



MODERN DESIGN

ARCHITECTURE & ART

CREATED BY DISEÑO EARLE | DECEMBER 2007 FREE MAC No. 6

Art

Theo Jansen
Photo Contests

Design

Philippe Starck
Turning up the Heat

Fashion

FENDI in China

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DIVERSITY MATTERS

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.

December is upon us and we are gearing up for the holiday season. We at Modern Design Magazine would like to wish you all a wonderful and happy holiday season.

As we approach the New Year, here at Modern Design and Diseño Earle we are continuing to try to expand our view of the world and the way we approach modern design. One way to do this is to bring in fresh minds from other parts of the world. Another is to hire from a diversity of backgrounds including sex and race. Nothing works as well as diversity to bring fresh approaches to common design problems. I was thinking about this during my recent recruiting trip to the United States. We are fortunate at Diseño Earle to have a large number of women and men with diverse backgrounds working in our main offices in Fuengirola. This makes us more complete in terms of what we can offer. Gone are the days of men of the same background all working in an old boys club of an office, all with the same approach to the world. We all need a more diverse future for all professions.

At the same time, bringing in up and comers from all over the world is our chance to advance the future and constantly refresh our architectural outlook. We set up ways of working that are non hierarchical which fosters collaboration and debate. It makes a project more complex and complete as differing approaches are brought on to the design solution.

We are lucky to have employees from over 20 countries from all parts of the world, with very varied backgrounds. Obviously, a 25 year old man from Ukraine will not have the same approach to life or design that a 40 year old woman from Argentina will and all these are opportunities to bring out the best in each for the benefit of our customers. As a magazine, we bring ideas from all over the world to your attention and our employees do the same for our designs every day. I hope you enjoy our fresh outlook each day!

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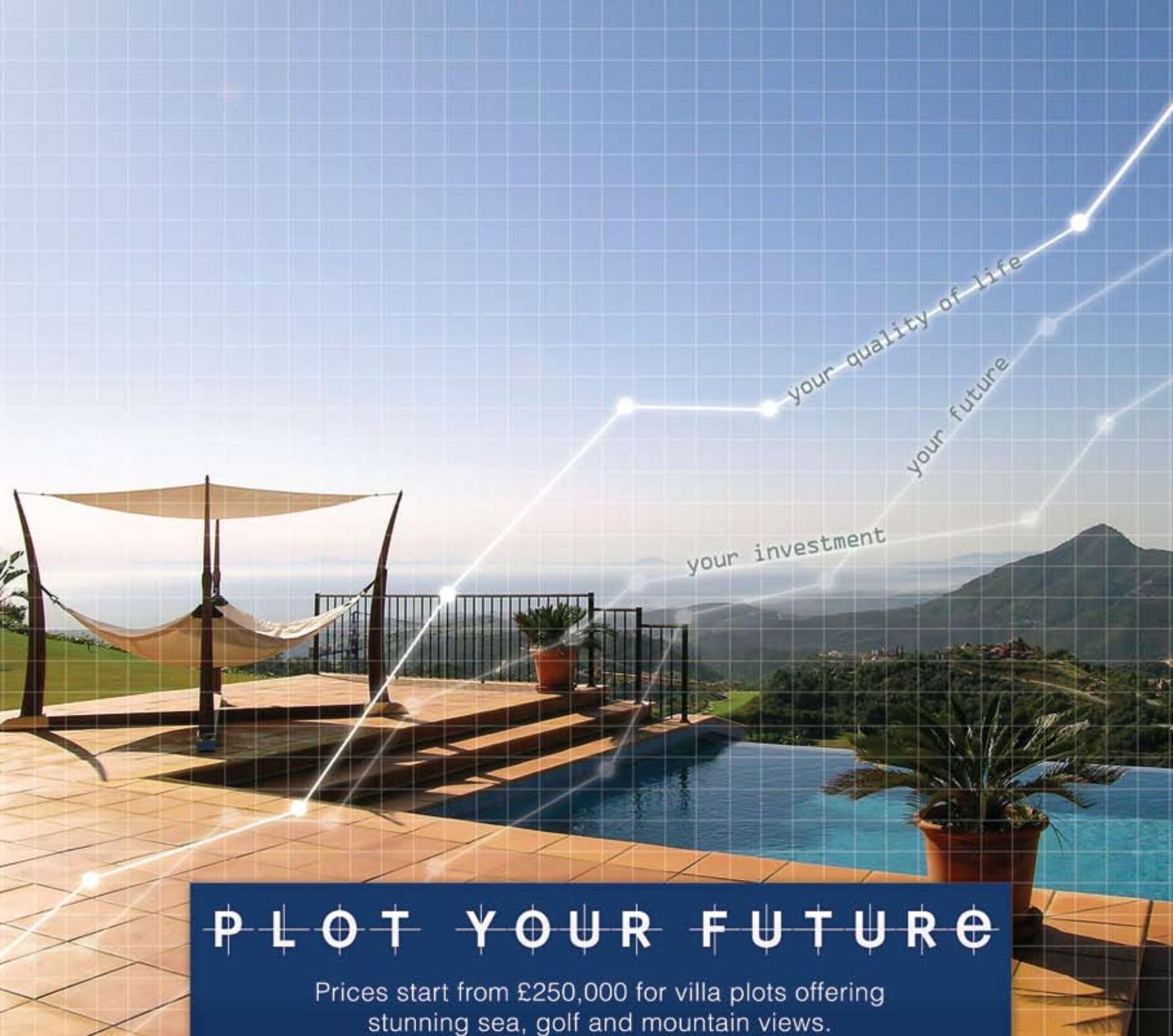
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THE MOST APPRECIATED PRESENT EVER

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.

Most Alaskans celebrate Christmas on December 25th, just as people do in the rest of the world. Santa Claus may arrive for a pre-Christmas visit, but food, gift giving and decorations are like what you might see in most parts of the world.

In Spain, children think of the Three Wise Men as the gift bearers. Tradition has it that they arrive on January 6th, the date the Wise Men gave gifts to Jesus. As an adult, I have already discovered the truth about Santa – but many children still wonder, with a world of questions. What do you tell them? We adults all know that it is the Modern Design Team who bring you the most appreciated present ever: this December issue!!!

Christmas is already everywhere, in the streets with all these lighting decorations, on TV of course with those invading commercials which always try to make you spend a bit more. Is it the time to forget about all those homeless, all those beaten women, all those clandestine immigrant people who die everyday trying to come to live a better life in a Modern World?

December, as the last month of the year, is a good time to make a balance of our life situations and expectations. A special occasion to travel, to spend some good quality time with friends and family, to enjoy the new breath of street and home Christmas decorations and songs. If you haven't yet found an original Christmas gift, have a look at our shopping or latest gadget sections, you might be surprised.

Modern Design Celebrations are everyday, everywhere you want. It just depends on you to participate in the construction of tomorrow which is today. By the way, thank you for all your warm emails.

In the name of all the Magazine staff, we wish you an enchanted Christmas and a prosperous New Year! Our best thoughts are with you.

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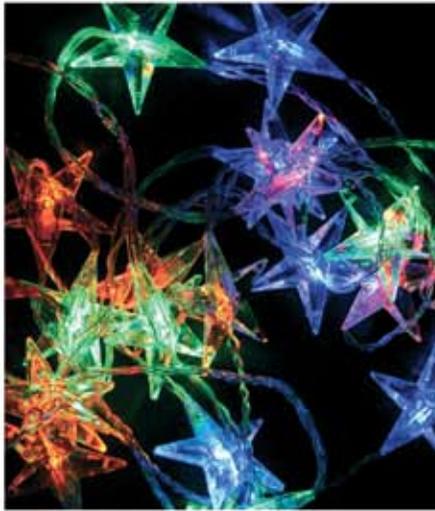
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COVER December 2007

Funky Christmas lights

Photo: Maria-Chiara

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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.

Please visit our website
www.d-earle.com and email us at magazine@d-earle.com



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LETTERS FROM OUR READERS

- "I've taken the first issue from the CAC in Málaga and I've finished to see the second online just a few minutes ago... Your magazine is absolutely fantastic, cool, interesting! I'll be back in Italy next week, I'll continue to read it online but in the meantime... where could I find the second issue in Marbella? I would like to collect as many issues as I can!"

- **name unknown, Málaga/Italy**

- "It was a wonderful surprise this morning to find a copy of your magazine sitting outside our office! After reading for a while, I thought, 'Wow, this is great!' This is such an atypical magazine for this area. In a way, reminds me of Wired."

- **M.H., Marbella/U.S.A.**

- "...I will be writing to you shortly, as soon as I finish reading your latest issue, which, being so dense in coverage, doesn't seem to have an ending :))"

- **T. E., Málaga**

- "Love your magazine – Fascinating, wonderful – A pleasure to Read."

- **T.T., www.johnnygates.com, Marbella**

- "Just picked up a copy of this on Saturday at The Passion Café, San Pedro and was extremely impressed. Congratulations - I don't know much about pure art and design, but taught Modernism and Post-Modernism in film to second year university students and you seem to be aiming to touch all the bases. Very much looking forward to your next issue!"

- **K.J.E., San Pedro**

- "Today I started reading this month's issue and just felt that I have to tell you that it is even better than the others. Though I do think the magazine is absolutely fabulous, I would like to make a suggestion. As you can see, I represent some artists.most of them are living on the coast. I therefore suggest, that you in each issue feature an artist living on the coast....."

- **I.L., Marbella**

We want to thank all our readers for your feedback. Please continue to send us your opinions, suggestions, criticisms and/or comments to: magazine@d-earle.com

NEWS

US \$1.6 million Loo House

Sim Jae-Duck of Seoul, Korea is a sanitation worker and founder of the World Toilet Association (yes there is such an organisation!). And to prove he means business, he's built the world's only house designed in the shape of a loo. The US\$1.6 million structure opened to the public last month. 74 year old Mr Sim - who was born in a toilet - plans to live in the house until he dies. "Toilets were once regarded as stinking and dirty places. Not any more. They must be treated as the sanctuary that protects human health," he said. A moving story if ever there



Hold on to your ?!?!

If trembling with fear, writhing in anticipation, vomiting profusely then queuing up to do it all over again for thrills and excitement is your thing, then these highly innovative rollercoasters designed by the world's best structural engineers are on the cards for you. Some disappear into special water tunnels, others have cars that rotate on death-defying axes, while others are so tall you'll probably throw up just looking at them!

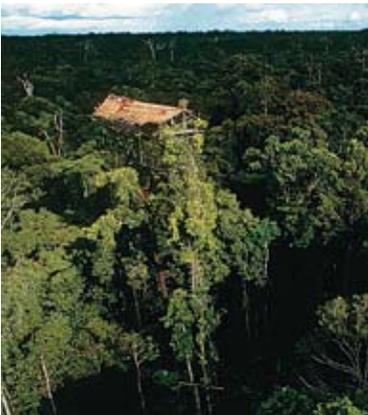
998, 999 and counting.....

No less than 1,000 PVC hula hoops have been used to make the Storefront Ring Dome Pavilion in Petrosino Park in New York. Designed by Seoul practice Mass Studies, the US\$3,000 structure was built to mark the Storefront for Art and Architecture's 25th anniversary. The dome was initially assembled in a Brooklyn backyard then dismantled and transported to the Manhattan site three days before the opening anniversary festival. Electroluminescent wire was embedded in the hoops a week later so the dome would glow at night. See also our piece on Mass Studies' Seoul Commune 2026 Tower in our Green Skyscrapers feature.



Crazy house..... stunning location

This New Guinean tree roost seems to have been built by Ewoks with death wishes (remember those fictional species of hunter-gatherers in the 'Star Wars' universe?). The views are out of this world but you probably have to tip the pizza guy an arm and a leg for home delivery!



positive. negative.

This dynamic arch and infill has been designed as a "strategic intervention" by J Mayer H Architects at Kicken Gallery in Berlin. The arch, which divides the gallery into two spaces, is complemented by a movable, free-standing infill positioned to either accentuate the division between the two spaces of the gallery, thereby enticing visitors to explore the concealed area behind it, or aligned to create a less tangible division that obliquely cuts up the space, drawing attention to its contrasting curved shape while reemphasising the gallery's role as the main space for photography.



Dynamic dome 2

Another innovative dome structure for you. This time, a wall turns into a dome in a striking act of structural metamorphosis by Boston-based architecture and design practice Office dA. Part of a public arts project for the Boston Institute of Contemporary Art and named 'Voromuro' after a type of mathematical model in a 19th century island fortress, the dome occupies a vaulted brick space lit by a single tiny window built to hold the city's gunpowder in the American civil war. Intricately fabricated with individual pieces of acrylic folded to create cylindrical cells and snapped together with 16,000 rivets, the cell elements grow and change shape as the form twists from vertical surface to dome in a single sweeping gesture. The unusual, elegant structure moves around the room, creating a promenade for the visitor and reflecting light. "It's like an ice cube," says Office dA partner Nader Tehrani: "It catches the sun and becomes the only source of light."

This is utter rubbish!

You'll like this one. This clever group of 30 leading international designers and creators are talking "use less" here - quite the antithesis of "useless." Using every practical media platform to get their message across, Utterubbish explores and highlights the many ways design can pave the way for a sustainable future. The two-day UseLess Conference formed part of the Singapore Design Festival last month and focused on how design can create value for self, society and the world while aiming to inform and inspire new ideas, discussions and collaborations.



Touting Torino: 2008 World Design Capital

Throughout the whole of next year, Torino (Turin) in northern Italy will be the first World Design Capital. Nominated by the International Council of Societies of Industrial Design, the purpose is to pinpoint cities in recognition of their excellence in the field of design, promoting them at international level as a driving force of economic, social and cultural development. This direct attention increases their visibility as creative cities, attracting economic and professional resources.

Good Lord –
Britain's starchitect



Sir Norman Foster

is born!

Text: Chris Dove



Avid Modern Design readers will remember our feature on Norman Foster's SuperYacht design for YachtPlus that's coming on stream next year, as highlighted in our August 07 issue. It was such a radical departure from his famous high-tech, land-based projects that we couldn't resist filling you in on some of Foster + Partner's completed and ongoing worldwide projects more solidly attached to terra firma.

Bilbao Metro, Spain, 1988-95

Kicking off on our own Spanish turf, Foster + Partners have given us yet another reason to visit Bilbao in the north – if only to take a trip along Bilbao's Line One and admire its breathtaking architecture from above, within and all-around. Conceived with architectural, engineering and construction integrated within a shared vision, the station's dramatic curved forms offer flexibility for future change and the curved glassy structures at street level – dubbed 'Fosteritos' – make for an entirely unique entrance lobby, their shape suggesting movement engineered to admit natural light during daylight hours. The stations are lined with prefabricated concrete cladding and completed with virtually maintenance-free prefabricated metallic elements.



Bilbao Metro's architecture dramatically boasts flexible, futuristic curved glass. Image courtesy of Nigel Young (Foster & Partners)

Reichstag Parliament Building, Berlin, Germany, 1992-99



Following the sensational Wrapped Reichstag project by Christos and Jeanne-Claude in 1995, reconstruction began revealing striking imprints of the past including graffiti left by Soviet soldiers and the original piano nobile and courtyards which F + P reinstated. Within its masonry shell, the interior transparent opening places its activities in view with an observation platform allowing people to ascend symbolically above the heads of their elected representatives in the chamber. The building uses renewable bio-fuel, which, when burned to produce electricity, is far cleaner than fossil fuels and results in a 94% reduction in CO2 emissions. Surplus heat is stored as hot water in an aquifer 300 metres below ground, pumped up to heat the building or to drive an absorption cooling plant to produce chilled water. At its core a light sculptor reflects light into the chamber with a moveable sun-shield blocking solar gain and glare. As night falls, this process is reversed.





With unrivalled views across the River Tyne, the entire complex is sheltered beneath a shell-like 'shrink-wrapped' roof.

Image courtesy of Nigel Young, (Foster & Partners)

The Sage Gateshead, Gateshead, UK, 1997-2004

Enjoying an estimated half million visitors each year, Sage Gateshead is a regional music centre designed after extensive consultation with audiences and musicians. The windswept nature of the site suggested a covered concourse along the waterfront to link the auditoria, resulting in the entire complex sheltered beneath a broad, enveloping, shrink-wrapped roof. Containing cafés, bars, shops, an information centre and the box office, the concourse is a major public space acting as a foyer for the auditoria and as a common room for the Music School located beneath it. With its informal atmosphere and unrivalled views across the Tyne Bridge arch, this has become one of the city's great social spaces.



City Hall, London, 1998-2002

Located on the south bank of the River Thames near Tower Bridge, City Hall is the purpose-built home of the Greater London Authority, London's local government and one of the capital's most symbolically important projects, expressing the transparency and accessibility of the democratic process as a sustainable, virtually non-polluting public building. A deliberately distorted glass sphere, the building is designed around a magnificent interior ramp down which people can symbolically walk above the debating chamber of their elected representatives. The visual and physical imagery of this ramp is such that it advances the symbolism of Foster's earlier Reichstag in Berlin.



Large balconies face the lake and surrounding mountains.

Images: Nigel Young (Foster & Partners)

Chesa Futura, St Moritz, Switzerland, 2000-04

These apartments located on the edge of a slope look down over St Moritz towards the lake. Timber forms the building's exterior as both the indigenous architectural material and a highly renewable resource, aiding the environment through carbon dioxide consumption while growing and since the timber is locally forested, little energy was used in transporting it. Fusing state-of-the-art computer design tools with centuries-old construction techniques, this environmentally sensitive building is seamlessly inserted into the local landscape.



Free University, Berlin, 1997-2005

Occupying a central role in the intellectual life of Berlin, the Free University is one of the city's most symbolically important institutions and one of the leading universities in Germany. F + P's redevelopment included the restoration of the campus' iconic Modernist buildings and the design of a new library for the Faculty of Philology (ie learning spoken and written methods of human communication). The Faculty occupies a site created by uniting six of the University's courtyards: four floors contained within a naturally ventilated, bubble-like enclosure clad in aluminium with glazed panels and supported on steel frames with a radial geometry. An inner membrane of translucent glass fibre filters the daylight and generates a sequence of generous, light-filled spaces in which to work. Amusingly, the library's cranial form has earned it the nickname 'The Berlin Brain'.

Leslie L Dan Pharmacy Building, University of Toronto, Canada, 2002-06

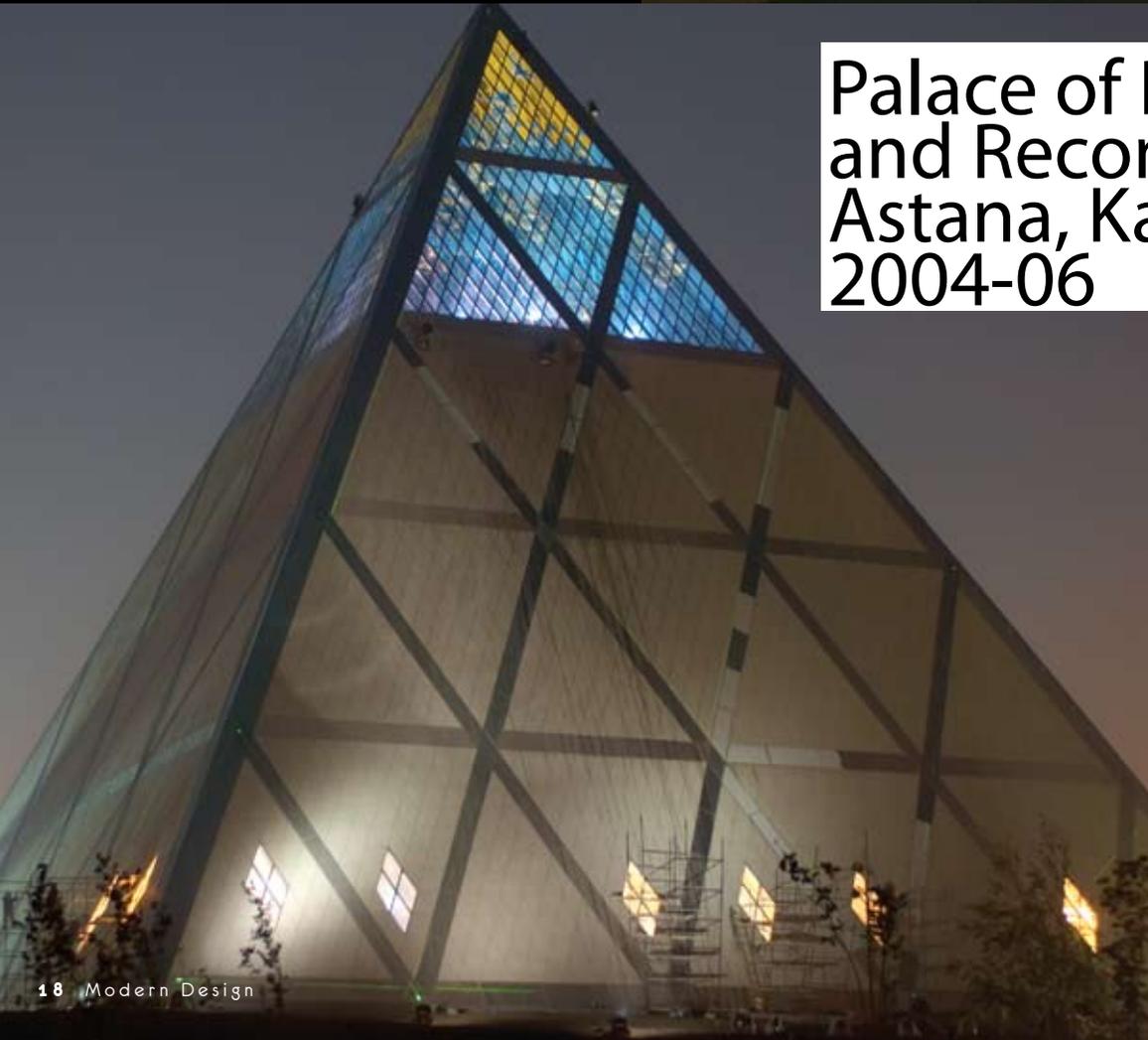
Providing state-of-the-art facilities for 1,000+ students, the multifunctional building centralises all teaching, research and administrative spaces into a single structure, uniting the largest pharmacy faculty in Canada. Its main mass is elevated above a 20 metre high, five-storey, colonnaded circulation space naturally lit to provide a hub for undergraduate activities by allowing convenient access between the basement lecture theatres, laboratories and library. Two silver-coloured pods are suspended within this space, the larger housing a 60-seat lecture theatre and reading room, the smaller a classroom and faculty lounge. Wet labs for postgraduate research are housed on the upper floors while an atrium runs through the building bringing natural light into the laboratory support spaces.



Palace of Peace and Reconciliation, Astana, Kazakhstan, 2004-06

The largest of the former Soviet Republics, the President of Kazakhstan commissioned F + P to design the Palace of Peace as a global centre for religious understanding. Home to a 1,500 seat opera house, a university of civilisation and a national centre for Kazakhstan's various ethnic and geographical groups, this diversity is unified within the pure form of a pyramid 62 metres high with a 62 x 62 metre base. Clad in stone with glazed inserts representing its various internal functions, the pyramid has an apex of stained glass by artist Brian Clarke. The assembly chamber is elevated at the top supported on four inclined pillars representing the hands of peace. Lifts rise up the inward leaning walls to take delegates to a reception space lined with vegetation of the hanging gardens of Astana and a broad glass lens set in the atrium floor casts light down into the opera house, creating a sense of vertical continuity from the building's lowest level to the very top.

The soaring central atrium is animated with spectacular cast light patterns.
Image: Nigel Young (Foster & Partners)





Living Wall, Amman, Jordan, 2006-09

This 150,000 sq m mixed-use complex at the heart of Amman is close to the new Al-Abdali city centre. The site, an extraordinary carved-out rock shelf set against a sheer 30m backdrop, presents physical challenges similar to those faced at ancient Jordanian sites such as Petra. A rough-hewn podium has been inserted with strong, vertical cuts into a line of natural rock. Grouped together on this podium will be a set of six inter-connected, sculpted towers including a boutique hotel, residential units, offices, shopping and leisure activities. The deep spaces between the towers house a variety of sheltered public spaces including a sunken amphitheatre and large, sheltered piazza. The towers have double-skin façades with screens whose horizontal lines recall delicate rock strata and whose function is to stimulate air circulation and provide shading.



With transparency at the higher levels and at the towers' base, views across the city are unimpeded.
 Images: Foster & Partners

Beach Road, Singapore, 2007

Occupying an entire city block between the Marina Centre and the Civic District, the scheme will create a 150,000 square metre eco-quarter in downtown Singapore. A generous canopy protects the public realm at ground level, buffering the spaces beneath from the extremes of the tropical climate. Above the canopy rises a vertical city of clustered towers incorporating commercial, residential, retail and two high end hotels, as well as a direct 'green' link to an MRT station. Offering a light and comfortable environment, Beach Road is providing an exemplar sustainable quarter for Singapore with its design potential to achieve the Green Mark Platinum Rating.



The Singaporean ideal of the 'city in a garden' with its lush planting and sky gardens.
 Image: Foster & Partners



Inspired by the sleek aerodynamic aesthetic of the racing car. Image: Foster & Partners

Spaceport America, New Mexico, USA, 2007

Less solidly attached to terra firma than the other projects featured here, this will be the first private spaceport in the world. The building's sinuous shape in the landscape and its interior spaces seek to capture the drama and mystery of space flight itself, articulating the thrill of space travel for the first space tourists. Making a minimal impact on the environment and organised into a highly efficient and rational plan, the Spaceport has been designed to relate to the dimensions of the spacecraft with a careful balance between accessibility and privacy. Designed to have minimal embodied carbon and few additional energy requirements, the design aims to achieve the prestigious LEED Platinum accreditation. The low-lying form is dug into the landscape to exploit the thermal mass, buffering the building from the extremes of the New Mexico climate as well as catching the westerly winds for ventilation. Natural light enters via skylights with a glazed façade reserved for the terminal building, establishing a platform for the coveted views onto the runway.



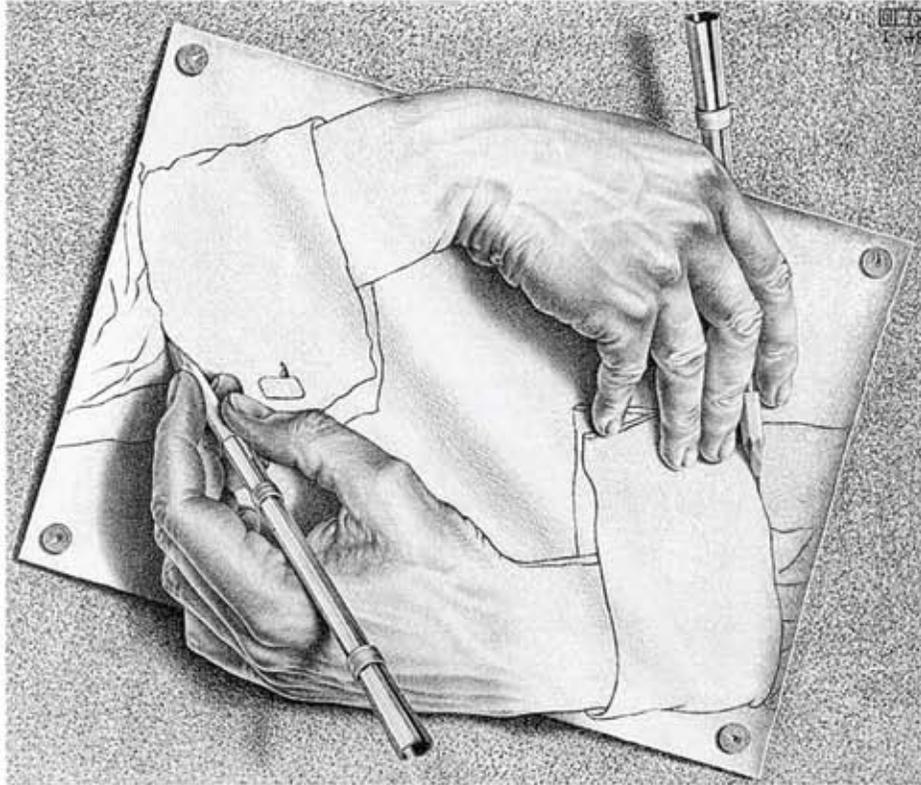
Motor City, Aragon, Spain, 2007-10

A major new leisure and cultural zone within a new motor sports centre in Alcañiz, Aragon. The smooth forms and volumes of the building are sculpted by solar and wind patterns with a lightweight roof that floats over the entire complex. Motor City will use passive environmental controls as well as harnessing renewable energy, enabling the whole complex to be carbon neutral. The roof integrates sustainable design elements such as photovoltaic cells and solar thermal tubes on its surface together with an array of wind turbines. The sweeping roof culminates in a tower which gives the development its identity and when illuminated at night, will become a beacon for Motor City. This is the latest in a group of projects Foster + Partners have recently won in Spain, including Madrid's City of Justice, the HQ for Repsol YPF, a winery for Faustino and a masterplan for Seville. ¡Viva España!



Camp Nou Stadium for FC Barcelona, Spain, 2007

Already the largest stadium in Europe, its enlargement will accommodate 106,000+ fans together with extensive new facilities including hospitality and public areas. A new roof will shelter the fans while the stadium will be enclosed by a brightly coloured mosaic outer skin wrapped around the building and continuing over the new roof. The multi-coloured enclosure comprises overlapping translucent tiles in club colours, symbolising the loyalty and devotion of FC Barcelona's fans worldwide.



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DOING THE LOCOMOTION

THEO JANSEN'S BEAUTIFUL WIND POWERED WALKING ROBOTS

If you're out for a stroll along the Dutch coastline these days, don't be at all surprised - or afraid - to see a dinosaur-like 'Strandbeest' walking towards you, powered by only the wind and the fertile imagination of its creator: the artist, sculptor and engineer, Theo Jansen.

What Jansen calls his "kinetic sculptures" are beautifully crafted skeletal animals which he eventually wants to roam freely along the beaches, living their own lives. Yes, we think he's crazy too but as we all know, crazy = genius in the art world.

Jansen studied science at the University of Delft in Holland before making an about turn to concentrate his energies on the arts, devoting himself to painting for seven years. Inexplicably, he then embarked on a flying saucer project - a flying saucer which flew over Delft in 1980 drawing people onto the streets and sending the police into pandemonium.

For the last ten years, this one-in-a-million inventor has been creating a new life form from nature using electricity tubes, plastic bottles filled with air and the ancient physical science of wheel motion. He creates "genetic algorithms" which simulate evolution inside

their code. Some measure of "fitness" is introduced into the algorithm so the creature can survive on the beach while moving around within two enclosing lines on the wet sand near the ocean and on the dry sand at the edge of the beach.

Commissioned by the town district Geuzenveld/Slotermeer in collaboration with Art Amsterdam Funds, his 'Animaris Rhinoceros Transport' is an 'animal' weighing 2 tons, standing 4.70 metres tall, can be set into motion by one person and because of its height, the wheel motion enables it to catch enough wind to start it moving of its own accord. He then lets them roam free on the beach, measures their success and updates his model for his next project.

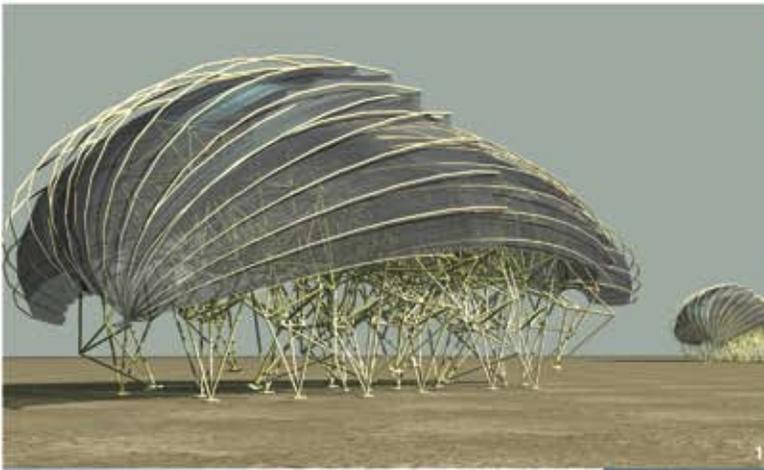
A popular topic of conversation at Barcelona's ArtFutura in October, Jansen's 'Strandbeest' has even featured in a BMW ad promoting alternative energies. They really have to be seen in action to be believed and appreciated for their ingenuity, grace and downright weirdness.

Check out his vast online video gallery at: www.strandbeest.com

ART 122



Text: Chris Dove Photos: Artist Courtesy



1 | Strandbeest in action 2 | Strandbeest under construction 3 | Animaris Rhinoceros Transport in action 4 | Animaris Percipier in action
5 | Animaris Percipier on display in an open plaza

London's

Serpentine Gallery Pavilion 2007



Designed by internationally acclaimed Danish-Icelandic artist Olafur Eliasson and award-winning Norwegian architect Kjetil Thorsen of architectural practice Snøhetta, this timberclad structure resembles a spinning top and brings a dramatic vertical dimension to the original single-level pavilion designed by Pritzker Prize-winning Rem Koolhaas.





Photos courtesy of Olafur Eliason

A wide spiralling ramp made two complete turns allowing visitors to ascend from the Gallery lawn to the highest point for views across Kensington Gardens as well as a bird's eye view of the chamber below. Exploring the idea of vertical circulation within a single space, the architects reconsidered the traditional, single-level pavilion structure by adding a third dimension: height. The vertical movement of visitors in the Pavilion complemented the horizontal circulation in the exhibition spaces at the adjacent Serpentine Gallery.

Visitors ascended from the lawn to the roof via the ramp which functioned as a mediator between the Pavilion interior and its surroundings. Whilst journeying upwards, they encountered the interior space followed by an enclosed stretch of the ramp with the surroundings only glimpsed through the louvered facade.



Beijing's Solar Energy Efficient Building (SIEEB)

The Sino-Italian Ecological and Energy-Efficient Building (SIEEB) at Tsinghua University in Beijing is designed to maximize passive solar capabilities and is fitted with state-of-the-art active solar elements.

Architect Mario Cucinella and Milan Polytechnic conceptualized the structure to educate and showcase possibilities for energy-efficient building, particularly with regard to CO₂ emissions.



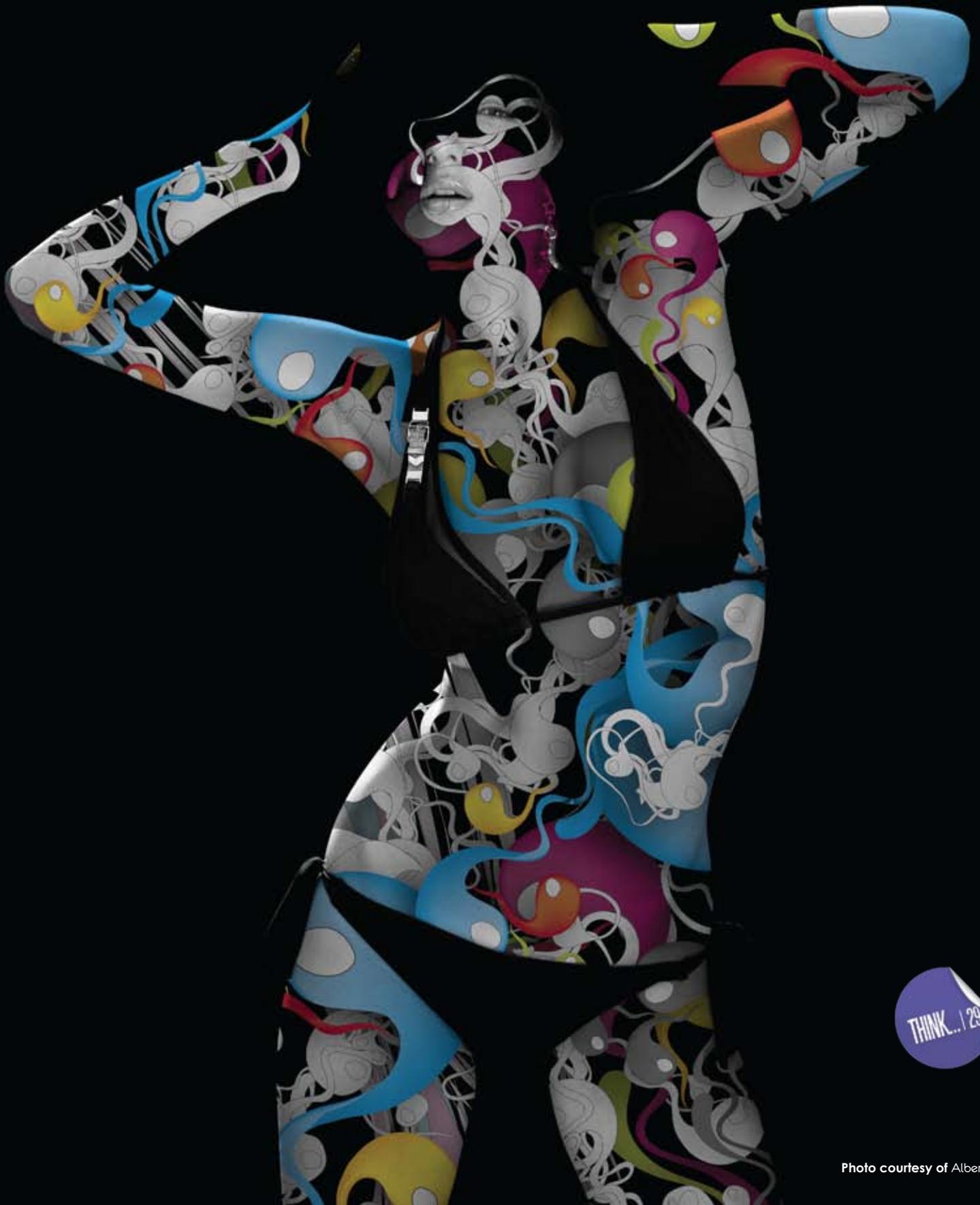


The project is a collaboration between the Ministry for Environment and Territory of the Republic of Italy and the Ministry of Science and Technology of the People's Republic of China. The SIEEB takes on a symmetric layout that opens towards the south with stepped exposures and a central courtyard. Integrated photovoltaic arrays shade terraces while capturing solar energy. Double glass façades with horizontal sunshades create the building's exposed exterior on the east and west. Pivoting glass louvers with reflective coating cover the exterior walls of the courtyard to regulate daylight and solar gain. The northern exposure is heavily insulated and mostly opaque to shield against cold winter winds.

Over 1,000 square metres of photovoltaic panels supply primary energy needs. With a focus on minimum CO₂ emissions, the architects opted for gas engines with electric generators for supplemental energy. Recaptured heat is used for hot water, winter heating and combined with absorption chillers for cooling in summer. Conditioned air is dispersed via displacement ventilation and a radiant ceiling system enhances thermal comfort. Room temperatures and lighting are sensor-controlled to minimize energy use when rooms are vacant.

The SIEEB houses the Sino-Italian Cooperation Program for Environmental Protection, a collaboration for education, training and research with a focus on energy conservation and emissions reduction. The structure and the program both stand as an example for future energy strategies – a welcome trend in a nation heavily dependent on coal.





THINK... | 29



Fire starters!

Radiating style with the latest, coolest radiator designs

GONE ARE THE DAYS WHEN A 'REAL' FIREPLACE WAS THE ULTIMATE IN COSY HOME FURNISHING DURING THE COLD WINTER MONTHS. NOW, LEADING EDGE HEATING OPTIONS ARE TAKING OVER FROM TRADITIONAL LOG, COAL AND EVEN STANDARD GAS FIRED SYSTEMS – MAKING ANY ROOM NOT JUST WARM AND WELCOMING BUT STREETS AHEAD IN THE GOOD LOOKS LEAGUE, NOT TO MENTION THEIR BOUNDLESS VERSATILITY. _____ REVOLUTIONISING THE HUMBLE RADIATOR AS THE HEIGHT OF MODERN LIVING, COLLECTIONS BY COMPANIES SUCH AS AEON HAVE BEEN ENGINEERED TO EXACTING STANDARDS TO PROVIDE THE LEVEL OF COMFORT THAT WE DEMAND TODAY: UNIQUE AND STUNNING SCULPTURES DESIGNED TO ENHANCE ANY ROOM IN ANY LIVING SPACE. BRUSHED SATIN AND MIRROR POLISHED 100% STAINLESS STEEL SPIRALS, CUBES, TOWERING COLUMNS, GEOMETRIC LINES AND PRECISION FINISHING ARE ALL FEATURES OF THEIR BEAUTIFUL COLLECTION. _____ SUPPLIED WITH BRACKETS, BLANKING PLUGS, AIR VENTS, FIXING SCREWS, RAW PLUGS, AIR VENT KEY AND 1/2" CONNECTIONS, AEON STAINLESS STEEL RADIATORS CAN BE USED IN BOTH DIRECT (OPEN CIRCUIT) AND INDIRECT (CLOSED CIRCUIT) APPLICATIONS. THEIR FULL RANGE WITH HEAT OUTPUTS FOR EACH ARE LISTED IN THEIR STUNNING BROCHURE, AVAILABLE AT WWW.AEON.UK.COM



1 | Nexus: A true work of art, this panel reflects light while creating the intrigue of fine art on the walls.

2 | Abacus: This unique design oozes style and fun and comes with glow-in-the-dark globes.

3 | Ecstasy: This deceptive-looking spiral sculpture is actually a powerful heat source!

4 | E-Type: This maverick modern design creates a real WOW! factor while providing high energy efficiency.





1 | Millennium: Long, low, luxurious design for the 21st century – LED lights on the stunning glass top create an after-dark transformation.

2 | Bamboo wall: This highly engineered vision of beauty is the ultimate style statement for the corner of any room.

3 | Coffer: Its clean-edged finish shows off up to the moment modern design cues.



Photo courtesy of Wind Shaped Pavilion



Michael Jantzen's

Wind Shaped Pavilion

Text: Chris Dove

A **MIND-BLOWING** experience

Unrivalled designer, artist, inventor and eco-engineer, Michael Jantzen from the Human Shelter organisation in California knows a thing or two about wind and even more about creating structures that take account of natural elements.

The mechanics of his proposed Wind Shaped Pavilion aren't a million miles from that of a Rubik's Cube. Made entirely out of lightweight fabric, each of its six main segments twists randomly around its central support frame in response to fluctuations in the wind. This means that the shape of the pavilion continually alters with only a slim chance of it ever returning to its original symmetry. This truly great concept not only makes for an interesting space that can be used as a public or private pavilion, it also generates enough electrical power for its illumination at night. And, depending on the scale and materials used, the structure has dynamism built in as it could realistically become a groovy apartment block or hip commercial building.

There isn't a self-respecting architecture, design or home-related magazine that hasn't featured Michael's work, so to check out his portfolio of forward-thinking ideas on this and many of his other original projects, visit www.humanshelter.org



Designed by
PEI Architects,
the new
Suzhou
Museum
adjoins the
landmarked
Zhong
Wang Fu, a
complex of
19th-century
historical
structures and
the Garden of
the Humble
Administrator,
a 16th-century
garden listed
as a UNESCO
World
Heritage site.

SUZHOU MUSEUM, CHINA

“The future of Chinese modern architecture”

by I.M. PEI ARCHITECT with PEI PARTNERSHIP ARCHITECTS



Nicknamed the 'Venice of the East' and located on the lower reaches of the Yangtze River 100 miles northwest of Shanghai, the new Museum couldn't wish to have been built in a more historic and culturally significant setting. The 2,500 year old Suzhou city is renowned for its picturesque scenery, 1,600 stone bridges, pagodas, meticulously designed gardens, its importance as a centre for China's silk industry and an increasingly popular tourist attraction.

Covering 17,000 sq m² and comprising 7,500 sq m² of exhibition galleries, a 200-seat auditorium, curatorial offices, conservation studios, a study library and art storage facilities, the museum design takes its cues from the rich vocabulary of Suzhou traditional architecture with its whitewashed plaster walls, dark grey clay tile roofs and intricate garden architecture. However these basic elements have been reinterpreted and synthesized into a new language and order – one that is contemporary and forward looking as a possible direction for the future of Chinese modern architecture.

As with traditional Suzhou architecture, the museum's design is organised around a series of gardens and courts that mediates between the building and its surrounding environment. The main Museum Garden is a contemporary extension and commentary of the Garden of the Humble Administrator to the north. As visual connections between the two properties are not possible due to the high garden walls, water is used physically and metaphorically as a bridge between the two properties.

The new Museum Garden and its smaller Gallery and Administrative Gardens aren't landscaped based on traditional and conventional approaches – rather, new design directions and themes seeking the essence of traditional landscape design can be distilled and reformulated into potentially new directions. This new approach to Chinese garden architecture is a highly visual example of the transformation from "made in Suzhou" to "created in Suzhou."

HALL HOUSE

Text & photos: Kentaro Takeguchi & Asako Yamamoto – ALPHAVILLE ARCHITECTS

"To design a new type [of house], we need new parameters without architects' arbitrariness."

That's the unorthodox mindset Japanese architects ALPHAVILLE adopted in their approach to this client design brief for Hall House 1: A young couple needed a house to enjoy their spare time such as weekends, nighttimes, having nice meals, enjoying films and playing billiards which requires a large space with soundproofing. The first question was how to get a hall spanning at least 6 meters, preferably made of reinforced concrete, within the budget? The second was to fit this hall into the distorted shape of the site – formed from the remains of building lots of two housing land developments which meet at an angle of 20 degrees and the sloped road in front of it – creating a 1.5 meter difference in height from one end of the site to the other.

ARCHI
TECTURE 136

THIS IS HOW ALPHAVILLE DID IT, IN THEIR VERY OWN WORDS:

"We formed the interior space of the house along this sloped road, putting the parking lot at the lower end, the billiard-theater through the entrance, dining-kitchen at a half-floor level going up the broad stairs which served also as a seat for a home-theater, allowing us to watch images on a huge screen-wall at another end of the billiard hall, over the billiard table. As the client needed no isolated space, a bedroom with a bathroom is situated also at a half-floor level going up from the dining-kitchen, which means all the interior space of this house forms one long inclined hall of 6m wide.

To fit the building into the irregular shape of the site, we bended this hall at an angle of 70 degrees at the end of the dining-kitchen, put the bedroom onto the billiard-theater slightly off to the side, and the gap of the first and the second-floor became the terrace open to the broad view of the schoolyard next to the site, letting the light plentifully into the whole house through the bathroom surrounded by a glass wall. The only other windows this house has are in the dining-kitchen where the hall bended and the door at the entrance, so that the interior space is not disturbed by passers-by on the road along with the hall.

In spite of the exclusivity of the interior space, the sloped roof provides inhabitants with the large garden to sit and look over at the level of the roofs of surrounding houses, where they can reach from bedroom through a slope behind the house. To realize the pentagonal plan and inclined shape of the roof, we adopted a mono-coque structural system of reinforced concrete, which means to envelop the hall with concrete walls and slabs at least

180mm-thick to cover the 6m span of the hall and made a special water repellent by spreading it onto the concrete slabs and walls, which allows us to let the rainfall run down from the roof to a gravel-covered ground into underground drains using no parapets nor gutters.

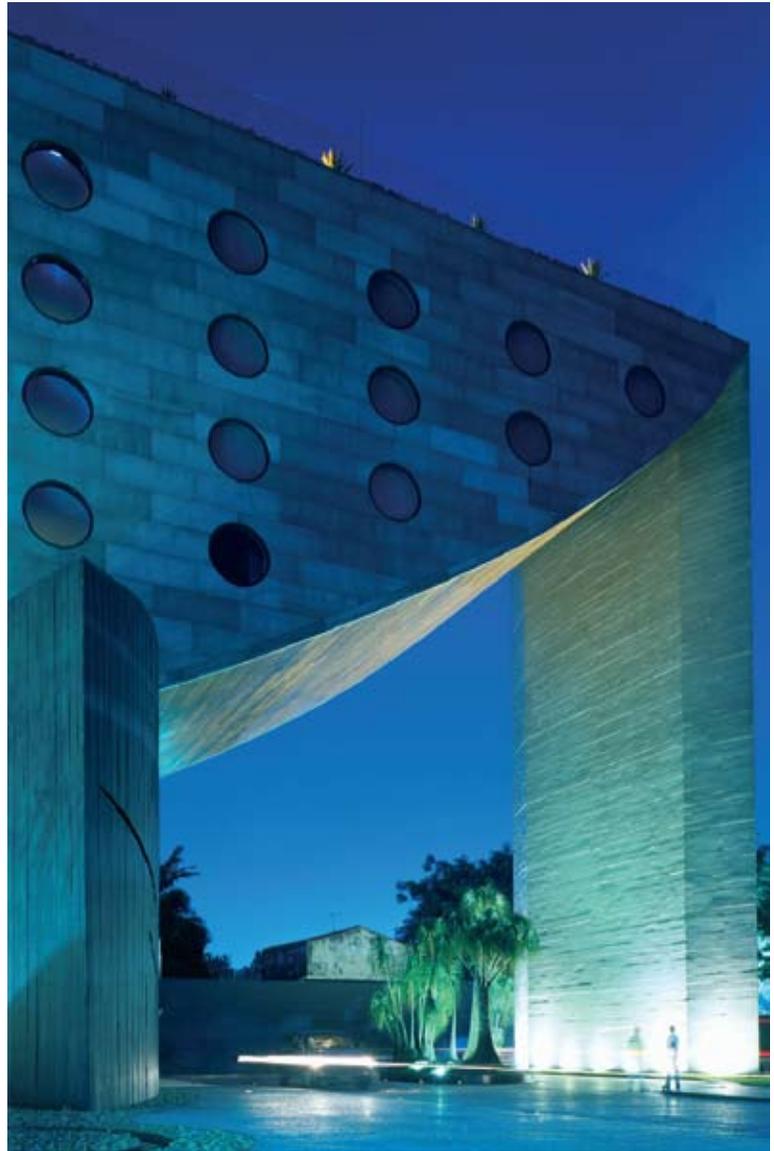
Besides, the beam at the end of the second-floor slab inclined at an angle of 45 degrees helps to bind two walls, along with serving as a headrest for the bedroom. The roof folded into three slopes enables a concrete slab to cover this long span without a beam, giving adequate ceiling height for staircase, bedroom and bathroom. Thus, we cooperated with a structural engineer using 3-dimensional models, 3d-CAD and 3d structural analysis along with the architectural form required.

We think there must be a new architectural type that comes through the new parameters beyond our arbitrariness and that is suitable for this new age. At Hall House 1, the structure which envelops the interior spaces can directly be the exterior form and this mono-coque structural system of reinforced concrete allowed us to express the individual need to the external residential area at the minimum scale, not disturbing the context of the circumference. You see this architecture from the waterproof rooftop to the entrance on the ground. In other words, you can find a new type of activity in the background that consists of a mono simple material – concrete. And we hope when these types of spaces prevail among the orthodox but average houses of an emerging residential area, there must be not small influences on the "generic" city of Japan.





Photos courtesy of Hotel Unique

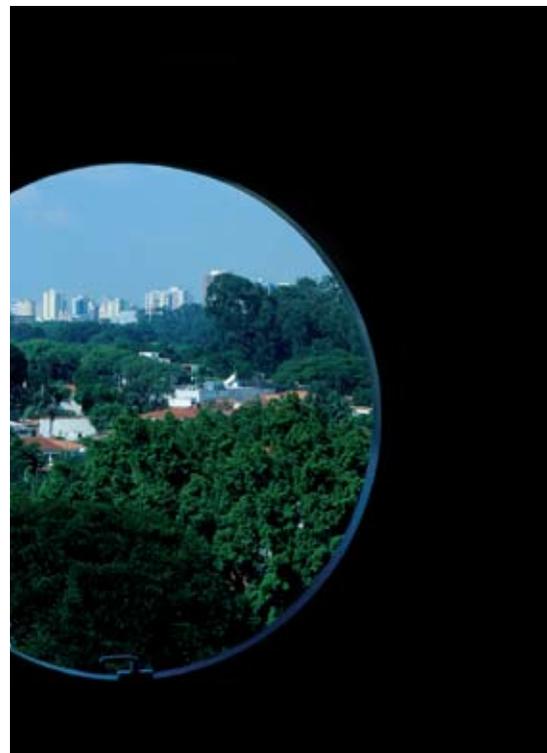
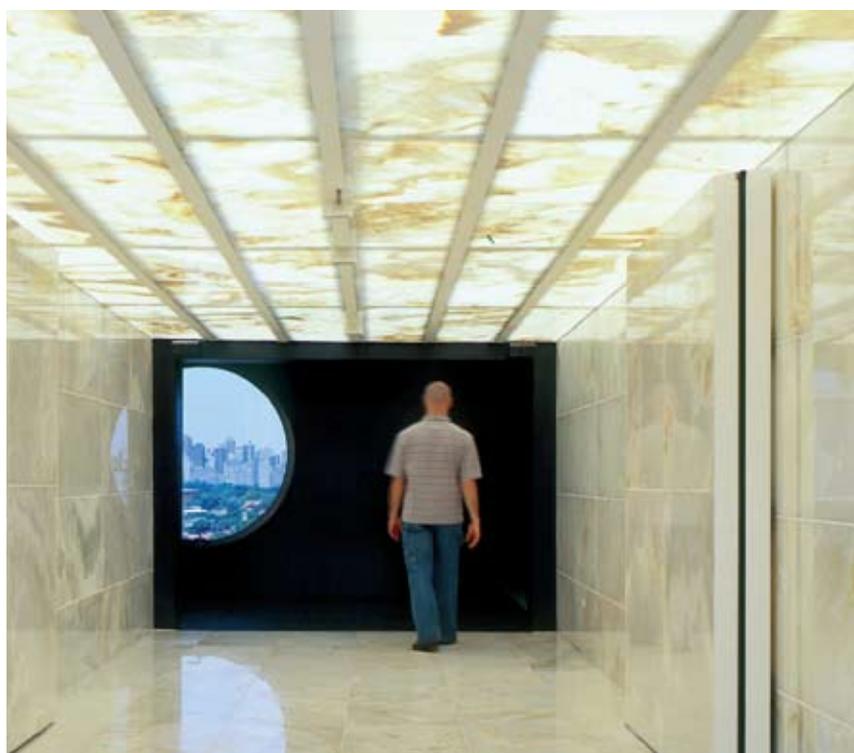
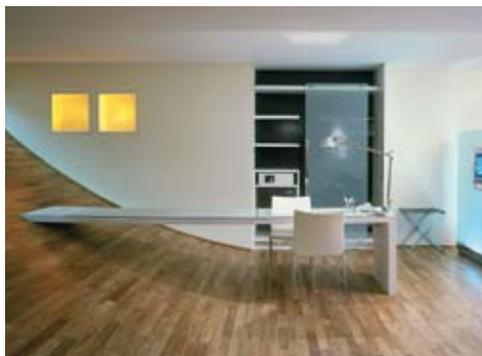


Brazil's Hotel Unique

Nights in white satin at



Text: Chris Dove





Ignore its uninspired name – Hotel Unique does what it says on the tin. It's a unique stopover point located in the historic, tourist and cultural centre of Sao Paulo, close to the city's financial centres, fairs, exhibition halls, theatres, shows and entertainment centres, and with its highly visible landmark boldly stretching across the Sao Paulo skyline, you'd be mad to miss a unique opportunity to revel in its 4-Star luxury.

All well and good from the hotel exterior but it's the interior we're really interested in. Designed by famous Brazilian architect Ruy Ohtake, once you step into the hotel lobby, you'll be blinded by the light – practically everything is white with touches of chrome everywhere you look. Six floors with 95 apartments play host to carefully arranged objects with fine details.

Shades of white, sand and brown provide elegant and well-balanced colours to the rooms with superior comfort added to the contemporary decoration. Floors of prime Brazilian wood lead to bright and airy bathrooms equipped for an energizing shower or a relaxing whirlpool tub – as guests revel in a private source of pure water.

Wide round windows offer exciting vistas from the rooftop terrace and swimming pool, giving unrivalled views of Sao Paulo's skyline. Don't be turned off by the crimson colour of the pool – if you go for a dip, you'll be rewarded with groovy underwater sounds. And the hotel's technology-advanced, self-sufficient energy sources have everything to meet the modern traveller's green lifestyle. Hotel Unique is part of Design Hotels.

Hotel Unique
Av. Brigadeiro Luis Antonio 4700
Jd Paulista, Sao Paulo, Brazil
www.hotelunique.com.br
Bookings can be made at www.designhotels.com



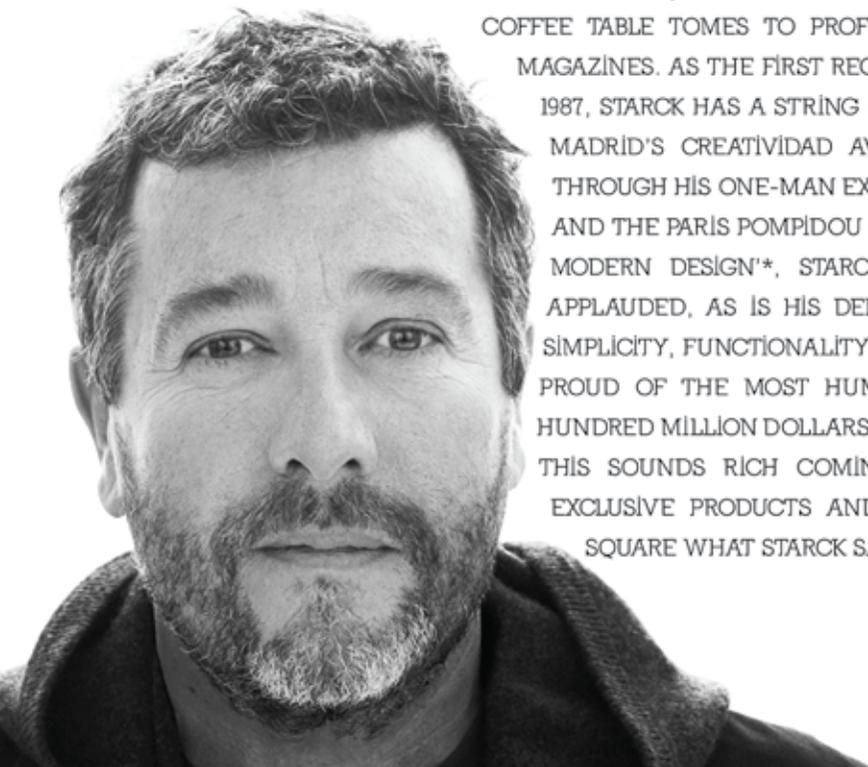
“There’s no designer in the world who has influenced what design is like he has. Designers design products, he designs design.”

Text: Chris Dove Photos: Courtesy of Philippe Starck

Sheer S+ARCK

NO PRIZES FOR GUESSING – THIS IS ONE RESPECTED DESIGNER’S SUMMING UP OF ANOTHER: THE FRUITFUL FRENCH DESIGNER PHILIPPE STARCK. ANYONE WHO DOESN’T RECOGNISE STARCK’S THREE-LEGGED LEMON SQUEEZER MUST HAVE BEEN LIVING ON MARS SINCE 1990, THE FIRST YEAR OF PRODUCTION OF HIS ‘JUICY SALIF’ TO GIVE IT ITS CORRECT NAME, WHICH STARCK DESIGNED AS AN AID “TO START CONVERSATIONS.” IT’S CERTAINLY DONE THAT. ADMITTEDLY THIS AFFORDABLE, CULT CITRUS JUICER RESEMBLES AN ALIEN SPACESHIP, BUT THAT’S NO EXCUSE FOR NOT RECOGNISING IT OR HIM. IRONICALLY, ONE OF HIS LATEST PROJECTS IS CREATING THE VISUAL IDENTITY AND DESIGN OF THE VIRGIN GALACTIC SPACESHIP SO HIS ALIEN TENDENCIES DO ACTUALLY MAKE SENSE. _____ BACK ON TERRA FIRMA THOUGH, STARCK’S PROVOCATIVE DESIGNS ARE FOUND IN EVERY CITY, COUNTRY AND CONTINENT LUCKY ENOUGH TO POSSESS ONE OF HIS LUXURY HOTELS, STYLISH BOUTIQUES, HIGH END RESTAURANTS, BIJOU APARTMENT BLOCKS OR MUSEUM OF MODERN ART. CONSEQUENTLY HE’S THE WORLD’S MOST FÊTED DESIGNER WITH AN ENTIRE STREET IN PARIS, LA RUE STARCK NAMED AFTER HIM, A GLOBAL BRAND UNTO HIMSELF AND AN INTERNATIONAL REPUTATION TO DIE FOR. _____ EVEN THOSE OF US WHO DON’T (YET) POSSESS THE DESIGN CLASSIC ‘JUICY SALIF’ OR HAVE NEVER (YET) SAT IN ONE OF HIS FAMED ‘GHOST’ CHAIRS WILL RECOGNISE STARCK AS THE SUBJECT OF NUMEROUS PROBING ARTICLES AND BOOKS RANGING FROM CHUNKY

COFFEE TABLE TOMES TO PROFESSIONAL AND CRITICAL JOURNALS TO GLOSSY FASHION MAGAZINES. AS THE FIRST RECIPIENT OF THE HARVARD EXCELLENCE IN DESIGN AWARD IN 1987, STARCK HAS A STRING OF EQUALLY IMPRESSIVE AWARDS TO HIS NAME INCLUDING MADRID’S CREATIVIDAD AWARD IN 2006 AND HAS BEEN OFFICIALLY RECOGNISED THROUGH HIS ONE-MAN EXHIBITIONS AT NEW YORK’S MUSEUM OF MODERN ART IN 1993 AND THE PARIS POMPIDOU CENTRE IN 2003. _____ HAILED IN THE BOOK ‘MASTERS OF MODERN DESIGN’*, STARCK’S SKETCHES, ADVERTISEMENTS AND EPHEMERA ARE APPLAUDED, AS IS HIS DEFINITIVE MODERNIST STANCE ON ISSUES OF DECORATION, SIMPLICITY, FUNCTIONALITY AND MASS-PRODUCTION. STARCK EXPLAINS: “I AM ALWAYS PROUD OF THE MOST HUMBLE PRODUCT. I DESIGN NOW A MEGA-YACHT OF TWO HUNDRED MILLION DOLLARS, WHICH IS A REVOLUTION... I ALWAYS PREFER A TOOTHPICK.” THIS SOUNDS RICH COMING FROM A PROLIFIC PORTFOLIO BOASTING THE MOST EXCLUSIVE PRODUCTS AND INTIMIDATING INTERIORS IN THE WORLD. SO HOW TO SQUARE WHAT STARCK SAYS WITH WHAT HE DESIGNS?...





Rifle lamp for Flos: "...The "Guns" collection is nothing but a sign of the times. We get the symbols we deserve. Happiness is not a hot gun."

THE PROLIFIC DESIGNER

With his father an aeronautical engineer, Starck says he was "programmed to make rockets", spending hours under his father's drawing table sawing, cutting-out, sticking together, sanding, taking apart and analysing toys, bicycles, motor bikes and virtually anything else he could get his hands on. Spurred on by his mother, he studied design at the Ecole Nissim de Camondo in Paris before setting up his first company in 1968 aged 19, making inflatable objects. Having successfully fitted out two Paris night-clubs between 1976 and '78, and establishing the Starck Product Company in '79, Starck caught the attention of President François Mitterrand who, in 1982, commissioned the rising Star to refurbish his private apartments at the Elysée Palace – thrusting the stylist into the media spotlight and sparking off a glittering international career.

Throughout the '80s and '90s, while re-styling, re-branding and punctuating a new imagery of America, Starck's designs for the Royalton and Hudson hotels in New York, the Delano in Miami, the Mondrian in Los Angeles and the Clift in San Francisco saw him invent a new order of hotel, as he likewise did with his delectable designs for top-rate Parisian restaurants Bon and Bon2, among others. Starck's ventures abroad including his Hotel Faena in Buenos Aires, Argentina was lauded as one of the Coolest New Hotels in the World by Condé Nast Traveller and, turning his attentions to Japan and scattering the country with what he calls "architectural monsters" – who can forget Tokyo's much-talked about symbolic 'La Flamme' building for the Asahi Brewery? – he found himself at the forefront of expressionist architecture.



Juicy Salif: "The Olympus of design stands among the divine" and ranks with the historical greats at New York's Museum Of Modern Art.



Olive oil tins: Starck's great packaging design for La Amarilla de Ronda olive oil – the contents are almost as good as the container...

In London, Starck's showroom designs for fellow flamboyant Frenchman Jean-Paul Gaultier creates, in his words, a "whisper to the St Martin's Lane Hotel and Sanderson", his reference here to the ultra-exclusive Sanderson Hotel in SoHo's media village, dubbed "a hotel with modern sex appeal", his "most radical and subversive hotel to date", where I was once treated to an unforgettable weekend so can personally vouch for its "wildly romantic, sensual and dreamlike space wrapped in layers of sheer curtains and featuring silver-leafed



1 | Yacht M: A radical superboat project design. **2 | Puma:** Supportive, elegant underwear – Starck NAKED body wear range launched Spring Summer 2007. **3 | Ará desk lamp:** Adjustable die-cast polished metal alloy provides direct light from its swooping head. **4 | Mademoiselle chair:** Take your pick from this innovative range for Kartell – a clever combination of aesthetic qualities: solidity, space, materiality, transparency. **5 | Monseigneur armchair:** 2007 design for Driade – full grain leather seat cover available in 3 colours, for indoor use only. **6 | Moore armchair:** Small sculptured pivoting seat for Driade shows lively form and iconic overtones. **7 | Privé for Cassina:** Living and sleeping blend together both sitting room and “boudoir” in this collection comprising chairs, sofas and ottomans. **8 | Puma:** The Starck NAKED functional and sexy collection features 15 styles of body wear for men and women. **9 | Fossil:** LEDs integrated into and extruded from the thick plastic HardStarck wrist-strap.



sleigh beds, a rug inspired by Voltaire's handwriting and oil paintings of soothing landscape scenes." AND I soaked up the pleasure of sipping a pre-dinner cocktail in Sanderson's grand lobby, posing on Salvador Dali's quintessential, curvaceous red lips sofa. Say no more.

Yet it's Starck's easy ability to cross the boundaries of architecture and interior design into industrial and product design that's distinguished him as an incomparable talent. Think expensive Italian furniture, stainless steel cutlery, kitchen utensils, lamps, door handles, sophisticated bathroom suites, toothbrushes that resemble elegant ink-quill pens, loo brushes, scented candles, dumb-bells, fly swatters, fashionable clothing, exclusive 'eye wear', watches, cool scooters, the famous Moto Aprilia 6 motorbike, regatta yachts for Beneteau, Microsoft's Optical Mouse for – all characterised by unconventional combinations of materials and veering in look between his almost art deco treatment of metal to his organic treatment of plastic.

THE DEMOCRATIC DESIGNER

Promoting the ethos of honesty and integrity as the core of his design work and considering himself the Che Guevara of the design world – its 'man of the people' – Starck explains in heavily French-accented English: "My first chair, it cost one thousand dollar. It was a huge success...It is a joke. It is absurdity!" Starck's chairs now sell in American chain store Target for nine dollars. "I killed design like it was by killing elitism. It took for me 20 years through the democratic design. But it's almost done."

And it is almost done: Starck's latest Target campaign embodies the ultimate in the "democratisation of design." His Starck Reality range comprises 50 humble products for the home, office, kitchen, bathroom, baby and pets including a letter rack, magazine holder, tape dispenser, plastic stool, ultrasonic toothbrush and plastic food pots – all as elegant as they are functional, priced US\$2-40 (€1.40-28). "It is the final goal for me," he says. "For 20 years or more,





Left image: Le Restaurant Lan Oyster Bar, Beijing: Starck's eclectic bar is a huge space adjoining the Lan Club, a favourite VIP hang-out. Members-only premium club and bar has become a sanctuary to the city's crème-de-la-crème partygoers.



Right image: Volar, Shanghai 2006:

I have been trying to show that the real elegance is in the multiplication. Meaning that when you are lucky enough to have a good idea, you have a duty to multiply it and to give it to the maximum of people." Starck believes that his work will change the face of design for the better because distributors will be obliged to follow and compete. "This means good objects of good quality everywhere at the right price. And that's what interests me."

Mockingly called "the Don" by colleague John Hitchcox at co-owned Yoo property design, the deprecating Starck is often ashamed of what he does. "I design useless Christmas gift. Don't ask me to be proud or to be interested in what I do. I am so ashamed of what I do, I try to do it the best that's possible." Describing his commitment to design as a "sickness" and an "addiction", Hitchcox agrees, describing Starck as "almost a nerd."

THE INSATIABLE DESIGNER

Among his ongoing projects is his exclusive 15-year deal with Los Angeles-based SBE Entertainment & Hotel Group, creating a new luxury hotel brand debuting early next year. Covering five hotel properties in North America, Canada, Mexico and the Caribbean, the new brand will offer "the utmost luxury, with lively public spaces, private guest check-in and guestrooms which will go beyond the notion of 'interior design' into works of art." The SBE properties will be Starck's first truly luxury hotels designed in North

America while simultaneously masterminding the design for the Group's complete renovation of the historic Miami Ritz Plaza hotel in South Beach, opening mid-2008.

"Playful and masterfully" (as SBE, among others, refer to him) Starck was chosen because: "He is one of the world's true design visionaries and a wholly original thinker...he has brilliantly rethought every possible convention regarding design, dining and socializing to bring hospitality to an entirely new level. Each concept for the restaurants, lounges and hotels will be dramatic and distinct and, in typical Starck style, will no doubt invent an entirely new vocabulary for the luxury hotel experience...We want to create restaurants and hotels which have heart, flesh, poetry and humanity." Starck couldn't have put it better himself saying: "When people speak about architecture, we speak about happiness."

With innovation and ecology his guiding principle as he attempts to minimise material versus concept, other exciting ongoing projects include a revolutionary, environmentally friendly 160-metre mega yacht; hydrogen cars, a motorbike and other means of transportation form key elements of his recently launched 'European group of techno-creativity for the democratization of ecology'. Even more groundbreaking is his role as Creative Director of Virgin Galactic (founded with Richard Branson), whose goal is to democratise space tourism. Taking design to an

entirely new level, Starck overseas the project concept from the spaceport in the Mojave desert in southeastern California.

More earthly pursuits include Starck's NAKED Bodywear line with PUMA which offers sportive and elegant underwear for men and woman with a design emphasis on the minimal (use your imaginations); and FOSSIL watch designs employing the utmost technology to produce "maximum invisibility". Dipping his finger into food production again following his forage into pasta design for Panzani, Starck is developing the first organic olive oil to be blended using the techniques of great wine-making.

And with feet firmly on the ground in his customary comfort zone, Starck's unique touch will be evident in Milan's new Salone store with elegant and technical furniture including the Miss Lacy chair – a completely laced iron-made chair for Driade; "a continuation of the Miss K story" for Flos; two tech-



Asahi Beer Building: One of the most famous/infamous buildings in Tokyo is described as 'bold and iconic' or 'an egotistical eyesore'. We love it.

“I don't dream about design. I dream about making a better service for society” – Starck

nical innovations in the form of an inviting, organic Mr Impossible Chair and giant Flower Power vase for Kartell; and we'll see eroticism enter our daily furniture with Starck's elegant designs for the Privé de Cassina collection.

Closer to home (Spain), we'll be able to witness the Alhóndiga in Bilbao spring back to life next year from its former existence as an historic wine storage facility – this time metamorphosing under Starck's direction into a multi-disciplinary 40,000m² space geared towards knowledge, wellness and entertainment, offering residents and visitors to one of Europe's most cultural cities a place of discovery, exchange and modern living while making it an enjoyable new reference point for local people as they go about their daily business. A project dream come true for a truly extraordinary character who "doesn't dream about design. I dream about making a better service for society."

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SHOPPING 148

table radiolaria Ilhoon

"As if designed by nature", this furniture series uses the same design and structural principles found in nature. Light weight, optimised structurally and extremely efficient, the design and organic form use stretched fabric in a controlled environment, creating a 3D geometry. Made from aluminium alloy, bronze, fibreglass with satin or high gloss finish.

www.ilhoon.com



bdlove lamp Ross Lovegrove

This garden lamp armchair can be used outside or inside and, measuring 55.5" x 47.25" x 118.2", claims that each has seating capacity for three people but surely that depends on their size? Anyway, the lamp is made from rotomoulded polythilene and the bulb Hi-Spot 95 100W flood. Looks so comfy but the fluorescent red version can only be used indoors.... I wonder why?..!

www.betterlivingthroughdesign.com

pyramid collection Starline

A simple design and pure lines dominate these moveable fireplaces and will find their rightful place in any stylish home or modern apartment. The absence of a chimney allows you to install the Pyramid in the centre of a room or, by using a special attachment, transform it into a wall-mounted Bio-Fireplace®. 2.5 litre or 5 litre burner measures 47.6" x 15.9" x 35.4".

www.luxuryhomeproducts.com



pivot screen Mebel Furniture

A room divider made up of frames you can chop and change the look of: the acrylic pieces within each frame are removable so you can choose to go opaque or translucent as desired, or arrange colours or pictures as desired – the combinations are limited only by your imagination...The maple and oakwood is sealed with a clear varnish, creating a natural rubbed finish.

www.mebelfurniture.com

polder sofa Hella Jongerius for Vitra

With its low-slung, flat surfaces and horizontal emphasis, this sofa recalls the physical features of the Dutch Polder landscape. An innovative fusion of fabrics and hand-crafted details, each design employs six coordinated fabrics, colours and randomly placed buttons of buffalo horn, mother-of-pearl, fresh water mussel shell and bamboo. The result? A unique amalgamation of colour, texture and tactile elegance.

www.vassarinteriors.com





easy chair Hans Bleken Rud

Based on urban living trends towards smaller living spaces, this clever concept of two chairs and a table that fit into each other allow users to adjust it to meet their own needs. Either way it's a comprehensive solution for outdoor and indoor use.

www.yankodesign.com



flame pendant lamp Bathsheba Grossman for Materialise.MGX

An absolutely stunning pendant lamp that spreads delicate strips of light on the surrounding wall, creating a soft, intimate atmosphere. The story behind this amazing shape is truly unique so you have to buy one to find out what lies behind the tale... (we'll let you into the secret: it uses a revolutionary manufacturing process!)

www.materialise-mgx.com

pocket pill table Lee Kline

A blend of retro and futuristic themes in a magnificent modern table design. Its vacuum-moulded construction shows off its curves in all the right places – and it's very functional. Made of vacuum-injected fibreglass, its organic shape and aluminium base swivel to allow easy access to the pocket from anywhere. Opaque finish in metallic or semi-transparent colours.



www.plushpod.com

amoeba chair Verner Panton

Curvy, sensual and comfortable – a real modern design classic! A marvellous example of close-to-the-floor lounge furniture embodying the spirit of the early 70s. In bright colours and great comfort thanks to its flexible backrest shell. Wood structure, high-quality foam shape, virgin wool upholstery in various colours and finishes.

www.plushpod.com



subzero AXO Light

Diamonds are a girl's best friend and even more so for AXO Light: a diamond laden table lamp perfect for any male or female craving eternal values. Winner of a "Design Award Those Who Love It" initiative (a competition organised by AXO Light themselves!). Subzero is made from the finest Bohemian crystal. And everyone buying one is entered into a prize draw to win a fabulous De Beers diamond worth 10,000 euros!

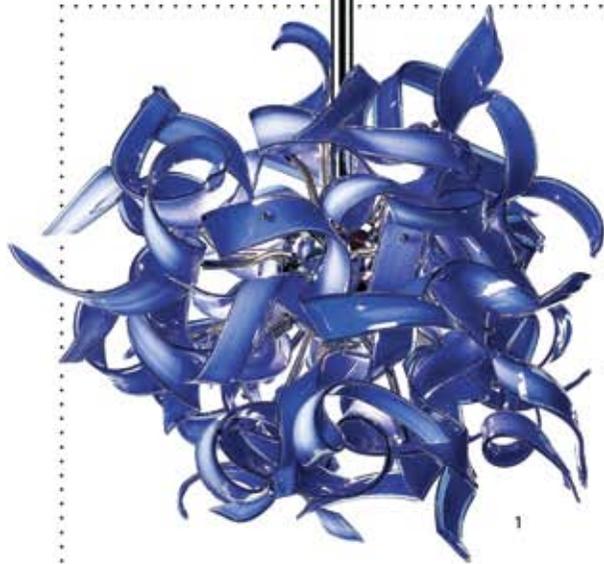
<http://www.axolight.it>



hover collection Kristoffer Kjaer & Mikael Hoilund

This collection of streamlined pieces and haute couture furniture combines clean lines with a strong sturdy look and hovering lightness. Coffee tables, lounge chair, sofa, daybed and bench ooze minimalism with traditional craftsmanship – custom made by hand by skilled Danish cabinet-makers and upholsterers.

www.hovercollection.com



1 | Nastro Blue Ocean 2 | Nastro Aglow 3 | Nastro Cygnet 4 | Nastro Jet Black

nastro *lighting sculptures by Andromeda*

A favourite at this year's Milan Furniture Fair (see our feature on the Fair in Modern Design, Issue 1), Andromeda is a much-sought after brand making hand made classical lighting from Murano glass. Founded 35 years ago, it was Italy's first artistic glass manufacturing company to obtain the ISO 9001 Quality Certification and has progressively maintained its quest for innovative shapes and concepts. Now considered the absolute protagonist of ornate Lighting Design thanks to collaborations with architects and designers of the calibre of Tobia Scarpa, Philippe Starck and Karim Rashid, their lighting installations are widely regarded as bordering on art. _____ Andromeda's award-winning ultra-modern Nastro collection stems from their philosophy of combining the four fundamentals of life into every fixture: water in the form of the Venice Lagoon; earth in the form of sand and soda; air blown by master Murano glass-blowers and the fire of the furnaces. Luxury brands including Breil and Jean Paul Gaultier have taken advantage of the elegance and creativity of Andromeda's Nastro collection to leave a timeless impression on their brands and stores. _____ Murano glass hails from the island of Murano 3km north of Venice in Italy. A prosperous commercial port since the 7th century, Murano became the centre of Venetian glass-making in 1291 when glass foundries were moved from Venice to reduce the risk of fires. At that time, Murano glass workers operated at the leading edge of glass technology as the only Europeans who knew how to make mirrors. Consequently they enjoyed great privileges and the Venetian authorities were keen to preserve their unique craft so punishment for deserters from the island was extremely harsh. This goes some way to explaining both the important value placed on these precious products and why Andromeda continue production to this day from this world centre of glass production. _____ Andromeda International, Calle Miotti 16, Murano, Venice.

View their complete collection at www.andromedamurano.it

Photo courtesy of Dutch Daze



Grunge Garbage?

Update on Dutch Design Week 2007

You may remember we previewed this key design event in Eindhoven, Netherlands in October (see Modern Design, Issue 3) so, by way of a follow-up, we've highlighted this one piece that particularly stood out from among the 100+ participating exhibitors.

Titled 'Dutch Daze' by young collective Dutch Daze, this recently formed group of nine design graduates from Arnhem work independently but present themselves as a unit. Dutch Daze dazzles with surprising, mind-blowing product design: dancing lamps, rebellious fashion accessories, superb ceramics and glassware. See for yourself with this imaginative – some would go so far as to call it 'creative' – offering from these rising stars of Dutch design.

Check out Dutch Design Week's many other exhibits at www.dutchdesignweek.nl

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Photos courtesy of Jesús Mateo

CELEBRATING 10 YEARS OF **JESÚS MATEO'S** **ALARCON MURALS**

On 3 December 1997, UNESCO placed the murals of young Spanish artist Jesús Mateo under its auspices, symbolising the cultural and artistic importance of this sole individual's initiative.



Alarcón is a beautiful city in the province of Cuenca, situated half way between Madrid and Valencia. As beautiful as it is though, the 16th century Church of St John the Baptist located in its principal square had fallen into rack and ruin and had been neglected for centuries.

That was until 1994 when a young artist named Jesús Mateo – without sponsorship or commission – took it upon himself to trace the outlines of what were to become the Alarcón murals. Aged just 23 at the time, Mateo re-sketched, re-drew and repainted the huge proportions of the church interior, surmounting technical difficulties as well as the formal and chromatic complexity of his single-minded project, and committing himself to six years labour in the confined space.

This ancient, deconsecrated edifice had all the necessary features to house Mateo's contemporary, radical artistic statement, offering a permanent home to his secular artwork as he took advantage of the exceptional interior layout of the space, creating his distinctive decorations. 1995 saw the creation of a cultural association to support his personal project by way of artistic patronage. More than 1,500 people from all over Spain responded by giving their backing to his works of art – a feat almost unimaginable in this day and age. Many have likened Jesus' work to a miracle.

Through its "1% Cultural" programme, the Spanish Culture and Development Ministries supported the project by fully restoring the building, installing public facilities and ensuring its security to make it into an open art centre – providing the young Spanish painter with a unique 21st century international stature when it opened to the public on 15 July 2004. Declared of International Artistic Interest by UNESCO in 2007, the name of Jesús Mateo is forever ingrained into the religious history of one of Spain's most important medieval cities.

To see more of the Alarcón Murals, visit the official website at www.muralalarcon.org – in Spanish only.

THINK...153



Photo courtesy of Alberto Seveso

Richard Meier: Art and Architecture Exhibition

Solo exhibition presents Meier's versatility as modernist artist, designer & international architect.

Louise T Blouin Institutes 3 Olaf Street,
London W11

Till 12/12/07
www.ltbfoundation.org

Drap-Art' 07

Festival of creative recycling, audiovisual workshops & (un)traditional Christmas Market

Barcelona Centre of Contemporary Art

14-16/12/07
www.cccb.org

SINGAPORE DESIGN FESTIVAL 2007

Celebrating & promoting design as a propeller of the new Asian economy

The City Hall, Singapore

Till 8/12/07
www.singaporedesignfestival.com

Shrinking Cities

A multi media examination of artistic, design & research in Germany, USA, UK & Russia
CUBE Gallery 13-15 Portland Street Manchester, UK

Till 26/1/08
www.cube.org.uk

Be-Bomb:

The Transatlantic War of Images & all that Jazz
Paintings between 1946-1956 when New York took over from Paris as a centre of modern art

From 5/10/07
Barcelona Museum of Contemporary Art
www.macba.es

DEC07/JAN08 EVENTS

BACKGROUND PICTURE: Helping to spark an interest in our 'Alternative Christmas' photo contest! Modern Design wish you all a fun-filled Christmas!

Living Really, Really High in
European Metropolis: The
Future of the Skyscraper

Master Class with Inaki Abalos □
Partner at Abalos & Herreros
Architects, Madrid

Berlage Institute Gallery
Rotterdam, Netherlands
10-14/12/07

www.berlage-institute.nl

Turner
Contemporary

Visual arts organisation
exhibits David Chipperfield
Architects' latest designs
for the new art gallery

Drop House, Margate,
Kent, UK

Till 27/1/08

www.turnercontemporary.org

Curtis Moffat:
Experimental Photography &
Design, 1923-1935

Pivotal Modernist interior
designer exhibits 1,000+ photo-
graphic prints, negatives, press
cuttings, scrap books &
ephemera

Victoria & Albert Museum, London

Till 13/1/08
www.vam.ac.uk

Jean Prouve

The radical, functional & inspiring
work of French designer, architect &
engineer, Prouve (1901-84)

Design Museum Shad Thames,
London SE1

From 7/12/07

www.designmuseum.org

Dali & Film

Exhibition of Dali's surre-
alist paintings, film, pho-
tography, sculptures &
texts

Los Angeles County Museum
of Art

Till 6/1/08

www.lacma.org

STREETS ALIVE WITH CHRISTMAS LIGHTS!



WE MAY DREAD THE
ENDLESS SHOPPING TRIPS,
CONSTANT CAROL SINGING
AND FALSE BONHOMIE BUT
REGARDLESS OF HOW YOUNG
OR OLD WE ARE, IT'S
IMPOSSIBLE NOT TO BE
THRILLED AT THE SIGHT OF
SEASONAL LIGHTS BEING
SWITCHED ON, DECORATING
THE MAIN SHOPPING
STREETS AND CHRISTMAS
MARKETS IN OUR TINSEL
TOWNS AND CITIES.

The increasing cost of health and safety insurance however is pushing up the price of even a modest festive display in the UK to as much as £25,000 (€35,000), with many towns struggling to meet tight budgets. Only the most miserly Scrooge Town Council would decide against any Christmas lights at all since the ill feeling and loss of seasonal trade would be considerable. When it comes to Christmas lights and street markets though, shoppers and visitors aren't interested in the dilemmas of local politicians. Many are so determined to see their local lights up that they're willing to contribute to the costs themselves. It's no wonder that at this time of year, revellers the world over want one thing and one thing only – bright lights and lots of them!

OXFORD STREET CHRISTMAS LIGHTS, LONDON

The world's most famous shopping street enjoys the most famous Christmas lights in the world, welcoming the festive season in the heart of the West End. Every year, thousands of visitors descend on the John Lewis store for the annual switch on which this year took place on 7 November with 'celebrities' from TV and radio performing the official switch on. This year's theme is the new Disney Christmas film 'Enchanted', transforming Oxford Street into an overhead, mile-long canopy of themed illuminations. Shoppers can also see fantastic Christmas light displays and festive window displays along Bond Street, Regent Street, Marylebone and Trafalgar Square before the lights come down for another year on 4 January 2008.

MÁLAGA LIGHTS, SPAIN

Spain is more relaxed when it comes to Christmas lights and decorations, holding off until well into December before streets and towns switch on their lights. Generally, Christmas here is based more on a religious theme than in most other places with churches packed to capacity day and night especially to admire the 'belen' nativity displays. That's not to say we don't indulge in the festivities with gusto – we do! – starting with the 22nd December 'El Gordo' lottery (also called 'the Fat One, when the streets are full of excited people convinced they're about to become millionaires) and finishing with the Three Kings festival on 6 January when the streets are full of floats and parades and sweets are thrown to anticipating children along each major town's routes. As with most years, the biggest and brightest Christmas lights are on El Corte Inglés shopping centres – their displays visible from miles around are famous for their annually changing theme and seemingly bot-

tomless budget for the thousands of coloured light bulbs used. The most spectacular Christmas lights though will be on Gran Via, c/Goya and c/Ortega y Gasset in Madrid for those who'll be visiting the capital over the season.

PARIS ILLUMINATIONS, FRANCE

From November 2, major department stores including Galeries Lafayette, Printemps, BHV and Bon Marché began lighting up their window displays. The 2007 theme at Galeries Lafayette is snow, inviting all ages to a shiny Christmas and reminiscing with wild imaginations about memories of winters past. Brilliantly lit with balls, crystals, mirrors, diamonds and snow, a thousand lights will adorn the store, inviting visitors and shoppers in for more. Later in the month saw illuminations go up at the Champs-Élysées, Avenue Montaigne and rue Saint Honoré with other important areas including Place Vendôme putting their lights on during the last week of November along with the Paris neighbourhoods, lasting through till the first week in January.

ATHENS LIGHTS, GREECE

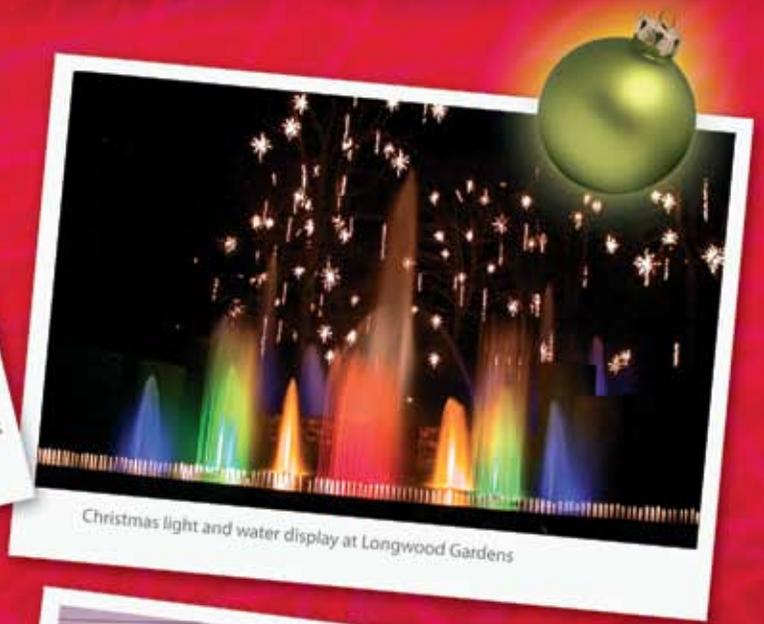
Just as with Spain, don't expect Christmas in Greece to feature quite the quantity of gaudy displays, Christmas lights or other Western decorations except in the windows of stores specially geared towards expatriates. Though becoming more popular, Christmas in Greece is still an oasis of non-commercialism although decorated Christmas trees go up in houses weeks before with Christmas lights, stars, angels and other shiny ornaments. In Athens, many balconies are decorated with small illuminated Christmas lights, trees, deers and singing Santa Clauses giving the festivities a unique, somewhat kitsch atmosphere.

SAPPORO WHITE ILLUMINATION, JAPAN

With less than 1% of Japan's population being Christian, many people don't know exactly what the origin of Christmas is – consequently, 25th December is not a Japanese national holiday and unless it's on a Sunday, the Japanese go to school and to work as normal on the day. Unsurprisingly then, Christmas is mostly a commercial event in Japan with the big corporations themselves footing the bill for decorations, street lighting, buildings and trees from their own budgets with advertisements everywhere decorated in red and green. The most popular area to see Christmas illuminations are the Odori Park in Sapporo city, lit up by nearly half a million white lights until 4 January.



Regent Street Christmas Lights, London



Christmas light and water display at Longwood Gardens



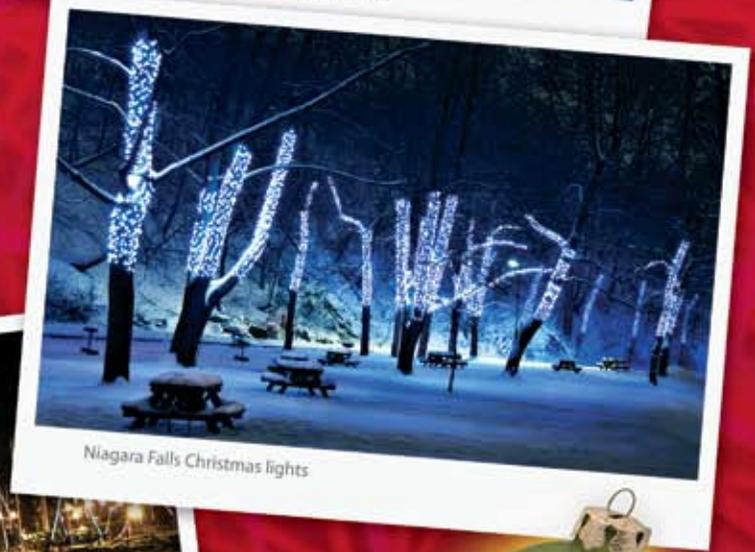
Christmas tree over the bay, Brazil



Nothing like Christmas lights in the countryside!



A blanket of Christmas lights, Cluj, Romania.



Niagara Falls Christmas lights



IMYC Christmas Lights Squashed



“We’ve worked very hard for one year to prepare the collection. Where do we go after? Maybe the moon. Why not?” Designer Silvia Fendi on a possible location for next year’s fashion show.



Fashion first for Fendi

As catwalk venues go, they don’t come more exclusive than the **Great Wall of China.**



Maintaining its position as one of the (New) Seven Wonders of the World in July – all eyes were on China again in October as the Great Wall became the centre of international attention, hitting the heady heights of fashion news with its first ever big show for luxury Italian fashion house, Fendi. At well over 1,500 miles along its entire length, this must be one of the longest fashion runways in history. A deliberately extravagant venue for Fendi to show the world and China in particular that they’re ready for business with the waking Asian giant.

Exquisitely kitted out by Karl Lagerfeld and Silvia Fendi, 88 models strutted down this unusual, well-lit catwalk, especially constructed on a raised platform on a restored part of the Wall at Juyongguan, an hour north of Beijing. Showing off a colourful mix of furs and silks complete with belt buckles and Fendi’s signature “Baguette” bags, the show is estimated to have cost “around US\$10 million” (€6.9 million). That’s one hell of a fashion budget.

Lagerfeld said he “played with circles” as his theme for the show, creating the combination of arcs and symmetry symbolising harmony. “I experimented with the cuts and prints to achieve a graceful effect that would look good on Chinese models.” The models sported mid-calf dresses in sheer and semi-opaque, worn over shorts with matching round-toe strappy stiletto heels. Fifties-style prom dresses and fur jackets were also on show as models dressed in Fendi’s seasonal must-haves tottered down the stage steps, often requiring assistance as they reached the end of the runway.

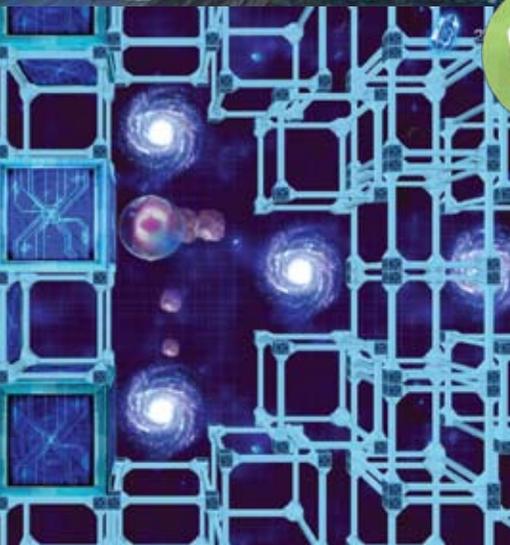
In the world’s fastest growing economy with 1,500 new millionaires made every day, China is increasingly attracting the attention of global brands keen to help them spend their newly found riches and desire for Western luxury. Also launching its first perfume, ‘Palazzo’ in October, Rome-based Fendi aims to become a “star brand” with its core shoes and handbags business currently accounting for 60% of sales with furs and ready-to-wear making up another 30%.

Photos : 88 models walk the runway at Fendi’s Fall/Winter 2007 fashion show on the Great Wall of China, 19 October 2007. Designs by Karl Lagerfeld and Silvia Venturini Fendi.

Images courtesy of Lucas Dawson/Getty and Andy Wong/AP



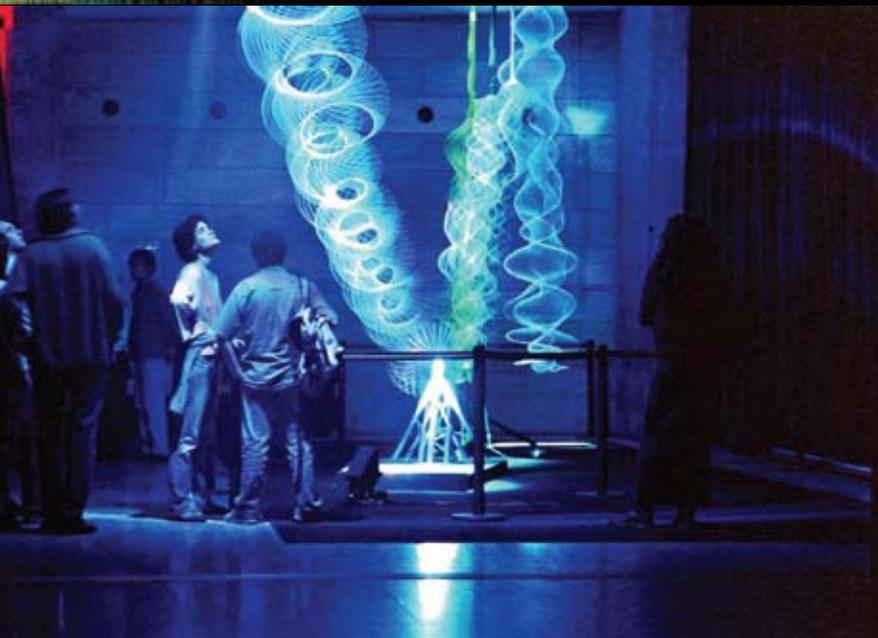
Artist: Moebius



BARCELONA
OCTOBER 25-28 2007



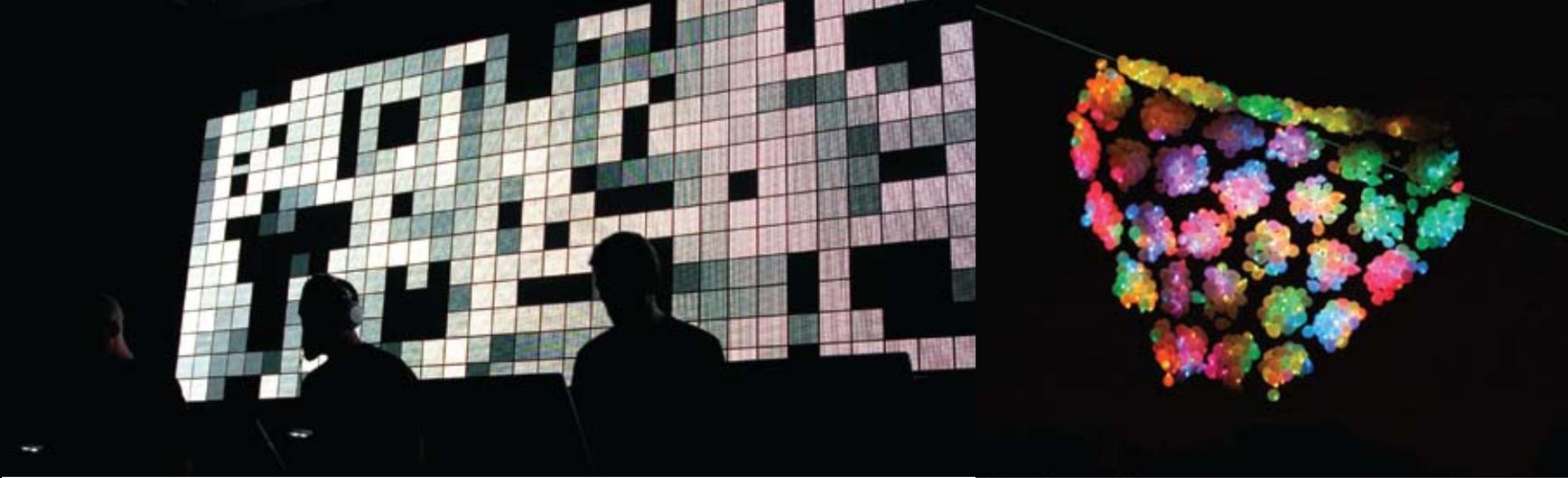
CELEBRATING SPAIN'S **ART FUTURA** FESTIVAL



The 18th edition of ArtFutura – the festival of Digital Culture and Creativity – has become Spain's reference point for art, technology and digital culture. Offering an extensive program of activities in museums and cultural centres in 11 different Spanish cities, the increasingly important annual festival explores development in these fields during the last 12 months with an international panorama of new media, interactive design, installations, exhibitions, live performances, videogames, digital animation, conferences and workshops.



Artist: Moebius



Artist: Usman Haque

Since its inception in 1990, ArtFutura has shown how art and science are following parallel paths more than ever and it's now impossible to view art as a separate discipline from new media, the internet and digital technology. Organisations and companies involved include such heavyweights as United Visual Artists, Pixar, Sony Pictures Imageworks and Media Lab from MIT in Boston, and with an illustrious showing from the great and the good of the multi-media world, it was only fitting that the title of this year's key theme was 'The Next Web'.

DAY 1: THE NEXT NET

Spread over three days, the first session brought us up-to-date with the revolutions in the web that have taken place over the last two years – now referred to as Web 2.0 – transforming it into a space of social participation and collective cooperation which cyber culture theorists of the early 90s would never have imagined. And, along with the boom in participative social networks catering to every possible age group and lifestyle, some of the internet's original utopias which saw it as an opportunity to build a parallel and autonomous world with its own rules have also regained strength.

This session encouraged provocative debates on where the web is going next with key thinkers, technologists and entrepreneurs of the digital economy leading the way. These included Steven Berlin Johnson – a key analyst of digital culture during this last decade who presented his latest project 'Outside.in': a service that filters the content of users on the Web with what occurs in its own neighbourhoods. And much attention was placed on Daniel Linden, head of Linden Lab, creators of the renowned virtual world 'Second Life' (see our feature on SL in Modern Design, Issue 5). Daniel is the closest that the virtual world has to a politician in charge. As much notorious as misunderstood, Second Life has become the most successful embodiment of the idea of the net as an immersive three-dimensional space.



Artist: Roshi Ishi



Photo above left:
The German studio, realitiesunited, develop architectural projects which visually integrate into the urban landscape. Mercat de les Flors, Barcelona

Photo above:
La Ballena Building; Mercat de les Flors, Barcelona

ARTFUTURA 2008

This year's festival wrapped up with live shows, performances and a well-attended party with the organisers promising an even bigger and better event next year, and with Galería Futura promoting many more aspects of new digital creativity. Among the projects they're currently working on is a large-scale exhibition in Madrid's Museo Nacional Reina Sofia for 2008, backed with the support of Spain's Ministry of Culture.

DAY 2: STEREOSCOPIC 3D

The creation of immersive synthetic worlds was a key feature dedicated to the next great technological transformation of the worlds of cinema and animation: digital cinema in stereoscopic 3D (creating the illusion of depth in an image). When it comes to competing with new digital leisure Hollywood believes that cinema's time has come.

Directors such as Robert Zemeckis, James Cameron and companies such as Sony Pictures Imageworks demonstrated and analysed the work they're undertaking in the production of images in stereoscopic 3D. For the first time, Robert Zemeckis' new production 'Beowulf' was aired as the first super production filmed in digital stereoscopic 3D, recreating the work of Angelina Jolie and Anthony Hopkins in digital animation.

One of the up-and-coming creators of independent digital animation, Ben Hibon's nine-minute short titled 'Codehunter' was screened as part of the ArtFutura Show. Originally developed for MTV Asia based on the aesthetics of 1980's European comics, 'Codehunter' has featured in over 30 festivals around the world this year and received prestigious prizes including the Golden Nica from Ars Electronica, the IMAGINA prize and the Promax/BDA.

DAY 3: NEW GENERATION VIDEOGAMES

This year's ArtFutura focused on innovation and playability in video games. One of the "new generation" of video games, 'Little Big Planet' was created by Media Module and is already changing the way we play – the user, not the developer, creates the characters. Similarly, these new generations of user created games are leading to more highly finished action games such as 'Heavenly Sword' – described as "the most ambitious game of 2007". Developed by Ninja Theory exclusively for the PlayStation 3 console and released worldwide in September, its authors gave an exclusive presentation on how these new generation videogames also involve spectacular super-productions never seen before.

Visitors to ArtFutura 07 were also able to enjoy a spectacular 800m² marquee dedicated to electronic leisure in the form of a 'NextFUN' and 'Xperimental Arcade'. Here they were able to discover interactive pieces such as the Khronos Projector – a projection system that changed the spectator's relationship with the screen. The Xperimental Arcade was a special "games room" in which the latest releases were mixed with products from independent studios, artistic projects and other examples from the less conventional side of videogame culture.



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Photo courtesy of Alberto Seveso

A GIANT LEAP FOR

TECH
NOLOGY

ROBOTICS!

CARE ASSISTANT FOR INTELLIGENT HOMES

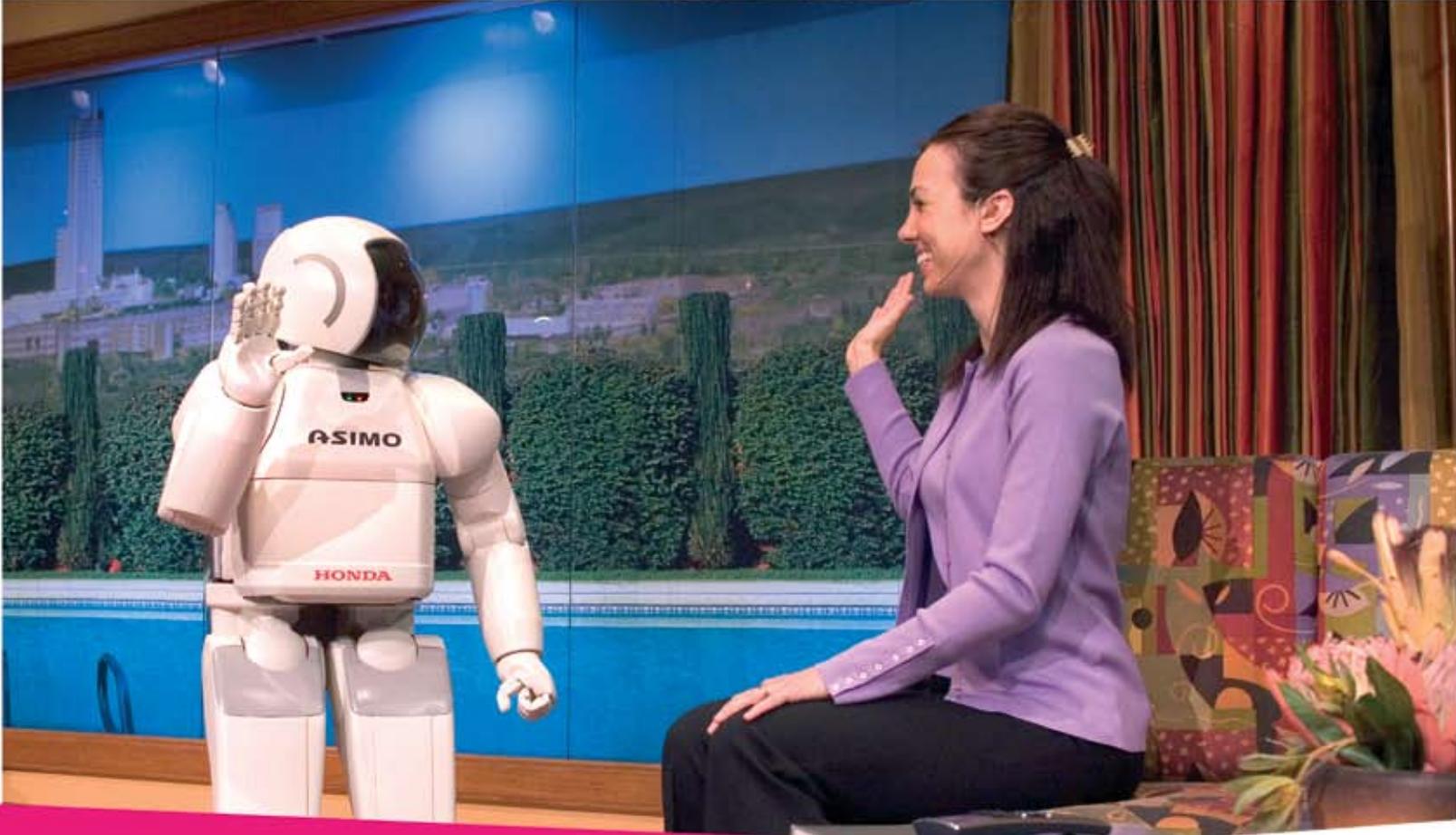
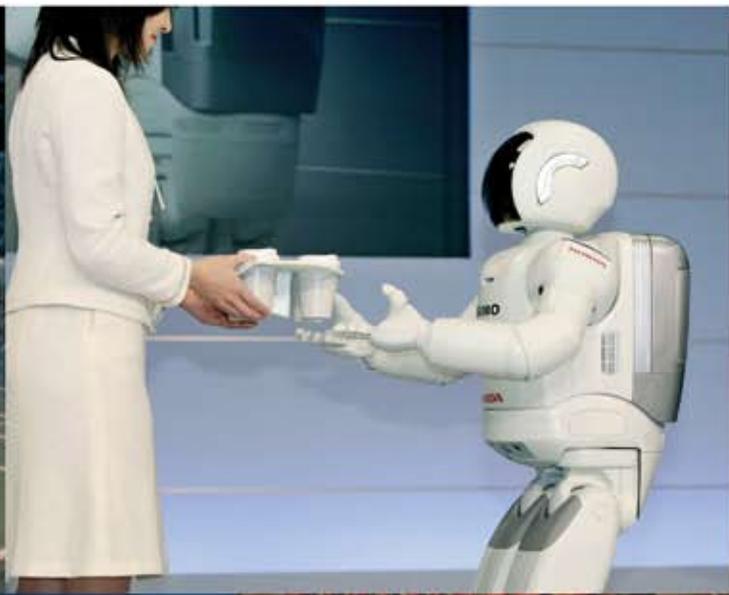
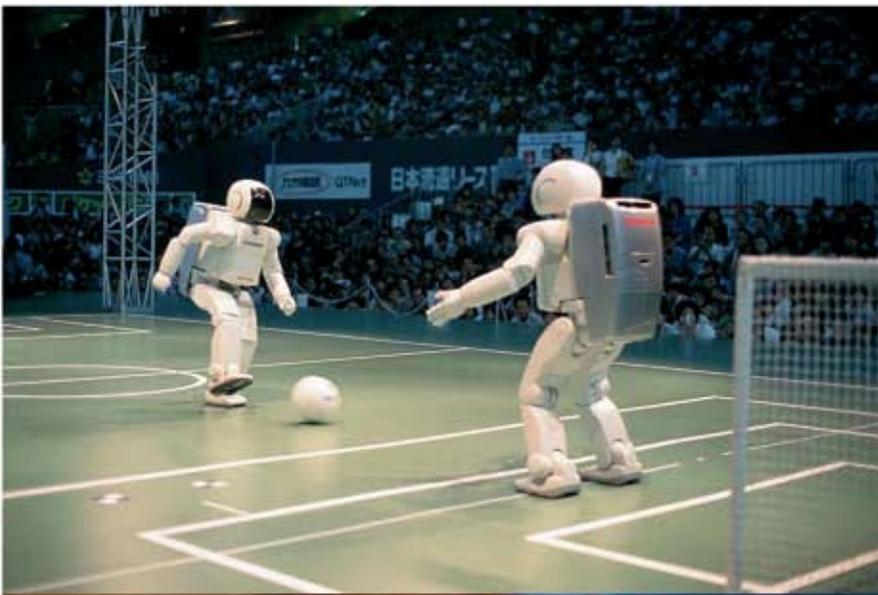


THANKS TO THEIR TECHNICAL FEASIBILITY, THE CONCEPT OF A PERSONAL ROBOT IN ASSISTING THE DISABLED AND ELDERLY HAS STEPPED UP A PACE AS AN ANSWER TO A GROWING SOCIAL NEED. DOMESTIC CHORES WILL BE SOMETHING WE'LL HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT LESS AND LESS AS HOME AUTOMATION MAKES OUR LIVES MORE COMFORTABLE, 'SMART', MORE EFFECTIVE AND CONVENIENT. HUGE DATA FLOWS CAN BE TRANSMITTED AND SHARED WITH THE HELP OF ROBOTS AND IN THE SAME WAY AS WE NOW EXCHANGE MESSAGES AND INFORMATION WITH EACH OTHER AND OUR APPLIANCES, SO WE'LL EXCHANGE ACTIONS, GESTURES AND EXPRESSIONS USING A ROBOT AT THE OTHER END OF THE NETWORK.

Looking at this in a social context, we're living longer so will need the support of robotic assistants. Elderly people in 2025 will be different from the 'elderly' today. They will have been part of the information society and their relationship to technology will be completely different – highly positive and willing to adapt to technological advances. Researchers working on robotics and technologies for personal assistance are taking this into account and this research has taken a great leap forward in recent years with companies like Honda investing heavily in ASIMO, their personal robot.

Most of us will have seen the original ASIMO in action when first created at Honda's Research & Development Centre in Japan in 1986. An acronym for Advanced Step in Innovative Mobility, standing at 130 centimetres (4 feet 3 inches) and weighing 52 kilos (119 pounds), the robot resembles a small astronaut wearing a backpack and can walk on two feet at speeds up to 6 km/h (3.7 mph). In October 2007, a joint initiative was launched between Honda and the newly formed Institute for Cognition and Robotics (CoR-Lab) at Germany's Bielefeld University – a leader in cognition and robotic intelligence. The landmark agreement aims to "move ASIMO closer to becoming a partner in society and developing intelligence as a technology in future Honda products."

As part of the collaboration, Honda has provided two ASIMOs to CoR-Lab, equipped with "whole body movement" software. Using an interdisciplinary approach which integrates the natural, engineering and social sciences, researchers are applying their understanding of how



the brain works and its underlying architecture and mechanisms to develop intelligent systems with similar capabilities. Until now, Honda engineers aimed to successfully replicate human movement such as walking and climbing stairs. As this was achieved in the 1990s, the latest generation of ASIMO goes even further with advanced mobility. Honda's collaboration with Bielefeld University will fulfil the ultimate ambition to develop a robot so advanced that it can genuinely help people such as those who lack full mobility or by working in environments too dangerous for humans.

Two ASIMOs were presented to the CoR-LAB on 10 October 2007 during an international research symposium titled 'Humans and Humanoids – Perspectives in Cognition and Robotics'. While the symposium sounds a bit of a dry topic, onlookers outside the venue in central Tokyo were entertained by an ASIMO named Mr Roboto walking, dancing and waving to the crowds. To see Mr Roboto in action, visit YouTube at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JeM7D9XUrDA>. More on intelligent robots next month.





TECH
NOLOGY

Step aside LEDs

ALL THIS AND MORE IS BUILT INTO THIS GROUND-BREAKING NEW PRODUCT FROM B.LAB – A MULTICULTURAL, MULTIDISCIPLINE DESIGN LABORATORY RESEARCHING, DEVELOPING AND MANUFACTURING ALTERNATIVE ARCHITECTURAL MATERIALS. B.LAB DESIGNS ARE “DRIVEN BY THE DESIRE TO BREAK THE ORDINARY STATIC ASPECT OF FURNISHED ENVIRONMENTS” AND WITH NATURE AS THE REFERENCE POINT, THEY HAVE THE “LIVING” BRAND NAME BECAUSE “EVERYTHING THAT IS NATURAL IS ALIVE AND IS IN CONTINUOUS TRANSFORMATION AND EVOLUTION.” _____ EXPRESSED IN THREE PRODUCT LINES – FLOOR TILES, TABLE AND COUNTER TOP SURFACES AND IMPACT GLASS – THE DESIGNS ARE BURSTING WITH COLOURS FROM EVERY SPECTRUM OF THE RAINBOW: RED, ORANGE, YELLOW, GREEN, BLUE, VIOLET, AS WELL AS GREY, INCLUDING A MIX OF TINTS AND SHADES IN-BETWEEN. THE LIQUID WATER COLOURS ARE NON-TOXIC AND HARMLESS TO HUMANS AND COME IN A STANDARD 994MM X 994MM OR ON SPECIAL REQUEST IN SHAPES AND SIZES UP TO 1000MM X 2000MM.



B.Lab's "Living surfaces" offer "Innovation and suggestion, colour and movement, interaction and play...continuous transformation and evolution"

"LIVING FLOOR" MODULAR LIQUID FLOOR TILES

Walking on them creates play and movement of light stimulating sensations of nature and atmosphere. The mono-chromatic (one colour) tiles leave a diminishing ray of colour tones like the memory trace of a footprint in nature walking across a sandy beach or fresh green pasture. The PVC tiles are made up of two sheets: the external is a non-slip surface, the lower layer is shockproof, both sheets combined with rigid PVC becoming a single piece able to stand any shock at room temperature. Options include Sketch: vivid colours on a white base like painting with water colours; Metal: containing floating metal elements through which the touch of a hand or the sole of a shoe leaves a temporary written text or drawing on the tile which slowly fades away; Big foot: providing a technical solution to large tiles and non standard shapes for public spaces and play areas.

TABLE AND COUNTER TOP SURFACES

B.Lab is ideal for play and entertainment with its flexible surface allowing pressure from the touch of a hand or object to play with the bubbles and the underlying colours. The pressure alters the intensity of the colours and transforms the imagery in never-ending pattern formations. Surfaces are produced in mono-chromatic and bi-chromatic (one or two colour).

IMPACT GLASS

A frozen explosion of glass using a sheet of tempered glass sealed between panels. When shattered, numerous sparkling fragments are produced which glitter along the cracks so each panel is original and unique in composition and colour. Suitable for multiple applications and produced in various sizes, thicknesses and colours.

B.Lab Italia

Tel: +39 0331 774445

Web: www.blabitalia.com

Email: living@blabitalia.com

LATEST / 68



DiskGO usb

With an impressive 32GB of storage – that's over 21,000 pictures, 32 hours of video, 8,000 songs or 20,000 documents – and transfer speeds up to 480Mb/s, this stackable design easily fits into even the tightest USB ports and is so easy to carry around. Optional encryption software is also available and it comes with a lifetime warranty, assuming you never lose it.

www.edgetechcorp.com



Walk-EZ Revolutions ski boot accessory

These sturdy, lightweight curved ski boot attachments allows for greater comfort walking across the parking lot, over ice and snow, even up and down stairs. That more natural gait improves balance and posture and saves wear and tear on the legs and back. They fit any ski boot brand or model, attach quickly and securely and fold to store compactly.

store.walk-ez.com



Sexy Black diamond

This mobile phone with mirror-finish cladding and OLED technology (Organic Light Emitting Diode, don'tcha know?) gives vivid illumination while its slinky thin profile, clean lines and ultra-glossy finish are a must for urban tech-junkies and gadget fashionistas. Gimme gimme gimme!

www.jarengoh.com



Greenbacks come in handy

This unique Power Purse is entirely covered in solar panels while inside it, USB ports let you connect your mobile, iPod, whatever – the power flows through it and you're away. Jokes about tight-fisted lasses in the sunless regions of northern Europe will NOT be tolerated!

www.solarjo.com

From Notebook to desktop

This go-anywhere desktop docking solution has a large slot behind the LCD display where you slide your notebook in, allowing you to access all its information in desktop form. The notebook's screen also becomes your second display for those times when one just isn't enough.

www.yankodesign.com



White Out time

The Suunto S6 Ski Chronograph is designed specifically for downhill skiers and snowboarders with time on their hands as its mind-boggling array of features includes an altimeter, barometer, compass, weather alarm and interval timer. The accompanying software allows you to analyse your runs over a host of factors like maximum speeds, degree of slope and vertical drop. You can even share statistics online to help set performance goals.

www.suunto.com

Hear here

It's party time so if 'sampling', 'scratching', 'looping' and 'cross fading' mean anything at all to you (and they will to most under 25s), you'll be forking out for this music mixing system right now, allowing you to mix MP3 files directly from your computer. Featuring professional DJ software, a dedicated controller with pitch control lets you automatically beat-match digital music including great effects processing capability so you'll be mixing like a pro in no time. Pump up the volume!

www.bsmusic.co.uk



Dimple Portable music player

Bringing mobile music technology within everyone's reach, this player lets you navigate skip, volume, play commands by intuitively moving your finger across and up/down the Dimple player, just as if you were playing the music yourself. A touching instrument, simple and sensitive.

www.yankodesign.com



Plastic Fantastic – forever!

To stop our favourite records from warping in the heat or direct sunlight, Japanese audio specialists Furutech has launched this LP Flattener, described as a one-stop, one button solution for un-warping our plastic friends. Only those aged 25 and over will have a clue as to what a round, black record album even looks like, but that's another matter...

www.furutech.com



Backwards Bush keychain

Whoever thought of this is on their way to being a millionaire – or maybe even the next US President! It's the question on the tip of everyone's tongue: when will that guy just...go? Well, wonder no longer with this Backwards Bush Keychain that's in huge demand for totally obvious reasons, especially since it's pre-programmed with a digital countdown clock that ticks away the remainder of Bush's term to the 1/10th of a second! Before your very eyes, precious hours minutes and seconds tick away toward January 20th 2009 – seems a LONG, LONG way off but it's a constant reminder that it's only a matter of time. Talk about want one? I've got one already!

www.stupid.com



Ferrari road racer

Forget high finance Ferrari trainers – THIS is how to look cool on the streets! This limited edition Segway offers 24 miles of body-controlled scootering per charge, assuming speed isn't your ultimate aim. "Completely versatile and consistently enjoyable...it lets you glide through your daily commute or zip from errand to errand without worrying about parking." Now I REALLY want one of these!

www.ferraristore.com

HOW GREEN IS YOUR SKYSCRAPER?

THE TOP 10 GREEN SKYSCRAPERS AROUND THE WORLD

WHY WE WILL BE LIVING IN GREEN SKYSCRAPERS

BUILDINGS ACCOUNT FOR MORE CO2 EMISSIONS THAN ANY OTHER SINGLE SOURCE. AS A RESULT, GREEN SKYSCRAPERS HAVE BEEN SPROUTING UP IN RECENT YEARS AS PEOPLE START WAKING UP TO SOME UNCOMFORTABLE FACTS: SCIENTISTS, ECOLOGISTS AND ECONOMISTS TELL US THAT BY THE YEAR 2050, NEARLY 80% OF THE EARTH'S POPULATION WILL BE LIVING IN URBAN CENTRES. THAT MEANS ROUGHLY 20% MORE LAND BIGGER THAN BRAZIL WILL BE NEEDED TO GROW ENOUGH FOOD TO FEED US ALL IF FARMING PRACTICES CONTINUE AS THEY ARE TODAY. (SEE OUR FEATURE ON SKYFARMING & THE LIVING TOWER, MODERN DESIGN ISSUE 2, AUGUST 2007 – AVAILABLE ON OUR WEBSITE AT [HTTP://WWW.D-EARLE.COM/MAGAZINEDOWNLOAD.HTML](http://www.d-earle.com/magazinedownload.html)). _____ SINCE, ACCORDING TO THE UN'S FOOD & AGRICULTURAL ORGANIZATION, OVER 80% OF THE LAND SUITABLE FOR CROP-RAISING IS IN USE, IT DOESN'T TAKE A MATHEMATICIAN TO WORK OUT THAT WE'RE GOING TO BE SQUEEZED INTO SMALLER AND TIGHTER ACCOMMODATION BOTH FOR LIVING AND WORKING IN IN YEARS TO COME – UNLESS WE PUT OUR FORWARD-THINKING CAPS ON NOW. THAT'S WHERE GREEN SKYSCRAPERS COME IN, OFFERING PRACTICAL, ECOLOGICAL AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC SOLUTIONS VIA SUSTAINABLE BUILDINGS CAPABLE OF PROVIDING FOOD, WATER AND ENERGY TO THEIR INHABITANTS. _____ MORE AND MORE OF THESE ECO-TOWERS ARE CROPPING UP ALL THE TIME, MOST STRIVING TO OBTAIN THE GREEN BUILDING RATING SYSTEM CERTIFICATION FOR LEADERSHIP IN ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN (LEED), AWARDED BY THE US GREEN BUILDING COUNCIL AND PROVIDING A SUITE OF STANDARDS FOR ENVIRONMENTALLY SENSITIVE AND SUSTAINABLE CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS IN 30+ COUNTRIES. A NEW YORK CITY CONFERENCE EARLIER THIS YEAR TITLED 'MIXED GREENS: AN INTERNATIONAL SURVEY OF STATE-OF-THE-ART SKYSCRAPER DESIGN' THREW SOME POSITIVE LIGHT ON THE HUNDREDS OF INNOVATIONS HELPING TO MAKE THE WORLD A CLEANER PLACE BY BUILDING UP RATHER THAN OUT. AESTHETICALLY, MANY OF THESE GREEN SKYSCRAPERS ARE GORGEOUS TO LOOK AT TOO!...



01

The Burjal-Taqa Zero Energy Tower, Dubai, by Eckhard Gerber Architects

Dubai's building boom has given rise to some of the world's most extravagant and innovative buildings and this 68-storey, 332 metre high commercial high rise will produce zero emissions using sun, wind and water to create all its own energy. Natural air conditioning draws wind in and down to cool interiors, the cylindrical design ventilates the tower and a central atrium provides fresh air inflow. Incoming air will be pre-cooled with sea water, dispersed throughout the building and ventilated through a double-skin glass façade. A new type of vacuum glazing will be 60% more efficient than current technology while a rotating solar shield covering one sixth of the building's circumference will provide shade at the highest levels and use a linked collection of photovoltaic modules spanning 161, 457 square feet to turn the sun's energy into electricity while the tower's roof will feature a huge (197 foot diameter) wind turbine.



02

Seoul Commune 2026 Towers by Mass Studies Architects, Korea

This organic architectural configuration of spatial structures takes the idea of turning towers into a park and a park into towers, the total emerging as a seamless whole. Here, Mass Studies offer a clever, balanced and profoundly sustainable, forward-thinking solution to community development that forms a complex network of private, public and commercial spaces in a heavily populated urban area. Private and communal areas are called "cells" while "bulb" areas serve as commercial spaces including offices, public services and medical/welfare. The tower's skeleton is constructed using different types of glass panels to create shaded balconies. Above the glass is a geotextile that allows vines and other flora to grow, also allowing cooling. These fully integrated green structures have an internal watering system and fog machine with automatic temperature and humidity sensors to optimize plants' environmental conditions. The water distribution system also carries up to 30% of the cooling load during the summer and cleans the building's glass windows in the heavily populated city of Seoul.



03

Bank of America Tower, New York City by Cook+Fox Architects

One of the most highly efficient and ecologically friendly buildings in the world, located in Times Square, this 55-storey, 2.2 million sq ft tower (204,000 m²) will be the 2nd tallest building in New York City after the Empire State Building. It is to have groundbreaking environmental features demonstrating state of the art energy efficiency, indoor air quality, sustainable materials and environmentally-conscious construction, operations and maintenance procedures. "The building will save 10.3 million gallons of water annually through waterless urinals and low-flow fixtures. A gray water system will capture, store and re-use 100% of rainwater and recycle waste water and planted roofs, reducing the urban heat island effect (a metropolitan area which is significantly warmer than its surroundings, caused by changes of the land surface by urban development and by waste heat generated by energy usage). It will reduce energy consumption by 50%, drinking water consumption by 50% and create net zero carbon dioxide emissions." Construction is due for completion in 2008.



04

Pearl River Tower, Guangzhou, China by Skidmore, Owings & Merrill Architects

One of the most environmentally friendly buildings in the world producing more energy than it consumes, the 69-storey, 303 metre tall building features wind turbines turning wind into energy for its heating, ventilation and air conditioning system (HVAC), a solar collector for more power generation and a rainwater collection system part heated by the sun to provide hot water. The building is cooled, in part, through heat sinks and vertical vents. The turbines do more than generate electricity as the openings through which the wind flows helps reduce the overall wind load on the skyscraper. The building boasts a rounded slab divided into three sections with visible cross bracing on the narrow ends and attractive light blue glass blending well with the sky in optimum conditions.



05

The Hearst Tower, New York City by Foster + Partners

The first Gold LEED-rated building in New York for its "core and shell and interiors." Foreign-sourced materials represent less than 10% of construction costs; each triangle in the "diagrid" is 54 feet tall; the entire frame is covered in one mile of glass containing 20% less steel than conventional perimeter frames and over 90% of the structural steel contains recycled material. The special "low-E" glass coating floods internal spaces with natural light, keeping out the invisible solar radiation that causes heat. Sensors control lighting when a room is vacant and turn off computers when not in use by the 2,000 employees, drastically reducing energy usage. High efficiency heating and air-conditioning utilise outside air for cooling and ventilating 75% of the year, it uses Energy Star appliances and pioneering technologies conserve and efficiently use and collect 20% of the City's rainwater.

06

Perkins + Will's Antilla "Green" Tower in Mumbai by Perkins + Will Architects

Calling itself the "greenest of all green buildings" in a city of 13 million people – it's the densest city in the world with 30,000 inhabitants per square metre – the 27-storey, 490 ft tall building is covered in foliage with living walls enclosing all four sides, also hanging gardens and a green rooftop. The wall of plants will vastly increase green space and combat urban heat island effect: "You can use the whole wall almost like a tree and increase the green area of the site by five or 10 times over what it would be if you just did a green roof... It's a prototype for buildings of the future," say P+W. Sheltered by trellises supporting panels that contain hydroponically grown plants and drawing on the traditional Indian concept of Vaastu (similar to Chinese principle of Feng Shui), the building is oriented such that it's in harmony with energy flows, the basic geometric unit and garden level occupies the tower's midsection at the point where all energies converge.

07

Ramsgate Street, London by Waugh Thistleton Architects

Wind-powered 'affordable' apartments in London? They've gotta be joking...but no! This 66-unit tower clad in glazed tiles in Dalston, East London is commissioned by Metropolitan Housing Trust so affordability as well as greenability is key. Its airfoil shape is designed to concentrate the greatest wind speed to the spine of the building where four vertical helical wind turbines are mounted, generating 15% of the building's load – that's the equivalent of 40,000kW hours – saving seven tonnes of CO2 each year. Not only does it exceed Government targets for renewable energy sources, you surely must agree: it's a visually stunning modern interpretation of New York's Flat Iron building, making a radical architectural statement that will become a new landmark for East London and giving a significant kick-start to this neighbourhood on the edge of a renaissance.

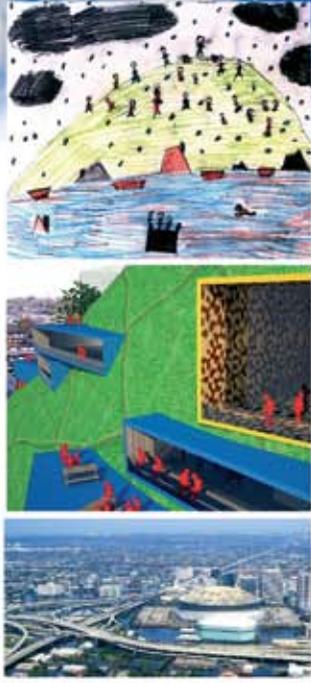
08

Bahrain World Trade Centre Towers, Kingdom of Bahrain by Atkins Architects

Comprising two 50-storey sail-shaped commercial office towers located in the city of Manama, this twin skyscraper successfully integrates three massive wind turbine blades each measuring 29 metres in diameter on bridges between the twin towers. Through its positioning and the towers' unique aerodynamic design acting as aerofoils, the prevailing on-shore Gulf breeze is funnelled into the path of the turbines, accelerating the wind velocity between them at increasing heights and helping to efficiently generate 15% of the electricity needs of the business centre, shopping centre and restaurants within. Every floor will have its own electricity meters so tenants can monitor and control their usage and expenses. In reducing carbon emissions, the deep gravel roofs provide kinetic insulation while balconies of the sloping elevations overhang, providing much-needed shading.



The Hearst Tower (5) "A Pioneer in Environmental Sustainability" and winner of the Best New Building Award



09

Urban Cactus, Rotterdam, Holland by UCX Architects

A housing project in the Vuurplaat section of Rotterdam, rising from the boxy Dutch architectural landscape at this former harbour territory, UCX chose to conceptualise the building as belonging to a natural "green nerve" rather than the surrounding urban structure, manifested in an innovative stack of rotating, swooping plates. The project will house 198 residential units on 19 storeys, each given an enormous exterior terrace and garden space allowing ample room for growing food and enabling a greater amount of natural sunlight to penetrate into the units themselves – something citizens of this damp northern climate will appreciate. As unusual and naturally green-looking as it is, some have, however, questioned whether this project is more "green washing" than anything else, ie promoting its green credentials over and above its actual sustainable qualities. What do you think?

10

Green Hill New Orleans, United States by MVRDV Architects

Not strictly a skyscraper but within this same theme. This highly topical green building concept is based on a schoolgirl's idea of rebuilding a 'Newer Orleans' following the devastating Hurricane Katrina floods in 2005. Given the area's location – sandwiched between a giant lake, the Mississippi River and the Atlantic Ocean – the question of whether to build on a flood plain was side-stepped by considerations as to what to build there, given the certain likelihood of it flooding again. Dutch architects MVRDV developed the schoolgirl's simple, rather obvious idea of building hills, imbedding public spaces inside with all habitable structures located above sea level with safety and emergency designed in. MVRDV's proposal was one of six presented by architects' for the commission, however, the winner of the Brad Pitt-sponsored 'Global Green New Orleans' competition to help rebuild the city was New York firm Workshop/APD whose design is currently under construction.

Urban Cactus 3D render





"BEAUTY MAY NOT BE FOUND WITHIN THE OBJECTS THEMSELVES BUT IN THE HALF-LIGHT, THE PLAY OF SHADOWS, THAT EVOLVES BETWEEN OBJECTS." TANIZAKI JUN'ICHIRO – 'IN PRAISE OF SHADOWS'



TRANSLUCENT CONCRETE

NOW YOU SEE IT!

THE LENGTHS WE GO TO TO BRING YOU THE VERY LATEST DEVELOPMENTS IN BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS...

Trying hard to trick our brains into thinking we just might have seen something move behind that wall, this amazing new product from German designer Andreas Bittis is a combination of optical fibres and fine concrete. Thousands of fibres run side-by-side transmitting light between the two surfaces of each element. Because they're so tiny, the fibres blend into the concrete, becoming a component of the material like small pieces of ballast.

And in building terms, ballast is everything – providing the weight or counterweight to the entire structure and its component materials. So a wall built from translucent concrete blocks can be a couple of metres thick because the fibres work without any loss of light from a distance of up to 20 metres. Better still, the blocks are load-bearing and provide the same effect with both natural and artificial light.

Now here's the really fascinating part: glass fibres in the concrete lead the light along points between the wall surfaces. Shadows on the lighter side appear with sharp outlines on the darker side with the glass fibre pixels acting as if scanner and screen are united so, amazingly, even the colours seen through the translucent wall stay the same – how utterly original and dramatic is that?!

Translucent concrete blocks are becoming a fashionable new material in trendy architectural and structural engineering circles – but remember you saw them here first! It can be applied to any size of precast concrete, from small bricks to paving stones to entire building façades. It's a high density concrete containing only 4% optical fibre so it works with the same technical instructions as standard concrete.

Andreas is currently producing translucent concrete with fibres ranging from 2 micro- to 2 millimetres in diameter, allowing lots of room for flexibility so your finished wall can produce a slight "diffuse" aesthetic to a grid or any desired pattern including a corporate logo. The levels of innovation and extraordinary beauty of translucent concrete bridges the gap between long-established building substances and what looks set to become the building material of the future.





The award-winning Project Drop House

Though it's been cruelly compared to an over-sized biodegradable cat carrier, you can see for yourselves: Drop House is as alternative a dwelling as you'll ever see on these pages – a completely prefabricated timber construct, easily transportable and very quickly put together. So when you tire of living in the same street, just find a new location, up sticks (literally) and you'll soon be home and dry.

Conceived by four young Parisian architects calling themselves DROP, they won their first design competition in the 2005 Modular Architecture Challenge organised by Algeco – the European leaders in modular construction. The project aims to “exemplify private housing, industry and customisation” by allying size and surface constraints, maximising spatial comfort and creating a comfortable space with a strong identity and character.

Their design – recently transformed from a prototype to a full size 48 square metre display of “elementary architecture” – is turning heads for its potential to minimise waste, reduce energy and allow its occupants the option to move at whim. The design is weighted along a single central axis with “pop-out” extensions forming the domestic functions: kitchen, bathroom, bedroom and entry grouped together in small units that expand the principal volume.

The layout provides maximum space within the constraints of a completely portable steel frame container that can “close-up” like sliding trellis drawers. Wide openings allow a visual expansion on the exterior space, preserving its intimacy while at the same time minimising any distractions from potential onlookers or intruders.

Transportable by road truck as a single component, the only fixed parts are its concrete foundations and connections to electricity, water, and telecommunications networks. When properly sited, the structure presents an opportunity for passive solar collection maximising thermal performance. The external joinery is composed of lacquered aluminium with thermal break and low-emission double glazing while the back is insulated with closed timber cladding on steel sandwich panels with 80mm rock wool. A distinctive spatial experience adding another dimension to the range of sustainable prefab housing.



TURNING HEADS

DAVID CHIPPERFIELD ARCHITECTS' NEW DESIGN FOR THE TURNER CONTEMPORARY VISUAL ARTS ORGANISATION

CELEBRATING BRITAIN'S BEST KNOWN PAINTER, JMW TURNER – HIS CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE ARTS AND TO ENGLAND'S SOUTHERN COASTAL TOWN OF MARGATE IN KENT. DRAWN TO THE UNIQUE QUALITY OF THE TOWN'S LIGHT, TURNER ONCE REMARKED THAT "...THE SKIES OVER THANET ARE THE LOVELIEST IN ALL EUROPE."

Though some of us may beg to differ, Kent County Council fully support Turner's view of the town and are putting their money where their mouths are by investing £17.4 million (€24.3m) in the development of Turner Contemporary into a full scale art gallery. So who else could they turn to but internationally renowned, RIBA Stirling Prize-winner David Chipperfield Architects to help make the new gallery a focal point for visitors and a catalyst for further developments in the town?

Fittingly from a Royal Institute of British Architects winner, the gallery will be built on the same location as the lodging house in which Turner stayed, overlooking Margate's picturesque bay. Working closely with the Council, the wider client team and based on comments from the public, Chipperfield's blueprint for the building comprises six rectangular interlocking forms that stand out on the entrance to the seafront: a visually striking landmark in a unique setting that's impossible to miss and beaming with local pride.

Positioned on a plinth approximately twenty metres high and straddling three storeys, the building retains a strong sculptural presence which Turner himself would have waxed lyrical about. The roofline will closely reflect other architecture in Margate and enables northern light to be brought into all the gallery spaces at the first floor level. In addition the choice of white opaque glass as the cladding material has been influenced by the nature of the building, the site and the strength of light the town enjoys.

Visitors will experience an element of surprise and drama when moving through the building. There will be panoramic views out to sea as well as the opportunity to view the town and its bay from the ground floor café offering stunning views of Margate's sunsets. A spectacular double height space in the ground floor gallery will showcase new commissions from talented local and international artists while a large, multi-function space on the ground floor with an external terrace will allow a wide range of events and activities to take place as part of the gallery's programme.

With excellent views in all directions, the top floor will house all the gallery spaces including the young people's gallery and a studio space for use by groups including schools. This floor will also feature a balcony that cantilevers out over the ground floor gallery and allows spectacular views out to sea. Back of house space including offices, storage and workshop have been placed on both floors. These areas will not be accessible to members of the public but are critical for the smooth operation of the gallery.

Speaking about the latest design, Principal architect David Chipperfield said: "We have developed the design following the public meeting in June to take maximum advantage of such a dramatic setting with its extraordinary views. Our building will look out to the sea, connect itself to the town and capture the same unique light that inspired Turner." With construction scheduled to begin at the end of summer 2008, the gallery will open to the public in 2010.

You can view the latest gallery designs by David Chipperfield Architects in an evolving, regularly updated exhibition until 27 January 2008 at Turner Contemporary, Droit House, Margate, Kent, UK. Free admission. www.turnercontemporary.org



Images courtesy of David Chipperfield Architects



Gold chocolate, sushi sprinkled with gold, ice cream topped with gold flakes, liqueur with 24k gold!!! What more could a Diva ask for??

GOLD-PLATED DRINKING AND DINING

Text: Chris Dove

THE MYSTICAL METAL

We hear of grandmothers in the 'good old days' receiving gold shots from doctors for their arthritis, as well as for its other supposed health benefits. If gold was good enough for granny then, it's even better for us now.

5,000 years ago, the Egyptian Alchemists of Alexandria developed an "elixir" made of liquid gold, believing that gold was a "mystical metal that represented the perfection of matter and that its presence in the body would enliven, rejuvenate, and cure a multitude of diseases as well as restore youth and perfect health."

In medieval Europe, gold-coated pills and "gold waters" were extremely popular as Alchemists mixed powdered gold into drinks to "comfort sore limbs", one of the earliest references to arthritis. And during the Renaissance, Paracelsus (1493-1541) – the founder of modern pharmacology – developed successful medicines from metallic minerals including gold.

Today, gold is added to food and drink as an eye-catching novelty in European countries including Switzerland, Austria, Germany and Italy, thanks to a World Health Organisation agreement to use gold as food additive Number 175 and a European Union agreement to use it as food additive Number E175.





Heading for a “gold rush”

The famous Swiss spirit Goldschläger (German for gold leaf maker) is a strong (43.5%, 87 proof), clear cinnamon schnapps liqueur swirling with hundreds of fine, visible 24k gold leaf flakes. It forms the main ingredient in 110 eccentric sounding cocktails including ‘Golden Nipple’ (mix with Baileys and butterscotch schnapps); ‘Fatkid on the Rocks’ (mix with Gold tequila, vodka, water, ice); and ‘Liquid Crack’ (mix with peppermint schnapps and Jägermeister). Not sure whether to stay away from that last one or to just drink to them all!

The amount of gold in a 750ml bottle of Goldschläger amounts to a princely US\$28.8 cents on the international gold market (according to goldprice.org, rates last updated 24/10/07 at 18:22 GMT), so even with a belly full of the stuff, you’re never going to get rich; however, since it’s currently being parodied in the film ‘Superbad’ (one of the characters has to purchase an alcoholic drink called “Goldslick Vodka”), Goldschläger’s popularity is steadily increasing. Its promoters claim it may affect your equilibrium, giving you a light-headed feeling with the gold flakes delivering a stomach-churning gold “rush” but they would say that: gold flakes have no real impact on the body and since the amounts are so tiny, they’re insufficient to react with anything.

For the less hardened drinkers among us looking for an equally sensational gold kick, what’s described as “a precious metal from our rich land infused into a premium cuvée from South Africa” has just come on the market. Aurum Brut is a hand-crafted wine combined with Harmony Pure Gold™ (Harmony is the world’s 5th biggest gold producer). To enjoy the full effect of the gold flakes in suspension, they advise you to drink Aurum within five minutes of pouring (stockists: Wine Direct, email: aurum@winedirectonline.co.za).

Meanwhile, the forthcoming Washington DC Food Safety & Security Summit to be held in March 2008 issued a recent press release titled “Is the Ultra-Luxury Gold Flakes Martini the Next Big Thing?” for “those who like the best of everything and don’t mind being seen in public enjoying a bit of luxury.” Made with real 24-carat gold flakes that glitter enticingly in the glass, the Gold Flakes Martini is made with ultra-premium, quadruple-distilled Gold Flakes Supreme Vodka, “A guaranteed magnet for eyeballs at the swankiest restaurant or nightclub...its ascension to virtual cult status is almost certain as demanding luxury lovers savour a clear taste superiority.” (Stockists: Shaw-Ross International Importers, email: tatianacolumbus@shaw-ross.com)

Golden platters

If liquid Au 79 (gold) isn’t your poison, then edible gold may be more to your liking. Safran Risotto with Goldleaf is a famous recipe by Italian celebrity chef, Gualtiero Marchesi. Gold sprinkled sushi eaten with Kinbashi Gold Chopsticks is approaching the height of decadence: these fancy chopsticks come stuffed with gold flakes between them so when you break them open gold sprinkles all over your meal; Gold Leaf Sake being the perfect accompaniment.

Ice cream desserts topped with gold flakes are a unique way to polish off an adventurous meal, as created by a New York restaurant and served for US\$1,000; while a Gold Tartina dessert made with caviar and edible gold leaf is another delectable, super-costly option. Finally, there’s simply no better way to impress her than with a luxury box of DeLafée’s Gold Swiss chocolates adorned with shiny flakes of 24-carat edible gold and to impress him with DeLafée’s finest hand-rolled Dominican cigar wrapped in 24-carat gold leaf (www.delafee.com). Guess we’re all sorted for Christmas...



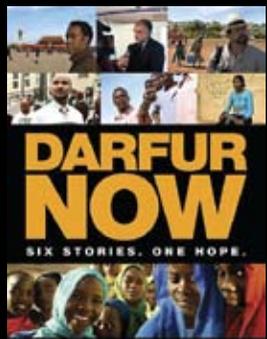
BOOKS & CINEMA

Cinema

DARFUR NOW

Starring Don Cheadle, Hejewa Adam, Pablo Recalde

Rated PG for thematic material involving crimes against humanity, this documentary showcases the efforts of six people attempting to stop the genocide in Darfur and bring humanitarian relief to the millions trapped in the ongoing war. A UCLA student with no political experience passes a state bill to stop money from going to Sudan while the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court plays a central figure in the World Food Program. Incidentally, Cheadle and his Ocean's 13 co-stars raised nearly \$10 million for the Save Darfur charity.



FRED CLAUS

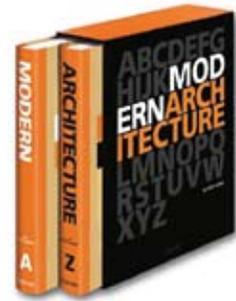
Starring Vince Vaughn, Kevin Spacey, Miranda Richardson, Rachel Weisz, Kathy Bates

An all-star cast for this timely romp in which brotherly love proves to be something of a sore point. Fred, envious of his saintly, goody-too shoes sibling Nicholas Claus, agrees to help Nick out in return for a favour. So far so good – until you realise the favour involves Fred making toys, a task he is far from capable or committed to completing. With Christmas rapidly approaching, Fred's antics could not only jeopardize the merriest time of the year at the North Pole, but also for millions of people around the world. A hilarious cliff-hanger to have you chuckling your socks off!



THE A-Z OF MODERN ARCHITECTURE

Editor: Peter Gossel
Publisher: Taschen



"Selling" and "hotcakes" spring to mind for this indispensable title covering not only architects but groups, movements and styles from the 18th to 21st centuries. Unlike most architecture encyclopaedias which overdose on buildings and floor plans rather than on their designers, this volume puts the architects in the spotlight and features their portrait, a quotation and short biography as well as a description of their important works, historical context, general approach and illustrations including drawings and photographs.

MODERNISM REDISCOVERED

Authors: Julius Shulman, Hunter Drohojowska-Philp, Owen Edwards, Philip J. Ethington
Publisher: Taschen



This three volume set brings together over 400 architectural gems from across the United States, Mexico, Israel and Hong Kong. Each project and photograph was personally selected from over 260,000 photos taken over a two year period. The team of authors construct an informative, lively oral history and portrait of the times, augmenting the photos with an in-depth introduction; captions on decorative elements; biographies of key architects; and personal reflections from the publisher.

MARTIAN CHILD

Starring John Cusack, Joan Cusack, Sophie Okonedo

John Cusack, regarded as one of the most versatile actors in Hollywood, plays a writer struggling to come to terms with the death of his fiancée. Finding a six year old boy who thinks he's from Mars, Cusack tries to adopt the boy in an attempt to create a family while the boy, desperately wanting a father, is troubled by his Martian roots. With Cusack's sister Joan playing the sister of Cusack's character, the family theme running throughout is entirely plausible and touching.



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MODERN DESIGN
ARCHITECTURE & ART

**PHOTO
CONTEST**

This month we're inviting you to take photos of 'Alternative Christmas' - so no turkeys please! We'll accept photos taken by mobile phones as well as digital cameras so everyone has a chance to enter. Remember make those photos FUNky!

We'll print 3 of the best in next month's issue.

Email your winning entry by December 17 2007 with your name, email address and JPEG photo attachment to:

magazine@d-earle.com

Good luck to everybody and have a happy, snappy XMAS!

music

FOR ALL AGES

new releases

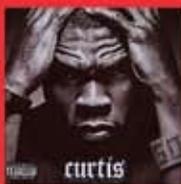
MUSIC 182



The Hives

The Black & White Album

With their reputation for edgy, frantic and energetic rock 'n' roll, accompanied by ultra-confidence and a strict black and white dress code, the Swedish outfit give us machine-gun vocals from Howlin' Pelle Almqvist and trademark guitar riffs complimented by a suitably tight rhythm section.



50 Cent

Still Will

Released as "I'll Still Kill" but renamed for broadcasting purposes, this single from new album Curtis features advance warnings of 'Explicit Lyrics' - as if we couldn't guess coming from the foul-mouthed man himself. The rapper's first album in two years proves he can still crank out a great single, while the album features equally foul-mouthed Eminem, Mary J Blige and the much tamer Justin Timberlake.



Shaggy

Intoxication

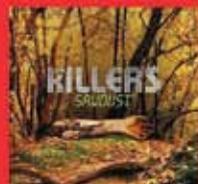
17 tracks with Shaggy's easily recognisable sub-baritone voice cocooning the songs. Includes the highly infectious 'Bonafide Girl' featuring Rik Rok and Tony Gold, and the only real let down is the over-repetitive 'I can't blame intoxication' from the title track.



The Isley Brothers

I'll Be Home For Christmas

We couldn't leave you without one Christmas croon tune and Rock And Roll Hall Of Fame inductees, the Isley Brothers are the perfect signing off. Celebrating their 50th year as a successful recording group with two new family members joining to sing 10 contemporary Christmas standards, plus two tunes written especially for the occasion. And on that note, Modern Design wish to echo one of the album's tracks and invite you to 'Have Yourself A Merry Little Christmas'.



The Killers

Sawdust

Venturing back into the studio to produce tracks including 'Tranquilize' with Lou Reed, Sawdust includes two movie soundtracks 'Shadowplay' (a Joy Division cover from the Ian Curtis biopic, Control) and 'Move Away' (from Spiderman 3). Also includes a cover of Kenny Rogers' 'Ruby, Don't Take Your Love To Town'. Now that's one to listen out for...

THE 24TH HAVANA JAZZ FESTIVAL CUBA 10-18 FEBRUARY 2008 BOOK FLIGHTS, ACCOMMO- DATION & FESTIVAL TICKETS NOW!

9 days and 8 nights of music and culture in Cuba with its rich musical heritage and unique atmosphere - does life get any better? This internationally renowned event consistently attracts an excellent line-up with performances at venues around the city. The Casa de la Cultura Plaza, Teatro Nacional de Cuba, Teatro Amadeo Roldán, Teatro Mella and Teatro Karl Marx are also hosting performances, while the Hotel Riviera acts as the official Jazz Festival headquarters. If you're quick, you can snap up Jazz Festival passes with most meals and activities included, such as private tours of historic Havana.

www.jazzcuba.com



Text: Paul Manchester

Images above: Los Peyotes in concert

Music's Minimalists



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

Part 3 – Yesterday, today and tomorrow

Today there are many bands who refer to themselves, or are described by some sections of the media, as being "Garage Rock" when really they're not much more than indie bands with a little bit more punkiness (e.g. the Strokes, Black Rebel Motorcycle Club, etc). Indie, short for Independent, Rock initially was a term for artists that were unsigned or signed to independent record labels although for many years it has been used as a synonym for underground music... which in most cases it emphatically is not i.e. how

can a band signed to a major label be underground (or independent)? While Garage Rock (or its sub-genres like Garage Punk) is generally released on independent labels that is a literal rather than figurative use of "independent". In addition, Indie Rock covers a wide spectrum of styles, music and instruments whereas Garage Rock sticks pretty close to its raw mid-sixties roots. For me, the kings of the Garage Rock scene remain the Sonics, a 1960s Northwest US band that I was lucky enough to see live recently in New York. At a time when the Beatles were singing "I Wanna Hold Your Hand",

"I Wanna Be Your Man", and "I Saw Her Standing There" the Sonics were belting out "Psycho", "Boss Hoss", and "Strychnine" (teenage boys' Unholy Trinity of girls, cars, and drugs, respectively). But dig a bit deeper today and you'll find there are real Garage bands all over the world, from Los Peyotes in Argentina to the Frantic V in Greece, from the Urges in Ireland to Muck & the Mires in the USA, from the Maggots in Sweden to Shutdown 66 in Australia, from the Rockfour in Israel to the Unchained right here in England.

<http://www.dirtywaterrecords.co.uk/>



COOL websites & Digital Art

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

- 1 | [HTTP://WWW.CAMPER.COM](http://www.camper.com)
Neat idea using an empty Camper shoebox as its front face - and it's not just a pretty face. The site tracks the history of this first company to mechanise shoe manufacturing, which, at the time, was the height of modernity and innovation.
- 2 | [HTTP://WWW.SCHEMATIC.COM](http://www.schematic.com)
Coke, Nokia and EA Sports have all used the creative services of hot brand strategy agency Schematic. For a marketing company, this site strikes the right balance between information provision and self-congratulation.
- 3 | [HTTP://WWW.INFINITYART.RO](http://www.infinityart.ro)
"What's wrong with my monitor?" is the first thing you think on hitting this very fast-moving site. The images move everywhere your mouse moves so it's highly interactive, bordering on hyperactive and its subliminal images flash millions of pixels in perfect clarity.
- 4 | [HTTP://WWW.DIGITALISMO.ES](http://www.digitalismo.es)
Wicked neomagazine in the form of a blog features everything a digital library should have that's of interest in the artistic world. Some weird stuff too. Watch the video footage to get the full effects.
- 5 | [HTTP://WWW.D-EARLE.COM](http://www.d-earle.com)
We've really gone global this time with our modern architecture projects springing up all over the shop - including Saudi Arabia.
- 6 | [HTTP://WWW.ROOMMATELIVING.COM](http://www.roommateliving.com)
Another cardboard box setting, this time IKEA, using Polaroid snaps of common student scenarios to itemise their products.
- 7 | [HTTP://WWW.A-I.TW](http://www.a-i.tw)
If you're as passionate about design as we are, you won't get enough of this Taiwanese design site featuring links to 28 design sites from other countries. Take your time browsing what professional web designers consider some of the coolest of cool sites...
- 8 | [HTTP://WWW.DOSAGECONSULTING.COM](http://www.dosageconsulting.com)
This communications company promises to untangle the knots tied up in strategic collaborations, offering advice to some of the biggest brands around on how to harness their teams' collective knowledge in a way that's more "objective, creative and actionable."
- 9 | [HTTP://WWW.BAT-TEST.COM](http://www.bat-test.com)
Test your physical and mental agility to find out how bionic you are (watch the camera watching your every move). High scorers gain top-level clearance to view exclusive content from the Bionic Woman.

1 | 2



3 | 1



5 | 6



7 | 8



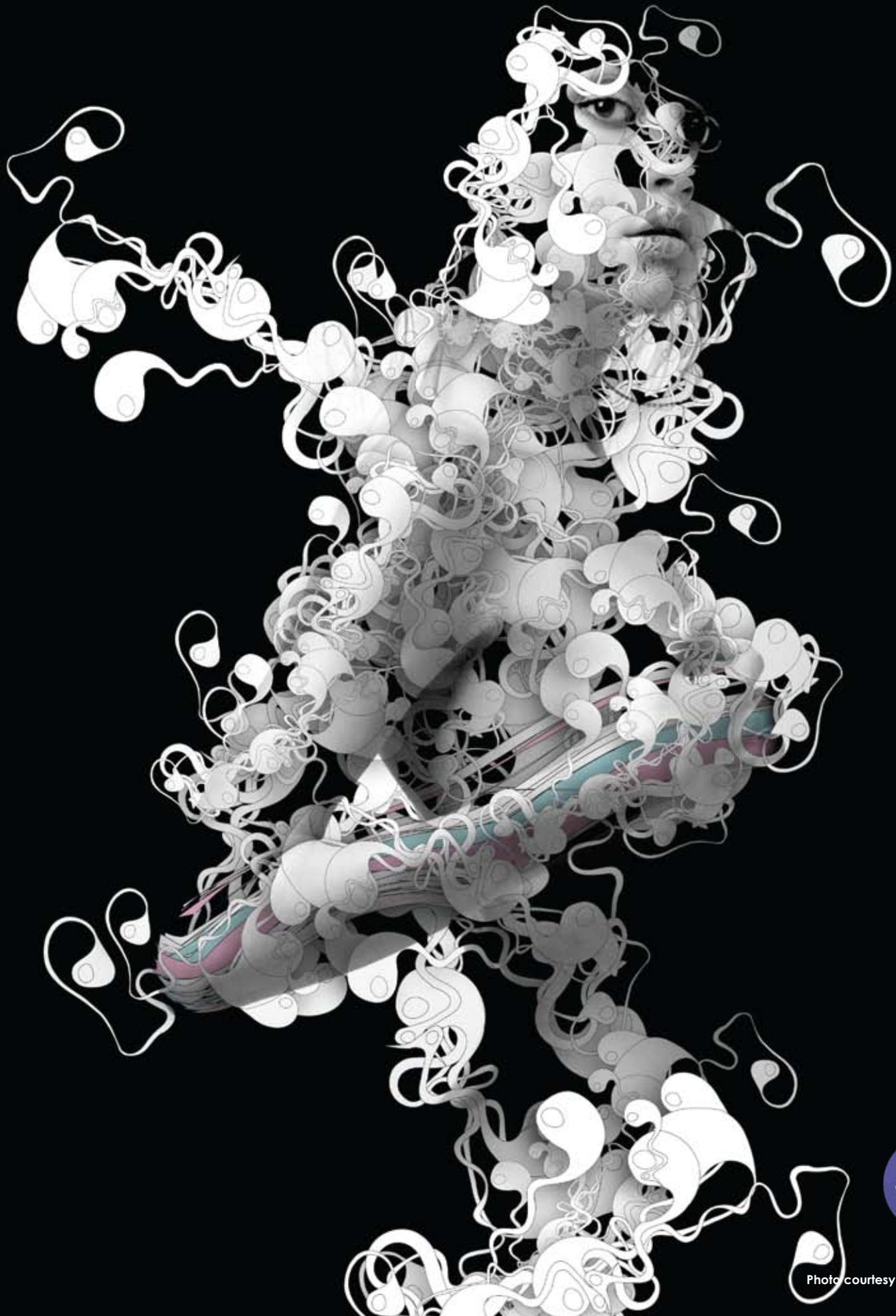
9 |



18 |

Despite taking a while to upload, this site is seriously worth the trip. In fact it's excellent. 9 digital artists suck you deep into this yarn based on the tale of the Tin Man with simultaneous video footage taking you somewhere more creepy and sinister with each passing minute. Gripping stuff you'll want to play over and over again. Makes the original Wizard of Oz look tame and a little rusty.

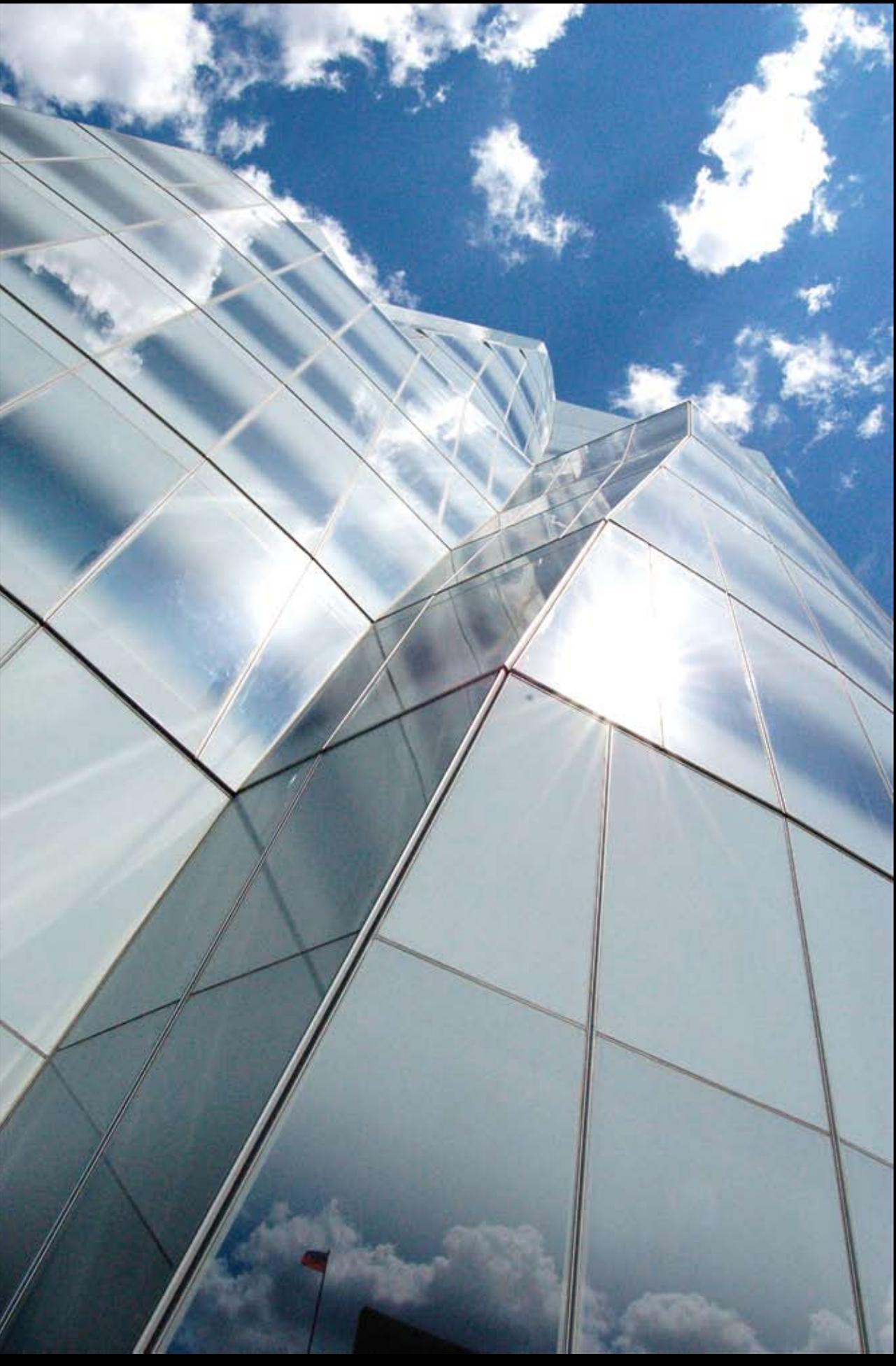
<http://www.scifi.com/tinman/oz>



THINK... 185

Photo courtesy of Alberto Seveso

First Place





Second Place



Third Place

November photo contest winners

Last month, we invited readers to snap a photo of their favourite building or anything that inspired them architecturally. Needless to say, we had a good and varied response, demonstrating the wide appreciation of both modern architecture and great buildings from around the world.

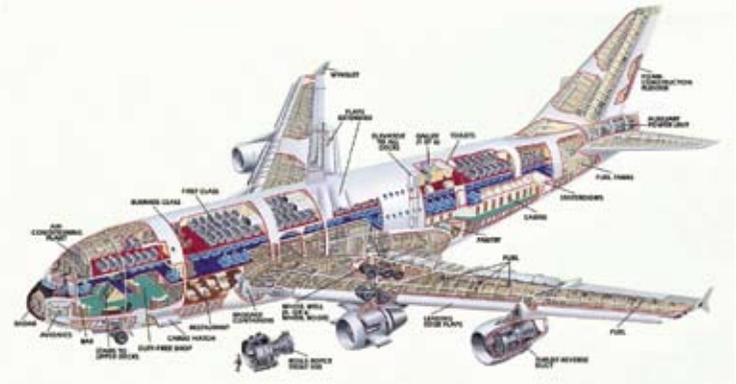
The top three photos are as follows:

First Place: This fantastic InterActiveCorp HQ Building in New York City, designed by Frank Gehry – one of the leading Modern Architects and taken by **Tony Lee** from Marbella.

Second Place: A photo titled: "Past and Present Distortions" taken by **Sylvie Chadourne** from www.visualartworld.com, San Pedro de Alcántara.

Third Place: The Step pyramid at Saqqara, Memphis, Egypt by **Glyn Williams** from Gaucin, Spain. Photo taken with a Nikon F3 with tri-X film.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 3 WINNERS! And thank you to all who took part.



Text: Chris Dove

From A to B

Reaching for the skies and new heights of design –



“We’re talking about an airplane [A380] that is representing aviation in the 21st century in terms of efficiency”
– Jens Bischoff, Vice President for the Americas, Lufthansa



“Virgin Atlantic is pleased to introduce the Boeing 787 Dreamliner as our aircraft of the future”
– Steve Ridgway, Chief Executive Officer, Virgin Atlantic

Photos (this page) courtesy of Airbus



Airbus A380

V

Boeing 787 Dreamliner



Image (above) courtesy of Boeing

Flying the banner "Greener. Cleaner. Quieter. Smarter", Airbus – the world's largest airliner – promises passengers on its newest fleet of A380s that they will enjoy "an unparalleled experience aboard no matter which class of service they are seated in." The 525-seater, double-deck, four-engine European airliner made its maiden voyage in April 2005 and its first commercial flight this October, hence all the flapping and hand-wringing we've been hearing about it recently.

In performance, specifications and cabin comfort terms, Airbus claim to have the upper hand stating that theirs is the most advanced, spacious and efficient aircraft ever conceived. They point out that the A380 has a maximum takeoff weight of 590 metric tonnes and a range of 15,200 km. Sounds impressive. Equally impressive sounding is the plane's cabin layout: versatile on both decks and offering more space to first, business as well as economy class, along with wider seats and aisles.

Banging the biofuel drum meanwhile, Boeing is introducing its 787 Dreamliner as a "state-of-the-art aircraft designed to reduce greenhouse emissions and provide more sustainable air travel." Designed not only with fuel efficiency in mind, Boeing have made sure that passenger comfort and interior design play a key role in improving the overall pleasure of flying for its 250 maximum seated passengers. Using new technologies such as lightweight carbon-fibre for the fuselage and

wings instead of aluminium sheeting, Boeing has been able to substantially reduce the airplane's weight. It also increased the fuel efficiency of its new engines, yielding an overall reduction in fuel consumption of almost 30%. Because of the new materials, the humidity in the cabin can be much higher than before so providing better passenger comfort.

Heeding NASA's warnings about how increasing air travel could account for half a degree increase in carbon emissions per decade and keeping their eye on the increasingly heated debate about air travel's (and air traveller's) carbon footprint, Boeing's efforts deserve keen applause since their Dreamliner is a revolutionary aircraft in this regard. Before you rush to book your super-green seat though, be warned: Boeing only went into production with the 787 Dreamliner in 2006 so its first flight isn't scheduled for take off until the end of the first quarter of 2008, with full certification and entry into service due late November/December next year.

So whose jumbo is better?

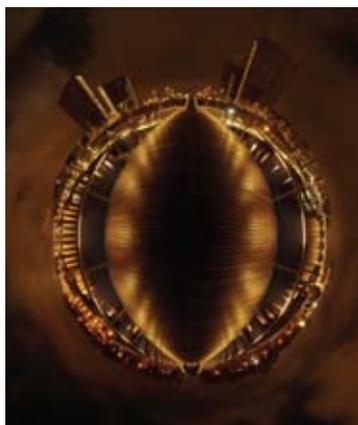
Commentators at the 10th Dubai AirShow (11-15 November 2007) placed Airbus way ahead of its competitor, calling the showdown between them very much "Airbus's show", especially since the former's showing at the International Paris Air Show in June. This might also have a lot to do with the fact that half way through the Dubai

Show, Emirates Airline announced they'd put in a "big" order for A380s and Paul Griffiths, former Head of Gatwick Airport and now Chief Executive Officer of Dubai Airports, announced they'll soon have 26 international gates ready, willing and able to land A380s in.

Encouraged by Royal Jordanian Airlines purchase of 12 787s and not to be outdone at the very same event, Boeing and Dubai Aerospace Enterprise (DAE) signed a strategic partnership deal for 100 Boeing planes (comprising a mix of 737s, 787s, 777s and 747s). Lee Monson, Boeing Commercial Airplanes' Vice President of Sales for the Middle East and Africa stated: "Royal Jordanian's confidence in the 787 is based on a sound strategy of updating its long-haul fleet with an airplane that will provide great efficiency and superb economics". Royal Jordanian were the first Middle East carrier to order Boeing's fast-selling 787 so in an industry where the stakes can literally get no higher, this is obviously welcome news and a visible sign that the demand for green air travel is on the rise.

Since the two planes aren't yet on a "level playing field", it's hard to judge which is or will be "better": Airbus is touting its greater capacity and customer service; Boeing its technical and fuel efficiency. We'll have to wait and see which of them encounters the greatest headwind or tailwind, or if other enlightened airlines are waiting in the wings to compete in the commercial and non-commercial flight markets.

Bigger landing... Though we didn't feature this image in Issue 5, Duret built it from 9 pictures shot handheld.



Passerelle Simone de Beauvoir: built from 48 pictures, this bridge was inaugurated this year and does not yet appear on the satellite maps. The pictures of this panorama were shot during a 24-hour photo marathon.



Parc départemental du Val-de-Marne: built from 50 pictures and hand-tinted black and white on hard-to-correct exposures.



A room with a view II: built from 8 pictures..



La Géode: built from 55 pictures.

Think Again - Explaining last month's "THINK" feature

Having started enjoying taking photos with his Sony DSC-T5 point-and-shoot camera in 2006, ace photographer Alexandre Duret explains the techniques he uses to create his extraordinarily unique Wee Planets images, focusing on his spherical panoramas and stereographic projections featured in Modern Design's "THINK" series throughout Issue 5.

"All these pictures are 360°x180° panoramas projected to look like small planets. To build a 360°x180° panorama you have to take pictures on all directions, but not only on the horizon. You should also shoot the sky (zenith) and the ground (nadir). A missing zenith is not important if you only plan to build a planet. This initial panorama is built from many individual pictures using specific technical tools to create control points, to figure out from the control points how each picture should be distorted and to stitch the distorted pictures together.

Converting the panorama into a planet can be done in different ways. Firstly using the "polar coordinates" filter of your photo editor or secondly using stereographic projections which usually look far better, achieved using a programme plug-in called mathmap. I'm now using a DSLR on tripod with a panoramic head but until November 2006 I used a simple tripod without panoramic head. Even though the tripod won't rotate the camera around its nodal point, it still helps to reduce errors.

The first 48 planets (before February 2007) were all shot with my Sony DSC-T5 point-and-shoot camera. The problem is that there is no way to lock the exposure, so the 50+ shots it takes to make a panorama are all exposed differently. Someone pointed me to a blender to colour adjust a picture to match its neighbour, even though using the blender to colour correct an entire panorama is difficult and time consuming. I then bought a DSLR (Pentax K10D), so all panoramas taken after February 2007 will be shot with it and I'm now using a Pentax 10-17mm fisheye lens. I also use a special tool to copy the EXIF data from one of the shots into the final panorama. This way flickr knows when the panorama was taken and people can look at it if they want."

To view Duret's online gallery of over 200 colourful Wee Planets, type in this flickr link: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/gadl/sets/72157594279945875/>



THINK... I 91



NISSAN GT-R

Text: Ian Baxter



A generation which grew up with Sony's PlayStation Gran Turismo will need no introduction to previous iterations of the iconic Nissan GT-R – and who's to say that today's adolescents have wasted their youth fiddling with their joysticks? Those of you who prefer the waistband of your jeans to grip your waist rather than be suspended just south of the arse cheeks may have been overlooking a rare, performance car bargain.



Photos courtesy of Nissan



The old formula was pretty effective: start with a 2-door Nissan Skyline coupe, disguise the humble origins by adding aggressive flares and spoilers on every possible surface, fit all wheel drive, and stuff in a high performance turbocharged 6 cylinder engine, which could easily be chipped to yield even more power. The result was an exceedingly fast car with very sure-footed handling, albeit with mincab ambience on the interior.

For the next generation of the GT-R Nissan has started off with a clean sheet of paper, designing this car afresh, from the ground up. The design brief for the GT-R was to put supercar performance in the hands of all drivers in all conditions. That's a lot harder to execute than it is to write, because most cars providing supercar performance only do so in dry conditions, on a baby bottom smooth race track, with a very capable driver at the wheel. However, much of the time the weather isn't perfect, nor are the roads we drive on, and most of us are not good enough drivers to regularly push performance cars to the limit without pranging them, regardless of how much testosterone we may produce.



To verify its claims of supercar performance it's no secret that Nissan has been benchmarking the GT-R against the Porsche 911 Turbo in testing, and on paper it stacks up very well against the German performance flagship. The specification for the GT-R includes a 473 bhp twin turbo V6 engine, all wheel drive and a 6 speed automatic transmission which can be shifted in 0.2 seconds via F1 style paddles mounted on the steering wheel. All of this high-tech wizardry results in the GT-R scorching from 0-60 mph (0-100 Km/h) in around 3.5 seconds, with a top speed of around 190 mph (305 Km/h).

As part of its design brief Nissan has also devoted significant attention to the handling of the GT-R. This includes three suspension settings which can be controlled from the cabin: comfort, normal and 'R' mode, the latter catering for occasional trips to the race track. Moreover, with its all wheel drive system the GT-R promises to stick to the road in most weather conditions like day old chewing gum to a training shoe.

One of the signature features of the previous GT-R's interior was a large, centre-mounted LCD, providing a plethora of information from turbo boost to cornering force. The video-gaming generation will feel completely at home with the bewildering quantity of data in the new model, as Nissan has enlisted the creator of Sony's Gran Turismo to assist in the design of the menu system for navigating through all of the available information in the multifunction display.

Externally, Nissan has created a fresh, modern design, without the generic appearance of so many Japanese vehicles. However, the styling cannot be called beautiful, nor is it entirely cohesive from all angles, notably the C-pillar supporting the rear window. Like it or not the results are beyond dispute, since the Nissan's aerodynamics are more slippery than a Teflon coated eel, which should result in relatively good fuel consumption for motorway cruising.

The GT-R goes on sale in Japan this month (December 2007), with release dates for Europe and North America still to be announced. Although pricing for the European and North American markets has yet to be determined, expect it to be very competitively priced compared to rivals from Germany and Italy offering less accessible performance. In this rarified market segment it remains to be seen whether the user friendly supercar dynamics of the GT-R are sufficiently compelling to overcome the less than prestigious Nissan brand image.



Some places where to find MODERN DESIGN

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CAFÉ DE RONDA
DON MIGUEL
CAFÉ G. VERDI
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GOYO
MARBELLA DESIGN ACADEMY
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HABANA BAR
O2 CENTRO WELLNESS
RUBI
GARUM
BUDDHA BAR
NAILS BAR
CLINICA OCHOA
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LE NÔTRE
CASA LA CONCHA
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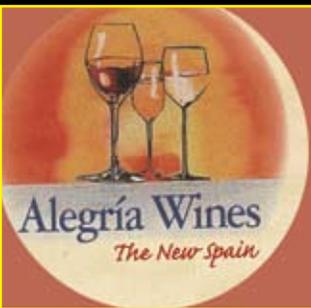
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PREVIEW OF NEXT MONTH'S ISSUE

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

ART

- An exclusive interview with "Hyperrealist" artist and photographer, [Rodolpho Simeon](#)



ARCHITECTURE

- [Women in Modernism](#) – We explore the past and present roles of women in the male-dominated world of modern architecture



DESIGN

- Full **FRONT**al furniture feast



- Open wide – a deeper look into

[ILLYCAFFÉ'S container house](#)

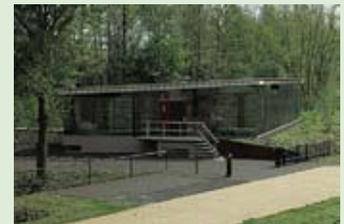


CONSTRUCTION

- [The Millau Bridge](#) – spanning the River Tam in the south of France: engineering prowess and architectural grace

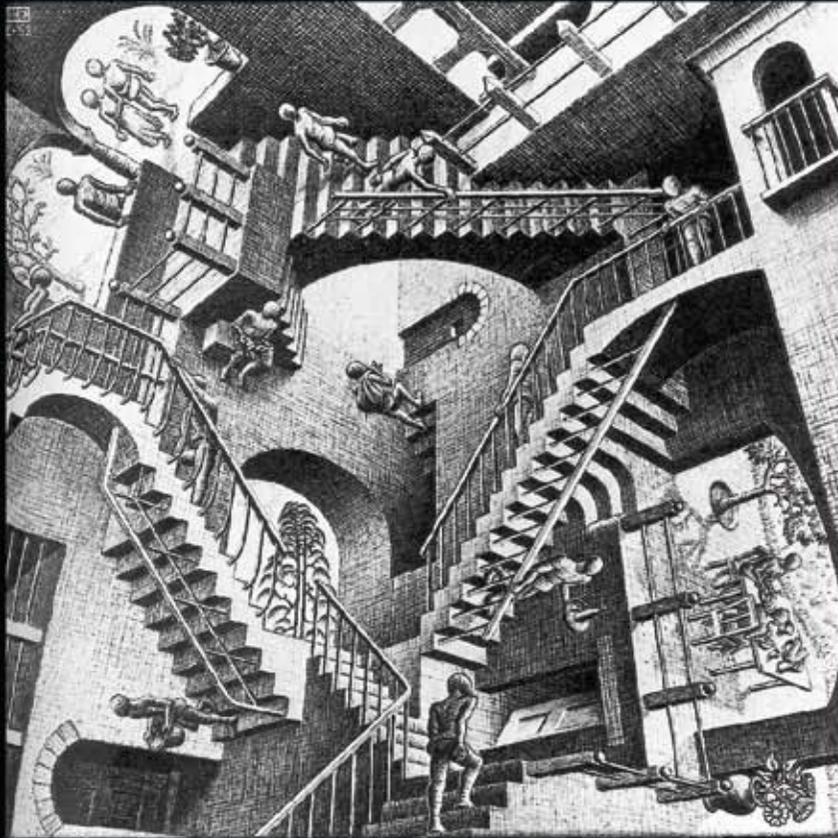


- [The Laminata House](#) in Leerdam, Netherlands by [Kruunenberg Van der Erve Architecten](#) – built from 1,000s of layers of glass



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