima.** Linked to old memories and positively reinforces them. **4 | Lollypop Table by L. Beckerman.** Wonderful for entertaining whether as a side or coffee table, the transparent tangerine tabletop surprises with its myriad optical illusions created by light bouncing off the ball. **5 | Keiko Layered Glass by Shimashima.** Surprise, surprise! This looks like a wine glass but it's a cocktail glass and tumbler... maybe bringing someone to share both your glass and your drink with you?... **6 | Ice Chandelier by Refer+Stær.** A rich and spectacular look yet its simple asymmetric design gives away its modern Scandinavian look. **7 | James the Doorman by Black+Blum.** The perfect gentleman, holding the door open by wedging his foot under it. He doesn't just door stop - he's strong enough to keep books in place too!





2007 AGA KHAN ARCHITECTURAL AWARDS

ROYAL NETHERLANDS EMBASSY

ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA

[Dutch architects Dick van Gameren and Bjarne Mastenbroek have done their country proud – and raised the international profile of a leading Islamic country – by winning one of the nine Aga Khan Architecture Awards for their design of the Netherlands Embassy in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia this September.](#)

Paying homage to the surrounding nature and cultural diversity, the embassy complex commissioned by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs used the site's existing topography to integrate the embassy's main building into the landscape with an inherent sensitivity to place.

Selected as one of the award winners due to its "site-integrated, passive solar design...surpassing functional constraints", the structure's design "quietly supports security while placing emphasis on experience, encounter and efficiency."

Surrounded by dense eucalyptus groves, the structure rests along sloped terrain on an east-west axis. Combined with highly insulated concrete walls, floors and ceilings, the orientation captures natural solar and thermal processes to heat, cool and ventilate the embassy, minimising its dependence on mechanical systems.

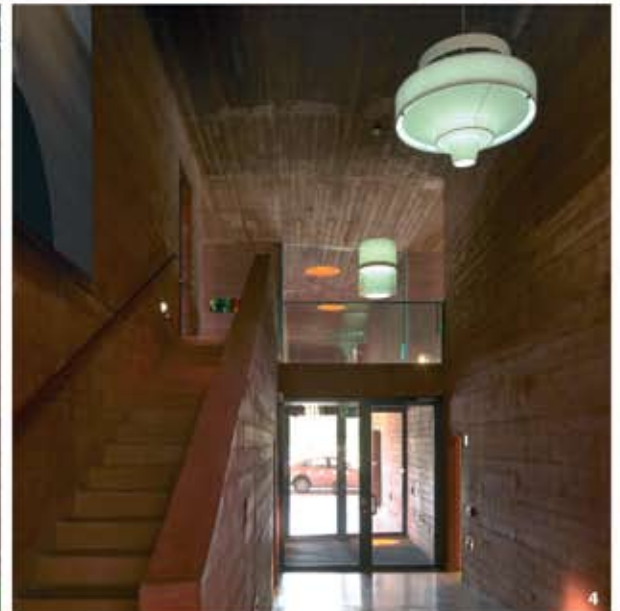
Like the country that surrounds it, the embassy building reflects a convergence of cultures. The texture and tones of the walls and roof mimic the regional architecture and red-ochre earth of Ethiopia. On its roof, a garden of shallow pools and raised islands suggest the low-lying landscape of the Netherlands, seamlessly integrating both Islamic and northern European cultures in ecological surroundings.



2



3



4

- 1 | Ethiopia's red-ochre earth pays homage to the surrounding nature and its cultural diversity. 2 | Singular setting...sloping east to west and surrounded by eucalyptus.
3 | The site's existing topography integrates the embassy's main building into the landscape. 4 | Highly insulated concrete floors, walls and ceiling capture natural solar heat.



ROYAL ONTARIO MUSEUM

CRYSTAL CLEAR CULTURE IN THE CITY

Sharp-fingered Modern architect Daniel Libeskind sketched this complex angular design for Toronto's Royal Ontario Museum extension while he was attending a family wedding. Lots of strange things happen at weddings but this must surely be a first.

The architect – who won the design contest to replace New York's World Trade Centre – has certainly got people talking about his 56,000 square foot Museum renovation, critics of its affront to Toronto's Victorian architectural heritage squaring up to full-bloodied Modernist sympathisers, and each commenting in equal measure.

The ambitious redevelopment of the ROM is one of the world's largest museum restoration and expansion projects. Scheduled for completion in 2009 and part opened in June this year, the extension is named after businessman-turned-philanthropist Michael Lee-Chin, the Jamaican-born Chinese-Canadian Forbes Billionaires list as one of the richest people in Canada.

The ROM is defined as much by its diverse collections of world cultures and natural history as by the international research that supports them. Seven galleries will house must-see exhibits including the world's largest known Black Star sapphires, masterworks from Japan and prehistoric dinosaur and mammal specimens. And on top of all that, the stylish black and white themed Crystal 5 restaurant overlooks the city through large windows and serves fresh, organic meals in biodegradable packaging. They clearly thought of everything.

Director/CEO of the ROM, William Thorsell, is clearly bursting with pride in the project, saying: "We shall put all our major collections on permanent display for the first time ever and improve visitor orientation and circulation. Greater intimacy between the visitor and objects will reveal the context and meaning of objects."



Charting the progress of one woman's uniquely creative take on saving the planet, come hell or high water.

New York's High Water Line – a mighty original effort, but for goodness sakes, is it really

ART?!?

With their recent news headline announcing: "Environmental Art Warns of Climate Change," Discovery Channel seem to think so, so who are we to judge?...

High Water Line is a public artwork on the New York City waterfront, designed to create an immediate visual and local understanding of the effects of climate change.

With the water line 10 feet above sea level around Brooklyn and Lower Manhattan marking the extent of increased flooding, brought on by more frequent storms and climate change, the environmental artist Eve Mosher has been drawing a blue chalk line and installing illuminated beacons in parks across the City.

Throughout this summer, she walked, chalked and marked 112 kilometres of coastline, creating public work and engaging in conversations about climate change and its potential impacts, drawing attention to the fact that "Through awareness and action, we can change the future."



Text: Chris Dove



Photos: Pushing her agenda: Eve Mosher paints the town blue



"High Water Line seeks to engage people on the street, in the neighbourhoods where they live, work and play. People will encounter the chalk line and beacons while going about their daily lives. The work is an intervention in routine – the public's as well as my own. This aspect of the piece ensures catching the public's attention, and it provides easy and direct access.

The simplicity of the project, aesthetically and visually, will appeal to people of all ages, ethnicities and economic backgrounds. Climate change is a silent, invisible threat – High Water Line gives voice and makes visible the affects of this threat. High Water Line is designed to engage the community and promote thoughtful, informed dialogue and action."

Alerting us to the fact that the current 100-year flood height in New York City and its environs is 9.7 feet – very close to the area outlined by her 10 foot contour – Mosher has studied the science of the City's potentially devastating flooding.

According to her research, because the highly

developed nature of the coast within this region houses such a large population, considerable private property and infrastructure will be potentially at risk to inundation and flooding.

Given a worst-case scenario Category 3 hurricane, Mosher frets that the maximum surge levels could reach 25 feet at JFK airport; 23 feet at Liberty Island, New Jersey; and 18 feet at West 96th Street, flooding the West Side Highway – and these scary figures don't include the additional heights of waves on top of the surge.

Funded by the New York Foundation for the Arts, New York State Council on the Arts, New York Department of Cultural Affairs and Brooklyn Arts Council, among others, her project certainly has some heavyweight supporters.

Why not check out the site <http://highwater-line.org> for yourselves then email us with your thoughts: Is this project REALLY art, as welcome as it is in raising our awareness of the dangers of climate change? We want to know your views – seriously – because we have a few of our very own...

Whichever side of the line you're on, please forward your comments to: magazine@d-earle.com

LUIS GORDILLO

XXX

Galería de arte
contemporáneo
gacma

del 14 de Septiembre al 14 de Noviembre de 2007

Colabora:
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F +34 952 24 58 55

Medios colaboradores:


MODERN DESIGN
CONCEPTS BY ROBERTO RAMOS

Horario: de 10.00 a 14.00 h.
de 16.00 a 20.00 h.
Sábados: mañana



Treats in store at Theatre Agora, Lelystad, The Netherlands

Destined for pride of place slap bang in the centre of the Netherlands, this design for the new theatre in Lelystad with its abundant sights, sounds and light is the essence of modern architecture and a key feature of the city's new Masterplan.

Designed by Amsterdam-based UNStudio, the flexible and transparent design explores the integration of theatre arts and new media. Its sculptured, multi-faceted form across its 5,890 square metres functions as an icon for the city centre both day and night when the theatre reverberates to the sounds of its main hall seating 750, its multi-functional hall seating 200, its theatre café and 300 square metre congress hall for big events.

The team was keen that the building's envelope composed an overlapping multi-faceted surface which, because of perforations, creates a moiré pattern of overlaid grids representing a kaleidoscopic effect. Internally the vertical foyer and its grand staircase are designed to carve through the centre of the building's volume, clearly delineating trajectories and orientation with the interconnecting theatres and congress halls located on different floors while winding through the entire building.







Photo Courtesy of Mark Jenkins

"I think a life in music is a life beautifully spent and this is what I have devoted my life to."

Luciano Pavarotti, 12th October 1935 – 6th September 2007



Cartoon: Des Buckle



Plaudits still pouring in *Post-Pavarotti*

Text: Chris Dove

As an aspiring Ad Exec in the late 80s, my Creative Director singled me out to work with him on "an exciting educational project" (his words) with London's Royal Ballet and Royal Opera House to help bring the pleasures of classical dance and high opera to the masses.

I say I was 'singled out' because my Director knew darn well I was a practising 'disco diva' – committed to dance music alright, but strictly the pounding, non-stop nightclub type, ignorantly refusing to listen to anything else. Opera? Ballet?? He had to be joking? He wasn't.

So, you can imagine my profound sense of déjà vu when, on the morning of Pavarotti's death, my current Creative Director likewise 'singled me out' to write this article, applauding both Pavarotti the Man and Pavarotti the World's Best-Known Tenor.

Conspiracy theories raced through my mind. I'm (still) into dance music, having regressed from Disco to Techno in the intervening years, so what in all honestly could I possibly write about Pavarotti?...

I needn't have wondered. Throughout that evening and well into the night – and with curiously simultaneous timing – every single TV news channel was awash with reports on The Great Man's Death,

commenting on his musical legacy and mourning his passing as a tragedy that reached beyond the confines of opera music. And there were right.

Holding my hand up and admitting I'm no lover of opera music (nor ballet dancing for that matter), I was literally forced to listen to the endless praise being heaped upon Pavarotti as TV crews gathered outside his villa in Modena, north-central Italy. But, strike me down with a feather if I too didn't feel a twinge in my throat, as I re-lived clips of his crowd-pulling concerts in concert with millions of his fans worldwide.

So, what made Pavarotti so 'flab-bergastingly' popular, loved by people of all ages, cultures, backgrounds and lifestyles? What had I been missing all those years? And then it struck me: it was, of course, his voice. His masterly voice towered above all others with the strength of his emotional and, dare I say it, his natural, soulful overtones.

"The Maestro's" musical legacy

Pavarotti's music agent, Terri Robson, rightly called him "The Maestro" as we were taken back to his modest beginnings in Modena where, aged nine, he developed a keen interest in singing and joined the local church choir with his father. Having

begun formal operatic training at 19, he failed to find recognition for his art for the next six years, but thanks to his parent's continued support, he stuck at it.

In 1965, as an impromptu stand-in for a tenor taken ill on an Australian tour, Pavarotti was warmly received during his triumphant performances and his popularity rapidly spread throughout the world. He captivated fans and critics alike with his voluminous voice: they'd never heard anything like it – one of his shows at the New York Metropolitan Opera earned him a record 17 standing ovations. Little wonder he was ranked the third highest selling musician behind Madonna and Elton John in the 80s.

And so his legacy grew – along with his celebrated waistline. Indeed it's been argued that without his numerous plates of pasta [sic], his voice could never have achieved the magnificent range, depth and tone that it did, especially his "high C" note which became one of his trademarks.

Mixing it with famous friends

Pavarotti's crossover into mainstream music came as he delighted an unlikely audience of 800 million football fans around the world when he clubbed together with Spanish stars Plácido Domingo and José Carreras as 'The Three Tenors' to sing operatic classics on the eve of the 1990 World Cup final in Rome, Italy. This was followed by repeat renditions during the 1994, 1998 and 2002 World Cups, to ever increasing armies of fans.

By this time, Pavarotti had made it to the top of the mainstream music charts with collaborations and sold-out concerts performing with the likes of U2, Sting, Robbie Williams, Youssou N'Dour, Oasis, Lou Reed, Grace Jones and James Brown – often as part of huge charity fundraising events bringing global poverty and the hardship of war-weary refugees into the spotlight.

And it's for this boundless appeal among diverse, multi-age audiences that we must ALL take our hats off to Luciano Pavarotti. Single-handedly, he'd succeeded in taking the opera world by storm, transforming an elitist musical discipline into a populist genre and engaging new audiences in a way that no well-intentioned educational campaign by the Royal Opera House ever could. Having spurned his musical talents during his performance-packed career, only now can I appreciate him for what he was. Truly A Maestro.

The Modernist musician

Readers wondering what Pavarotti has to do with Modern Design need only consider the true impact of his work. No one can deny opera's limited appeal prior to him taking to the stage. To coin a phrase, he literally and physically took opera 'out of the box' it had been confined to for centuries – no mean feat given the class divide, where high art was the preserve of aristocrats. Modernism's central theme, on the other hand, has always been to improve the lives of "the masses" – that's you and me, mate – and to break down social and economic barriers. By opening opera up to the world with his singing partnerships with rock stars; by visibly sharing his concerns and caring for those less fortunate than ourselves; and by taking us all with him in these quests, that's Modern Design.

Nicely turned out again thanks to charming Hussein Chalayan

Text: Chris Dove Photos: Courtesy of Hussein Chalayan

While at St Martin's, his habit of carrying a bag full of books on architecture, philosophy and physics earned him the nickname 'Mad Professor', but he needn't have taken offence at this back-handed compliment - his studies and interests were so diverse and far removed from the typical fashion student, that one lecturer suggested he study sculpture instead. Ignoring this advice, his undisputed architectural eye and natural fashion sense combined to stand him in good stead for the unorthodox designs he displayed in later collections.

Two years after St Martin's, Chalayan beat 100 other competitors to clinch London's top fashion design award in an Absolut Vodka contest, winning £28,000 (£41,000) to design creations for the capital's prestigious Fashion Week in October 2005.

Twice named 'British Designer of the Year', Chalayan's minimalist and elegant designs are often based on experiments and abstract drawings of existing items including metrological charts, solar panels, even armour-plating. What fashion observers call his "future minimalist" collections are as much art installation as fashion, and his understanding of the intricacies of architecture are evident in his highly individual artistic interpretations, including heavily pleated concertina dresses and his famous cone and Perspex dresses. One look at these efforts indicates that Ready-to-Wear wasn't an immediate part of Chalayan's early vocabulary.

Describing in Elle magazine how "I was never a fashion magazine nerd" (spot the irony), Chalayan's designs for New York-based cashmere company TSE found favour with the company's Creative Director for his ability "to make a commercial collection with a pure design focus. He pays attention to detail but the finished look is very simple. It's a very intellectual approach."

This intellect permeates all areas of his working life. Operating between his studios in Covent Garden and Istanbul, Chalayan developed a reputation for being a serious man who steers clear of fashion's fickle - and not always intellectually gifted - social scene, preferring to read about world politics or his favourite philosophers than be seen with the "it" crowd in any London eatery or nightclub.

Such modesty and talent have earned him the admiration of fashion VIPs - McCartney, Campbell, Beckham, but a comment by ultra-elusive Rei Kawakubo of *Comme des Garçons* really stands out, simply saying of Chalayan: "I like his attitude and way of thinking." An attitude and way of thinking that earned the designer an MBE, Member of the British Empire in June last year, when he was still just 36.

Towards the end of that year, in October 2006, his Paris collection saw his feats of technology and conceptual art move through the decades - from the fitted hourglass, vintage

Dior look to the Paco Rabanne metal-link shift, backed by music echoing the sounds of jet engines and beating helicopter rotors.

Last December, Chalayan was one of forty-six avant-garde architects and fashion designers to exhibit at the Los Angeles Museum of Contemporary Art show "Skin + Bones: Parallel Practices in Fashion and Architecture" in what's described as the "increasingly fruitful dialogue between the two disciplines." A small stage set of Chalayan's wearable living room furniture featuring his famous telescopic wooden coffee table that becomes a skirt, together with his slip-covered chairs that convert into suitcases and dresses led the themes of "body", "shelter" and "identity."

As a follow-up, his Spring/Summer 07 collection featured fantastically free-flowing frocks which, finally, spoke overtly of Ready-to-Wear. Full of tech wizardry, Chalayan used a domotics-style system of elevation and air compression to demonstrate his eye-catching "flap around" dress and cute, uplifting cap, much to the delight of his admiring audiences who lapped up a truly spectacular visual show.

And of his Autumn/Winter 08 collection, fashion critics are collectively aghast at Chalayan's serenity and maturity in producing simply beautiful dresses, commenting that "Shorn of angst and overt symbolism, his clothes are now young, delicate, ingeniously pieced, and finely layered, using all the techniques he's refined during a decade of experimentation".

New Collection Autumn 2007

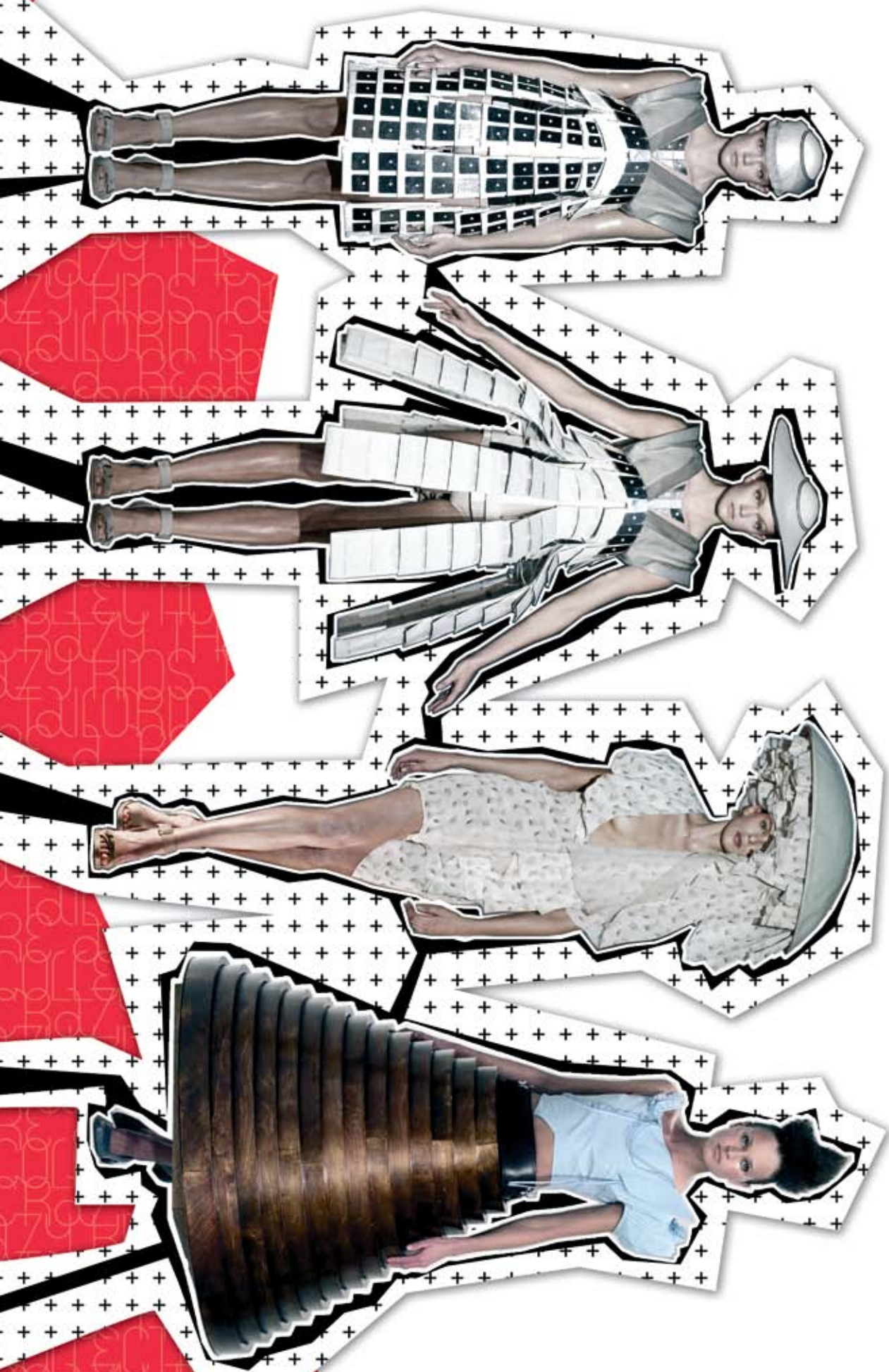


Chalayan himself says of them: "I like graphic play around the body, and if I can get a sense of life in the clothes, I'm happy. I wanted to prove that my approach is nothing to be frightened of, that people can wear these things." His new line in pretty, provocative, figure-flattering fashion is definitely What Women Want today.



HUSSEIN CHALAYAN

Nicosian-born Turkish Cypriot, Hussein Chalayan showed his first collection in a Browns window display even before getting round to completing his studies at Central St Martin's School of Art. A great start aged just 23. Browns, for the uninitiated, is fashion's "focal point of spirit and cosmopolitan London edginess."





Whistle-stop tour of the Week

Well I'm glad that's over and it's only just begun! As anyone who knows anything, daaahling, New York Fashion Week is the first and biggest of the "Big Four" shows, and while the runways have stalled for this season, the real business behind NYFW has plenty more mileage, having set a high benchmark for the London, Paris and Milan outings to follow.

The look we'll all be dying to replicate next spring/summer is "centred on a ladylike polish with wasp-waists and sheer, almost transparent fabrics in muted colours – accented with ruffles and feathers for the more frivolous fashion risk takers". If this very specific style doesn't happen to fit your wardrobe, simply sling on a big black bin bag instead – no one will notice.

Toni Maticevski

One of the year's most stand out outfits came from Toni Maticevski with his flouncy, wrap around comfort zone, more reminiscent of a campsite sleeping bag than a catwalk creation, though definitely catwalk not campsite price.

Gwen Stefani's L.A.M.B.

L.A.M.B. by label but not by nature – this is a wicked collection from a wicked girl – and we mean that in the nicest possible way, Gwen! She effortlessly embraces the new electro disco movement with dark and sparkly and a bold, linear, black and white mod influence, plaid patterned minis, slinky cocktail dresses and sassy street wear, adding that definitive touch in her own unmistakable

Text: Chris Dove

New York

Fashion Week - Spring 2008 Collections - 5-12 September 2007

"I don't know anything about this stuff."

Actor Matthew Broderick (The Producers), the ONLY genuine, honest person at the entire 8-day event.

"No one invited me."

Ralph Lauren's response to queries about other shows he'd be attending. Good job he threw a party for himself.

"Fashion remains the most culturally potent force that everyone loves to deride."

NY fashion press.



0% Fat



Gwen Stefani: L.A.M.B.

able fashion. Keep on doing what you do, Gwen, we love you!

Top style trends and influences

Still, according to a head count of the forthcoming styles and trends, there's an earthier, more tangible take on what's in store next year. The 60s era was way ahead in the style stakes as designers scratched their forty year itch to focus on the 60s as their favourite design look.

Some telling statistics reveal designers' preferences: 54 garments were influenced by the 1920s; 19 by the 1930s; 243 by the 40s; 145 by the 50s; 441 by the 60s; 230 by the 70s; and 245 by the 80s. And the trend for leather outshone any other material excluding knits.

Top parties

Talking of the 60s, 68-year-old Ralph Lauren's 40th Anniversary Dinner in Central Park was always going to be a cause célèbre. "Everyone's going nuts!" was the overriding response from those loathing Lauren for "hogging" the best runway models and forbidding them to walk in other shows – showing his clout in monopolising models, true A-Listers



Levi's Warhol

Ports1961

(Deniro, Hoffman, Donna Karan, Vera Wang) and others with a "studied disinterest in fashion".

After-Party of the Week Award went to Marc Jacobs, America's darling of fashion, following his Fifth Avenue show at the Armory. Doors opened 41 minutes earlier than expected (every minute counts when you're fashion paparazzi), lights dimmed and Jacobs ran out giving his end of show bow at the beginning of the show, to much amusement and confusion among the crowds. The night's revelries took a similar bent: Jacobs ambushed by the press with his bodyguards politely but firmly telling them all to get lost.



INDEX: 2007 AWARD EXHIBITION

An arena for contemporary design and design thinking

IT WAS ALL GO IN COPENHAGEN LAST MONTH AT THE INDEX: AWARD EXHIBITION. THE LARGE-SCALE OUTDOOR SPACE OFFERED AN EXCITING, VISIONARY INSIGHT INTO CREATIVE DESIGN SOLUTIONS THAT NOT ONLY LOOK GOOD BUT ARE AIMED AT IMPROVING LIFE FOR PEOPLE AROUND THE WORLD, GIVING AN IN-DEPTH INSIGHT INTO THE TACIT AND EXPLICIT NEEDS OF YOUNG AND OLD.

With its Patron HRH The Crown Prince of Denmark, INDEX is divided into five award categories: BODY, HOME, WORK, PLAY and COMMUNITY, and with five award prizes of €100,000 each, exhibitors presented designs addressing such diverse problems as water shortage, CO2 emissions, environmental sustainability and health and safety at work.

106 large transparent acrylic spheres adorned the 17th century Kongens Nytorv square in the city centre, creating one of the most spectacular exhibition spaces ever erected. The spheres appeared as innovative display cases exhibiting the top-nominated designs 24 hours a day, with an information centre and video footage of each design on constant show for the entire two week event.

The "World's Biggest Design Award Presented in Copenhagen" under the banner "Design to Improve Life" saw well-deserving Awards handed out, each recipient taking home their €100,000 prize. And this year, a special PEOPLE'S CHOICE AWARD was handed to Hân Pham for her 'Antivirus' plastic can segregating used hypodermic needles and securing them inside a permanently sealed can. She was inspired by her experience as a young girl in a Singaporean refugee camp where she received a vaccination with an infectious needle which brought on a lengthy illness.



1 | COMMUNITY AWARD, 'XO Laptop': The One Laptop per Child Foundation's \$100 laptop is intended for schoolchildren in developing countries. **2 | PLAY AWARD, The Tesla Roadster:** This 100% electric sports car aims to raise the profile and caché of electric cars, ridding them of their golf cart reputation. **3 | WORK AWARD, 'Tongue Sucker':** This first-aid tool enables bystanders to open the airway of an unconscious person, designed in the wake of the 2005 London terrorist bombing. **4 | HOME AWARD, 'Solar Bottle':** Cleans polluted water using solar energy, exposing transparent plastic bottles filled with contaminated water to full sunlight for six hours, destroying the water's pathogens. **5 | BODY AWARD, 'Mobility for Each One':** An energy-return prosthetic foot costing only \$8 to produce, a fraction of the price of similar models.



lamp/lamp 100per

This iconic light bulb gives the mysterious sensation of "unknown becoming known" given its natural function of "shining". Light bulbs that we've so casually used in the past now give us new values and affinity. This high voltage version (~230V) was released at 100% Design for the first time to an appreciative, enlightened audience.

www.100per.com



fruit basket teapot Alessi

Yes we know it's not a fruit basket but a teapot trying its hardest to look like a pear. Fooled us. Sweet tea comes in shiny stainless steel and holds 1 qt 16 oz.

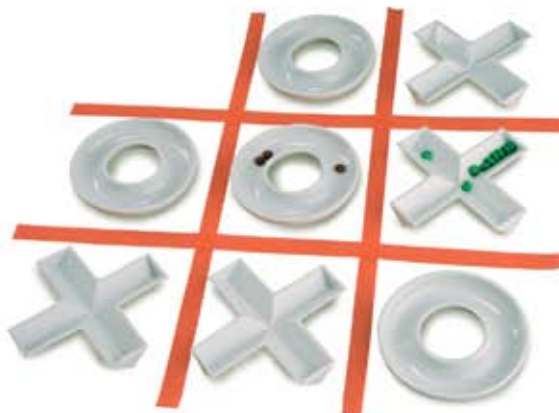
www.alessi.com



diamondz Accuro-Korle

Radiating sophistication, this wall-mounted central heating system is an exceptionally striking design, particularly suited to places where floor space is restricted and/or to making a warm, artistic style statement. Named Diamond for obvious reasons, is it the new 'girls' best friend'?

www.accuro-korle.co.uk



criss cross modus

X marks the spot for this simple table setting blending utility, entertainment and communication. When guests come to party, they can play shapes before nibbling your snacks (boring party or what?). 10 high-fired porcelain Os and Xs with a foldable cross.

www.modusdesign.com



moon system Zaha Hadid

Fly me to the moon with this happy meeting of attitude and experimentation typical of Zaha Hadid, continuing her exploration of the complexity of curved geometry. Metallic as if it had just arrived from space, Moon System is crafted from a highly dynamic form: a single shape containing the back, seating and armrests as if "sculpted" from a single block.

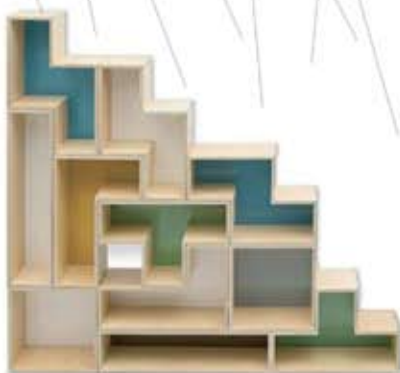
www.bebitalia.com



parallax shelving zaum

Sloping shelves are the starting point in exploring the use of oblique lines to enhance changes in our personal perceptions. Ideal if you've got sloping floors too. The modular system is both a mobile shelf and a room divider, made from aluminium and 100% recyclable.

www.zaum.net



tetrad babygadget

This Tetris-inspired kids' bookshelf is a throwback to the 80s computer game and features a wooden exterior in white or birch with shiny metal backing in a choice of pretty pastel colours. "Good game, good game!" for modern tots everywhere.

www.babygadget.net



muon Ross Lovegrove

Fabricated from super-formed aluminium to achieve otherwise impossible shapes while converging design aesthetics and the physics of sound, these two-metre high loudspeakers are limited to just 100 pairs worldwide...

www.kef.com



tassel light Rothschild+Bickers

Inspired by Victorian decadence, these lights combine a contemporary free blown form with sumptuous fabric tassels. Sits equally well in both modern and period interiors. Available in ruby, amber and grey.

www.rothschildbickers.com



blend Karim Rashid

Always thinking 'outside the box', Rashid's new wave storage units are designed with thin slats giving an innovative effect and oozing quality. Structure and front in lacquered colours, available as a storage cabinet or wardrobe with one door or two.

www.horm.com



JJ armchair Antonio Citterio

Fun, furry furniture always makes us smile. High backrest with glamorous, ironic look attained through white Mongolian fur upholstery underlining its visual lightness. Flimsy and extraordinarily soft, fur is an inducement to sit down, a funny provocation... a touch of folly.

www.bebitalia.com



maria Luca Nichetto

Ideal for interior or exterior decoration, window displays or room dividers, the thermo-sensitive pigments allow the transgenic leaf to change colour with the temperature. The Venetian inspired "crocheted-lace" reproduces the leaves' vein patterns in a functional marriage of natural and artificial.

www.casamania.it

GATHERING AN ECLECTIC MIX OF DESIGNERS TOGETHER TO SHOWCASE A NEW RANGE OF PRODUCTS, ALL EVOLVING AROUND ONE CENTRAL THEME – THE HUMBLE STOOL – AND OFFERING UP A VARIED COLLECTION OF SUMMER 2007 DESIGNS IN VARIOUS SHAPES, SIZES AND GUISES. IN THIS ADMIRABLE “OPEN” PROJECT, THE DESIGNERS HAVE BEEN GIVEN FREE REIGN TO PRESCRIBE THE OBJECT’S INTENT, SO HERE ARE THE INTERPRETATIONS OF THEIR WORKS IN PRETTY MUCH THEIR OWN WORDS... (HONEST).



TAKE A SEAT AT PARIS'S

GALERIE BRED

1 | Tabouret ZZ: Each made of 25 pieces of walnut wood, identical, quartered and stuck together in a different way, offering a multitude of possibilities. Designer: Martin Szekely. **2 | Tabouret Blow:** Imagine the perfect place to sit. There's a form made in glass like a bubble coming out of the ground: 46cm high with a soft, perfect shape just right for your perfectly-shaped backside. Designer: James Irvine. **3 | Tabouret Pimp:** Based on a simple construction principle: a standard H profile and a folded sheet become the connecting elements while its shiny aspect complements the simple construction. Designer: Adrien Rovero. **4 | Sans noms:** "This stool is built like a garment. Made up of four light panels of chip board, cut, shaved and assembled. The seat and legs meld into one being, resulting in a simple shape whose emptied body retains but the shell. Designer: François Bauchet. **5 | Tabouret Enigma:** This black and yellow checkerboard pattern is a totem with an enigmatic appearance. Fibre glass lacquered high-gloss paint, a cylinder on top, two half spheres on the bottom. Designer: Alessandro Mendini. **6 | Tabouret Argent:** In a limited edition of 8 pieces, each numbered and signed, made of folded pieces assembled by brazing. Designer: François Azambourg. **7 | Tabouret Occasional:** This «structural object» could possibly be used as a stool on the unique condition that the potential user provides a seat of his or her choice – without this essential gesture, there can be no stool! Designer: Pierre Charpin. **8 | Vol.II:** A solid form that's all about thick leather and saddle making. A purely three dimensional physical object, elementary and beautiful, sitting on it will leave traces and patina. Designer: Konstantin Grcic. **9 | Tabouret Lasting Void:** Casting an abstract archetypal form of an animal's internal organs, this stool is more akin to the embryonic stages of a new life form than to an animal end product. Designer: Julia Lohmann.



Kid's Kool Themed Spaces

HANDS UP! WHO WANTS TO BE A KID AGAIN?

ME, ME, ME,

ME!

From cool schools to hip learning environments, kids design is radically cranking up, exposing the next generation to fashionable interiors and creating well-rounded adults with a heightened sense of good design. About time too.

Nestlé's Chocolate Museum, Mexico

Mexico is the ancient home of chocolate, so when Nestlé's factory in Mexico City needed a new inner pathway for visitors to see their favourite chocs roll off the production lines, Rojkind Arquitectos's came up with a design that's a treat for the eye and chocolate lovers' palates. Kids, parents and teachers drool with excitement as they approach the entrance, preparing for their 'hands-on' gooey experience. Spot the attention to detail: brown coloured foam seats resembling cut outs of irregular chocolate chunks. Yummy!



Bye-bye boring bookshops

Designed to inspire children to enter and purchase, these slippery-slide-inspired shelves house books in a fun way, breaking from the traditional table and chair reading areas with padded L-shapes for tiny readers. Dull lighting is replaced by snakelike fittings radiating a variety of colours while providing plenty of light to read with.



Laid-back libraries

Traditionally, libraries suffer from an image problem. Hordes of books coupled with the 'sshhhh' factor don't make for a cool kids' environment. By installing colourful interiors such as oversized bookshelves, a learning space is transformed into an area where kids are inspired to read and learn.



Ordrup School

Reading tubes at this popular, progressive Ordrup School in Gentofte, Denmark are a cry from traditional school designs with a teacher's desk and blackboard. Varied rooms with space for differentiated teaching and creative thinking feature heightened window seating where kids can sit and watch the world outside, green platforms with round holes where discussions can buzz and bubble, and large upholstered tubes where they can hide with a good book or spend some time alone.



PlayPlaces

Forget fake grass playgrounds – this daycare centre in Denmark uses a tree trunk as its very foundation, evoking a warmth which youngsters eagerly respond to (when we were kids – long before Play-Stations et al – climbing real trees was as natural as fun and games got...). Here, Dream Blossoms grow out of the tree trunk creating sleeping areas to snuggle in and nap, while its Lego-like look and feel encourages today's school kids to do the sorts of things most of us used to get a good spanking for!



Pampered primadonnas

For the ultimate giggly girls' night out, Alton Towers Hotel in Staffordshire, UK caters for up to six sleeping beauties in its special Sleep Over Suite. The soundproof room features a party area with entertainment system, karaoke machine, mini dance floor and pink fridge filled with ice cream; while the chill out beds connect into one big bed for six sweet, under-sixteens plus a wall-to-wall mirrored bathroom flowing with pampering products.



Easy eating

10 minutes from central Amsterdam, this light, spacious restaurant, Praaq, gives children a sense of independence while seated within their parents' view, allowing them to play with giant puzzles, draw and order from their very own menu from their specially designed kids' table.



Atomium Kids Sphere Hotel

A night in an alternative universe is the ultimate kids' dream. At the Kids Sphere Hotel in Belgium, a replica of the Atomium iron molecule with nine aluminium spheres offers overnight accommodation for starry-eyed guests – set among fascinating sci-fi exhibitions and original spheres. Kids are entertained with a packed calendar of events including films while the restaurant at the top shows off Brussels at its best.



THE MOTOROLA
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SOUTHERN FLORIDA IS A
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INVENTION, AND WHERE
"KIDS CAN DO WHAT
THEY WANNADO."

Mission **M-Lab** by Gensler

America's first indoor
role-playing theme park for kids

Providing 'edutainment' with a career focus and exposing kids to science, technology and innovation, each child is given a white lab coat and transformed into an "M-Ventor", working together with other kids on a technology-based game to solve a difficult problem. Once they've completed their task, they're greeted with a congratulatory "Mission Accomplished" banner and some positive responses to the question: "What do you wanna do when you grow up?"

With its futuristic aluminium and panelite façade, the 1,200 square foot theme park features seven internal chambers, each meticulously designed depending on the room's task at hand. With the seven zones named Entry Façade, Decompression Zone, Mission Control, Transition Tunnel, M-Lab, Pod Workstation and Exit, the end result is a realistic series of rooms that embrace each child's fantasy of becoming the next influential innovator.

Remember when "kids will be kids"? Now kids are playing at being adults – having fun and learning while they're at it!

For more information:
www.gensler.com
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Text: Chris Dove

Reversible Destiny Lofts

“Architecture against death: Live better, longer and even forever”

That's the no-nonsense claim from Japanese artist Shusaku Arakawa and poet Madeline Gins of their innovative housing project in Tokyo – aiming to keep elderly residents sharp by throwing them off balance!

Unveiling a small apartment complex in a Tokyo suburb that's far from comfortable and calming, the pair say: “People, particularly old people, shouldn't relax and sit back to help them decline, they should be in an environment that stimulates their senses and invigorates their lives.”

With this seemingly heartless but logical objective in mind, they designed a building they call ‘Reversible Destiny Lofts’ featuring nine brightly coloured apartments resembling a kids’ indoor playground. The interior of each apartment features a dining room with an erratically sloping, grainy floor; a sunken kitchen; a study with a concave floor; electric switches in unexpected places so the old folk have to grope around to find the right one; and doors so small, they have to bend to crawl in and out! Constantly losing their balance, having to pick themselves up and often tripping over and falling is all part of their daily routine.

Ten minutes of stumbling around is enough to send even the healthiest youngster over the edge yet according to Arakawa, that's precisely the point. “[The

apartment] makes you alert and awakens instincts, so you'll live better, longer and even forever.” The US-based visionary couple produce boundary-defying art and architecture, promoting their ‘Reversible Destiny Lofts’ with the phrases “We have decided not to die” and “Architecture against death”.

They must be doing something right as their controversial yet original approach to staving off old age has found favour with Japan's elderly residents – the apartments cost twice as much as a normal apartment in the neighbourhood and there's a waiting list to buy. So much so that there are even proposals for a ‘Hotel Reversible Destiny’ in New York with the 5th floor being the ‘Transformation + Healing’ level to “produce, expand and harmonize energy so that your life can go on...”

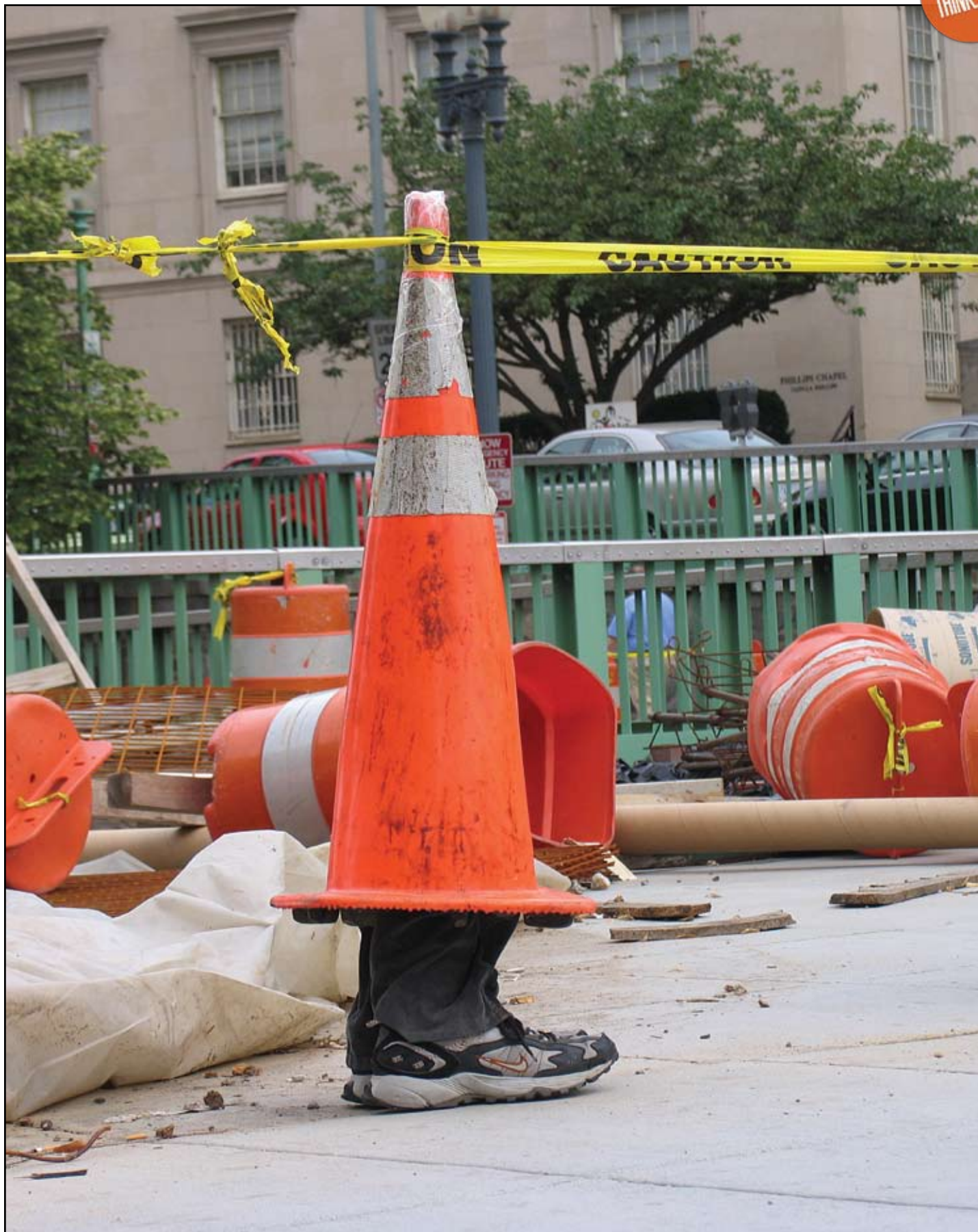


Photo Courtesy of Mark Jenkins




Herd the joke about Crowd Farms? ...

Well it isn't a joke. Crowd Farming is a concept designed by two students at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology School of Architecture and Planning, aiming to milk the mechanical movement of thousands of assembled people to produce electrical power. Their experiments prove that given enough people power, sufficient energy can be produced to move a train or power sound systems at rock concerts. They've already shown how the simple act of sitting on a "power stool" can generate enough electricity to turn on four LED lights, literally transferring power from the bottom up.

Their idea builds on the emerging consensus that power generation in the coming decades will need to rely on sustainable resources including wind, water, the sun and our own bodies. "We engage with the city in a very physical and bodily way, every day, even though people don't really think about it like that," they explain. "Our project tries to make that connection visible through this balance between capturing and using energy."

Seeing crowds of pedestrians walking over the Williamsburg Bridge to Brooklyn during the 2003 New York City blackout gave them the idea about capturing the collective power of crowds. With training shoes and calculators at the ready, they estimated that an individual pacing around an apartment wouldn't generate much power as each step would be just enough to light two 60 Watt light bulbs for a split second. But the aggregate power of 28,527 steps could power a moving passenger





train for the same length of time. Basic physics maybe but these bright sparks have shown a valuable, practical application.

Most of us have heard of projects involving human energy to power everything from bicycle lights to hand-crank radios, so while the Crowd Farm idea isn't entirely new, it does go one step further by using people's collective mechanical movement to meet the environmentally sustainable goal of producing non-polluting energy. And with billions of people walking around the planet, the students' supporters say: "If there's a sensible, sustainable way of capturing that energy, it's a win-win."

The students went so far as to project 3-dimensional images of a regional train station and subway platforms in Torino, Italy in 2050 embedded with pressure-responsive units. High-volume sections of the flooring or stairs could be overlaid with special mats to capture the energy of a crowd or key areas embedded with variously sized electricity-generating boxes in the sub-flooring.

In April this year, their conceptual design won top honours in a student competition sponsored by the Swiss-based Holcim Foundation for Sustainable Construction, however the students agree that transforming the concept into a cost-effective system on a large scale would require a dramatic ramping up of current technology.

We'll have to wait and see if there'll be light at the end of the students' tunnel but even so, Gary Numan's 1979 hit UK song "Are 'Friends' Electric?" now has a powerful new significance.

THE DOMOTIC HOUSE GATEWAY

All new homes are fitted with internet connection and satellite reception and, since all new electronic products are digital, home automation means they're able to talk to each other and easily interact, giving us better control and higher levels of enjoyment of our music, video and other electronic appliances and networked media.

The domotics house is the 'smart home' featuring all categories of home entertainment and intelligent home systems, using all types of digital media. These range from wall or stand mounted plasma and LCD TVs (Liquid Crystal Display); multi-room streaming of HD (High Definition) DVDs including Blu-ray; home cinema surround sound systems; multi-room playback functions on audio stereo equipment; lighting systems with built-in sensors allowing us to control mood settings in various rooms; energy saving climate and curtain controls; and of course, security cameras.

Appliances are installed and networked in such a way that they can be controlled centrally via touch panel key pads, PDA (Personal Digital Assistant) or infra red remote control rather than traditional remote controls, or via a PC equipped with web browser, telephone or mobile phone. Larger fonts for displaying messages can enhance usability for elderly or disabled users, and the graphical user interface allows us to manipulate a given choice of menus or using speech recognition.

How the domotic house works

Network connection indicators accept user commands; Appliance switcher tabs switch between controls; Status line messages indicate the status of the appliance together with system-wide alarms and



error notifications; Appliance-specific controls eg room lights, oven, washing machine, plant watering.

Human interaction with these home devices is more natural using visual commands as well, eg movement detection to calculate changes in subsequent images, human face detection to detect the presence of a human face in front of a camera, while laser pointers detect the position of a pointer on screen and reports its coordinates.

Other visual cues include tracking people by microphone, face detection for security applications, lip reading to enhance speech recognition, emotion detection to make devices more user-friendly and gesture detection to detect various movements.

OK, so just because these technologies are here, what are the true benefits of having a fully kitted out domotic home? Good question, and one we'll address next month when we look at the real life advantages of investing in the "smart home".

Re-edited with kind permission from Future Lifestyle, Marbella.

WHAT'S IN STORE

Airwash waterless washing machine

Dry cleaning isn't new but this waterless, detergent-less home washing machine certainly is. Winner of the INDEX Awards: Design to Improve Life Competition, the innovative design by two Singaporean students will be warmly welcomed by all green-minded consumers. Using negative ions, compressed air and deodorants to clean your clothes, the eco-friendly appliance will wash whites whiter than Persil and brighten colours in minutes. Ironically inspired by the workings of a waterfall, Airwash can clean all kinds of garments including delicate fabrics, making conventional dry cleaning obsolete. The height of innovation in both form and function, its sleek, minimalist design is conveniently unobtrusive and takes a forward-thinking, sustainable approach to a mundane domestic chore. With no more visits to the dry cleaners, no more waiting days for that favourite 'Dry Clean' only garment we inevitably forget about for months, one will be nestling in "the home of 2020" long before then. Hopefully though, its makers will have come up with a much snappier name... In the meantime Sketchleys, look out – your time is nearly up!



AIRHEAD

WE'VE REALLY
HEARD IT ALL NOW!!!

This lightweight 'Wing' Personal Windmill produces enough electricity to satisfy the primary needs of the mobile, connected individual. "Perfect for remote installations," apparently, 'Wing' is also "suitable as a secondary power source in any settled situation." (?) It earned an INDEX Award: Design to Improve Life in the HOME category though, so what the hell do we know?... And sorry, the answer's NO – we are NOT including it in our INDEX Design feature this month. Far too ridiculous compared to the genuinely useful, well-thought out items that did win. So there.

www.iskrawind.com



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music

for all ears
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MUSIC 176



Tiesto

In Search of Sunrise Vol. 6

If you love trance you must buy this album! Following his two year absence from Ibiza, Tiesto's regained inspiration, mixing this album the old-fashioned way - no computerised gadgets here. Taking us to a different zone with another in this legendary compilation, this is one of his best and that's not a stock statement. As the sun sets on another summer, this is one Ibiza anthem they'll be dancing to long before the sunrises again next year.



Foo Fighters

Echoes, Silence, Patience & Grace

The sixth album from probably the most recognisable and popular band in American rock follows 2005's double set 'In Your Honour' and 2006's unplugged live effort 'Skin And Bones'. This release features a strong 70s stadium rock influence and sees the band letting rip and rocking out with occasional moments of calm highlighting the depths and maturity of Dave Grohl's songwriting.



M.I.A.

Kala

The UK rapper's second album was recorded in several countries and you can tell - embodying the process by which certain voices are bottled up and distorted within the global noise of what she calls "Third World Democracy". Her own voice shifts from a pout to a growl in a beat's time, making it the most cross-cultural jam you'll hear this year. Go get 'er.



Stereophonics

Pull the Pin

Their eagerly awaited 6th studio album boasts 12 new tracks and is a rock record of epic proportions. Mixed by Spike Stent, it looks set to be one of the definitive albums of their incredible ten-year career. Listen out for their forthcoming UK tour dates too, starting November 4th - "it's going to be rocking" according to lead singer Kelly Jones and we believe him!



Bruce Springsteen

Magic

This album has the attitude, the lyrics, the mood and the passion - it's sure as hell a rock album, but what else do we want and expect from The Boss? It's his first recording with the E Street Band in five years, yet his title track 'Magic' is a fab solo song rather than a rocking E Street one, but when they all come together, they're beautiful. Play it loud!



Spoon

Ga Ga Ga Ga Ga

Going ga ga over this Austin band's latest album won't be difficult. Managing to sound exactly like themselves (ditto, not difficult), they're concise, lively and blessed with a remarkable blend of focus and creativity. A well-honed, experienced band producing good old fashioned rock 'n' roll on their own terms, free from the weighty plaque of fashion. Very satisfying.

OXJAM

MUSIC FESTIVAL

1 - 31 October 2007 - Venues across the UK



Great name + great concept = Oxfam: a whole MONTH of musical merrymaking with ordinary people putting on 1000s of events across the UK to raise money for Oxfam.

The mission: to build the UK's biggest festival line-up by getting musicians, promoters etc to throw parties, 'tag' on to other events, get sponsored or organise public events using the free online toolkit - with a guaranteed great time thrown in! Throughout October, the equivalent of 500 days of continuous music will help fight poverty around the world. If last year's success was anything to go by - 20,000 music lovers and 1,100 events generating £500,000 for the charity - this year's Oxfam will be "the biggest music festival ever in the UK" with 40,000 masters at work entertaining the 300,000+ audience.

Oxfam's target £1million from the event would provide safe water for almost 1.4 million people, 20,000 emergency shelters or essential medicines for 10,000 villages. A festival with a difference it sure is - who'd have thought Oxfam could be so hip, helpful and happening?

www.oxfam.org.uk/oxjam

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COOL websites & Digital Art

You can send us your cool links to: rbouza@d-earle.com

1 | [HTTP://WWW.VAGABOND.COM](http://www.vagabond.com)

The coolest online shoe store we've come across. Sweden-based designers of men and women's footwear, their unique workshop for prototypes is one of a kind in Europe, allowing them to work on every part of the shoe to create your very own style. Don't let their name put you off.

2 | [HTTP://WWW.PLAYWITHUS.CO.UK/AWARDS/MYAMOY/WELCOME.HTML](http://www.playwithus.co.uk/awards/myamoy/welcome.html)

Film and illustration create an inspiring environment allowing you to create personal stirfry with ingredients ranging from the sublime to the ridiculous. Get cooking!

3 | [HTTP://WWW.PAPERCITTERS.COM](http://www.papercritters.com)

Create and share digital paper toys in 3D by combining "lowbrow" art forms such as designer toys, papercrafts, street art and cartooning with new media and viral marketing techniques. This is something unique, fun and engaging for a young target audience.

4 | [HTTP://WWW.DAISYMARCJACOBS.COM](http://www.daisymarcjacobs.com)

Enter the world of Daisy Marc Jacobs. Plant a daisy in a virtual field, play games, win prizes and learn about the newest Marc Jacobs fragrance.

5 | [HTTP://WWW.BIGSTATEGAMES.COM](http://www.bigstategames.com)

The Big State Festival celebrates all things country with four fast and fun mini-games. Flip sausages, change tyres and more...

6 | [HTTP://WWW.MARUKIN-AD.CO.JP/ECOEGO](http://www.marukin-ad.co.jp/ecoego)

An educational game which gets users to experience the environments around them and how they are affected by daily activities.

7 | [HTTP://WWW.D-EARLE.COM](http://www.d-earle.com)

It's not just us blowing our own trumpet. Diseño Earle's phone lines, website and email inbox are red-hot with enquiries from around the world - people (including teenagers) keen to learn more about the dynamic world of modern design and architecture, and we're their first stop-shop. Don't forget to download the mag tool!

8 | [HTTP://FILIPPASMEDHAGENSUND.COM](http://filippasmedhagensund.com)

Swedish makeup artist Filippa's portfolio features a minimal drag & drop interface with full screen option and autopilot focusing on the pictures.

9 | [HTTP://WWW.TYPOGRAPHYKICKSASS.COM](http://www.typographykicksass.com)

Send a message to somebody or post one on site using images from Flickr to build a random "Flickr Bold Italic" font.

10 | [HTTP://WWW.TRIPLELANGUAGE.COM](http://www.triplelanguage.com)

Learn new words or submit your own to this entertaining site. Behind the initial silliness is Comcast's Triple Play Digital on-demand TV, phone and high-speed, power-boost internet comes with free movies and commercial-free music. Anything that's commercial-free from the States has to be good, n'est-ce pas?



altoids

Sweet manufacturers will do ANYTHING to get their sticky little fingers on our hard-earned dosh. Altoids the mint maker promise to "provide a mint for emerging artists" via their \$100,000 Award for a New Museum of Contemporary Art. Wayne White (his real name, of course) has already proclaimed, "I Don't Want Your Stupid Award Anyway." Bravo!

Frank Lloyd Wright & the House Beautiful

Showcases Wright's passion for creating a new way of life for Americans through architecture fulfilling the needs of a modern lifestyle.

Portland Museum of Art, Maine, USA
Till 8/10/07
www.portlandmuseum.org

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budding
Málaga artist

www.aileh.mypalbum.com

National Design Week

New York's Design
Awards including
People's Design Award &
Teen Design Fair.

14-20/10/07

www.cooperhewitt.org

Royal Festival Hall Revival

Looking at London's
landmark "unashamedly
Modernist" building over the
next 50 years as a vibrant
public arena for the arts

RIBA Architecture Gallery

Till 14/10/07

www.riba.co.uk

The Boundaries of Architecture

Looking at new & alternative architec-
tural movements & the relationship
between science & architectural design.

Louisiana Museum of Modern Art,
Denmark

Till 21/10/07

www.louisiana.dk

OCT/NOV07EVENTS

BACKGROUND PICTURE: Images courtesy of B. Lux. Mojón is a lighting element suitable as an occasional seat designed by Miguel Ángel Ciganda for B.Lux. Based on a traditional element, an updated lit benchmark has been created thanks to its balanced lines and timeless proportions.

For more information: B.LUX: www.grupoblux.com (34) 902 10 77 35

Campana Brothers in the Garden

Brazilian design duo celebrate 150 years of London's Victoria & Albert Museum

Till 14/10/07

www.vam.ac.uk

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Archiblog

Michael Earle, Head Concho at Diseno Earle is at it again - informing all and sundry about the world's increasing fascination with modern design & architecture...

www.d-earle.com

Tel: 951 260 041

Email: mearle@d-earle.com

Neutral: Moving Space

Designs by Zaha Hadid, Herzog & de Meuron et al brought to life by architectural digital animators

Architecture Foundation's Yard Gallery, London

Till 13/10/07

www.architecturefoundation.org.uk

Terry Bradley Exhibition

Plaza del Mar, Puerto Banús
From 3/10/07

www.terrybradley.com

Design London 07

Modern & contemporary design & furniture from around the world

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www.designlondonfair.com


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GACMA, Málaga

Till 14/11/07

www.gacma.com



F U L L M A R K S T O
D E N M A R K F O R

INTERIOR 182
DESIGN

Hotel Fox

"THE WORLD'S MOST EXCITING AND CREATIVE LIFESTYLE HOTEL"

Text: Chris Dove **Photos:** Hotel Fox Courtesy

WE'RE ALL FAMILIAR WITH DENMARK'S REPUTATION AS A LIVELY, FUN-LOVING AND TRENDSETTING PLACE WITH A DEEP CULTURAL HERITAGE AND CLEAN, ELEGANT HOME DESIGN. NOW, THE SMALLEST OF THE NORDIC COUNTRIES HAS MADE A BOLD STYLISTIC STATEMENT THAT'S PUT IT AT THE SHARP END OF EUROPE'S AVANT-GARDE ART, ARCHITECTURE AND CULTURAL SCENES AND SEALED ITS REPUTATION AS A GLOBAL CREATIVE HOTHOUSE. 61 INDIVIDUALLY DESIGNED ROOMS, 21 INTERNATIONAL ARCHITECTS, ARTISTS AND INTERIOR DESIGNERS, 1,000 IDEAS – THAT'S THE BIG IDEA BEHIND HOTEL FOX, A NOVEL HOTEL IN CENTRAL COPENHAGEN THAT'S TAKEN ITS HANS CHRISTIAN ANDERSEN-INSPIRED FAIRYTALE IMAGE TO THE EXTREME AND TRANSFORMED A STANDARD THREE STAR HOTEL INTO A SUCCESSFUL MODERN DAY FAIRYTALE. COMMISSIONED BY GERMAN CARMAKER VOLKSWAGEN TO CELEBRATE THE LAUNCH OF ITS REVAMPED ROADRUNNER, THE FOX, 13 NATIONALITIES FROM ARGENTINA TO THE UK WERE INVITED TO TURN THE FORMER PARK HOTEL INTO A LIVE-IN MUSEUM OF MODERN ART BURSTING WITH "VISIONS, DREAMS, SECRET WISHES AND SURREALLY HUMOROUS FANTASIES", ALL AIMING TO MATCH THE IMAGE, IDEAS AND LIFESTYLE OF THE NEW CAR'S TARGET GROUP: YOUNG, DYNAMIC, INNOVATIVE AND TOTALLY, TOTALLY UNIQUE.

IF YOU'RE TURNED ON BY PEOPLE WHO KEEP THEIR PROMISES,

YOU'LL LOVE THE WILD BUNCH AT HOTEL FOX IN

DOWNTOWN COPENHAGEN WHO, IF NOTHING ELSE, PROMISE

"YOU HAVEN'T SEEN ANYTHING LIKE IT!" AND BOY ARE THEY RIGHT...



Two Swans (Fertility Shrine) Room 214

A "provocative bunch of unconventional designers, illustrators, graphic artists and a wild street-art clique" enter the hotel's 61 empty whitewashed rooms. Their brief: to decorate several rooms each in just a couple of days choosing any kind of design, carpeting or flooring for the walls and curtains. Hotel Manager Rene Thomsen says, "The only rules were that the bathrooms were standard and all the beds are the same. And there could be no pornography." A blank canvas any self-respecting artist would happily give their right arm for.

Sweet dreams and art attacks

Though aimed at the 18-30 age group, the hotel is "about lifestyle not age". The artists' free expression allows guests to express their own individuality with different interiors providing sensory inspiration, defying all limits and expectations, and resulting in a colourful mix of "Japanimation", science fiction and urban psychedelia.

Walls are adorned – and you have to see them to get the full effects – with swirling, multi-coloured patterns, hallucinogenic toadstools and magic mushrooms with huge lettering urging guests not to believe spurious social statistics; there's even one room with its own tent erected on a brown carpet with koalas and platypuses drawn on the walls; and a seductive scarlet boudoir beckons for those of an amorous nature (a hugely popular choice, apparently).

And there's lots of foxy fun for the kids too: check out the hilarious hillbilly comic strip from the Alps featuring little Heidi with her goatherd; Manga-mania takes over in others; foxes (of course), bears, owls and other wildlife are bizarrely depicted in mock jungle scenes playing violins, banjos and drums, with arm-shaped tree branches studiously reading books (they promised it would be surreal...!). This all goes to show how wonderful, wonderful Copenhagen is thriving on its crazy, creative credentials and how Hotel Fox is offering unrivalled comfort and imagination for aficionados of art-inspired accommodation.

Room reservations

The acid test of Hotel Fox's success is how few and far between vacant rooms become available. After you've browsed their gallery of concept rooms online, make your reservation for a totally new experience now – but hurry as they've promised to alter some rooms in the not too distant future. Who knows, they might even make room for that other famous Dane, Hamlet – a fictional Shakespearean character who wouldn't look out of place as a mural in Hotel Fox.

Room rates start from 130€ (cheap for Europe's second most expensive city) to 220€ per night for an extra large room with kingsize bed, desk and internet access.

Contact info: Hotel Fox, Jamers Plads 3, Copenhagen, Denmark,
Tel: +45 (33) 133 000, www.hotelfox.dk



1 | **FOXy façade:** As dusk settles... 2 | **East Side Guero Sound System, Room 308:** Mixing Mexican wrestler culture with 1960s mural imagery and fresh contemporary hip-hop, graffiti and folklore. 3 | **Complexity-Reliability, Room 414:** Form and function: guests can reflect upon the different issues embedded in the design – "Never trust statistics with unnamed sources"... 4 | **Lobby:** First step into the alluring lobby – a long, light and elegant airy space... 5 | **The Secret Palace, Room 309:** "Foxy deep red paints and fabrics are designed to intoxicate and relax – like a nightclub with beautiful sexy princess women, party-divas, and men who look like clowns". 6 | **Monday, Room 317:** Guests will respond with irritation or enthusiasm; both are good. Welcome. Please be quiet when entering. Don't spill.



THE MODERNIST MOVEMENT: FANTASTICAL, FOOTLOOSE AND FANCY-FREE



7 | Harmony's Helm, Room 302: Welcome to the centre of the universe! We offer you solace and purity as you enter Harmony's Helm **8 | Sleep Season Room 121:** Inspired by the desire to hibernate, a cosy nook is filled with animals sleeping through the seasons. **9 | Ecstasy, Room 206:** "...While my fingers pushed into her straight black hair / Pulling her black hair back from her happy heart-shaped face..." Nick Cave. **10 | Boxing, Room 504:** Put on your red dress baby 'cause we're going out tonight. Wear your boxing gloves in case some fool might wanna fight.



"I'll have the humans please."



Text: Chris Dove

Snails Alive!!!

Join us as we gallop around the globe, digging up a delicious local delicacy that for some is too hard to resist...

The French started it – eating snails as a delicacy. Though that's the common perception, it's not strictly true as the ancient Romans beat them to it. From 9BC to 5AD, citizens of the Empire were partial to the succulent taste of these slimy creatures, and following the Roman's trail, the Moche people of ancient Peru worshipped and depicted snails in their artworks from 100 to 800AD.

The edible species, land snails, live in every kind of habitat – from deserts and mountains to marshes, woodland and gardens, and as they're "anthropophilic", they're most often found around human habitation.

But back to the French. 'Escargot' is French for "snail", prepared using traditional recipes and served in the shell with garlic and parsley butter. Yum! And celebrity favourite L'Escargot Restaurant in London's West End dishes up a mean Escargots en Coquille 'Bordelaise' and Escargots Sautés Bourguignonne on its popular lunch and pre-theatre menus. Yet les français aren't the only ones with a penchant for slow food.

In Greece, people from the island of Crete (Cretans) eat the most snails – fried in olive oil with lemon

is their favourite traditional dish. And across the country snails are found alive in supermarkets, making them one of the few live organisms sold in supermarkets as food. When cooked alive, the snails wake up and attempt to escape from the cooking pot so chefs have to keep a watchful eye they end up on diner's plates not on the kitchen floor!

Other countries with a taste for snails include Malta, Sicily and Sardinia where they're first boiled with salt then served with tomato sauce or bare with oil, garlic and parsley, while Asians' appetites for snails (and other weird insects) are also well-documented.

The largest snails in the world are found in West Africa, specifically Ghana, where aptly named Ghana Tiger Snails grow up to 326mm (one foot long!) and are a much-sought after delicacy, though hardly hard to find due to their sheer size! Snails are also hugely popular in southern Portuguese cuisine with the country consuming 4,000 tonnes of snails each year.

Not to be outdone by their land neighbours, traditional Spanish cuisine is also fond of snails ("cara-

Eating snails in Spain

Barcelona's Restaurant Los Caracoles (The Snails) is one of the oldest and most famous eateries in Spain. Serving "authentic Catalan comfort food" in the Gothic Quarter (Barri Gotic) and tucked away in a cobbled side street off La Ramblas, it was established in 1835 by the Bolarullis and continues today as a successful family business.

People get drawn in by the aromas wafting from the outdoor wood fire before taking a fascinating walk through the bar-like entrance, via the hot kitchen and labyrinthine interior, past aging kegs of wine, walls adorned with photos of famous celebrities who've eaten there – including John Wayne, Charlton Heston and Ernest Hemingway – and cured hams hanging from every ceiling.

With bread rolls amusingly shaped as snails and with a plateful of 24 caracoles served in a lentil sauce making a hearty starter for two, Los Caracoles comes highly recommended by all the major travel books. For a slice of local culture and with its renowned cosy ambience, it's definitely worth a visit but it's always best to book first.

"The most charismatic restaurant in Barcelona"
Los Caracoles
Calle Escudellers 14

coles"), consuming small to medium size varieties cooked in spicy sauces or soups while bigger species are used in dishes such as "arroz con conejo y caracoles" – paella-style rice with snails and rabbit, popular in the south-east of the country. Yet nowhere are snails more popular than in Catalonia where they're called "caragols" or "cargols". They even host an annual snail festival, the "Aplec del cargo!" in Lleida each May, drawing more than 200,000 participants. That's a hell of a lot of snails being swallowed at any one time but then there are lots of varieties to choose from including "cabretes"; white "vineyard snails" or "Spanish snails"; and "wood snails" or Spanish "vaqueta" introduced to many US states from Massachusetts to California and from Tennessee to Canada.

At approx 25mm long, meat from the "burrowing snail" is most highly prized and is native to France, Italy, Mediterranean countries, California and Louisiana, found above ground only during rainy weather. When it's hot and dry, they burrow deep into the ground and lie dormant until rain softens the soil. With autumn and winter approaching bringing the very conditions under which this species thrive, listen out for wild cries of "snails alive!" as seasoned gourmets sink their teeth into their favourite local grub.

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Photo Courtesy of Mark Jenkins

BOOKS & CINEMA

Books

ICE CREAM: CONTEMPORARY ART IN CULTURE

Author: Ten Curators
Publisher: Phaidon Press

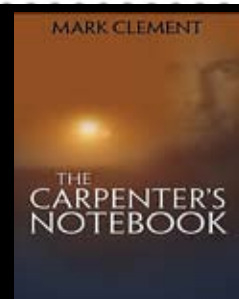
"A dynamic showcase of the next big flavours of the year." Presenting 100 of the world's most exceptional emerging artists from over 25 countries, selected by 10 esteemed curators including the curator of The Wrong Gallery, formally "the smallest exhibition space in New York" that's now housed in the Tate Modern.



THE CARPENTER'S NOTEBOOK

Author: Mark Clement
Publisher: Centerline Media

A novel about construction and life featuring a carpenter who sees building as a vital expression of who we are and can become. His jobsite lessons make sense of his existence as a young father, husband and man in search of meaning.



Cinema

CONTROL

Starring Sam Riley, Deborah Curtis,
Matt Greenhalgh

Shot in black and white, this is a stirring profile of Ian Curtis, the enigmatic singer of leading English new wave band Joy Division whose personal, professional and romantic troubles led him to commit suicide in May 1980 aged just 23. With their dark, cavernous sound, throbbing bass guitars and electronica, the band pioneered the post-punk sound of the late 1970s. After Curtis' death, the remaining members reformed as New Order and went on to achieve huge critical and commercial success.

MY KID COULD PAINT THAT

Written & Directed
by Amir Bar-Lev

Fascinating documentary about "a budding Picasso" – Marla Olmstead, a 4-year-old girl who's sold over \$300,000 dollars worth of paintings. Until CBS's 60 Minutes aired an exposé suggesting that her father, himself an amateur painter, actually painted the girl's pictures. With the family's reputation at stake, the filmmaker sheds light on the situation where he's torn between his responsibility as a journalist and the family's desire to see their integrity restored.

HOUSE

Starring Michael Madsen, Leslie
Easterbrook, Bill Moseley, Lew
Temple, Julie Ann Emery

Set in rural Alabama, two couples fight for survival running from a maniac killer. Fleeing into the woods, they seek refuge in a house but soon realise the killer has purposely lured them in and now they're trapped. The killer establishes his House Rules – at least one of them must die or they all die at sunrise. They learn the only way out is to stay in but going further into this house is equally deadly...



Personal alarm transmitter

Looking like a personal fashion accessory for men and women, this life-saving personal transmitter enables the elderly to call for help and is easy to use for those with reduced hand function, low vision or dementia. In a variety of colours to be worn in various ways, we can all look good in our dotage. (That was a joke!)

www.televagt.dk



Swatch this space...

Believe it or not this "Infinity" ultra sleek wristwatch from Swatch comes with a built-in mp3 player, video player/recorder and photo album. Oh and it's also a watch. Hands up if it's just what you always wanted? And needed?...

www.swatch.com



Free Go door handles

Multi-purpose door handles in various materials fit directly on the door, turning the door handle into the "handshake" of a room. Replaceable luminous, sweet smelling or sound grips for the blind act as directional aids. They're wireless and recharge themselves – an ingenious INDEX Award winner in the Home category.

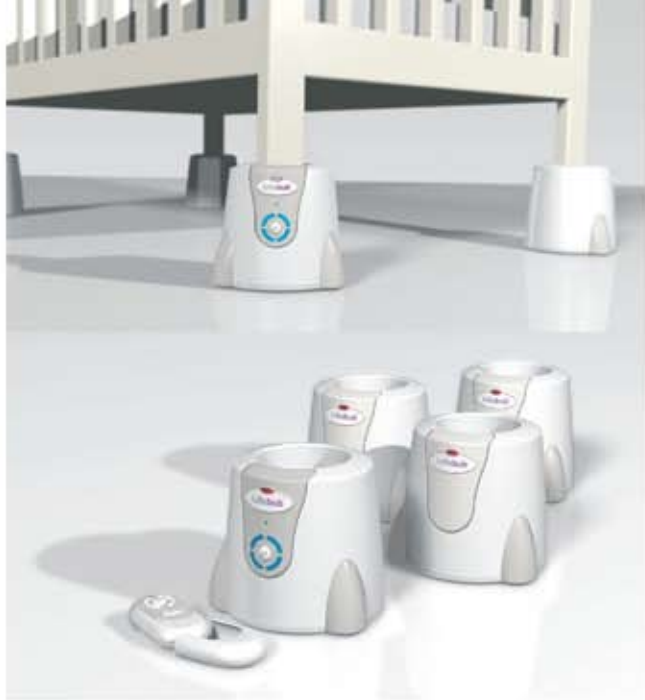
www.razetocasareto.com



Neptunic C Suit sharksuit

We're all going to be buying one of these, aren't we?...Yes, if we're going diving as its steel mesh, high tech fibre, titanium and hybrid laminates protect from shark bites. Sharks hate the galvanic currents created by the chain mail suits, which provide a passive safety shield against accidental or intentional attacks.

www.neptunic.com



Lullabub good night, baby

Exhausted parents can sleep tight at night even with a newborn baby in the house. Impossible? Not if they use the Lullabub cot rocker to rock the baby's cot automatically and unassisted in a harmonic rhythm to settle and gently soothe a baby to sleep. A guaranteed sell-out but why has it taken so long for someone to design this much-needed product?

www.lullabub.com



SplashPad wireless charging pad

Households in industrialised countries are stuffed to bursting with electronic devices and their separate wire chargers, so what to do about it? Answer: bring on the SplashPad – a universal wireless charging pad that eliminates the need for multiple wire chargers and can charge more than one device at a time. Adios to traditional tangled chargers!

www.splashpower.com



Optalert outerspace

Wake up over there! Falling asleep at the wheel accounts for 1 in 10 crashes on Britain's roads, so these ergonomically designed Optalert sunglasses feature built-in micro-electronic sensors and LEDs to analyse eye and eyelid movement and provide an early warning of drowsiness.

www.outerspacedesign.com



Teastick 'T' for Tea and Technology?

Teastick redefines the simple teabag, acting as an easy stirring stick and allowing you to enjoy more of the flavour. This ever so simple gadget allows the teastick to be hung from the side of your mug (drinking mug, doh!), so the tag doesn't drop in the tea. The brainchild, unsurprisingly, of Chinese designer Lee Yun Qin.

www.yankodesign.com



Car Kit Bluetooth hands free car kit

Feel the all new wireless experience of this INDEX Award-winning flying saucer. It's actually a hands free car kit designed with safe driving and user convenience in mind. Connecting with the mobile phone so drivers can concentrate on the road while speaking, it features more convenient controls such as bigger buttons and round lights display. A must for every talkative driver.

www.bluetooth.com

Text: Ian Baxter Photos: Courtesy of Lamborghini



GOING GREAT GUNS WITH THE NEW

Lamborghini Gallardo

SUPERLEGGERA

Roughly half the weight saving has been achieved in the interior, with liberal use of carbon fibre throughout. This includes lightweight racing seats, transmission tunnel and door panels. This expanse of black carbon fibre could have resulted in a functionally austere appearance, but Lamborghini has managed to make the interior both inviting and stylish, primarily through the use of Alcantara, an artificial suede material covering many surfaces. One victim of the Superleggera's strict diet is the radio, which seems a little extreme, although the engine in this car provides more aural pleasure than most radio stations anyway.

The exterior also utilises carbon fibre extensively to shed a few extra pounds, even extending to the rear view mirror covers. Clear polycarbonate is used on the engine cover and rear window as part of the Superleggera's anorexia, since it weighs less than the traditional glass.

The engine is tweaked to yield an additional 10 bhp over the base Gallardo, raising power output from the 5 litre V10 to 530 bhp. While not exactly a significant boost in power, changes to the intake manifold and exhaust system, in addition to the shedding of some sound deadening as part of its diet, add to the aural cacophony, giving the Superleggera a more raucous, hard-edged note than the lesser model.

All of these changes result in a 0.2 second improvement in the 0-100 km/h (0-62 mph) benchmark sprint, which is now reached in a tarmac blistering 3.8 seconds. Or, to put it another way, sufficient to comfortably see off virtually every other car and even some motorbikes when the lights turn green. Subaru WRX STi drivers with annoyingly loud exhausts please note.

Keep your right foot mashed to the floor and Lamborghini claims the Superleggera will go on to reach 314 km/h (195 mph), or enough to make you extremely wary about bending over to pick up the soap in the shower should you be caught trying to verify this on public roads in most countries.

The e-gear gearbox, optional in the standard Gallardo, offers robotized gear changes without taking your hands off the steering wheel and, given the heady speeds of which this car is capable, that's a very good thing.



Looks Great at every angle, can't show off its fit and finish enough.





Lamborghini has massaged the suspension settings to
add even more precision to the handling of what is
already one of the most poised cars on the market. This,
coupled with the all wheel drive and the safety net of
Lamborghini's ESP, electronic skid prevention system,
mean that the car clings to the road like curry stains to a
white shirt. However, if you get a bit cocky and turn off
the ESP you'd better have the reflexes of an F1 driver to
catch this thing if you provoke it into a slide, otherwise
expect to join the ranks of those whose supercar
wreckage is featured on YouTube for the entertainment
of the internet surfing public.



The Superleggera is just a tiny bit more powerful and weighs about one relatively chubby passenger less than the standard Gallardo, yet costs roughly 20% more. So is the Superleggera worth the price premium over the standard Gallardo, already a supremely fast, purposeful and very expensive car? In purely objective terms probably not, but this is a car you buy with your heart not your head, so objectivity will take a back seat for most prospective purchasers. Evidently enough buyers thought it was worth the extra money since Lamborghini has already sold its entire first year production, so be prepared to wait if you want to own one of the most exhilarating cars on the market today.



0-100 km/h in a tarmac blistering 3.8 seconds - ouch, that's big boys supercars territory! Thanks to its robotized gear changes, its bionic grip pushes corners at ridiculous speeds without taking your hands off the steering wheel.

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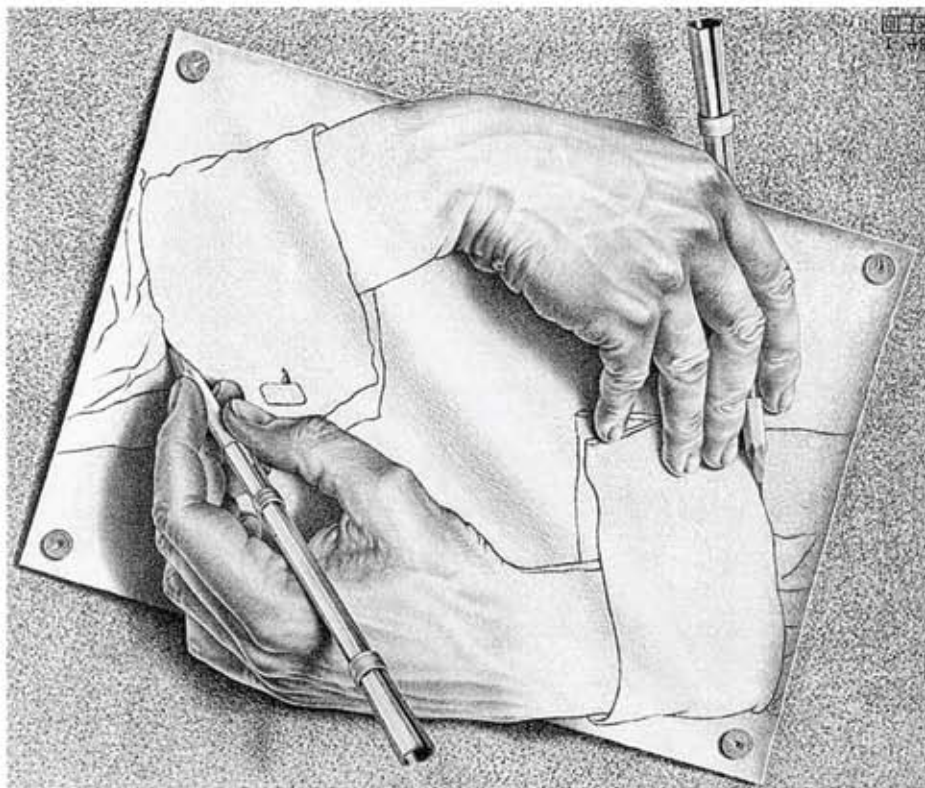
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