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This month, as we get ready to celebrate the one-year anniversary of Modern Design Magazine, I feel it is important to explain some of what we stand for and believe in as a publication. Today in the corporate world there is a lot of talk about company values. Sometimes these are very real and other times they are merely words to include in the company brochure and put on the letterhead. How many times have we stood in line somewhere getting horrible service under a sign saying, “the customer is our number one priority?” If you have been a regular reader of Modern Design, it should be clear that our mission is to share and spread our passion for innovative design with our readers. We try to do this by presenting to them the great work being done all over the world. It is our passion to research and write about great design and innovative technology that is changing the way we live. In these tough economic times, especially in places like the Costa del Sol, it is difficult to do business without giving extra value to advertisers. In the magazine business here in Spain, extra value often means writing advertorials as part of the service. This word mix means writing an article for an advertiser and disguising it as the actual editorial opinion of the magazine staff. A reader is, however, much more likely to read something he or she believes to be an unbiased opinion than they are an advertisement. What this does, once caught by the more perceptive reader, is compromise the journalistic integrity of the publication. Our policy at Modern Design has and will always be NOT TO PUBLISH ADVERTORIALS. We believe in our readers as they believe in us. Our advertisers, in many cases benefit from this honesty because we believe it makes our magazine more readable. We will continue to provide fresh new looks into the great modern designs being conceived and built around the world. It is an amazing time in history. Each day we become more exposed to new cultures, new ideas and new experiences and we should cherish and seize the opportunity. We will continue to bring you a tiny little bit of this experience and culture, with an unbiased opinion!

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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!

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Be Water My Friends

When you understand the root, you understand all that blossoms. Everything and everyone is perpetually in a process of becoming — and NOTHING is fixed! We have finally come back to the ideals of pre-Socratic philosopher Heraclitus, who said everything is flow, flux and process. There are no "things". If nothing within you stays rigid, outward entities will disclose themselves. Move - be like water; still - be like a mirror; respond like an echo. Don't get set into one form, adapt, build your own, and let it grow. Use only that which works, and seize it from anywhere you can find it. In times of change, adaptation is a key-word to success. In this edition we have highlighted a few contents related with water; refreshing contents for this beautiful and hot summer coming. Water is the symbol of life; it is also the principal theme of Expo Zaragoza, which starts this month. Empty your mind, be formless, shapeless, like water. If you put water into a cup, it becomes the cup. Put water into a bottle and it becomes the bottle. Put it in a teapot and it becomes the teapot. Now, water can flow or it can crush. Be water my friends”. A quote from Bruce Lee in an interview for a well-known car company re-launch recently in an advertisement campaign. Some businesses are disappearing, some are appearing; the river of commerce flows. A couple of weeks ago, I was upgrading the Modern Design distribution in the Puerto Banús area, as I wanted to add a trendy pub/restaurant to our network; of course, the owner of the business knew our magazine already. I noticed some copies were already on the premises. "We are stealing it every month" she admitted. At first I thought we’d misunderstood each other, surely it is impossible to "steal" something that is FREE! She then explained to me that since she had discovered it, she has been stealing Modern Design - from another distribution point we have in a Marbella Wellness Center where she usually goes to offer it to her customers. Funny isn’t it? Please, if you have any suggestions regarding our content, or if you want to steal some distribution directly from us, don’t hesitate to contact us at magazine@d-ealre.com.

MD is also available online at www.d-ealre.com
For any questions or comments about Modern Design Magazine, I can be contacted at lgallardo@d-ealre.com

Match & Eat!
Hungry for victory?

All those hopeful entries for our latest competition just keep on flooding in, but if you haven’t sent yours in yet, now’s the time because the competition must close on 25th June. So get matching, and before you know it, you and your five favourite (and smartest) friends could soon be tucking into that super special slap-up meal that’s on offer — courtesy of Modern Design – at one of the swishest eateries in Marbella. All you have to do is to correctly match the famous artists to related images on the back cover. What could be easier than that? And as for that irresistible feast you could soon be tucking into, well we already know you’ve got plenty of good taste... otherwise you wouldn’t be reading Modern Design. For more information, turn to the back cover, now.

CORRECTIONS (mistakes...we have made a few)

ISSUE #1
Page 60: In the ‘Skyline Residence’ it should have read ‘$180 per square foot’ and not ‘square meter’. Page 62: We should have listed the architect for the VM House as PLOT = JDS + BIG Page 24: The project was referred to as the Bottle Klein House, but it should have been referred to as the Klein Bottle House. The project was based on the mathematical concept of the Klein bottle, but there were no mathematician consultants on the projects. McInerney Ryan worked on the QVII apartments not the QII. The interior staircase is actually a fire-engine red and not purplundy. There were no mosaic glass windows in the project. We did not include mean to include ‘and bank balance’ in the last paragraph. Lastly, the photographer for the project was John Collings.

ISSUE #7
Page 15: For the article about COOP HIMMELBLAU the construction photos of High School # 9 should be credited to © John Liddon.
Page 86: We incorrectly stated that the BMW Welt was a museum Page 88: The left top photograph should be credited to © Gerald Zugmann.
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Ecologically responsible architecture does not have to cost more. It just has to be more intelligent.
Making a magazine about modern design for the Costa de Sol, the capital of the uncool! Daring enterprise! Costa del Sol is the place with the highest boom of construction development in Europe. The next boom should be demolition. There is no concept of urbanistic development. In Marbella, car repair workshops have seafront views and the rest of the city gives its back to the sea. You could go through Marbella without even knowing it has a coastline. The architectural statements, no matter how “cool”, can’t take off from the provincial nature; the lack of air conditioning, the advance of humidity on walls, or the professionalism and attitude of the personnel, which is part of the design concept beyond any political correctness, and as a final touch, the sewage systems emitting post-cyclone Myanmar fragrances, no matter how many stars the building has. Everything here in terms of design is short on the cent for the dollar, with no concept of fit and finish. Please somebody on Costa del Sol read the Modern Design Magazine, it is for FREE, and maybe one day we’ll have at least one area around here that looks a bit like Bahía de Plata, at Zahara de los Atunes (Cádiz).

Mauricio Lotito, Costa del Sol

The Great Minds contest recently held in the Diseño Earle Modern Design Magazine prompted me to write. The layout, the articles, and the interest captured are all great. Beyond belief for a free magazine. The contest had my boyfriend and I caught up in the house for at least two months. We were so certain that we were going to win. Anyway, here we were happily wasting our days, two computers going, researching all of these faces. We got down to the last seven and had exhausted our ideas. Finally, I came across a website that had listed some of the most famous photographs of all time; the man holding up the line of tanks in China, the young Vietnamese man being executed, and on, and on. One photographer had a photo of a little black baby in Africa dying of starvation while a vulture watched and waited for his dinner, plus several other photos each more disturbing than the last. I could totally identify with his despair as his photos kept flashing in front of my eyes several times a day and at night while I was trying to sleep. These images were truly haunting and my enthusiasm to find the last seven faces died. My boyfriend kept working on it right up until the deadline, but he was stumped. We had, however, truly been stimulated and for the most part had a lot of fun, and learned a lot of new things.

Michele Townsend, Fuengirola

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Keep the pace

Every now and then our very own central server goes out of sync, it can even crash - come on, it's not embarrassing anymore these days! Avoid an expensive re-boot by getting one of these little gadgets fitted to your cerebellum. Okay it's a bit severe, but certainly no joke for sufferers of OCD and depression. This incredible breakthrough has been researched by some of the biggest brain-bulks in the US and is producing great results. Seventeen sufferers of depression were kitted-up and observed for a year, they showed marked improvements in mood as well as social and occupational functioning. Twenty six sufferers of OCD were expertly tracked for three years, showing an encouraging increase in house-mess and general disorder; sounds normal! This shocking device delivers electrical impulses to the brain, apparently quelling chemical disorders in our ever sensitive grey matter. Could this be the end of the Emo? Clinical trials continue.

Bye bye
Cattle-Class

A first for air travel, this aircraft-seat design is intended for the much neglected economy-class flyers among us. The evolutionary design allows numbers in comfort, something seemingly impossible until now. Obviously there is room for a sleeper-seat for the masses, and this comfy lounger squeezes nicely into the latter portion of the fuselage. By eliminating the notorious 'Cattle-Class' on long hauls, flying will become a much more attractive prospect. The patented seat recline which slides down and forward, lowering you to your perfect lounging position. This all happens inside your own fixed cocoon, allowing an unprecedented level of privacy. All we need now is to get the Champers on tap and ban children from kicking the seat-back, and I think we have a winner!
Why did the laser cross the road?

Designer Hanyoung Lee has conceived a virtual pedestrian-crossing system made of plasma light beams. This glorified 'Walk-Don't Walk' installation is intended for the streets, and takes any guess-work away from the well-established semaphore systems we use today. The jaywalking-genius swears that his giant virtual characters crossing in front of traffic, increase driver and pedestrian awareness to the dangers on our highways. You're not kidding! Who in their right mind would drive a brand-new paint job through that scary looking disarray?

A Bug's Life

This bug-like fire-fighting robot is the very latest in forest fire safety. The autonomous fire fighting bot gets its self-preservation instinct from very distant insect cousins, using heat and infrared sensors stored in its on-board antennae. The developers intend to deploy the bugs in forests and on large campus-style institutions. Here, the sensors could pick up any heat disturbances that would send these pyrocritters into an automated, 'Red Adair' fire-fighting frenzy! By employing on-board extinguishers, and six-legged evasion techniques, the bugs should be able to reach, and extinguish fires before they sweep out of control. The technology will hopefully save valuable human life, all too often lost in blazing forest infernos.

Suits you sir!

How often do you wash your two-piece? Not enough we guarantee it; these abused garments get covered in Champagne, prawn cocktail and cake, and then hardly ever get the clean treatment. Enter the Wash-in-the-Shower suit; straight after a sweaty day in these debonair rags, just kick off your loafers and wander into the shower. The suit is soaked in seconds, washed, along with the wearer and ready for hanging out to dry. Not a bad process for the hangover either! The magic is in the drying, by the next morning everything is dry, pressed and creased to perfection. What was wrong with a bit of the old elbow-grease and some Febreze?
Social Climber

Considering he suffers from vertigo, Frenchman Alain Robert certainly knows how to rise above the rest of us. He generally views the high-rise city skyline as a range of man-made mountains, and he's climbed them all. With no equipment save a pair of climbing shoes and some chalk, he has conquered eighty of these steel and glass peaks, and at a pace that would make the most intrepid window cleaners drop their squeegees! His obsession began back in the eighties when he lost his keys, rather than waiting for his dad to get home he scaled eight floors and broke in the window, the rest as they say is history. He now grabs widespread attention for his sponsors by illegally climbing the world's biggest towers, followed by immediate on-the-spot arrest and a good authoritative wrist slapping. Alain is currently banned from entering China, the government there sensibly concerned about scraping him up from a Hong Kong sidewalk.

www.alainrobert.com

Fanshii that.

For the first time ever, two glass artists have jointly won the prestigious Bombay Sapphire prize. The prize was awarded to Japanese and UK artists Yuichi Higashionna and Annie Cattrell for excellence and innovation in the art of glass making. Judge and founder member of the Sapphire prize, Ron Arad, described 'Chandelier' as "a great example of Japanese contemporary art. It's rich, amazing and as a chandelier, in a class of its own". The work pays homage to the Japanese art of Fanshii (making everything small, round and cute) and in the creator's own words, "Is a little fluorescent monster"; one that bagged him a share of 25 grand! The Lung-like 'Capacity' exhibit by Annie Cattrell represents an inextricable study of how the piece was created and what it represents. The act of breathing (glass blowing) has created the organ of breath. It's an evolutionary cycle that the judges couldn't resist.

http://www.bombaysapphireprize.com
Lend A Helping Hand

**PAD** (Protección de Animales Domésticos)

PAD is a rehoming shelter for abandoned dogs and cats. Since we opened our shelter in December 1998 we have found loving homes for more than 6000 dogs, cats, puppies and kittens. Our placement rate is exceptional and in 2007 alone we rehomed well over 1000 animals. So the next time you worry that all your efforts may not be making a difference, you only have to remember the 6000 lives that have ALREADY been saved. TOGETHER, WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

You can help by becoming a member (just €35/year), adopting or fostering a cat or dog, making a donation, dog walking, grooming and cleaning the cats, helping at our fund raising events, collecting bric-a-brac, displaying a collecting tin, or finding new members.

As Fendi has found a loving home, Juanito, pictured here, is our latest doggie model and quite the star.

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As Fendi has found a loving home, Juanito, pictured here, is our latest doggie model and quite the star.

The shelter is open 365 days of the year from 11am to 2pm and Monday-Friday (working days) from 4pm to 7pm.

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There are no prizes for anyone who can guess where the inspiration came for this slender dwelling in the centre of Antwerp. And no, we don’t mean the world’s skinniest house in Amsterdam, though a certain neighbourhood just a few strides away from there would be a fair guess!

In fact, husband-and-wife run architecture firm Sculp(IT) found this old fire damaged skinny-structure in Antwerp’s defunct red-light district (now one of the swankiest post codes in the city), and set about putting a bold rescue package together.

With the gable measuring a mere 2.4 meters, the company motto “less is more” came somewhat conveniently into play. Confident about the outcome of such a manageable and affordable project, Sculp(IT) dived into the salvage operation, initially propping up the building’s dented ego with a chunky steel and wood brace. The duo then set about transforming this tiny 60-meter space into a light and functional studio-stack, incorporating a slick company HQ.

Garish UV lights decorate the glass facade of this award-winning structure, each interconnected floor a contrasting colour, the main intention of which was to fragment the space into functional areas. A clinical white illuminates Sculp(IT)’s ground-floor office space; then ascending the tightly coiled spiral through the living and dining levels, we quickly climb through a bold colour spectrum, ending in a cool electric-blue at the rooftop sleeping and bathing area. Ultimately the brash lighting is hardly used - but when it’s burning bright, tourists are attracted like moths, gazing in through the giant glass-plated frontage to a rather public display of domestic harmony.

When confronted about existing in such a tiny space, the couple proudly announce that the rest of us have all got it wrong when it comes to energy saving. “By taking up less space, you automatically reduce your ecological footprint,” notes co-founder and wife Sylvia Mertens, “You’re not going to do that by incorporating all kinds of expensive technical novelties. It’s the basic principles you need to adjust”. We have to agree this is a good point, but wouldn’t you say that, too, if you lived and worked in a hamster stack?

Anyway, for its size, the design certainly speaks volumes, and has become an iconic emblem for the area. This trim design has also firmly stamped Sculp(IT) on the architectural map, and the stream of new clients certainly have no trouble finding them.
let it SNØH

Standing like a quasi-architectural masterpiece in the middle of Norway, it's hardly surprising that the Snøhetta mountain range was the inspiration behind the obscure Swedish design collective of the same name. Founded in 1989 by Craig Dykers, Christoph Kapeller and Kjetil T. Thorsen, the snow-capped peak symbolises the firm’s unwavering philosophy to create landscapes rather than objects with architectural forms that blend seamlessly with the environment. With a signature low-key style and an admirable emphasis on sustainability, Snøhetta is proof that modern architecture can have heart.

Text: Nick Clarke  Featured Architects: SNØHETTA
Snøhetta was relatively unknown on the world-wide architecture scene until the unveiling of its design for the new library, Biblioteca Alexandrina, in Alexandria, Egypt. An 85,000-square-metre cultural centre built in the shape of a setting sun beside the glistening Mediterranean, the library was opened in 2002 after a construction period of ten years to a succession of wows across the industry. Commissioned by the International Union of Architects, UNESCO and the government of Egypt as part of an international competition, Snøhetta created something that they hoped would act as a catalyst for a city-wide makeover. The winning design is certainly a showstopper, characterised by a circular tilting form that rises up from the ground to reveal an expansive granite wall carved with historic inscriptions and contemporary symbols. The library’s roof is as jaw-droppingly beautiful as any pharaoh’s tomb, too, with a honeycomb structure made from glass and aluminium that opens up the interior to the sea. Inside, 11-storeys are capable of storing up to eight million books, half of which are held in the 20,000-square-metre reading room. As the interior’s most distinguished feature, the reading room is the largest in the world and has enough space for 2,000 bookworms. The books themselves are stored across seven terraces, which are indirectly lit by a north-facing skylight to afford readers enough light without risking damage to the books. Reading areas and stacks are also arranged close by at the same level to reduce retrieval time. Aside from the library, the building includes a planetarium, several museums, a school for information science and conservation facilities, as well as a smaller library for children. Built to replace the ancient library erected by Alexander the Great thousands of years ago (and subsequently ‘lost’ to civilisation centuries later), Biblioteca Alexandrina is so much more than just another place the public are told to be silent in.

Another of Snøhetta’s grandest designs is the New Opera House in the Norwegian capital of Oslo, which just opened this April and which was also response to a design competition. Chosen from 230 entries, it features two auditoriums, foyers, production areas, workshops, storage areas and rehearsal rooms, all of which are divided between separate ‘front of House’ and ‘Back of House’ sections. Arguably the most eye-catching thing about the New Opera House, however, is its roof, which boasts horizontal and sloping planes to create drama in the Nordic skyline. From the inside, the roof’s architecture is just as incredible, with either side of the foyer tapering down like inverted ski slopes. Incredibly, visitors are even permitted to clamber onto the roof to enjoy the panoramic views of the city, something that would never be allowed in most safety-obsessed countries. On the outside, the building is clad with metal panels and marble, making it appear like it’s rising out of the fjord like a silvery glacier. And in a way, it is, with the structure half-submerged so that musicians in the pit are actually playing 40-feet below sea-level. But they needn’t worry; the building has its own underwater sea defence just in case the ferry from Oslo to Copenhagen veers dangerously off course. The heart of the building is predominantly oak stained with different hues, making for a pretty remarkable contrast with the outside. The jury summed up Snøhetta’s winning entry with: “The design takes from the city and gives back to the city; it directs, but is nevertheless subservient and puts people and the magic and power of the Opera House at

Biblioteca Alexandrina
Photographer: Gerald Zugman

3 | Staircase in the library’s main room, the Reading Room. Snøhetta designed the library’s interior to make a coherent design experience both inside and out.

4 | View from the Planetarium Staircase towards the Entrance Plaza at night.

5 | Large Reading Room seen from a meeting room.
the centre of the place. It creates an unexpected
dynamic, both externally and internally, to the
benefit of lovers of opera and ballet, the city of
Oslo and the international community.”

With both library and opera house attracting
worldwide attention for their astounding
aesthetics, Snohetta has been able to break out of
Europe and pursue projects in the US and the
Middle East. Thankfully, it doesn't look like they’re
going to abandon Europe anytime soon (say, for
example, like a certain David and Victoria
Beckham), but it’s good to see a slow-burning firm
explode in such a big way. Working out of satellite
offices in Norway and New York, the people at
Snohetta pride themselves on their egalitarian
work structure, which runs horizontally and
stresses the importance of teamwork. Made up of
architects and interior/landscape designers,
teamwork is key here and is evident in designs
that are sensible but stylish. Testament to the
collaborative nature of design, Snohetta has
joined the ranks of Frank Gehry, Jørn Utzon and
Frank Lloyd Wright to create awe-inspiring places
to be proud of. www.snohetta.com
The Ras Al Khaimah – Gateway project

Entrance of the new planned city of Ras Al Khaimah to include a conference/exhibition centre and hotels. Images: Courtesy of Snøhetta. Location: Ras Al Khaimah, 150 M east of Dubai, U.A.E. Status: To be completed in 2011.

1 & 2 | Pass if you dare: the stunning 200 M high tower coils up out of the sand like a striking cobra – charged with the duty of guarding the emirate.

3 & 4 | The ceramic-panelled design adds lush green and natural shaded spaces to the harsh desert landscape.
THE DESIGN TAKES FROM THE CITY AND GIVES BACK TO THE CITY
Oslo Opera House

1 | Front of house: the waterfront façade of Oslo's new Opera house. Photographer: Jaro Hollan.

2 | Building site in the winter. Photographer: Statsbygg.

3 | Silver Glacier: The building is clad with metal panels and marble, giving the appearance of a silver glacier, rising out of the freezing fjord. Photographer: Nicolas Bulsson.

4 | Exterior shot: The glass fronted foyer space protrudes adding angular drama to the Nordic skyline. Photographer: Trond Ianssen.

5 | Dramatic Interior: View of the main auditorium. Photo: Courtesy of Snøhetta.

6 | Foyer. Photographer: Jaro Hollan.
AN OASIS OF MODERNISM

Diseño Earle set about capturing the natural beauty of this spring fed plot, and successfully rescued it from the concrete jaws of urban-sprawl.
1 | Angled rooftop terrace.
2 | The villa embraces the courtyard and pool to create a private oasis in a dense urban environment.
3 | The house is imagined as a series of dynamic, angular forms huddled about the pool like a small, waterfront village.
4 | Cascading waters create a soothing focal point to the dynamic architectural composition.
5 | Abundant glazing blurs the distinction between interior and exterior space.
THE SITE

Set amongst a concrete jungle of repetitive abodes, this ultra modern villa designed by Costa del Sol-based Diseño Earle, is scribed into the natural fauna of the site. The house sits on a primarily southwest orientation running parallel to the natural site contours, which includes a small creek that swells during the seasonal rains. The angular shape of the structure shields the interior courtyard and pool area from the surroundings, and provides an oasis of privacy within the dense site. The sculptured roof helps protect the site from the gaze of nearby residents, while incorporating a terrace that delivers panoramic sea views and even more sun exposure. The house could be described as a hybrid, part modern villa, part garden pavilion.

DESIGN

The sculptural ethos of this residence is a deliberate mix of essential design concepts; creating a virtual embrace with the ancient trees, turning one’s back on the unsightly street and the protection of the unique location. The roof gives focus to the angular geometry of the plan as it grows from the asymmetrical tapering alignment of the site, creating dramatic outdoor living spaces. Working closely with the clients (a permanently Costa-based professional couple), the architects sought to create a house based on an intimate dialogue between the building and the landscape, seamlessly linking indoor and outdoor lifestyles. The pool, which wraps around the courtyard and private areas of the villa, acts as a natural contrast to the modernist construction. The waterfall smoothly cascades from roof to pool, and serenades the master suite with the cooling sound of rushing water. The ‘L’ plan allows each space in the house to orient itself towards the courtyard, using the pool as a focal point. The choreography of the house is flexible, allowing for various paths of movement and the outside courtyard acts as a counterpoint to the dynamic plan.

CONSTRUCTION

From a distance, the focus is on the form itself. Heavy masonry walls wrap the building on the street side and to the north, leaving most of the glass on the courtyard side of the building. The curved, sculptural roof is covered in copper infused tiles. Both inside and out, the massive steel structure is exposed at various points of the building. The change in roof levels allows for natural light to enter at unusual points throughout. The building is also partially cooled by these unusual elements which allow for evaporative cooling and circulation.

The building was constructed on an old creek bed which created the need for much deeper foundations than would normally be required. This develops an interesting contrast between the wispy steel structure and the heavy concrete structure below.
Photos opposite page: The villa's cluster of angled forms create a series of surprising vistas, inviting multiple paths of movement through the house and courtyard.

1 | The roof is sculpted and shaped to create a private terrace invisible to the neighboring properties.
2 | The roof terrace under construction.
3 | Rooftop clerestories light the living areas below.
4 | Dramatic roof forms frame panoramic views to the sea.
With options in the modern kitchen increasing, it seems even more desirable to find a designer to make these choices for you. Hiring Italy’s best designers for your dream kitchen is more a reality today than ever before.

The kitchen is the heart of the home and where serious financial value of the house lies. Although we are quite keen to choose accent pillows in the living room, a dream kitchen design may be beyond our own creative possibilities. This year there are a few kitchen designs (mostly from Italy) that offer a real kitchen system – not just cabinetry, but worktops, lighting, appliances, audio visual systems, and yes, even the kitchen sink.

The idea of an almost entirely packaged kitchen is nothing new. The Japanese came up with the idea of “System kitchens” in 1922, when Suzuki (yes, the car manufacturer) introduced a kitchen model of the same name in which most of the components were prefabricated and could be configured into any space. The first System Kitchens included a sink, cutting board, gas stoves, storage cabinets, and spaces for large appliances.
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More information on our website
WWW.KITCHENCONCEPTS.INFO
(like refrigerators), small appliances, pots, pans, and utensils were all predetermined in the design. Now, eighty-five years later we have Italian car designers (who know all about the importance of both form and function) designing modern day system kitchens.

**Sheer Kitchen**

The brand new Sheer Kitchen by Gatto Cucine offers every solution imaginable. Arriving in two complementary pieces, it can be placed anywhere – as long as you supply the electricity and water. The first, a 148 cm diameter orb contains a cooker hood, a hob, a double sink, 2 trolleys and a retractable table. The second piece is a free-standing wall which cleverly conceals a refrigerator, stove, storage space, and four folding chairs. When not in use, the orb closes to look like a giant lamp emitting a soft glowing light, while a blind closes the freestanding wall unit (of course all of this is done by remote control). When the orb is open, the kitchen is open. The upper half of the orb attaches to the ceiling and becomes the fan and the light for the kitchen. The lower half contains a circular worktop, a double sink, three burners, one natural lava stone burner, three bottle coolers, a steel and aluminium retractable table, and trolleys. Not only is the shape of the kitchen revolutionary, but it is also the only kitchen on the market made from carbon fibre, a material that is lighter and more resistant than stainless steel.

**Acropolis**

Snaidero, another Italian kitchen company, only focus on cutting-edge kitchen concepts, and often partners with today's best designers. In 2002 they introduced the Acropolis kitchen with well-known Ferrari designer Farini Pininfarina. Just as the Acropolis was the heart of the city, Pininfarina states that the kitchen is the heart of the house. The original design was a closed full circle made from stainless steel and recycled aircraft aluminium. Recent modification of the design creates an opening in the circle. But the circle still remains the main design concept of the Acropolis, imitating a drum set, where everything is in arm's reach of the chef. The kitchen features recessed LEDs in the upper shelf, a Foster sink, a four-burner electric Foster cook top, bottle holders, knife holders, storage space, and cooking space. There is a control panel for the audio and visual components.

**P'7340**

German kitchen manufacturer Poggenpohl and German sports car manufacturer Porsche have collaborated this year on the P'7340 kitchen in an effort to captivate a male audience. The sleek aluminium frame with all the bells and whistles, has both men and women clamouring for a Porsche (kitchen that is). Within the aluminium frame design there are two wooden surfaces to choose from; driftwood or dark oak. All cabinetry has been masterfully mechanised so the doors open with a light touch of the finger. Worktops are available in either a satinised glass or black granite. A plug and play audio visual system is conveniently tucked behind a glass surface. The lighting has been strategically imbedded in the aluminium frames to illuminate the worktop surfaces. Poggenpohl selected Miele as the sole appliance suppliers, a move to reduce tiresome decision making for the intended ‘upwardly mobile’ clientele. The appliances are in the same finish as the aluminium frames and are operated by sensor keys and dialogue displays. A kitchen table has even been designed for this nut to bolts offering – brilliant!

**La Cucina Alessi**

And who better to design a kitchen in order to showcase all their beautiful designs but Alessi. Alberto Alessi has pulled together a kitchen dream team of Alessi's Alessandro Mendini and Gabrielle Centazzo, Valcucine (furniture), Foster (appliances), and Oras (faucets). Designed around the concept of a single well curved line, the Alessi kitchen series is modern, inviting, intimate and a totally different look from the square-edged modern kitchens that we are seeing right now.
The Future: Concept Kitchens

If you want to know what the future holds for kitchen design, you need look no further than the work that DuPont™ Corian® is doing with Ernestomeda. They currently have two concept kitchens designed by Pritzker Prize-winning architects, Zaha Hadid and Jean Nouvel. The ‘Z’ Island by Hadid is reminiscent of her morphologically sculptural figures. The “futuristic, sensory-responsive” design is composed of two islands. At the fire island there is a cook top and LCD display, and on the water island you will find the sink, dishwasher, and prep area. Jean Nouvel’s kitchen design incorporates Corian’s new illumination series to showcase how the material can create slightly transparent backlight kitchen cabinetry. Ernestomeda is planning to do a special production of both of these conceptual designs.

When some of Italy and Germany’s best kitchen designers collaborate with the best appliance companies to bring you a packaged modern kitchen, you’ll get what you pay for. But the investment in a functional piece of modern design that resides at the heart of the house may just be worth it.

More information about the kitchens mentioned in this article can be found at the following web sites:

www.snaidero.it
www.sheerkitchen.it
www.poggenpohl.de
www.alessi.com
www.ernestomeda.es

Photo above: Corian® Nouvel Lumieres by Jean Nouvel and Ernestomeda  Photo below: The ‘Z’ Island - a conceptual kitchen by Zaha Hadid and Corian®
Photos this page: OLA Kitchen is an inviting kitchen, with bold, exciting and innovative forms. It has been in production since 1981 and has never lost its modern appeal.

All the heat you need is just a touch of a button away!

Stylish, efficient and durable, Fireside Home & Comfort's line of gas fireplaces from Heat & Glo are designed to complement your home décor and to meet your home heating needs.

We have just opened a new showroom in Orihuela Cosia, at Zenia Park along the N332 and close to the La Zenia roundabout. We promise you a warm welcome!

www.fireside.es
The kitchen is a gadget heaven, and even if you are not about to re-model it any time soon, there are a couple of items that caught our eye, and they could probably bring any kitchen right up to date.

From top left to bottom right: Built-in Coffee System by Miele not only removes clutter from your counter-top but it also grinds the beans and steams and froths the milk. The Chin Family Egg & Spoon Holder by Alessi gives your kitchen some cuteness. The Boffi Mini Kitchen Boffi has reintroduced Joe Columbo’s original Carrellone mini-kitchen from 1964 in Corian®. This souped-up kitchen island features a two burner stove, a refrigerator, a can opener, storage, and a chopping board – everything except the kitchen sink. And it works on one electrical plug. Articulating Kitchen Faucet from Kohler is crafted from stainless steel and light carbon, this new dynamic faucet will hold any pose for you. The LG HDTV Refrigerator LSC27991 besides chilling your food this refrigerator has an LCD TV, a DVD hook-up, a radio, a slideshow option (to display your favourite photos), a five-day weather forecast, and 100 built-in recipes. Crevasse Rinsing Sink by Kohler has a one touch actuator that runs the water and garbage disposal at the same time. The New Corian® Illumination Series introduces five new translucent colours for your kitchen designs. The Salamander broiler which is now an option in Miele’s Combi-sets is often used by professional chefs to melt cheese or caramelize sugar perfectly. Miele’s Combi-sets which allows you to customize your cook-top surface beyond the standard gas or electric hob with choices like an induction wok, barbeque grill, fryer, scales, and a Tepan Yaki.
Cada proyecto... una ilusión.
The Salone Internazionale del Mobile comes once a year, but boy do we revel in it! The world’s most prestigious annual design exhibition, it’s jam-packed with everything we love about the industry and so much more. Spanning furniture, products, technology, innovations and trends, our trip there this year was like being called back to the mother ship, a kind of ‘MD phone home’ moment. Naturally, we were first in line to check it all out, notebook in one hand, quivering pen in the other.
Photo top of page, Memory art Installation by Tejo Remy and Rene Veenhuizen: Let us explain: By assembling a chaotic collection of drawers, normal order and form is lost. However, start to place objects in the random drawer assembly, and we begin to memorise particular zones in the array. By creating its own order in this sense, the mind surreptitiously becomes the missing chest. That's cleared that up then! Photo above right, by Tejo Remy and Rene Veenhuizen: In the same collection, Rag Chair dictates how we can easily make our own paradise from whatever we encounter; it's a pure Robinson Crusoe approach to design but in an ecological sense, not a bad philosophy!

Photo opposite page, The Milk Bottle Lamp by Tejo Remy and Rene Veenhuizen: The Milk Bottle Lamp is again re-cycling gone contemporary art-form; by following the same philosophy as Rag Chair, the raw materials are simple and obtainable. The result in this case is nothing short of design genius and a fitting tribute to the nigh-on extinct milk bottle. Photo above left, Giants Candleholder designed by Arik Levy for Gaia & Gino: Made from heliodor which is natural, clear yellow crystal formation and prized as a gemstone in Namibia, where the stone is found.
**Photo top, The Pebble Collection designed by Erwan & Ronan Bouroullec for Tectona:** Designed as an ode to the art of relaxation, Pebble will adorn your lawn, terrace or pool area with the latest in ‘wistful-weave’ slumber. With contours that blend effortlessly into any surrounding, Pebble creates a unique outdoor living space.

**Photo bottom, My Beautiful Backside by Doshi Levien for Moroso:** The designers celebrate their ‘peachy back packages’ with this lavish looking sofa. Perhaps more of a feast for the eyes more than somewhere you’d like to nestle into for the evening.
A chance for designers across the globe to show off what clever concepts they’ve come up with during the preceding 364 days, the Salone Internazionale del Mobile, which ran from 16th to 21st April, attracts big-name designers and manufacturers from across the globe. This year was no exception. Hosted at the New Milan Fairgrounds in Rho, Italy, the 46th edition of the show focused on materials, technologies and styles, with a newly-introduced sector on bedding. Like a full-scale shrine to design, the fair was made up of 220,000-square-metres of central exhibition space, as well as a number of offshoots scattered further afield, such as the International Lighting Exhibition, the International Furniture Exhibition, the International Furnishing Accessories Exhibition, the International Kitchen Furniture Exhibition, the International Bathroom Exhibition, the new International Biennial Workspace Exhibition and SaloneSatellite. Exhibiting some of the more avant-garde prototypes dreamt up by the hottest up-and-coming newbies, SaloneSatellite has become an integral part of the fair.

Sorted by type, products at the 2008 edition ranged from the classic to the modern, from ethnic to designer, from singles to sets, from designer pieces to reproduction antiques, from ethnic to fusion, from accessories to sectionals. An explosion of all that’s in vogue, designers included the likes of Alessi, Artek, B&B Italia, Driade, Moooi, Moroso, Poltrona Frau, Swarovski Crystal Palace and Vitra, amongst others. With over 2,500 exhibitors from around 40 different countries, there was so much to see in so little time. But, fuelled by our passion for the cutting-edge, we ran like press possessed through the stands to see what was going down – and up – in the world of interiors. Reporting from the front-line, here we deliver the best of what we saw – and were shamefully tempted to steal – from the stands.

Known for ending old trends and inspiring new ones, the Salone del Mobile has become the modern day tastemaker. A must-see event for any true design-ista, this is certainly a fair to remember.

**Photo top, New Balls Please by Tejo Remy and Rene Veenhuizen:** It is no accident that this sofa looks like an aortic junction, from organic form to composition; the idea arose to let the seating units originate through cell division. The tennis ball made the perfect chromosome, individual yet identical and soft enough for comfort, they expertly ‘serve’ up this perfect DNA design for the home.  

**Photo bottom, Mesa, designed by Zaha Hadid for Vitra:** This alien, sci-fi piece was inspired by her work for an installation created in the Moore Building for the Miami Art Fair. The effect is strikingly similar to sticky chewing gum pulled up out of shape, yet somehow strangely compelling.
Photo right, Rontonton designed by Van Vliet for Moroso: Light North African in nature, these Rontonton lamps derive from a lighting family recognized by three dimensional geometric bodies made out of plastic and aluminium perforated sandwich sheet. The atmospheric radiation diffuses light and adds an additional layer onto all other designs. Photo bottom, Bohemian Arm Chair designed by Patricia Urquiola for Moroso: Patricia Urquiola is the designer who best expresses Moroso’s vision, she has therefore created the new Bohemian range. The richly upholstered arm chair has a very fluid form, the press studded upholstery creating soft, enveloping almost casual lines. This sumptuous, yet laid-back styling is apparent throughout the Bohemian collection.

Photos opposite page, Jet set designed by Jaime Hayon for Bisazza: A flamboyant and extremely fun interpretation of mosaic, ‘Jet Set’ shows us Jaime’s playful and poetic approach to design. This profound representation of the Lear-jet form is adorned with white and gold mosaic tiles and features a white leather Jet-top lounge area. Completing the luxury jet look is a black and white striped floor in Bisazza glass chip mosaic tiles, with interesting reflections between light and shadow creating a movie set atmosphere.
Photo top left, “Paesaggi Italiani” designed by Massimo Morozzi for Edra: The modular furniture system now has gorgeous golden finishes, like golden domes and minarets shimmering against clear skies. It is the ideal setting for interior décor that exudes a sense of oriental luxury and leisure.

Photo top right, Flap, designed by Francesco Binfaré for Edra: Not a straight line or right angle in sight, Flap will sensationally accommodate any slumber position you desire: Backwards, frontwards, left over, right over, sitting, lounging, reading, watching or just plain collapsed. More importantly, the crocodile printed leather that clads this super-seat, leaves the world’s crocs to joyfully recline into their natural habitat.

Photo middle, Aguape, designed by Fernando and Humberto Campana for Edra: Things don’t get much more organic in form than ‘Aguape’ by Fernando and Humberto Campana; thick laser-cut leather petals, based on a water lily, spring naturally from stem-like chair legs.

Photo bottom, Nanook, designed by Philippe Bestenheider for Moroso: This three dimensional table structure is best described as a hexagonal network inspired by the molecular geometry of a snowflake. The painted steel table can be attached horizontally to a second table or attached vertically to create a two-shelf arrangement.
Photo left, Victoria and Albert Armchair, designed by Ron Arad for Moroso: Asked to use this as a throne, the real Victoria and Albert would be somewhat ‘Not amused’! The name choice actually pays homage to the famous museum in London, where a very important anthology of Ron Arad’s works has been hosted in June. The shape is obtained by using a rotationally moulded coloured polyethylene, a new process for manufacturing this proven and successful design. 

Photo middle, Paimio Scroll Chair 41, designed by Artek Alvar Aalto: This revamped concept of fixing springy plywood to a closed frame was Aalto’s 1931 brainstorm for making a wooden chair feel “soft”. Aalto’s original Model 41 Paimio armchair can be found in numerous museums including the Museum of Modern Art. The frame is laminated birch bent into a closed curve with solid birch cross-rails. The seat is moulded from one piece of birch plywood. 

Photo bottom, Fruit Loop, designed by Black + Blum: ‘Fruit Loop’ is a wire fruit bowl that starts as a single piece of chromed steel that is over 3 metres in length. The continuous piece of wire is interwoven to create a cradle for the fruit. Although apparently random, this well thought out concept has the ability to look as good when filled with fruit as it does when containing just one apple.
Tapio's Pudding

Furniture designers Artek, founded in 1935 by Alvar and Aino Aalto, have re-launched Tapio Wirkkala's X frame glass-top table. The successful combination of carved wood and glass is obviously back, and ready to be installed in a designer crib near you. The intertwining geometric wooden forms of yesteryear make a confident show at the Milan fair in the shape of this sculptured retro-design, originally conceived way back in 1958.

Public Benchmark

Graffitists, think twice about tagging this stuff! Wolters Street Furniture moves design and form outdoors with this street-wise collection of racks, rails and benches. Why should we all suffer rotten, sometimes over-baked, definitely uncomfortable park bench designs, when this could be the stamp of any self-respecting borough council? Wolters' new line is modern, comfortable, unobtrusive and a great leveler, to be enjoyed by Guardian reader and street-urchin alike. It knows no bounds, save the public spending purse strings!

Karim Rashid

Love him or hate him, he's out there – in more ways than one. New York based Rashid shows the revolutionary 'Blobulous Chair' at Milan this month. These biomorphic fibreglass chairs resemble the old original imac range, all scooped out and functionless, save the comfort. It's an intended comparison; one of the product photos is an exact copy of one of apple's famous colour range images - shot from above. Cheeky but intuitive.
Leaf it out!

We've seen some pretty cool teapot designs over recent years, but not one that articulates the way we brew. Sorapot stylishly frames the process of tea leaves unfurling as they steep, taking any guesswork out of the brew time process. Forget 2000 perforations; for that perfect cuppa, with a look that knocks you dead, it has to be Sorapot.

www.sorapot.com

Material possession

Design innovation or just retro charm? One of the most talked about pieces at Milan this year is Moroso’s ‘Bouquet Chair’ by Tokujin Yoshioka. The chair, with its simple chrome stand supporting a basic egg-shape shell, is nothing to get all hot and bothered about. However, apply a bouquet of fabric squares and the design world goes into freefall! Don’t you just love this precious little industry? Now, stunningly simplistic, comfortable and as seventies as Slade, the piece has been reinterpreted a hundred times and will, without doubt, become the must-have credential for any worthy, modern living space.

www.moroso.it

Look at your shelf, all over the place!

It seems we’ve reached a point in the industry where the only way to design bookcases is to deconstruct and deform! If it is a rule then Swedish firm Smånsk have rigorously obeyed. Keeping things strictly Scandy, the young designers have utilized Lego-type building blocks to achieve ‘skew-wiff’ shelf appeal. The Barbie pink should ensure a stomping-fit of demand from every nine-year-old girl this side of Milan. Perhaps one for Ikea?

www.smansk.com
Sandalous!

In a glorious effort to enhance the ankles and increase leg length we all rejoice in the inimitable talents of legendary Manolo Blahnik. He's pulled it off again in his latest collection. Husbands beware of those mysterious extra pairs appearing in the wardrobe and nasty letters from the bank, this is the key shoe-collection of the season and wannabe Imeldas will do anything to own a pair!

www.manoloblahnik.com

Reefer madness

The poor smoker, banished from most modern functions and gatherings, gets a friendly bump up the social-scale from Constantin Boym. With large communal ashtrays at the dinner table now a thing of the past, the Strata, delicately fashioned in crystal, is a private mini-ashtray. Its unobtrusive toy size cleverly allows the user to fade behind a social smoke screen, and spares other guests from suffering the visual obscenity of the old 'dog-end-dip'bowl!

www.gaiagino.com

Lucky Ron

Your luck's in if you can get your hands on one of these four-leaf clovers. Organic and sensual, designer Ron Arad has created a soothing sensation in this coloured polyethylene monobloc arm chair. Weather proof also, the chair can double as lush garden furniture, though we'd advise keeping it well away from the barbecue flames!

www.ronarad.com

Skin seat

Suspended seating seems a real science, architect Jean Nouvel has set about taming the opposing forces on the simplistic, yet extremely desirable Skin sofa. In a bid for new expression, Nouvel employs a form-and-function formula that makes the decorative elements of the sofa structural, and vice versa. Is it comfortable? Apparently so, and surprisingly easy to vacuum under.

www.bonluxat.com
All our literature and art are for the masses of the people, and in the first place for the workers, peasants and soldiers; they are created for the workers, peasants and soldiers and are for their use.

Mao Tse Tung, May 1942

As this year’s Olympic flame slowly, and somewhat controversially completes its global tour, the world breathes a sigh of anticipated relief. The event hasn’t passed without a fracas or two; the contested flame, flanked by a battalion of menacing, tracksuit clad minders, has deeply maddened and provoked as it tentatively circled a self-righteous planet. It’s difficult, however, to avoid feeling that such a defiant public display could only be a show, viral-marketing on a grand scale, the likes and audacity never seen before at this level. If this were true, it could only possibly be a ruse concocted by the world’s most contentious and ‘blooming outrageous’ super-power!

Text: Dave Vickers  Illustration: Rolando S. Bouza
Asian Persuasion
Contemporary Chinese Art

All our literature and art are for the masses of the people, and in the first place for the workers, peasants and soldiers; they are created for the workers, peasants and soldiers and are for their use.

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Dave Vickers
Illustration: Rolando S. Bouza


Modern Design 53
China is a volcano of social and economic reforms, the intensity and speed of change here since the late 80’s have probably never been equalled in history. The resulting revolution in understanding, misunderstanding, innovation and experimentation on all subjects, has in turn been extravagantly manifested in the arts. Indeed, as China’s booming economy marches ever onward, contemporary Chinese art has become the latest “next big thing” in the international art market, sending galleries, collectors and investors into a financial frenzy. It is bloody nice stuff too, so you certainly get what you pay for! Styles range from realism to expressionism; from surrealism to abstract; these popular genres skilfully underlined by one of the world’s most innovative digital-art scenes. Right now is China’s Art moment, galleries and exhibitions the world over proudly display an array of these flamboyant commie-canvasses. The artists have exploded into action after years of being forced to operate underground, and now, rather than skulking in the creative shadows, they perform unbound. Rising from obscurity to fame so rapidly, naturally causes a surge of popularity; these modern-Ming heroes have quickly become the latest must-have guests on many a swanky celebrity party list. In addition, run-down urban communities that were once the oppressed artists’ hideaway, have now transformed to super-chic city quarters, the cappuccino-sipping playgrounds of China’s creative genius. Interestingly, the crushing high-rise architecture predominant in these once dilapidated districts is now the ingenious backdrop-subject of many of these contemporary paintings and designs.

WANG NIANDONG
One of the most prominent of these liberated urban-artists is Wang Niandong. Born in 1978, Wang belonged to a very traditional and cultured set. Inspired by his artistic Grandfather, he left his native Sichuan province to study at the Central Academy of Fine Art in Beijing. He finished his graduate studies back at the Sichuan Fine Art Institute where he currently teaches. At first glance his meticulous approach to art appears glossy, the realism so absurdly apparent that the untrained eye could easily glance past what seems to be strictly...
two-dimensional in nature. However, his style warrants much more than just a glance, a moment more in front of these breathtaking canvasses reveals the social wrangling of a generation. The modern vices of urban China become apparent as Wang ingeniously paints a contemporary legend of the metropolitan young and re-born; he shows a raucous-rhapsody of his boisterous inner desires for the big bad world! The tantalising ‘Insomnia Night in Beijing’ perhaps hints at the spoils of his newly acquired, lavish disposition. It’s certainly great to see the rewards of Wang’s hard work affording him plenty of wayward wanderings, the experience of which, he invests straight back into the subject for us all to enjoy. It’s simple and right back ‘at-cha’; the innocence of a repressed communist-upbringing bleeding through in the enthusiasm for all things modern, stuff us westerners simply take for granted. It is always heart warming to witness the humanity of one of these far-fetched creative geniuses.

1| Xu Yihui from the Red Aside: Contemporary Chinese art from the Sigg collection exhibit at the Fundació Joan Miró, Barcelona.
2| Yue Min Jun 2000 Painted Polyester, 25 pieces: 186 x 60 x 46 cm c/u. from the Red Aside: Contemporary Chinese art from the Sigg collection exhibit at the Fundació Joan Miró, Barcelona.
4| Chang Xugong, Untitled (Speaker and doggy), 2000 / Silk embroidery on cotton, 180 x 150 cm. From the Red Aside: Contemporary Chinese art from the Sigg collection exhibit at the Fundació Joan Miró, Barcelona.
5| Zhu Ming, 8 May 1999, photograph, 70 x 55 cm. Courtesy of the Chinese Contemporary Factory (www.chinesecontemporary.com). Zhu Ming is a performance artist from the Beijing East Village, known as the most experimental of all the artist’s villages. His work deals with time and physical extremes.


LING JIAN
Moving steadily across the diverse mixing palette of modern artists China has to offer, we cannot ignore Berlin-based Ling Jian. Ling's thing is beauty; he has established a perfect liaison in the co-mingling of Asian and European facial features that spawns these gorgeous, androgynous canvass-dwelling creatures. His photo-realistic portraits explore the nature of beauty and its relationship to the sublime, in other words he fully intends to get us all going, mouth agape, at his vision of the flawless being. Aside from solid communist-conviction, religion stands prominent in Ling's ideals, the image of Buddha a regular feature of his work. But even Buddha is not safe from improvement; Ling obviously feels that after thousands of years in the limelight, he needs a bit of a face-lift! Skilfully using the brush like a plastic surgeon's scalpel, he applies his own divine adjustments to the iconic image. With Buddha all botoxed and fit for the Oscars, it seems we can all relax in the knowledge that he can continue ruling his wistful realm for eternity. This scientific techno-beauty bubbles just below the surface in most of Ling's realistic portraits and supplies a banquet for the eyes. He delicately leads us away from the reality and chaos of modern life, and plants us in his tenderised world of the provocative and the sublime.

ZHANG QIKAI
No art review would be complete without a visit to the strange world of the surreal. In fact, the work of Zhang Qikai is making an appearance at Marlborough Fine Art in London from May 29th to June 21st. His exhibition 'After the Jump' is expected to cause 'Panda-monium' (ahem) among the influential with his impressions of the endangered, bamboo-scoffing bear. The Panda is of course a national icon for China, Ling-Ling and Hsing-Hsing tragically hitting the news and capturing the hearts of millions during the seventies and eighties. Zhang is obviously fond of the breed; he 'bears' his soul in a series of the Panda posing in desperately isolated landscapes. It's not hard to envision the thinking behind this, the isolation of communist China for so many of the mature artist's years perhaps? In retrospect it seems foolish to try to dissect his thought process, he probably just loves Pandas and he's good at painting them. The detail on the fur is admittedly excellent. Whatever it is that drives Zhang, he is taken very seriously in many quarters, so the impact his art creates is very real. It's an impact portrayed across the board as far as this fledgling modern art form goes. The high pace of development in China has not diminished since those early reform days, and the evolution of the local art scene has been just as powerful as the social reforms. With exhibitions free from the routine tyrannical lock-down and denunciations of the old regime, a modern dynasty of artists has erupted into expressive action. The public have reacted too; Chinese art is now aggressively collected by the Chinese themselves and this is a huge turn around. Those cunning, art-hungry observers and collectors, normally only happy with all things Western, have now turned to home, it's a massive heads up for the rest of the modern art world, and very fortunate for us that many western galleries have reacted so eagerly. It provides us all with an amazing opportunity to scrutinise this truly modern spectacle from the depths of the mysterious east. Perhaps this could help unlock some of the social barriers that politics, history and geography have raised, leading to an increased understanding and appreciation of a nation we really need to sit up and take notice of.
1| Wang Niandong, Urban Desire.  
3| Zhang Qikai, Flying Over Manhattan, 2006. 180 x 140 cm. (Images 1 – 3 courtesy of Mandarin Fine Art, Laguna Beach, California, www.mandarinfineart.com)  
4| Shi Xinning, Duchamp retrospective exhibition in China, 2000 – 2001, Oil on canvas, 150 x 175 cm. 

From the Red Aside: Contemporary Chinese art from the Sigg collection exhibit at the Fundació Joan Miró, Barcelona.
Moments and Gazes. Picasso as seen by Otero

Take a look into the private world of Picasso in his later years at his Chateau in Mougins, southern France. The MPM acquired Roberto Otero’s photographs in 2005 shortly after his passing.

16 Jun → 31 Aug
Museo Picasso Malaga, c/ San Agustín, 8. 29015 Málaga, España
Phone +(34) 902 44 33 77
www2.museopicassomalaga.org

Glastonbury Musical Festival

As we are writing this, tickets are still available, but not for long. So, if you and your closest friends want to share a tipi tent and bask in the 14 stages of glorious music at the legendary festival – get a move on! Featuring Jay-Z, Duffy, and the Raconteurs just to name a few.

27 Jun → 29 Jun
Phone ticketing: 0044 1159 934 183
Tipi bookings line: 0844 412 4625
www.seetickets.com

Red Bull Racing and Toro Rosso

At 8am two single-seaters will cross the corral of Santo Domingo and the bullring of Navarrese. At 5 pm the Red Bull Racing and Toro Rosso drivers will demonstrate the power of Formula-1 racing when they surpass 240 kilometers an hour flying down Avenida del Ejército. The acts will begin Friday 27th. The following weekend Pamplona will host the running of the bulls.

27 Jun → 28 Jun
Pamplona

Rock in Río Madrid

Billed as the largest macrofestival in the world, the talent line-up reads like a Who’s Who of megastar musicians, including Bob Dylan, Amy Winehouse, Franz Ferdinand, The Police, Stereophonics, Lenny Kravitz, Jamiroquai, Shakira and Neil Young to name but a few.

26 Jun → 6 Jul
Arganda del Rey, Madrid Province
www.rockinriomadrid.terra.es

Expo Zaragoza 2008

Running from mid-June to mid-September with over 5,000 shows, Expo Zaragoza specifically addresses the theme of water and sustainable development. The largest and most impressive water festival on earth, it’s the must-visit event in Spain this year.

14 Jun → 14 Sep
Zaragoza
www.expozaragoza2008.es

Wine tasting at the Museo Vino Málaga

Looking for a break from the beach, why don’t you head over to Ojén, where you can learn more about the region’s wines in the museum and enjoy a wine tasting. Open daily in summer from 11 am to 3 p.m. and 6 to 10 p.m.

C/ Carrera 39, 29610 Ojén, Málaga,
Tel: 952 881 453
www.museovinomalaga.org
Cirque Du Soleil’s Quidam

Join the latest Cirque Du Soleil experience. Quidam, which is Latin for ‘anonymous passer-by’, is about a young girl who has lost all hope - before magically finding herself in the universe of Quidam. As always the unique Cirque Du Soleil trapezoe-act and spell binding dynamic is sure to delight. This is a magical and mind-boggling show for all ages; especially not to be missed if you or your young ones have never had the Cirque du Soleil experience. (15€ - 70€ each) For telephone sales please call 91-2754548. And tickets may also be purchased at El Corte Inglés Outlets.

5 Jun → 13 Jul
Malaga, Grand Chapiteau at Recinto Ferial
Cortijo de Torres

www.cirquedusoleil.com

World Press Photo Tour

Experience the top photojournalistic shots of the year at one of their International gallery shows where the winners of the World Press Photo contest will be on display. The show opened in Amsterdam as part of the prize ceremony in April and it will continue on until next March in over 80 cities. The gallery list is still growing so check the web site for more dates and locations. Left photo: Sports Features. 1st prize stories. Competitors in the Copenhagen Marathon at the finish-line, by Erik Refner.

Berlin → Thru June 22, Portugal 30 May → 5 Jul
Berlin & Portugal

www.worldpressphoto.org

Kara Walker at CAC Málaga

My Complement, My Enemy, My Oppressor, My Love. Kara Walker brings her iconic large cut-out silhouetted figures to the CAC this month. Kara who is from the United States mixes issues of race, gender, and sexuality. An excellent show with some very thought provoking images. Entry is free.

27 Jun → 31 Aug
CAC Málaga, Calle Alemania s/n, 29001 Málaga

www.cacmalaga.org

Festival Terral


25 Jun → 21 Jul
Teatro Cervantes, Málaga, Tel: 952 224 100

www.teatrocervantes.es

Bob Dylan Tour


www.bobdylan.com
Forget your sacred vegetable plot; according to MIT architect Mitchell Joachim, we'll be cultivating our very own homes in the future.

Mitchell and his visionary colleagues have conceived a home that doesn't just utilise "green" design, but is itself a living ecosystem. They call it the 'Fab Tree Hab'.

In a process that would make Spanish builders look positively hasty, the basic framework of 'Fab-Hab' would be a lattice of carefully woven sapling trees, lovingly nurtured over years or even decades. As the trees reach maturity the home grower would gradually weave a screen of vines to form the outer walls of the structure, plugging any gaping holes with local soil and other plants. The interior walls, consisting of packed straw covered by a smoothed layer of clay, would create a moisture barrier from the outside.

The idea of sustainability goes beyond just the structure; a gravitational eco-plumbing system would collect and distribute rain water throughout the home. Waste water would be purified in an outdoor pond with bacteria, fish, and plants that consume organic waste. (Any dreams of a swimming pool end right there!)

The 'Fab-Hab' would truly be the pinnacle of sustainable domestic living, but if you are wondering where your state-of-the-art home cinema system fits into all this, don't worry; it appears the initiative is more suited to sub-tropical locations where fast-growing trees are readily available, for now at least!
KILLER JULES!

Is it a bird? Is it a plane? No it’s a coffee machine for design-savvy, caffeine aficionados! The orb-like 'Jules Espresso Machine,' is about to make a classic close encounter with the coffee-bore kind. Fashioned of metals yet unknown to household appliances and taking us to a new distil-dimension, it's time to file the DeLonghi to history and take coffee making into the cosmos.

www.cbindustries.ch

LOVER LAMP

As if we need any encouragement…! This is one sure way to get your dishy date to deliver the goods. The flashing LED lights and swirling colours of the Lava Lamp Shot Glass are like a red rag to a raging bull when it comes to binge-boozers. Mixologists are about to make a mint with this - all singing and dancing - shot glass that illuminates your liquor, at least until it's drained. When this high-tech vomit-vessel is emptied, it refuses to flash again until topped up; ensuring a colourful night not to remember and a certain trip home on the Gin-GPS.

www.lighterside.com

I PREDICT A RIOT

There will be when this device comes into service! Miranda is a personal black-box device designed for use at public gatherings and hot-bed protests. This tiny digital sin-snapper produces a slide-show of first-person felonies as they unfold. Designed to protect the rights of law enforcers accused of brutality in the riot-place, this mini arrest documentation device records video, audio, motion, impact, location, and other data; then streams it over cell phone data networks. There is no escape! But police beware; it is assured that the technology will take a role reversal and become a counter-corruption device for rioters, protecting their civil rights. There seems no real solution, just more paperwork, why can't we all just get along?!

www.tuvie.com

CUBIC SOUND

Ever find your MP3 player in a 'shuffle-mood'? Some days it just won't move away from 'Cash' and 'Cohen'. These little digital blighters can ruin your day, unless of course, you've got time to make a dreaded play-list! Well how about this to get your gadget out of a rut? Cubic sound has six faces, a simple roll of this digital dice (not literally) and you can easily go from melancholy to metal, angry to ambient or hippy to hip hop. Simply program a genre or mood to each face of Cubic Sound, and when you start to hear the heart-break, just flip it over. Not for sale just yet, but almost ready and raring to go.

www.gizmowatch.com
VEST WEAR ONE!
It's sad but true, but with teenage knife crime on the 'up', this safety undergarment is a sure-fire winner. Designer Nihon Uni has ditched cotton for a material that is three times stronger. Although not puncture proof, the material is strong enough to counter slash attacks thanks to an ultrahigh molecular weight polyethylene fibre. It is equal in strength to the Aramid fibre frequently used in body armour. Doting mums can now rest assured, all that nagging about vest-wearing is well worth while, and fortunately for them, the safety garment is machine washable.

www.ubergizmo.com

FLIP-ING HANDY!
There is no shortage of mini digital camcorders on the market, but none boast the quality and ease-of-use that the miniature Flip camera employs. Cheap, tiny and damn good looking, the flip has it all, and so easy to integrate with its attached USB arm. Some of the smartest technology experts in the business (and their kids) are raving about the Flip. See you on YouTube!

www.theflip.com

RETRO RACK
Remember your dad's all-in-one Grundig low-fi record player? A boxy number encasing a record player, built-in speakers and enough cupboard space to store a whole collection of scratchy Bee Gees albums and Tijuana Brass symphonies. Function furniture is back; Sharp's new 'Home Theatre Rack System' combines cutting edge components and a TV stand to create a product that does more than just save space, it actually sounds good too. It's still a tad boxy, but a damn sight prettier than the Grundig!

www.sharp.com

NUTTER PUTTER
This little gizmo should keep Tiger out of the woods; the digital-instruction putter has a twist club-grip operated LED instruction panel on the club head. In an obvious move to swindle your way round to the clubhouse, the point-and-shoot putter will advise and build up a profile of any bad habits in your swing. A 'stroke' of genius maybe, but binning all them bogies is gonna' cost you; at least two hundred bucks and a lot of good friends!

www.edwinwatssgolf.com

ANOTHER LOAD?
Why spend fortunes on grey-water processing when you can wall-hang your washer above the kludgey. This eco-concept takes space saving to the extreme, though it does seem a tad strange loading your whites right above the pooper! At least it’ll give guys something to look at while urinating. Taking the whole 'better do another load' concept perhaps a bit too far – we wonder if ‘Washup’ will get past the design concept stage…..unless of course, opportune constipation sufferers manage to benefit from the vibrant spin cycle.

www.gizmodo.com

There is no shortage of mini digital camcorders on the market, but none boast the quality and ease-of-use that the miniature Flip camera employs. Cheap, tiny and damn good looking, the flip has it all, and so easy to integrate with its attached USB arm. Some of the smartest technology experts in the business (and their kids) are raving about the Flip. See you on YouTube!

www.theflip.com
**Blogosphere** is a collective term encompassing all blogs and their interconnections. It is the perception that blogs exist together as a connected community (or as a collection of connected communities) or as a social network. The term is comparable to the information superhighway, in that it is a buzzword which comes across to genuinely experienced internet users as a way for people to convince themselves they are 'internet professionals'.

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Text: Nick Clarke    Illustration: Rolando S. Bouza
POWER TO THE PEOPLE.

Despite renowned British editor Janet Street-Porter saying that “blogs are for ancrics who couldn’t get published any other way”, a blog is one of the most powerful forces in publishing today. So influential are blogs – with subject matters that range from architecture and design to politics and showbiz – that some of them have become as authoritative as any respected print newspaper or magazine. Because they are so regularly updated, many of them daily, blogs are often the first place readers go to find out the very latest news, way before the newstands flash the same headlines. While some blogs are run by a single person, airing their personal views and opinions, others are run by companies as marketing tools to raise their corporate profile. Other blogs have been set up as companies themselves, earning enough revenue through advertising to employ full-time staff, including ‘bloggers’ and consultan experts. Special interest blogs seem to generate the highest number of readers - made up of those passionate about the subject, as well as architects, designers, students, editors, journalists and publicists – particularly if they’re written by an authority on the subject. Many architecture blogs are written by professional architects who update them in their downtime, some are put together by students or lovers of architecture, and others are penned by interested editors and journalists. Used to assemble an online community of likeminded folk, architecture blogs don’t only trace the industry they write about, but shape it.

Like other forms of publishing, blogs are used to mould our cultural surroundings. In fact, leading blogs have become the modern-day ‘tastemakers’, telling us what to like and what to dislike, what’s hot and what’s not. Some blogs even shape what print publications run with, often ahead of them with regard to breaking news. In fact, it has been known for respected print titles to cut, paste and plagiarise blogs – not mentioning any names! - simply because the copyright rules for this ‘new media’ are blurred, and lazy journalists can get away with it. Referred to as ‘citizen media,’ blogs are written by the people for the people, and ensure our freedom of speech isn’t jeopardised by censorship and corporate biases. Bringing publishing into the public sphere, blogs are the present – and future – of architectural commentary.

READ ALL ABOUT IT

As good as we are, we’ve trawled the Web for the best architecture and design blogs out there, so you don’t have to. Simply enter the address of the blog into your Internet browser, hit enter and salivate over all the gorgeous stuff you find.

SOCIAL BOOKMARKING

A way for Internet users to save bookmarks and establish profile settings allowing some bookmarks to be public, some to be private, and some only to be shared with specific people or groups. Some of the most famous social bookmarking websites are:

www.digg.com
www.stumbleupon.com
www.technorati.com

TWINGLY SCREENSAVER

If you have ever thought that the world of blogging is too big to comprehend, you are not alone. Primelabs.com understood the need to communicate to the blog community where all the action was when it came to blogging. So they have come up with the Twingly Screensaver a free download which is a visual representation of real-time global blogging activity. www.beta.twingly.com/screensaver
Edited by Marcus Fairs, founder and former editor of Icon magazine, the Dezeen.com blog has become one of the web's prime resources on architecture and design with over 500,000 readers a month drawn to its hallowed pages. Benefiting from its publisher's credibility as a writer, expert and renowned public speaker, the blog combines first-class reportage with a simple, but iconic, black, purple and white design to deliver the latest projects before anyone else. And it succeeds.

The power of blogging is no more evident than on BLDGblog.com, written by LA-based writer Geoff Manaugh. Not only has the heavily-illustrated site appeared in Time magazine's list of the 100 top style and design blogs, but its eclectic mix of well-researched, well-written posts has solicited the attention of a specialist publisher. Set to be made into a weighty design tome, the blog's content will soon be transferred from the computer screen to someone's suitably stylish coffee table.

The blog also demonstrates the collective nature of blogging, and of architecture, with Manaugh also acting as editor for hugely-respected portal Archinect.com. Pooling designers and ideas from around the world to make the industry more connected, the magazine-style blog is updated frequently with a mixture of lengthy features and snappy news snippets.

Set out like a broadsheet newspaper, with black and white set in stark contrast, Cityofsound.com is for readers who like their information without any frivolous distractions, with a startlingly conservative blog design. Produced by Dan Hill, whose full-time job is Director of Web & Broadcast at Monocle (Tyler Brûlé's latest title), his personal blog gravitates towards recurring themes of cities, architecture, design, media and culture, and sometimes the connection between all five.
MOCOLOCO

Address: www.mocoloco.com
Author: Harry Wakefield
Location: Montreal, Canada
Started: 2003

When do you think Mocoloco became well-known?
We started in 2003 and by 2005 we got mentioned in the New York Times and Time magazine.

Why did you start it? In 2003, I couldn’t find a design blog I wanted to read, so I decided to create the blog I wanted to read.

Do you run your blog from home or from an office? From an office in Montreal. The space is actually the unofficial headquarters for MoCo Loco and the official HQ for Prazed, a startup I’m part of that’s making a web-based local search service for bloggers. Do you work on your blog full-time or do you hold another position? I have two full time jobs, one managing MoCo Loco and the other as CEO of Prazed Media.


Where do you think the best information on architecture is coming from? From magazines, they’re still the preferred outlet for many designers. Blogs are catching up though.

Why do you think your blog has been so successful on the Internet? Because I was early to the web. It’s a lot harder to succeed in the blog world today. It’s estimated there are 125 million blogs now worldwide.

www.archidose.org

Run by John Hill, a New York-based architect, Archidose.org is perfect for busy bees who just don’t have the time to trawl through post after post for their dose of all things design. With one update a day, this blog is easy to keep track of and only selects the cream of the architectural crop. A basic, retro-style design, short text entries and large photos also keep things simple.

www.architecture.myninjaplease.com

Architecture and design seem to be at the heart of the ninjas microsites although they do branch off into other disciplines like politics and music. The two architects Ryan and Warren and Spanish editor, Cesar, provide daily archi-picks with their own twist on topics that keep the blogs fresh. Look in the FAQ to see how they compare ninjas to architects!

www.tropolism.com

Called Tropolism.com because Metropolism.com was taken – we kid you not – the respected blog overflows with style, with an acid-green colour palette that acts as the backdrop to witty, fast-paced content. Founded by New York-based architect, writer and designer Chad Smith, the blog’s editorial stance is that cities are the crowning achievement of modern-day civilisations.

www.an-architecture.com

Based in Austria but with its sights set internationally, An-architecture.com aims to broaden the horizon of architectural design – pushing the boundaries of what architecture can be. Indeed, which is why the blog often features underground projects that slip below the radar on other sites. Written by sole architect Christoph Wassmann, the blog has an anarchic, avant-garde feel to it that’s reflective of its content.
www.designboom.com
A comprehensive briefing on everything modern design, Designboom.com is irreverent, intelligent and always in touch with its subject matter. With over 1,200,000 readers a month from 165 countries, its mix of contemporary issues, international design shows, architecture previews, art exhibitions, interviews and profiles has certainly struck a chord with its readership.

www.mocoloco.com
Committed to modern design and architecture, Mocoloco.com is like a dream shopping list for design aficionados, with posts that feature the latest on residential architecture, interior design, furniture, accessories, lighting, floorcoverings, wallcoverings, books, websites, audio-visual, online shops and retail shores. The blog is also a respected source for reviews, with designers often submitting their products for consideration.

www.thecoolhunter.net
A colourful celebration of creativity in all its modern-day manifestations, including architecture, culture and design, Thecoolhunter.net is a reference point for the entire creative community. Generating over 550,000 readers a month, the simple blog uses large-scale photos and small amounts of editorial to deliver sought-after information to those on the go. This month, Harper Collins is set to publish the first in a series of Cool Hunter lifestyle books, firmly establishing the blog as a serious cultural influencer.

www.designspotter.com
Acting as a showcase for up-and-coming designers, the Designspotter.com blog has gained momentum with professionals looking to get their career off the ground. With content generated largely by readers, who are able to submit photos and details of their products to the publisher, the blog features everything from residential architecture and interior design to accessories and prototypes. The perfect platform for designers looking to be published.

WE-MAKE-MONEY-NOT-ART

Address> www.we-make-money-not-art.com
Producer> Regine Debatty
Location> Berlin & Turin
Started> 2004

How many people work on the blog? Only me. Sometimes collaborators living in other cities write a story but this happens only once a month.

Why did you start it?
I was bored at the office and wanted to explore the relationship between art and technology. I knew next to nothing about the topic at the time so the blog was just a place where I’d archive my findings.

Do you run your blog from home or from an office? Home, hotel rooms, airports, wherever I happen to be.

Where do you get your information? I travel a lot so I get to attend conferences all over Europe, meet many fascinating designers and artists and see exhibitions.

What do you consider yourself?

Why do you think your blog has been so successful on the Internet? Because my enthusiasm is contagious maybe?
Do you work on your blog full-time or do you hold another position? My full-time job is as an intern-architect/designer at an architecture firm in Boston. That being said, ArchitectureMNP (and other MNP related issues) are typically always on my mind, if just pushed aside for later.

If you do hold a full-time position as well, where do you find the time? Before I go to work, while on the bus/train, during lunch if I have the time, after work... whenever and wherever I can. Also, ninjas don’t sleep (in case you didn’t know) – which makes it a little easier for us to juggle a number of different tasks.

Where do you get your information? Everywhere and anywhere. Magazines, books, newspapers, the radio, TV - and of course, all over the ‘net. What’s interesting about the internet is that there’s so much out there to be read/watched and enjoyed - but people don’t always know where to look. What we’re trying to bring you exclusive/original content on MNP, we’re also simply applying a filter to the internet - offering our readers information that might have otherwise missed. We also get some great content from readers, architects and designers who submit projects and articles to the site.

What do you consider yourself? A writer? An architect? A critic? I consider myself an architect/designer [minus a license], but not a writer - and I would argue that being an architect inherently makes you a critic. We just love criticizing everyone and everything, don’t we?

Where do you think the best information on architecture is coming from? Blogs, of course! I very seriously think that the architecture blogosphere has proven that the internet has forever changed how we get our news and information. For some things the ‘net may not be that trustworthy - but with architecture it’s pretty straightforward. You provide images, tell the story, and give your opinion - and then readers respond. Magazines + books may at times give more in-depth coverage of a project or more exclusive content - but you’ll see it first in the blogosphere.

Who do you think is reading your blog? I really have no idea - I assume people who love architecture but know not to take it (or themselves) too seriously. I just hope we reach a wide audience - one of the original intentions of having architecture on MNP was to make it more accessible to non-architects. I would really like to reach more readers outside of the architecture internet scene.

Why do you think your blog has been so successful? Blood, sweat and tears [all digital]. Seriously, while I’d love to say it was all hard work the reality is that it was probably a lot of luck [and a little hard work]. We just happened to create a site that both featured projects that people wanted to see and seems to be written in a tone that readers enjoy. Combined, that appears to bring the readers back for more. I think that having a ‘network’ of sites has also helped us - you can come to Myninjaplease to get some political commentary, watch an hilarious video, read up on the latest green movements, listen to some great music and see some interesting architecture all in one place.

Blogging good pals, Ryan McClain (left) and MNP founder Kiye Apreala
www.treehugger.com

Encouraging sustainable architecture and eco-friendly design, Treehugger.com delivers architectural solutions for a brighter future within a modern aesthetic. With 30 plus posts a day, daily newsletters, weekly video segments, a weekly radio show and a user-produced second site, this blog enables eco-warriors to fully immerse themselves in all things green.

www.inhabitat.com

Inhabitat.com was initially started by an architecture student as a means of cataloging emerging trends in product, interior and architectural design. Since those humble beginnings it has grown to become a prominent weblog devoted to the future of design, leading industry insiders towards a smarter, more sustainable future. With 500,000 readers a day – 40% of them working in the architecture, design and construction industry – the site delivers style, substance and a whole lot of soul.

BLOG OFF

While reading just one of these blogs won’t nourish your insatiable craving for architecture and design, catching up with a few of them one or twice a week will enable you to stay abreast of the industry, post by post thus coming together to create a comprehensive resource that is truly reflective of the industry. If you want to find out what the best stories are across all architecture blogs, then check out Dailyblueprint.com. Identifying the top 15 stories and blogs each day, the site searches the Net so that you don’t have to, choosing its content based entirely on the buzz of the architecture community.

BLOG ON

Set up your own architecture blog with www.blogger.com or www.wordpress.com. For a complete portal on architecture blogs go to www.archiblog.info

> EYE_CANDY

Address: eyecandy-webcandy.blogspot.com
Producer, author, creative director: Eric Morehouse
Full-time occupation: Architect
Location: Kansas, USA
Started: 2005

Do you work on your blog full-time or do you hold another position?
I’m a full time architect. Web surfing is just a release from reality now and then (perhaps my version of smoking). … The majority is done at lunchtime at the office.

What do you consider yourself? A writer? An architect? A critic?
An architect who’s addicted to good design, learning from others examples and a habitual internet surfer. It is our intention to raise the level of design by exposing ourselves to the examples set by others’ (both good and bad). We sincerely hope you will think, reflect, learn and raise the bar (or at least bring some insight … The thoughtful evolution of the design of our cities and built environment is dependent upon the engaged critical thinking of its design professionals’

> ARCHIBLOG

Be sure to check out Michael Earle’s blog at archiblog.d-earle.com
BRINGING A WHOLE NEW MEANING TO THAT TIME-HONOURED PHRASE, ‘CHARITY BEGINS AT HOME’; WHETHER YOU WANT TO SAVE THE EARTH, THE MYRIAD OF LIFE FORMS THAT INHABIT IT, OR WOULD LIKE TO DO YOUR BIT TO HELP ONE OF THE SEEMINGLY NEVER ENDING HUMANITARIAN CRISSES AFFLICTING THE GLOBE – THE NARGIS CYCLONE THAT’S RECENTLY DEVASTATED BURMA, A RASH OF TORNADOES ACROSS THE US, AND THE DEADLY EARTHQUAKE THAT HAS HIT SICHUAN IN SOUTHWEST CHINA - MAKING A HUGE DIFFERENCE TO ANY ONE OF THOUSANDS OF WORTHY CAUSES IS JUST A MOUSE CLICK AWAY.

1. WWW.THEHUNGERSITE.COM
Focusing on the eradication of world hunger, a simple daily click on this site’s yellow ‘Click Here To Give’ button helps provide food to those in need, and won’t cost you a single penny. Food is donated by the sponsors and distributed by Mercy Corps worldwide and by America’s Second Harvest to food banks across the US. And if you really want to put your money where your mouth is, by shopping at their online store - specialising in fair-trade and handcrafted items from around the globe – you’ll be lending them even more support.

2. WWW.ANTISLAVERY.ORG
With an estimated 27 million people still in bonded labour around the world, and 126 million children in work harmful to their health and welfare, this is the website of the world’s oldest human rights organisation founded in 1839. Campaigning against shameful issues such as the forced labour and exploitation of domestic workers in the Philippines, slavery by descent, and people trafficking, it also highlights the importance of exercising consumer power when it comes to choosing chocolate, hand-knotted rugs, and high street fashion.

3. WWW.WARCHILD.ORG.UK
Focusing on the children who are most severely marginalised by the overlapping forces of conflict, poverty and social exclusion – those living and working on the streets, child soldiers and children in prison – War Child has been helping kids and young people affected by war for almost 15 years and currently has programmes in DR Congo, Iraq, Afghanistan and Uganda. There’s an estimated 300,000 children in fighting forces around the world, and while many have, in some places, now been returned, thousands are unable to reconnect with their families and communities.

4. WWW.IDEALIST.ORG
A project conceived by Action Without Borders – whose mission statement is to connect people, organisations and resources in order to help build a world where all people can live free and dignified lives – Idealist is an innovative interactive site where you can exchange resources and ideas; find volunteer opportunities, events and supporters; locate or start an Idealist Group; sign up to receive daily alerts matching your interests; create a personal profile to network with other Idealists… and loads more.

5. WWW.FREETIBET.ORG
A platform for Tibetan people suffering under the Chinese occupation and denied the freedom to tell the world of the human rights abuses taking place there, British actress and comedienne Joanna Lumley is the megastar face behind Free Tibet’s most recent campaigns. If this is an issue close to your heart, then in the run-up to this summer’s high profile Olympic Games in Beijing, and China’s aching desire to join the elite club of world superpowers, there’s never been a better time to become a member, lend your voice or donate online.
Small is Beautiful

Covering a whole raft of applications— from air and water quality, consumer products, medicine and food, to the energy, electronics, molecular manufacturing and space industries—nanotechnology promises a brave new world. But it's particularly in the fields of beauty and anti-aging that science fiction is evolving into science fact... before our very eyes.

The latest big idea in wrinkle prevention is very, very small. Nano small. To put that into perspective, while new-generation microparticles typically measure only a few nanometers across, by contrast the diameter of a single human hair is around a whopping 80,000 nanometers. So with super-efficient powers of absorption, it's easy to see just why the beauty industry and consumers alike are so smitten by nanotechnology and its potential to unlock the elusive secrets of youth and beauty. It's precisely because nanoparticles can penetrate deeper into the skin, delivering their microscopic payloads of vitamins and other compounds to plump and smooth tissue that they have already dramatically begun to conquer the cosmetic marketplace. But new-generation fillers and moisturisers, lipsticks, sun creams, nail polish and the rest are only the beginning.

Intriguingly, a Michigan State University chemical engineer working on new technology in the field of electronic monitors, has recently made the breakthrough discovery that crucially nanoparticles can stop thin polymer films from buckling and wrinkling during the manufacturing process. Perhaps more significantly in a world obsessed by hard bodies and smooth, supple, flawless skin, the very same principle could soon join the cosmetic arsenal available to fight human wrinkles. To this end, current research is being supported by the National Science Foundation and the Michigan Economic Development Corp. It's envisioned that infinitesimally thin films could be injected between the thinning outer layer of the skin, the epidermis— which so inconveniently and treacherously stiffens and buckles with the passing of the years—and the thicker dermis beneath it, which remains more pliable over time. Although nanoparticle films wouldn't in themselves be a face-lift, the research team does foresee the possibility of inserting the wrinkle-free film during a cosmetic process—a eyelift perhaps to stabilise the area and prevent further creasing. Artificial skin for surgical use is another promising application and although research is still only in the early stages with possible health and safety issues yet to be addressed, polymer films are now being lab tested to detect any toxic reactions.

Meanwhile, scientists in Illinois are already developing new skin, this time using corn protein, while the dreaded bad hair day may soon be no more than a dim and distant memory thanks to Ohio State University researchers who have recently completed the first comprehensive study of human hair on the nanometer level, allowing them to get up close and personal as never before with a rogue's gallery of culprits ranging from curls turned kinky by humidity to chemically over-processed locks. Of course we all know that beauty is more than skin deep, but with the quantum leap of nanotechnology, we're only starting to realise just how much truth lies behind that particular pearl of wisdom.

For further information:
www.physorg.com
www.azonano.com
ANT FARM: LIVING ARCHIVE 7
Author: Felicity D. Scott

Don’t let the creepy-crawly name put you off; the Ant Farm to which the title of this book refers is actually a group of environmental activists who go by the same name. Having rummaged through a stack of archival material on their practices, including experimental works that border on the ‘fringe of architecture’, author Felicity D. Scott delivers a comprehensive guide to one of the most influential eco-collectives out there. A must-read for those into the green scene.

VERB CRISIS
Author: Barbara Hitchcock

Despite what the title would lead you to believe, Verb Crisis doesn’t trace the misuse of verbs in the modern-day English language. What it does do, however, is examine architectural solutions for an increasingly populated and interdependent planet.

Packed with original photos, essays and interviews from leading figures in the industry, the 288-page book covers a wide range of innovative projects across the globe that address the issues of the world’s current condition. Covering everything from global affairs to urban planning, this is a designer’s survival bible from start to finish. Other than being the saviour of our souls, it’ll look damn fantastic on your coffee table, too.

HANDLED WITH CARE: CONTEMPORARY CERAMIC DESIGN
Author: Designboom

A fully-loaded guide to contemporary ceramic design, Handled with Care features 180 different designs spread across 112 gloriously glossy pages. Taken from designboom’s 2007 Handled with Care exhibition – which comprised 500 pieces by 163 designers from 35 countries – this bright yellow book is a showcase of one of design’s most underrated forms. What makes this page-turner even more appealing is that it’s limited to just 1,000 copies, each numbered and certified by designboom. Snap one up while you still can.

SEX AND THE CITY: THE MOVIE
Starring: Sarah Jessica Parker, Kim Cattrall, Kristin Davis, Cynthia Nixon, Jennifer Hudson

Ladies were weeping tears of joy when this designer-wrapped delight hit cinemas on 30th May. Beginning where the series left off, the movie version of the cult HBO comedy classic centres around the trials and tribulations of four successful women in New York: Carrie, the style-mad writer; Samantha, the man-eating PR guru; Charlotte, the prim Pollyanna; and Miranda, the no-nonsense lawyer. Thrown together, their lives are a heady mix of bar-and bed-hopping, with lots of glamour, humour and poignancy thrown in for good measure. Written and directed by Michael Patrick King, the movie has been a long time coming, but for fans everywhere, it’ll be worth every second.

INDIANA JONES AND THE KINGDOM OF THE CRYSTAL SKULL
Starring: Harrison Ford, Ray Winstone, Shia LeBeouf, Cate Blanchett

Despite nearing his 115th birthday, or at least that’s what we’re guessing, Harrison Ford is back to reprise his role as Indiana Jones for the latest instalment of the nostalgic 80s franchise. Ominously titled Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull, the plot of the fourth movie pits Indy and his son, played by boy of the moment Shia LeBeouf, against the Soviet Union in an adrenaline-packed battle for something known only as the Crystal Skull. Of course, there’ll be all the usual whip-cracking, womanising action, as well as real stunts and surprise cameos from past cast members. Producer George Lucas and director Steven Spielberg are also on-hand to lend their magical touch to the much-anticipated movie, which hit cinemas on 22nd May.
A quarter of a century in the one trade is a fair accolade for any craftsman, and definitely worth a celebration or two. Madrid-based fashion designer Roberto Verino has confidently attained this time-served milestone, and his Spring/Summer 2008 collection is a true illustration of the expertise and dexterity he’s soaked up on the way. The collection is a celebration, not only of this achievement, but of the liberation our warmer seasons bring to the consciousness.

The Silver Collective

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The significance of Mr. Verino’s fashions globally, particularly in the Spanish culture, are beyond impressive. This retrospective can be described as an exceptional exhibition for true fashion connoisseurs. However, since when have you seen a catwalk so deficient in unfeasible fashion-faux pas? The collection is completely tangible, each article curiously applicable to everyday situations, from boys-night-out to ball gown, from hoody to haute-couture! The aesthetic practicality is underlined by a rational grasp of the modern working lifestyle.

“Today people travel from one climate to another so they need to wear very functional clothing”, notes the creator, who also describes his style as “very clean and very simple”! He swears his use of lighter fabrics is due to his clients’ lifestyles, and definitely not global warming. Glamorous clothes-horses like Helena Christiansen and Beverly Peele are just two famous names in a list of exceptional women who regularly sport ‘Roberto Verino’ and we can see why. Why not anybody for that matter?

The collection itself is a cool, seamless melange of the decades; (obviously skipping the eighties) the snappy cat suit glamour of the swinging sixties purrs beneath the smooth debonair charm of contemporary street wear. The underlining signature zebra print, with its usual ear-splitting presence, is expertly massaged into submission with a bold pixilation process. Verino joins the majority of us as a serial admirer of the woman’s curve. His inspiration, he said, is “an emotionally and economically stable woman who works.” This confidence shines through in his collection, and aided by plunging back lines and the miniest of minis, would colonize any working woman’s walk-in wardrobe. The compassion Verino shows to both genders has gained him a serious heads-up from the male fraternity too. The collection is urbane, sophisticated, sexy, and in parts more ‘Street’ than cobble stone, so let’s hope that this is the iconic retrospective of the coming season, after all it is very hard to ignore.
Daniel Richter
11 abril - 13 julio 2008

Co-organiza: Bancaja
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Rodney Graham
A Glass of Beer

21 abril
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That’s the Spirit!

Britain’s band - The Duke Spirit

Text: Dave Vickers     Photos: Courtesy of The Duke Spirit
No, I’m not talking about breathy-blond lead vocalist Leila Moss, who’s easily reaching an 8.5 on the 1-10 scale, twangs like Patti Smith, smoothes it out, then growls gritty over the five-piece wall of sound. I mean go and see them live, not spend hours rummaging through their flashy interactive website or gawking at Leila on Youtube. If there ever was a band that should be seen in the flesh, bass booming through your veins and lead guitar piercing your cochlea – it would have to be Melodic Big Rock/Blues band Duke Spirit!

After touring the States for a few years, recording their second album in the Mojave Desert, sell out come-back tours in the UK and raving rock reviews, I doubt very much they will come and play at the bull ring. So here we are, a crumby virtual review but an important one, we need to sit up and listen to this band!

Bands like this were once a dying breed, non gimmicky (save the lovely blonde) and waging war on musical mediocrity with effortless oomph and pure talent. Reluctantly looking beyond the vixen on vocals, the part-suited five-piece deliver raw rock sound with a kind of muted ferocity that leaves you brain damaged but gagging for more. These boys, not bad looking in themselves (although Guitarist Dan Higgins does tend to face-posé like the loony keyboard player from Sparks) just don’t need gimmicks, it’s all there, flawless, tight, solid.

Setting light to their guitars, bass-necking the amps and vandalising the drums would be futile, and class ‘A’ drug addiction is so last year!

The blues influence oozes out from below the melodic rock rhythm. We can hear the pain, we can hear the anger, at times a touch of confusion with an eighties 16 back-beat, but most of all the passion! Amazing how much you can get from 20 minutes on Youtube!

Producer Chris Goss, of Queens of the Stone Age fame, has certainly seen the light and firmly left his stamp on the band’s second album. But for me, it’s hard to translate this kind of raw atmosphere on to vinyl, or even worse MP3, unless you are ACDC or someone, and listening to the new album ‘Neptune’ there really is something missing. It feels like the kind of album you’d buy just to remember the live gig you were lucky enough to witness.

Despite my view, which I’m sure will upset many as usual, the band are on the offensive. Confidently attacking the live scene once more with ‘Neptune’ in the bag and a list of sell-out gigs on both sides of the pond. With the lovely Leila at the helm and some of the best haircuts in the rock business, not to mention the talent, Duke Spirit slides easily up to the top three ‘must see’ not so massive bands on the circuit. Don’t hang around though; I smell big things around the corner, swelling egos, inherent rock aloofness and ticket prices to match! Bless’em.

www.dukespirit.com
Music for all Ears

> Momofuku
Elvis Costello
First released on double-disc vinyl and now available on CD and MP3, this album was named after Momofuku Ando, inventor of Cup Noodle, and owes its origins neither to the famous Manhattan restaurant, nor the English–language expletive that it so closely resembles. Among his sharpest sets for quite some time, as well as veteran Costello bandmates Pete Thomas and Steve Nieve, there are also tracks featuring young singer–songwriters Rilo Kiley frontwoman Jenny Lewis, and Jonathan Rice.

> Made in Dakar
Orchestra Baobab
Senegal’s number one cult band’s second album is a sublime collection of vibrant new compositions plus original material not widely known beyond West Africa, recapturing the Afa–Cuban utopia of their 1982 classic, Pirates Choice. Smoothly calypso, deft cymbals, insistent rhythms, a strong lead vocal who’s a Youssou N’Dour protégé and a closing track that blends 70s soul with reggae and boogaloo, reflect a tighter and brighter line-up after five years back in the limelight as a working band.

> Accelerate
R.E.M.
Acclaimed as one of the best records R.E.M. have ever made, much of Accelerate was tested onstage in Dublin last summer and cut in live-band takes, and oh how it shows! But reassuringly it’s also the very same R.E.M. who appeared in Madison Square Garden right after 2004’s Vote for Change Tour, and what they did with It’s the End of the World as We Know It, they now do with Living Well is The Best Revenge.

> Directions to See a Ghost
The Black Angels
Released last month to coincide with their headlining UK tour, this woozy, bluesy second album on Light in the Attic Records has been produced along with Passover producer Erik Woford and while it may be reminiscent of their previous release, given their sheer passion for playing, it’s every inch as exciting. Oozing with big rich sounds and with a clarity that shines through, the tracks – simultaneously hypnotic yet driving – are possessed of an eerie psychedelic.

> Consolers of the Lonely
The Raconteurs
The band’s second album, Consolers of the Lonely – which brings the vibe of Led Zeppelin and The Who to mind – has been hailed by The Observer as ‘One of the most exciting musical events of 2008’ and goes on to describe The Raconteurs as ‘luxuriant in fancy stuff with kid-in-a-sweetshop enthusiasm’. In something of a break with tradition the band did no pre-release promotion and only confirmed the album’s existence one week ahead of its release.

> In the Name of Love: Africa Celebrates U2
Various Artists
Featuring band new covers of classic U2 songs as well as some of the band’s more obscure material, this unusual tribute album – performed by Grammy Award-winning/nominated and up-and-coming African artists – owes its inspiration to Bono’s direct philanthropic impact in the shape of the ONE campaign and his impassioned public commentary on the financial crisis facing Africa. Produced by Shawn Amos and Paul Heck for the Shout! Factory, proceeds will benefit various charities concerned with the Continent’s current problems.
BULLI BULLI
The Road to Gastronomic Greatness

Since the audacious "S. Pellegrino World's 50 Best Restaurants' awards began back in 2002, only three restaurants have seriously wrestled for the top spot: Pierre Gagnaire - Paris, The Fat Duck - London and El Bulli, Ferran Adria's gastronomic temple just north of Barcelona. In the last three years, The Fat Duck and El Bulli, the gastro Man Utd. and Chelsea FC of this exclusive-eatery premiership, have remained solid as contenders for the title. 2008 sees El Bulli getting the cream, leaving Heston Blumenthal (Fat Duck's head chef) scratching his geeky dome and donning his white lab-coat in an effort to experiment his way to the title once more. It wouldn't be such a bad idea on his part; he's not the only chef on the list to drum up some zest with the aid of a Bunsen-burner or two. For six months every year, the expert staff of El Bulli, swap their utensils for test tubes and petri dishes, lock the doors and apply their latest tastes to scientific scrutiny.

Text: Dave Vickers

Culinary Visions
Photographer: Francesc Guillamet

1] Hibiscus paper with blackcurrant and eucalyptus from 2006 dishes
EL BULLI IS THE ZENITH OF FOOD THEATRE, THE LUCKY ONES CAN WAIT MOUTH-WATERING MONTHS FOR A TOP SLOT ON THE EXCLUSIVE BEACH-SIDE TERRACE, A DELAY WHICH GENERATES SERIOUS ANTICIPATION!

Molecularte gastronomy may seem like rational passion gone crazy, but this indulgent technique has foodies the planet-over fighting for tables at this humble Mediterranean sea-side setting. El Bulli claims that over half a million people pursue there eight thousand covers available annually. El Bulli is the zenith of food theatre, the lucky ones can wait mouth-watering months for a top slot on the exclusive beach-side terrace, a delay which generates serious anticipation! The restaurant doesn’t disappoint, with an enviable chef-to-cover head count of one to one, 50 of the best creators in the business slave to bring their clinically proven magic to each very lucky guest. The twenty-course taster menus are tailored to individual tables and push the boundaries of food-art far in to the realms of gastro-science, where only masters like Blumenthal and Adria have the audacity to perform. According to the hallowed gastronomist Adria, cooking is a language through which all the following properties may be expressed: harmony, creativity, happiness, beauty, poetry, complexity, magic, humour, provocation and culture. Mix those passionate ideas with the best ingredients money can buy, technical prowess beyond compare and you can easily understand how El Bulli has come to be the best in the world. The three Michelin stars, prized gastronomy awards and even a ‘Gold medal for Merit in the Fine Arts’ prove how seriously this place is taken, not only by the food world. But by a world of visual and sensual representation. It has been a long road for El Bulli, way back in the sixties a roaming German couple, the Schillings, opened a crazy-golf course and sea food beach-bar at the location, they lovingly named the enterprise after their favourite breed of hound, the French bulldog. Dr Schilling was a food fan and used his frequent jaunts around elaborate-eateries to fuel ideas for the bar. Each autumn he would return with inspiration for his wife who would spend the winter perfecting delicate dishes for the next season. The strategy was a big success, the golf course was demolished and the way was paved for a very lucrative future. It’s doubtful the Schillings ever dreamed of world-wide recognition at such scale, but their basic formula seeded an unsurpassed success story. Considering El Bulli’s high ranking success, the home from home feel of those early days remains an essential feature in its current ethos. With a list of accolades at least the length of the menu, the restaurant remains refreshingly laid-back, and the impeccable five hour service not at all over fussy. Barely a hint of food snobbery enters the experience. For those of you who are serious about travel and palette, El Bulli is a must. If you want to chance your arm at getting a seat, don’t forget to beg by email to bulli@elbulli.com and remember, be polite, send more than one email from various addresses and be very, very flexible.
El Bulli claims that over half a million people pursue the mere eight thousand covers available annually.

1] Flower’s paper from 2006 dishes © Photographer Francesc Guillamet.
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Bubble `O` Seven

Once again the ingenuity of science-fiction writing becomes science fact. These mind bending prophecies rarely stay on paper or film for long, the second one of these whimsical geniuses trump up a mad fantasy, some clever clogs has to go and make it work. In this latest episode of far-fetched innovation, the ‘Q’ of non fiction has tackled the lip-smacking prospect of amphibious motoring, and skilfully cracked the surface on a spanking new obsession - Scuba Driving!

The Rinspeed sQuba is the very latest in Marine amphibious technology, and contrary to its competitors, it’s a looker too. We say competitors’ but that isn’t really fair, amphibious vehicles are usually bulky, track-driven army craft loaded with armour plating. These clumsy-colossi roll precariously along the seabed before emerging from the waves and scaring the Speedos off deck chair attendants. Not so with sQuba, as pretty as Aqua Marina and twice as nimble. This concept-cabriolet is the world’s first real submersible car, and she literally flies under water. Yep, you’re not dreaming; the James Bond movie-fake can now be put to bed - thanks to the ‘Q’ of non-fiction, Rinspeed boss Frank M. Rinderknecht.

Obviously, for Swiss automobile visionary Frank, the world is not enough! He has dreamed of sub-aqua success for thirty years, ever since he first sat down and watched 007 take that virtual-plunge in his famous Lotus Elan. Frank certainly has the credentials, his company Rinspeed, are world leaders in concept-car design and speedboat customisation. Serial crowd-pleasers at the Geneva motor show, they regularly shock and surprise with macabre schemes like transparent cars and flying four wheelers, but this project seems to have a bit more mileage, albeit nautical, and it’s got the motor press all jammed in a J-Turn! Rinderknecht himself states: “It is undoubtedly not an easy task to make a car watertight and pressure-resistant enough to be maneuverable under water. The real challenge however was to create a submersible car that moves like a fish in water.”

A challenge he and Swiss constructors Esoro tackled, and supremely conquered with some incredible results. Not only have they jointly realized comfortable under-water flight, the car’s transition between land and liquid-mode is a complete showstopper. sQuba rolls straight into the sea, no messing, no adjustments, she drives, she dives! The open-top class seems a peculiar choice for a marine vehicle; occupants breathe piped oxygen via scuba masks, obviously essential for any under water activity, and perhaps also useful for driving through Sheffield. However, the manufacturers chose the open-top design for safety reasons. In an emergency, opening a door at ten meters down (sQuba’s optimum flight depth) would be nigh on impossible, leaving you in that rather chilling - open a window; flood the cabin; take a breath and kiss your ass goodbye - escape-conundrum! Thankfully leaving us alive to die another day (sorry) wasn’t the only reason for choosing an open-top design; an enclosed volume of just two cubic meters would mean adding an extra two tonnes in weight to the car, just to counteract the extra buoyancy. This would render it the slowest cabrio on terra firma, and being left behind at the lights by a double-decker is not something Rinspeed want their good name associated with. However, with a top speed of 77 Mph, the car won’t actually win any track awards. sQuba’s power is supplied by rechargeable Lithium-Ion batteries. Rinderknecht proudly informs, "The sQuba is a zero-emission
car - as documented by the rotating license plate at the rear. It produces no exhaust emissions. The three motors are located in the rear; one provides propulsion on land, the other two drive the screws for underwater motoring. They are supported by two powerful Seabob jet drives in the front, which ‘breathe’ through special rotating louvers. The outlandish 3-D foil elements with embossed fish and sharkskin patterns add visual pizzazz and streamline the brawny exterior. Together with styling elements from Foliatec, they create a harmonious velvety mat-white appearance that would have a whole bundle of gold-digging Octopussy trying to get their tentacles round you! The sQuba’s real home is without doubt in the water. The innovative salt-water resistant interior will last eternal with garish features like genuine ‘mother-of-pearl’ trim and ‘diamond-plated’ non-slip inlays. (This interactive article now affords you the chance to fill in your own Bond movie-title pur) And as we all know D…… A… F…… (Applause!) The high-tech VDO instrument cluster and controls create a futuristic ambiance and allow control of all vehicle functions, even while submerged. As if this isn’t novelty techne-gadgetry at its most extreme, the super-car is also capable of autonomous driving on land thanks to a sophisticated laser-sensor system. You could presumably press a button and get this sexy little hydro-Hebie to pick you up at ‘Nikki Beach’ before scaring the living daylight out of your astonished date. After all, there is nothing better than a post-lunch plunge; whatever went on after that would surely be for your eyes only! (Groan!) Rinspeed have thought of everything in this mind-bending, element-eliminating sub-squa package. So, if you do happen to have a spare 1.5 million bucks, and you don’t mind binning a few salt-stained Armani suits, they might just knock one up for you. It may seem a lot of cash for a big boy’s toy, but don’t forget, you only live twice! For more info visit www.rinspeed.com
Wet behind the ears

This boy has certainly changed our perception of concrete boots, and we guess it would be fair to say that people in Essex have no real understanding of the Blue Water Experience!

Text: Dave Vickers  Photos: Courtesy of Jason de Caires Taylor

How would you throw together a career combining qualifications like a B.A Honours in sculpture, and a PADI dive instructor’s license? There’s not a great deal out there really, unless Plaster of Paris is a touch more robust these days! For one artist, however, this unusual combination of skills has triggered a ‘scuba-sculpture’ culture and propelled him to the murky fathoms of fame. With fourteen years of dive experience across the globe, Jason Taylor obviously thought that the oceans weren’t providing us with enough of a spectacle. And perhaps, with coral bleaching running amok and ruining tropical honeymoons the world over, he may have a point.

With marine life issues weighing heavy on his belt, Jason began looking at methods of using sculpture to create artificial reefs, striving to help reverse the dying trend of these vivacious and incredibly precious marine environments. Of course no man alone can achieve this globally but the results of Taylor’s aquatic endeavours are amazing, and the awareness that this outstanding work brings to the fore invaluable. Crucially, artificial reefs ease the pressure on over-fished, over-visited natural reefs, giving them a greater chance to regenerate and ultimately survive. Jason de Caires Taylor has a unique sculptural CV; his work is said to ‘explore the boundaries between art and the environment, reflecting time and process.

An interest brought on mainly by a transient childhood, his family constantly moving from one cultural environment to another spurned his fascination of time fuelled transformation. After successfully exhibiting mainly in and around London, he took on a commission in the Caribbean (nice work if you can get it) and in 2006 he set up what has become the world’s first underwater sculpture park in Moliniere Bay, Grenada. The results are these haunting aquatic classics, like uncovered remnants of an alien civilization; looming up from the plankton fog and startling observers, who understandably scoop in piped oxygen to alleviate the shock before approaching tentatively. At an average depth of around 5 meters, the clear visibility of the warm Caribbean seas opens the park to surface visitors, thus allowing observation by snorkled and glass bottom boat as well as the harder frogman approach. But no matter where, or from which angle Taylor’s curious concrete dive buddies come into view, the effect is an all-encompassing experience. An ever-changing one also, the cool aquatic light flickering across these cold stone faces perhaps momentarily tells a story of our future, and then an instant later reflecting one of our ancient past. On a slightly different time-scale, one of weeks and months rather than
moments, the sculptures transform physically, slowly morphing from mock stone life-forms to living breathing artificial reefs. The statues gracefully sacrifice their artistic form to the deep and fulfill their intended purpose of providing life and supplement to the deprived underwater environs. In these later phases, the illusion of future washes into the swirling sands, leaving an eerie taste of lost civilisations. His masterpiece, 'The Lost Correspondent' resembles a scene from a modern day Vesuvius disaster, a diligent reporter at his desk frozen suddenly in time, hands poised above his typewriter. In its nature, the piece spells disaster in one breath and hope in the next. Taylor's adeptly named 'Unstill Life' cleverly mimics the classic composition of a traditional still life montage. A familiar tabletop vase and fruit bowl arrangement appears almost farcical in this murky reef environment, but once again the effects of the swirling deep bring staggering depth to its drowning demeanour. The protracted colonisation of these household objects slowly unfolds a shifting process and cleverly represents a work of nature in progress. Taylor certainly isn't sleeping with the fishes; the reaction these compassionate creations have received from the world is effective to say the least, an enthused public clinging to the forms like the reef-life that colonises them. This is by no means an accident; the artist's interventions are intended to promote an under-current of hope and recovery, regulating the need to protect and understand our precious natural world. Fortunately for the artist, success is keeping him comfortably buoyant in the scuba-sculpture underworld, allowing him to hang out in these enviable locations and continue providing the oceans with his amazing, ever-shifting 'Taylor-made' artefacts. www.jasondecairetaylor.com
enrique Brinkmann

del 18 de Abril al 18 de Junio de 2008

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People and Places.

Sculptor Richard Serra[1] opened his new show, ‘Promenade’ at the Grand Palais, we take a tour through this monumental exhibition.

Architecture

Experience the striking stainless steel ribs of the new Arezzo Law Court by Manfredi Nicoletti[2]. Juxtaposed against a medieval city in Italy, it’s certainly no civil offence!

Motors

Against the grain, we examine Joe Harmon’s wooden super car[3]
Watch it varnish into the distance at break-neck speeds.

Music

Our first anniversary edition warrants a celebratory day out of the office (please boss). The design crew heads south for an offbeat experience at the Tangier Jazz Festival[4]

And lots more!

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<td>Pub. Casi Casi</td>
<td>Golf Guadalmina</td>
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<td>Décor Arte</td>
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<th><strong>BENAHAVIS</strong></th>
<th><strong>SAN PEDRO</strong></th>
<th><strong>EL ROSARIO</strong></th>
<th><strong>LA CALA</strong></th>
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<tr>
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<td>Solution (CLUB &amp; BAR)</td>
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