

# MODERN DESIGN

ARCHITECTURE & ART

MAGAZINE CREATED BY DISEÑO EARLE No. 14 | AUGUST 2008

## WATER CUBE

THINKING OUTSIDE THE BOX

## SHADOW PLAY

KUMI YAMASHITA'S  
ART OF ILLUSION

ECO-SAILING + MIRALLES TAGLIABUE ARCHITECTURE + DESIGNER DYNAMITE + STRANGE BREW



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## We Strongly Support The Costa



*Michael Earle, CEO of Diseño Earle, is an American who grew up in Spain. He studied architecture at the Boston Architectural Center where he later became Professor of Architecture before returning to Spain in 2002 to set up his company. Specialising in contemporary design and build, Diseño Earle has grown into an international practice. A multi-cultural team of more than 150 work on projects for private and commercial clients at various locations around the world, including Dubai, Cape Verde, Brazil, Ukraine and, of course, here in Spain.*

I love the Costa del Sol and I am proud to call it my home, as well as that of Modern Design and Diseño Earle. It's a beautiful place with wonderful people, rich culture, striking views and landscapes and of course good weather. There is a wonderful mix of cultures living here, all empowered by the warm, welcoming nature of the Spanish people. We all know the Costa has changed and grown. When I lived here during the first few years of my life, it was a very different place compared with today. Torremolinos, where I grew up, was still a small village with whitewashed walls, albeit with an already blossoming artists' community from all over the world that gave it a unique flair. I often hear people reminiscing about the days of the small village and the simple life, but probably not too many of them were living in poverty under the Franco regime. Let's appreciate what we have. There has been advertising in the local media urging us all to support and be positive about where we live and we at Modern Design support this campaign wholeheartedly! I also call on the local governments to take up the call and help advance our region. Infrastructure must be improved; the pedestrian bridge accident is a prime example. They must allow and champion modernization, improving service, reducing bureaucracy and advancing the quality of public places for all. I think they also have a responsibility to incorporate environmentally-friendly systems into new projects under development. We believe things have to be done to change the way we are damaging our environment.

I call on our business leaders to become more proactive in the way they think and plan for the future. We seem to have a certain malaise that encourages leaving things the way they are. Our region depends on tourism and the global tourism market is becoming smarter and more creative about how they design new adventures, new luxuries, new spas, new boutique hotels - all with a modern feel that make them a "must-visit". The Costa del Sol must keep up! We need to modernize and keep finding ways to ensure people continue to return to this great place. We can't do it sitting on our hands. In today's business and tourism world, we face a very competitive global marketplace. Intensive competition comes from all over the world. To compete on this scale, we must be smarter about improving our product, challenge our developments for their own good, improve the care and service we give to our customers and think differently. I call on our people to be respectful of the tourist and visitor, even at times when they don't deserve it. It will help the area recover from some of the bad publicity received in the past and make people realize, among other things, what is so great about this place. I call on all of us to appreciate where we live and fight to make it better. If we all pitch in, we can continue to welcome lucky visitors to this uniquely special region.

For any questions or comments about Modern Design Magazine, I can be contacted at [mearle@d-earle.com](mailto:mearle@d-earle.com)



## Issue 14

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Water Cube (The National Swimming Centre) for the Beijing Olympic Games, by PTW Architects in association with CSCEC & Arup. Image: Courtesy of PTW Architects. (Article on page 68).

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## No Advertorials

At Modern Design Magazine we're passionate about researching, producing and publishing articles about the cutting-edge design and innovative technology that are changing the way we live, and to share that passion with our readers. We are totally committed to disseminating honest, unbiased information and will remain true to our readers and our principles by never compromising journalistic integrity. That's why, although we don't want to ruffle any feathers, our policy is and always will be not to publish advertorials and we stand resolutely by that decision.



## Readers' Views

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

Thank you for your request. I think the Magazine looks great, and I would love to have my work published in it.

**Ditte, Ditte Kuijpers Design, Utrecht**

It would be our honor if our products will be published in your wonderful Magazine!

**Ayako Nakanishi, Director Kyouei Design, Shizuoka City, Japan**

I am an avid reader of your fab Magazine. Well done for providing such a great product!

**TK, Sotogrande**

Hi, I'm Joo Ann, an interior designer from Malaysia. I've read through your Magazine from your Modern Design website. I would like to subscribe to Modern Design Magazine and am wondering how much it would cost to send to Malaysia. Can you tell me as soon as possible because I am really keen on this Magazine? Thanks.

**Joo Ann Lam, Malaysia**

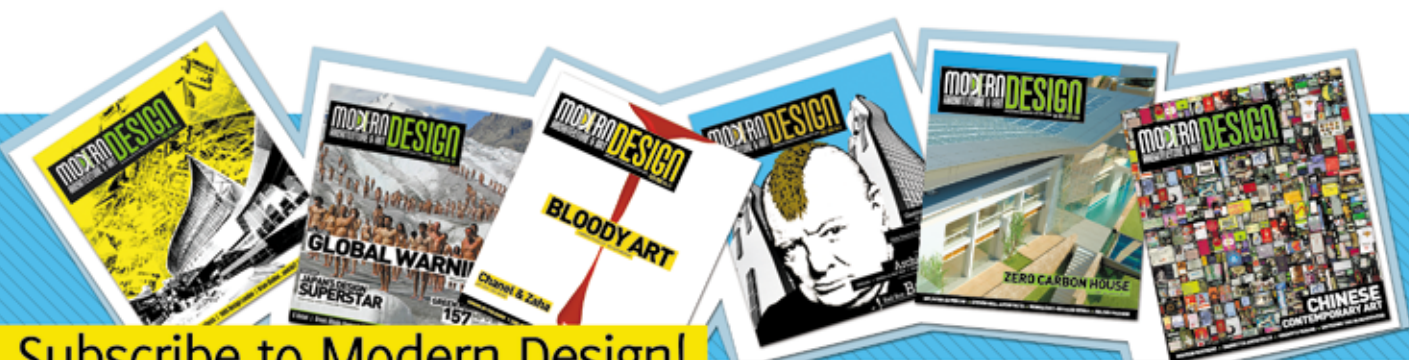
## Modern Design Anniversary Party Going Global



As the stars came up, the melon mojitos went down and the vibes vibed, Diseño Earle founder & CEO and Modern Design editor Michael Earle welcomed clients, guests and staff to the Magazine's very first birthday party! "But it was a night not only to celebrate the remarkable success - particularly in a time of economic downturn - of the Coast's newest and coolest of publications," he said. Because while 'the baby' is growing up fast, parent company, Diseño Earle, have another new arrival on the way... the imminent launch of an office in Dubai. "In six short years, we have evolved into a company employing more than 150 staff, with architectural projects currently underway on no fewer than four continents." And if that's not reason enough to get on down and party, we don't know what is!

## Match & Eat Contest Results And the lucky winner is...

... **Alice Santana**, who gets to enjoy a slap-up meal at Fusion in Marbella - aided and abetted by five of her best (and most fortunate) friends - courtesy of Modern Design Magazine. CONGRATULATIONS, and ¡Buen Provecho! Alice, who lives on the Costa del Sol, has a film production services company working throughout Spain, not to mention an impressive line-up of blue chip clients. Check out her website: [www.poppictures.tv](http://www.poppictures.tv)



## Subscribe to Modern Design!

Your coffee table would never forgive you for missing a copy of Modern Design Magazine, so stop the neglect and subscribe - you'll never miss a copy again. Don't abandon your friends and loved ones either, a subscription as a treat could enlighten the lives of many - every month! Modern Design Magazine, a must for the art and design enthusiast! For more info visit [www.d-earle.com](http://www.d-earle.com)

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## We want to hear from you



*Born in Cuba, and having studied art and graphic design at the prestigious Escola Massana in Barcelona, Rolando has been with Modern Design from the very beginning. Having played a major part in creating the Magazine's cool, funky, sexy and consummately original design concept, he is now the Head Designer.*

It is most gratifying for me to be able to say that we regularly receive credit for our output at Modern Design. To date, our output relies on our belief, and when we have a subject in hand, we study it profoundly. Our minds become pervaded with it and our output is the fruit of detailed deliberation. Now one year old, I believe it is no longer premature to say that we have survived "the difficult early stages" of launching a magazine. \_\_\_\_\_ If speaking is silver, listening is gold, and I believe we now need to democratise Modern Design, taking into account the wishes and desires of you, our readers. We want to hear from you all...to know what you look like...to know what turns you on... and to be as interactive as a publication possibly can be.

The greatest motivational act one can do for another is to listen, but additional incentives will never go amiss! Over the coming months you will therefore see the cutting-edge of design literally leaping out from our pages as we give away as many of the featured goodies as we can. \_\_\_\_\_ Supply, alas, will never match demand, so we'll be running monthly prize draws to distribute these items as fairly as we can. Please, keep your eyes open for details of our readership programme. Participate. Your actions will help steer Modern Design from strength-to-strength through our second successful year. I thank you, and I wish you the very best of luck.

For any questions or comments about Modern Design Magazine, I can be contacted at [rbouza@d-earle.com](mailto:rbouza@d-earle.com)

## Archiblog

Archiblog is Diseño Earle's own architectural and modern design blog, both a resource and news update bursting with features and all that's cool from the world of architecture, construction, art, graphic design, fashion and more! Check it out at [www.archiblog.d-earle.com](http://www.archiblog.d-earle.com). And while you're visiting our website, don't forget you can also download back issues of Modern Design Magazine, too at: [www.modern-design.d-earle.com](http://www.modern-design.d-earle.com)



## Talent Wanted!

Sew Us Your Designs



Are you regularly dishing up cutting-edge fashion design – but all you hear is rejection? ...well it's sew not over girlfriend! - If you see yourself as the next Stella McCartney, or whoever, Modern Design Magazine is giving you the chance to gloat to the world. Yes you heard it right; send in your latest design sketches and cutwork-concepts before August 27th and you could get your own featured article, right here in between these glitzy covers. This is the biggest thing to happen to fashion, since Kelly Osbourne hosted Project Runway! Send the images of your work, or a link to your website to [magazine@d-earle.com](mailto:magazine@d-earle.com)

For more information, **go to page 99 now!**

## Corrections

**Issue #13, Page 78:** The originator of Seagen project is George Hayton and the images were courtesy of George Hayton.



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Modern Design is now on Facebook. Come and join our community, share your love of modern design, leave comments about our magazine or just say hi!

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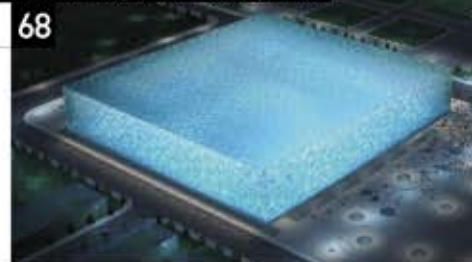
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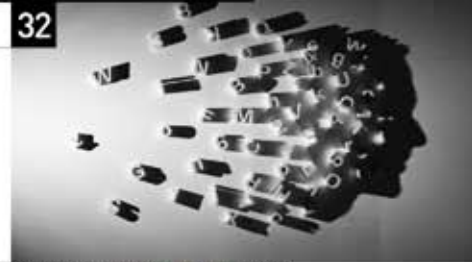
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# MODERN DESIGN AND BUILD



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## MICHELIN STAR

### PUNCTURE-PROOF TWEEL

No you're not seeing things, Michelins long awaited, no messing, no fuss; non-puncture see-through tyre seems to be on its way. After recent testing by the company, it looks like the Tweel may well be rolling into a Kwik Fit near you. Could this be the end of the road for the standard pneumatic tyre, the very hub of our precious automobile industry for nearly 120-years? Perhaps not if the police force gets their way, the revolutionary design would render the famous Stinger apparatus completely useless. Bank robbers aside, a standard puncture-proof tyre would make motoring a much safer bet, though super-high speeds would be discouraged by the apparent noise factor of the vibrating rubber tyre-spokes. Well, you can't have it all - and if looks are anything to go by, the Tweel may take a bit of time to catch on.



## FIRM DISCOVERY

### WATERMELONS ACT LIKE VIAGRA

Somehow, perhaps via enthusiasc analysis, scientists have discovered that watermelons can increase the libido. A phyto-nutrient called citrulline that relaxes the blood Vessels is found in the rind of the giant fruit. We are not yet sure how much of it you have to eat, but obviously, the bigger the melons the better. It does appear you would have to consume a fair bit before your Honey's dew home (apologies), but this fruity behaviour can only promote healthy eating, and that has to be a good thing. Let's hope that the world's greengrocers aren't planning to invade our inboxes with yet another five year deluge of Viagra spam.



## SHEIKH GIVES THE NOD

### MUSEUM GETS THE ROYAL GO-AHEAD

Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid has recently announced the launch of The Museum of Middle Eastern Modern Art. This dazzling Architectural Masterpiece is to be Part of the Culture Village Project, located on 40 million square feet of land in the historic district of Jadaf, Dubai. The Museum project, strikingly modern in its own right, is designed by Netherlands based UN Studios - absolute experts in the field - who have shrewdly pulled elements of the sea, and Dubai's tradition of seafaring into the plan. The museum will be a celebration of the region's artists and exclusive modern art pieces, the design is intended to shine an imaginative light on Rashid's strategic vision of making the UAE a hub for multicultural understanding.



## ALL IN GOOD TASTE

### TONGUE CANCER SURVIVOR WINS CHEF AWARD

Top Chicago chef Grant Achatz has won the elusive Beard Foundation Outstanding Chef 2008 award. Achatz humbly credited his good fortune to an uncompromising chef apprenticeship, saying that not only did it teach him to cook but also how to survive, a skill he had to bring into play to get through his recent struggle with cancer. Those lessons were going to "make me a good cook and ultimately a great chef. What I didn't know was that it was actually going to save my life," he said. Achatz recently went through aggressive surgery after being diagnosed with stage 4 Tongue cancer: it saved his life and his sense of taste. His ultra-modern style in molecular gastronomy and his professional flair and tenacity seem to have bagged him one of the precious James Beard Awards, widely considered the Oscars of gastronomy.



## ROBO-POP

### COKE BOT VENDING MACHINE

Could this be the beginning of the end for us all? Coca-Cola have gone and done it this time; these giant robo-vending machines have been snapped clunking around the centre of Tokyo, cheekily pinching the heads of people drinking another pop brand. The Coke bots are giant replicas of the brand's popular 11-inch tall desktop moneybox toy. Obviously it's all a bit of fun (and highly intelligent viral marketing), but can you imagine when Pepsi get hold of this and decide to compete? These crazy bots will be wandering our streets, brains the size of planets, bored out of their titanium skulls and unleashing their armouries of lethal weaponry on each other. And you thought Coke was just bad for your teeth!

## PRIUS PROWESS

### TOYOTA TO FIT SOLAR PANELS TO PRIUS

Though we are all fleeced penniless by oil prices, and let's face it, by the government taxation schemes that gladly ride along pillion with the recent price hitches, there may be some hidden plusses for the planet. In a move to ease the strain, Toyota motors - already confidently green-bound - have announced plans to incorporate solar panels to the roof of the popular Prius model. The extra power will run the fuel-hungry air-conditioning system, taking the strain off the hybrid engine. This move to use solar power would be the first from one of the motor giants, and should surely spell the beginning of the end for those weird coffin-shaped roof boxes, another hidden plus for us all.

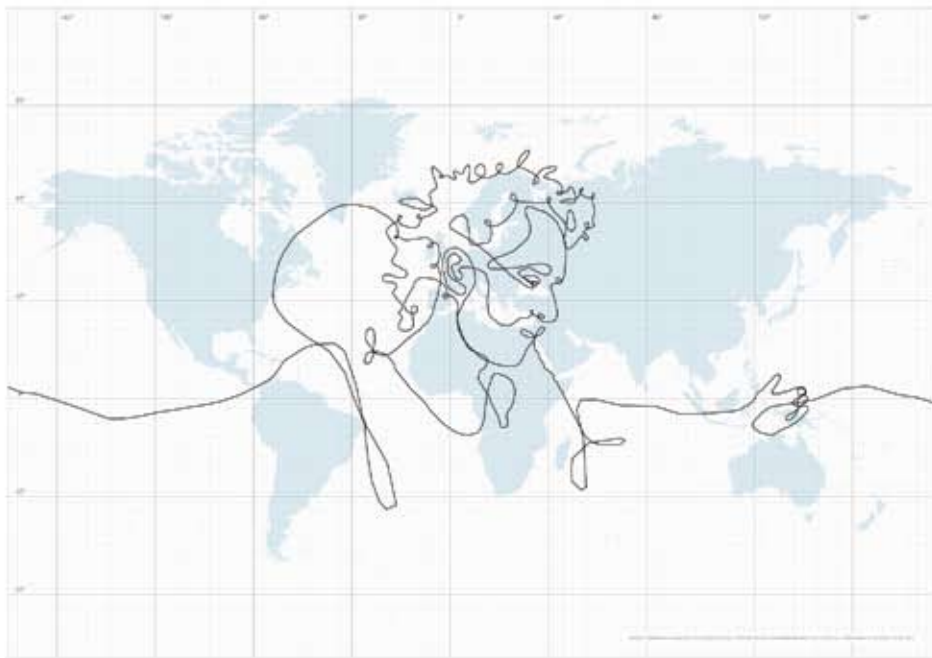


## YOU KAHN'T BE SERIOUS!

### LOUIS KAHN MASTERPIECE UP FOR AUCTION

Okay, we are all used to the fact that some of that gorgeous designer gear has a designer price-tag to match, but seriously, what price is a name? It seems in the case of this architectural gem, built by Louis Kahn in 1960, a heck of a lot! Anyway, had you had the foresight (or Luck more like) of dentist Robert Gallagher, who bought the house in 1981 for a then considerable \$152,000, the very name of the iconic designer would have snagged you a small fortune. It is estimated that the one bedroom home will fetch an incredible two to three million dollars at auction this month. The last tax-roll estimate in 2006 put the Philadelphia home at a value of around \$303,000; but then what do bureaucrats know about how Kahn articulated his mature style in the monumentality of the façade; or the warm and human quality of his interiors? Absolutely nothing it seems, for this is one of only a handful of Kahn's residential projects - and apparently worth every cent.





## DH HELL

### ARTISTS LARGE-FORMAT HOAX

Scrutiny about Erik Nordenankar's famous 'Biggest drawing in the world' piece, has led to dispatch firm DHL telling teacher about probably the biggest hoax in the world. The artist claimed to have sent a GPS tracking device round the world in a suitcase, giving DHL specific coordinates and stop-off points to follow. He then allegedly used the 110,000km GPS trace line to create a colossal self portrait of himself. Cute idea, but it seems very unlikely that a freight jet would make ridiculous U-turns above the Atlantic for the artistic whims of a student on a grant. DHL confirmed the doubts were valid, and swear they never handled the package. Nice try Erik!



## OCMA PACKS ITS BAGS

### ARTS MUSEUM ON THE MOVE

The Orange County Museum of Arts has selected Morphosis to design the new museum building in Costa Mesa. The famous firm tussled with fourteen other candidates for the elusive contract, but OCMA were completely impressed by their enthusiasm, and the company's willingness "to rethink what a museum is, both spatially, conceptually, and programmatically." It was enough to bag Morphosis the deal, and the design for the site, seven miles from where the current museum resides, will be revealed at the end of this summer.



## STARCK RAVING MAD

### DESIGN REALITY SHOW

Forget your Master Chefs and Apprentices, designer Philippe Starck is to host a reality product-design show for the BBC. Filmed in Paris next year, ten hopeful product designers will be given the opportunity to work alongside Starck and his design team over a period of several months. For the lucky winner, there's a six month posting in Starck's design company – imagine that on your CV. Contestants will be briefed to conceive and create the next must-have products for the 21st century and only the very best will succeed – it's a tough, tough world that'd have Alan Sugar running to the lavvy for a weep - we can't wait.



1 | A night time rendering of the Russia Tower showcasing how the structure will illuminate the skyline.

2 | Day time rendering of the Russia Tower. An underground transportation system and parking garage will be below.

3 | Interior rendering displaying the green sky gardens that provide natural ventilation and walkways that create social spaces.

4 | A bird's eye view detailing the surrounding city of Moscow under a thin blanket of snow and ice.

# WHITE RUSSIAN

Words: Nick Clarke  
Images: © Foster + Partners

When you usually think of **Russian architecture** your thoughts turn to twisting spires, onion domes and Stalin baroque, not shimmering glass skyscrapers better suited to Manhattan than they are Moscow. Breaking the mould is the imposing Russia Tower, designed by proponents of ecologically-friendly construction Foster+Partners. Having designed icons such as London's Gherkin, Berlin's Reichstag and France's Millau Viaduct, British architect and Pritzker Prize winner Norman Foster was the perfect man for the job.





3



4

A mixed-use project, incorporating residential, office, hotel and leisure space, the high-rise will stand like an all-powerful tsar in the Moscow International Business Centre. Overlooking its loyal subjects, Russia Tower is poised to be the tallest building in Europe and one of the tallest in the world, eclipsed only by Taipei 101 and the upcoming Burj Dubai (not to be confused with the sail-shaped Burj Al Arab). Soaring 118 storeys into the city's historic skyline, the gleaming high-rise will be representative of the social and economic power of its country – as if we needed reminding! – and will act as a bridge between the eastern and western worlds.

Characterised by its distinct pyramidal shape, the design will feature an intelligent infrastructure that's set to pioneer sustainable

architecture, with green technologies galore rising up through the building and literally touching the blue sky. Its actual shape – designed in conjunction with Chicago-based structural engineers Halvorson & Partners – maximises the building's exposure to natural sunlight, meaning there's less need for electric lighting and heating during the day. Utilising an innovative 'energy cycle' to distribute and regulate energy, temperature and hot water, and featuring a completely natural ventilation system, Russia Tower won't only be bigger than its lofty competitors, but a hell of a lot better for the environment. To assist with its natural ventilation, there will be a series of indoor sky gardens that rise up the building's core, as well as improving the quality of interior air and providing recreational green space for those inside.

Aside from green stuff, the three-sided design is pretty impressive as a stand-alone piece of architecture, too. Like a bluish-white dagger slicing up from the ground, its façade is clad with gorgeous silvery glass, while inside an atrium lobby boasts ten super-fast elevators that whiz occupants from the ground up without feeling like they've left their stomachs behind. There will also be an observatory deck at the pinnacle, where viewers will be able to take in panoramic views of the entire city (if they're not afraid of dizzying heights, that is).

To be completed by 2012, Foster's 'city within a city' will crystallise, quite literally, Russia's position in the world as a political and economical powerhouse. What's more, it will make Russia a global leader in the realm of cutting-edge architecture and environmentally-sensitive design. A double-whammy if ever we saw one.

# No Couch-Potato

NACHO CARBONELL > Designer – Eindhoven

A HANDS-ON APPROACH TO DESIGN AFFORDS THE ARTIST AN OPPORTUNITY TO INJECT AS MUCH CURIOUS PERSONALITY AS POSSIBLE INTO A CREATION, AS IS SUITABLY ACCEPTABLE AT LEAST. THIS PREMEDITATED TACTILE PHILOSOPHY IS INTENDED TO AROUSE OUR IMAGINATION; NO KIDDING!



WORDS: DAVE VICKERS IMAGES: COURTESY OF NACHO CARBONELL

The conventional chair form just isn't enough for Nacho, and I suppose, if your chair isn't pointed at the TV like most chairs, he has a very good point. Surely when we sit we have time to think, and 'Evolution' closely studies how we should use our butt-parking escapades to the maximum. Essentially, in a world of information overkill, Evolution forms a refuge rather than a resting place. The offending paper-borne media that bombards us on a daily basis is recycled and used to shape these curious seat attachments, each one designed to cocoon the user, if they so desire. They won't shield you from cell-phone microwaves; the intention is more of a cocoon for the mind rather than a physical one. A hiding place for the conscience, a place to draw inspiration, to rest and recuperate (even communicate as in the tunnel-conjoined 'Lovers Chair'), before emerging refreshed, unfurling your wings and ready for a bashing on the information overload super-highway. I personally don't think the world is that bad a place and hiding never solved my overdraft, but I can imagine how a compassionate design like this could appeal to many others. So, if you can find a way to fit one of these seats into your domestic ethos, why not slink off to a divine world of advertising abstinence? It makes perfect sense. Nacho has a unique, eco-friendly approach to sculpture and design; the tactile methods he uses join forces with his organic influences to form these powerful, occasionally mind-wrenching shapes. In addition, his creations certainly do not discreetly harbour any strong opinions he may have on the modern world; they are all out there, boldly on show for us all to debate. ✕

1| Pump it up, Nacho's inflatable pets.

2| Nacho Carbonell.

3| The Lovers Chair, mutual mind comfort.



**Black**

Nathan Sawaya

Lego brick human

27" x 70" x 15"

The Art of the Brick

Image Courtesy of [brickartist.com](http://brickartist.com)

Article on page 84

# ENRIC<sup>HED BY</sup> MIRALLES

MIRALLES TAGLIABUE ARCHITECTS

THE CROSS-CULTURAL, ENVIRONMENTAL AND THOUGHT PROVOKING DYNAMIC OF MIRALLES TAGLIABUE ARCHITECTS HAS OVER THE YEARS WON THE COMPANY MANY COMPETITIONS AND CONTRACTS. LOCALLY THEY'VE BAGGED INFLUENTIAL WORKS SUCH AS THE PARQUE DIAGONAL MAR [1997-2002], HEAD OFFICE GAS NATURAL [1999-2006] - AS WELL AS PROJECTS ACROSS EUROPE, INCLUDING THE SCHOOL OF MUSIC IN HAMBURG [1997-2000] AND THE CITY HALL IN UTRECHT [1996-2000]. EVEN WITHOUT THE INSPIRING INFLUENCE OF ENRIC (IN HIS TIME NICKNAMED 'THE BAD-BOY OF SPANISH ARCHITECTURE') THE COMPANY CONTINUES TO BRING HOME AWARDS, EXCELLING EVEN (AND SOMETIMES ESPECIALLY) AWAY FROM THEIR OWN TURF. UNDER THE DIRECTION OF A DRIVEN TAGLIABUE, IT SEEMS THAT NOTORIOUS CATALONIAN PASSION AND ENTHUSIASM FOR EVERYTHING, MIXED WITH THE SPIRIT OF THE SPANISH AND ITALIAN ARTISAN, MAKE A PERFECT RECIPE FOR QUALITY ARCHITECTURE - A BY-PRODUCT OF WHICH INJECTS THE VIBRANT HUES OF A SUN-DRENCHED MEDITERRANEAN PSYCHOLOGY INTO THE COLDER, SLIGHTLY DARKER REGIONS OF A DESIGN-HUNGRY EUROPE.



> **project** Mercat de Santa Caterina  
 > **location** Barcelona  
 > **client** Foment de Ciutat Vella  
  
 > **architect** Benedetta Miralles Tagliabue  
 (Miralles Tagliabue EMBT)  
 > **collaborators** PGI Group  
 > **date** 1996> 2005  
  
 > **area** 29596 m<sup>2</sup>  
 > **materials** Steel, oak, ceramic tiles, concrete



In no place does the true Catalan dynamic of architecture firm Miralles Tagliabue work better than in its home town of Barcelona. Nor could there be a healthier place to express such an intrepid and exuberant flavour of urban architecture. The dazzling roof of the Mercat Santa Caterina, undulating like a blanket hurled over the main complex of the market, acts as

a communal manifold, skilfully striking a magical balance between the commercial function of the building, local produce, tourism and contemporary design. As organic as the highly polished produce sold within, the shape and vivid colours of the roof flag-up the importance of the building to onlookers, creating curiosity from far afield and assuring a stream of visitors. It's a simple philosophy, the multicoloured roof mosaic made up of 325,000

glazed ceramic tiles provides an exhilarating prospect, and like bees to honey, the onlookers stream in. That may sound a little over-poetic for the dynamic of a market building, but in a place like Barcelona, simple mediocrity just won't cut it, the architectural magnetism of other famous local edifices creates a competitive city-wide allure, and competition is fierce.

**RESCUE PLAN.** EMBT Architects has a habit of getting things right, and Santa Caterina is an important piece for them; this being the first big project completely executed with Benedetta Tagliabue at the company controls after the tragic passing of founder, and husband, Enric Miralles in 2000. As an ode to his famed originality and



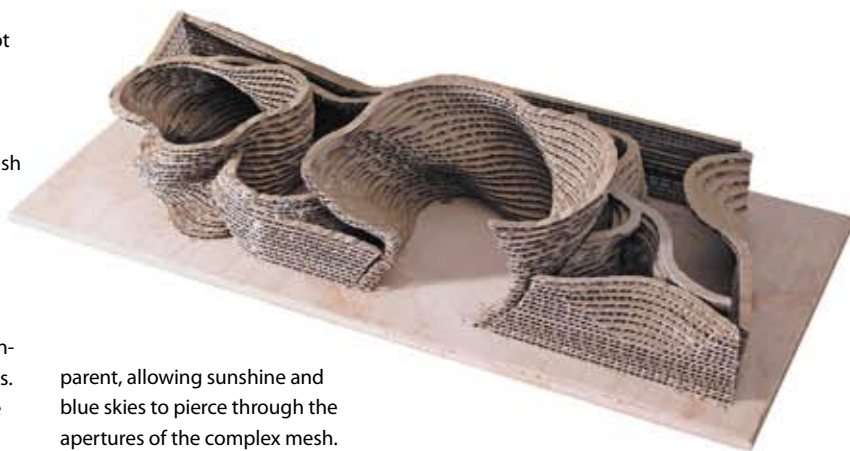
elegant architectural stamp, the company obviously carries on in the founder's tradition of design brilliance, a merit that has won them continued international recognition. More importantly, the re-development of Santa Caterina saved the area from the demolishers' wrecking ball – which on a personal level for Bernadette would have been disastrous – considering this is where she lived, shopped and relaxed with Enric for many years. →



→ **CHINA SETS THE BAR.** Just a few short months after the opening of the International Exhibition in Zaragoza and Shanghai 2010 already looms large on the expo-horizon. The Chinese, obviously needing to make bold inroads into the conscience of a modern, green-tech planet, understandably aim to impress. With a clear objective to be the greatest (both ecologically and technologically) the Chinese set stringent construction targets for international applicants. In an in-

tense wrangling for the top spot in Spain, EMBT came through with an intelligent conception that won them the exclusive national prize, and so the Spanish Pavilion project was realised.

**CLIMATIC WEAVE.** Extremely unusual in assembly, EMBT's Spanish Pavilion edges toward handicraft rather than more conventional construction methods. The warped tubular steel frame of the building is designed to sustain an extraordinary wicker-weave covering, an originality that obviously gave MT the edge in the competition and secured them a solid investment of over 1.8 million euros from the Spanish Government. The Spanish handcrafters (it's hard not to imagine weaving grannies on a giant scaffold) will wicker-weave complicated patterns to the construction using an array of different coloured weaves; this will in turn be protected by a special waterproof covering, trans-



parent, allowing sunshine and blue skies to pierce through the apertures of the complex mesh. This climatic membrane will wrap the pavilion and afford visitors a refreshing outdoor promenade feel, allowing them to relax and concentrate on the all-important Spanish cultural displays on show. The weaved structure is dual purpose, obviously a design like this in any other solid material and on such a grand scale would be daunting to the observer, but the piercing daylight surreptitiously deconstructs, bringing the outdoors in - and visa versa. The other purpose has a more social intention, and according to Benedetta Tagliabue, Spain has a long history in mak-

ing wicker-weave products, as does China, and this is where she envisages the two nations finding some comfortable common ground. In addition, this monster basket-weaving commission is extremely hardy, and once complete will withstand whatever forces the tough Chinese climate has to throw at it; it just so happens that the Expo opens in Typhoon season. →

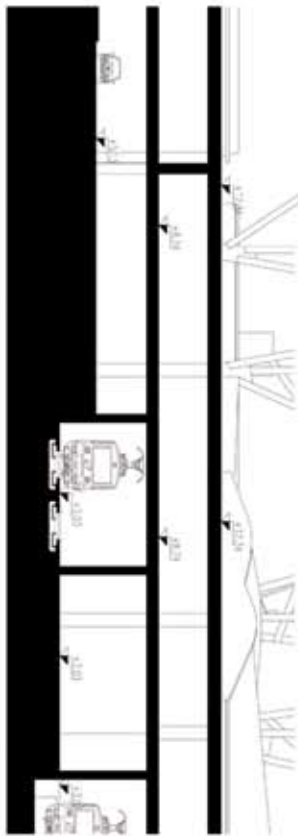






- > **project** Pabellón de España en La Exposición Universal Shanghai 2010
- > **location** Shanghai, China
- > **client** SEEI
- > **architect** Miralles Tagliabue (Miralles Tagliabue EMBT)
- > **collaborators** Salvador Gilabert , Arch. Elena Rocchi, Arch.
- > **date** 2007> in progress
- > **area** 8,500m2
- > **materials** metallic tubular supports holding a wicker mesh



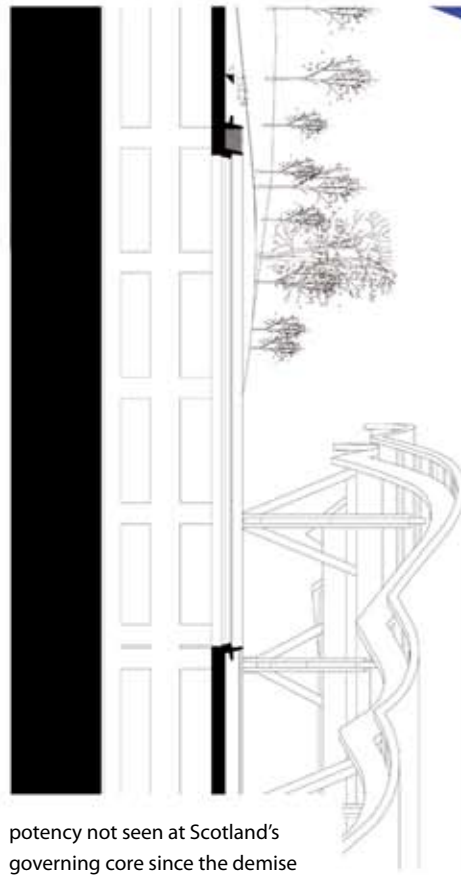


the unique capacity to merge Catalan tradition with European culture, as so boldly shown in Edinburgh, fortunately lives on through into the 21st century. Holyrood, the aforementioned and aptly-named Parliament building, sits boldly at the foot of the city's famous Royal Mile. The construction; a flavoursome mixture of steel, granite and oak is certainly one of the most exceptional public structures in Britain today. It beholds a unique individuality; a brave independence that some of the resident governmental bodies operating within would dearly love to possess, one that a string of national referenda have yet to permit.

Again, visitors pour through the doors by the bus load, keen to witness the unique ambience of the chambers within, the trademark undulating ceilings and casual functionality afforded to the building's lucky inhabitants. Understandably to the observer, the building creates an alluring

#### → SCOTTISH INDEPENDENCE.

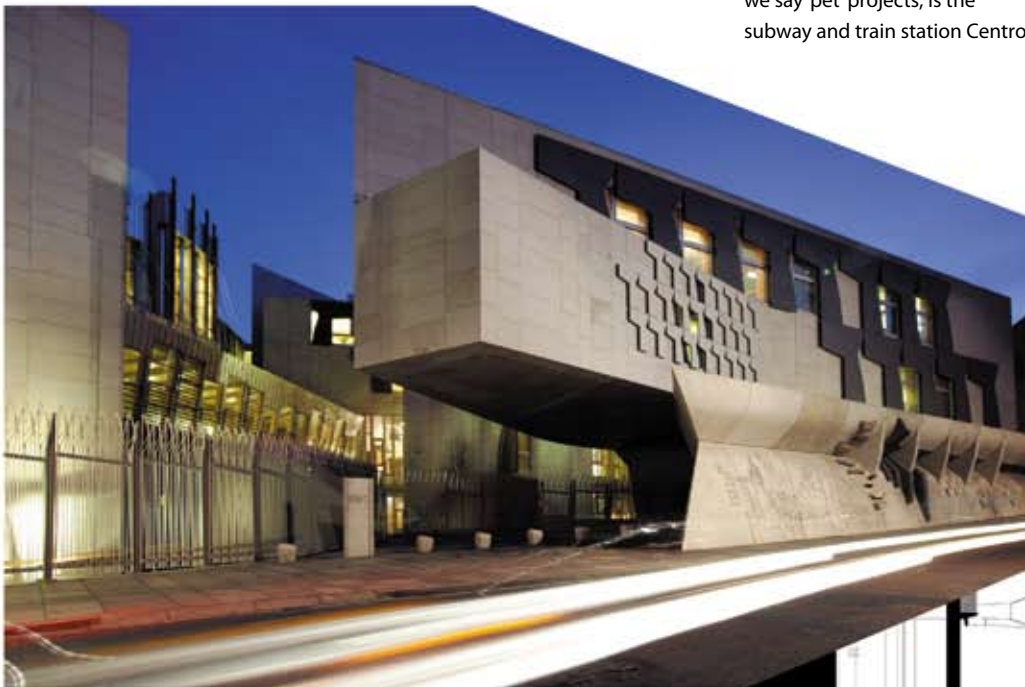
A touch more famous than the Santa Caterina project, the Scottish Parliament Building in Edinburgh is generally taken as the last act in the illustrious career of the late Enric Miralles, but fortunately for us, EMBT have far from faded since then,



potency not seen at Scotland's governing core since the demise of Sir William Wallace. This strength in design is an award-winning approach that shows an appetising recipe for clear thinking, one that becomes familiar throughout EMBT's impressive design portfolio.

**VOLCANIC PROFILE.** One of Tagliabue's favourite, and dare we say 'pet' projects, is the subway and train station Centro

Direzionale in Naples. Not only is the project in her homeland, but it promises to help pull her beloved Italy from a rather long-winded architectural paralysis; something she is very proud of achieving. One of the demands of the new station building was to dynamically merge the site's anonymous urban development grid of the 1970s with the beautiful historic city centre of Naples. The company has always viewed buildings and landscapes as much the same thing, strongly believing that you cannot develop one without considering the other. In this case, the topography of the site is accentuated through the intricate and expansive tectonic roof structure, the design holds its own within the volcanic site, and thus covertly breaks down mental and social barriers between the old and the very old. It's a damn clever way to pull together a community and provides instant recognition to a structure of such vital functional importance to the residents, no matter what their social standing. ✖



Scottish Parliament Building in Edinburgh



> **project** Subway and train station Centro Direzionale  
 > **location** Naples, Italy  
 > **client** Metropolitana di Napoli  
  
 > **architect** Miralles Tagliabue (Miralles Tagliabue EMBT)  
 > **collaborators** Joan Callís  
 > **date** 2005> in progress  
  
 > **area** 10,000 m<sup>2</sup>






# THE WEDGE



## THE WEDGE BUILDING > by Diseño Earle Architects

THIS PROJECT - CALLED THE WEDGE BY THE ARCHITECTS, COSTA DEL SOL-BASED DISEÑO EARLE - PRESENTS A FRAGMENTED EXAMPLE OF MODERNISM. THE ARCHITECTS CONCEIVED THE PROJECT AS WEDGES TO GIVE EACH SUPERLUXURY DUPLEX, A HIGHER PERCENTAGE OF GLASS ON THE SIDE OF THEIR VIEW. IN THE END, THIS ALLOWS EACH INDIVIDUAL DUPLEX TO CONTAIN LESS CORE, AND TO ENJOY MORE VIEWS AND LIGHT.





> **project** The Wedge Building  
 > **location** Dubai, United Arab Emirates  
 > **client** not disclosed

> **architect** Diseño Earle Architects  
 > **date** 2008> 2011

> **volume** 60.000m<sup>2</sup>  
 > **materials** concrete, steel, glass



**DESIGN.** The concept is based on wedges placed in different directions to increase views, adding to the amount of light entering the building and each unit. Since all sides of this development have unique vistas, the diagram works perfectly.

**SITE.** This ultramodern residential development sits on the Palm Jebel Ali, one of three palms that are and will be integral parts of Dubai's growth. This section of the palm is destined for ultra high five-star residences, for which designer considerations included how to accommodate the Rolls Royce Phantom, a car that would normally not fit into a conventional parking spot or garage. The palm developments are fascinating as an engineering wonder and extremely clever as a real estate development. Who would not want to turn one mile of frontline beach into 200 miles? That is exactly what the Palm is about. Shape a development like a palm and get everyone to buy frontline beach.

With such a prestigious location, all sides of the project have fabulous views, half out to sea, the other half over the sea and towards the skyline of Dubai. Talk about a dramatic panorama.

In exploring the complexity of the skin and its adaptability to summer and winter conditions, the architects use double skins that can be peeled back to expose the interior. In Dubai, with summer temperatures reaching 50°F, protection from the elements is crucial, while in the winter the perfect weather just begs for the balconies and interiors to be opened up.



These undulating skins are best understood when they are peeled back to reveal the core underneath. The skin provides the difference here, separating this development in luxury and interest from the banal repetition of projects that are built all over the world. Led by an inspired client who was interested in exploring new ideas, the architect took the experience of moving through each space within the building as far as possible.

**CONSTRUCTION.** From a distance, the focus is on the form itself. Heavy concrete forms the core, leaving the glass to express the nature of the building. The skin also acts to protect the building, reducing its carbon footprint - something that is becoming very important in Dubai, both for the environmental reasons and lack of power on many developments. The building is also partially cooled by chimney effects created within the wedges which allow for evaporative cooling and circulation. The building is being constructed with fast track programming and while the project is innovative, the budget is still modest, showing that a complex design does not necessarily mean that



the budget need go through the roof. The Wedge expresses Dubai for what it is, a place with a frenetic pace and a can-do attitude that inspires great work and modern ideas. ✖





# Southbank Surrealism

## PSYCHO BUILDINGS > The Hayward, London

ON ITS FORTIETH ANNIVERSARY, TEN PROMINENT ARTISTS FROM AROUND THE GLOBE PAY TRIBUTE TO ONE OF THE WORLD'S MOST ARCHITECTURALLY UNIQUE EXHIBITION VENUES, TRANSFORMING IT INTO A MAGICAL MYSTERY TOUR OF WITTY FOLLIES, EACH AS BEWITCHING AS THEY ARE THOUGHT-PROVOKING.



1| Los Carpinteros 'Frio Estudio del Desastre' 2005 - © Los Carpinteros, Courtesy Sean Kelly Gallery

2| Rachel Whiteread 'Village' 2006-2008; Credit sculpture/model. Copyright © Rachel Whiteread. Courtesy Gagosian Gallery; Photo credit, Peppe Avallone



WORDS: CAROLYN MELIÁN

Borrowing its title from a book by German artist Martin Kippenberger, the hugely ambitious *Psycho Buildings: Artists Take On Architecture* exhibition invites visitors to immerse themselves in a series of atmospheric yet perturbing habitat-like structures and architectural spaces veering from the utopian to the stuff that nightmares are made of. While we're not quite sure how the boating lake – 12 metres above the streets of London and with water pouring onto the pavements below – ever managed to make it past Blighty's indefatigable health and safety inspectors, 'proceeding and unrestricted with without title', by the Austrian collective Gelitin, is a surrealistic sight with its 2-person rowing boats sailing along a waterway in the sky. Look up again, and on the Gallery's other al fresco sculpture terraces there's Argentinean artist Tomás Saraceno's 'Observatory, Air-Port-City', a vast transparent geodesic dome where visitors appear to be floating unsuspended in mid-air; and Slovenia-born Tobias Putrih's beautifully crafted 30-seat scaffolding cinema, 'Venetian, Atmospheric', where moving clouds and twinkling stars are projected onto its ceiling. Step inside The Hayward and you'll be greeted by another seven physically and perceptually incongruous installations including 'Cold Study of a Disaster' by Havana-based collective Los Carpinteros, a full-scale apartment frozen in time as an explosion rips through its walls, and furniture and furnishings are caught flying through the air; while Rachel Whiteread's 'Place (Village)' comprises more than 200 doll's houses collected by the English artist over 20 years, arranged as if occupying three hillsides, but with each illuminated by a single light bulb, creating the desolate and ghostly environment of an urban paradise recently abandoned. *Psycho Buildings: Artists Take On Architecture* is at The Hayward Gallery at the Southbank Centre until August 25. ✕



# Dynamic Duo

## ONTWERP DUO > Design studio Eindhoven

A DREAMER AND A MATHEMATICIAN, IT SEEMS THIS YOUNG AND GIFTED DUTCH DESIGN DUO COMPLEMENT EACH OTHER WELL. THE WILD FANTASY IS CREATED, AND IS THEN SURREPTITIOUSLY GROUNDED BY THE MATHLETE; IT'S A PHILOSOPHY THAT SEEMS TO KEEP THINGS FROM GOING A BIT OVER ECCENTRIC, AND TENDS TO GENERATE AN ALLURING, YET GRASPABLE CHARM.



- 1| The Cupboard, a new life for old zinc boxes.
- 2| Openbook, leave your book on the correct page.
- 3| Designers Nathan Wierink and Tineke Beunders.
- 4| What it is, it isn't; an installation toying with dreamlike, light refraction.
- 5| Time To Fly; one flew over the cuckoo's nest – and became a clock.

WORDS: DAVE VICKERS IMAGES: COURTESY OF ONTWERP DUO

Designers Nathan Wierink and Tineke Beunders just can't wait to get their imaginative paws immersed into the ever-compliant Dutch design marketplace. Already graduated, Tineke nurtured the fledgling design studio. Nathan has recently graduated cum laude from the Design Academy Eindhoven. The pair make-up a formidable force, effortlessly flanking the ideas of more experienced Dutch design academics. Business acumen aside, they admit they just can't delay the fun any longer. Tineke's wistful approach blends perfectly with Nathan's mathematical line of attack, forging a mind challenging ambience that uses simplicity as the key to our affections. The 'What it is, it isn't' installation perfectly illustrates how the two integrate their expertise. The rippled, underwater profile of this odd closet screams out an 'Alice in Wonderland'-style deformation (and we all know the fuel behind that story's fire)! But why just deform when you can restore normality at the same time? Enter the maths; the 'Looking Glass' stand, with its axis at the apex of AA similarity thus bisecting the congruent halves obviously brings back a concentric geometry, thus reinstalling isometric normality to variable optical channels. Or in other words, if you position yourself correctly behind the looking glass, the cupboard appears normal. It's an appealing concept (even to those not attracted to the arts), as are many of the duo's ideas, and the fact that they produce most of their installations from the ground up, including the tricky build process, will probably ensure that this innovative pair continue to compete at a high level on a very spirited design forum. Ideas like the controversial '1-2-3 Birdhouse for free', a lackadaisical idea that employs the poor birds to finish off their own home, will surely keep the duo on the tip of everyone's tongue. ✕



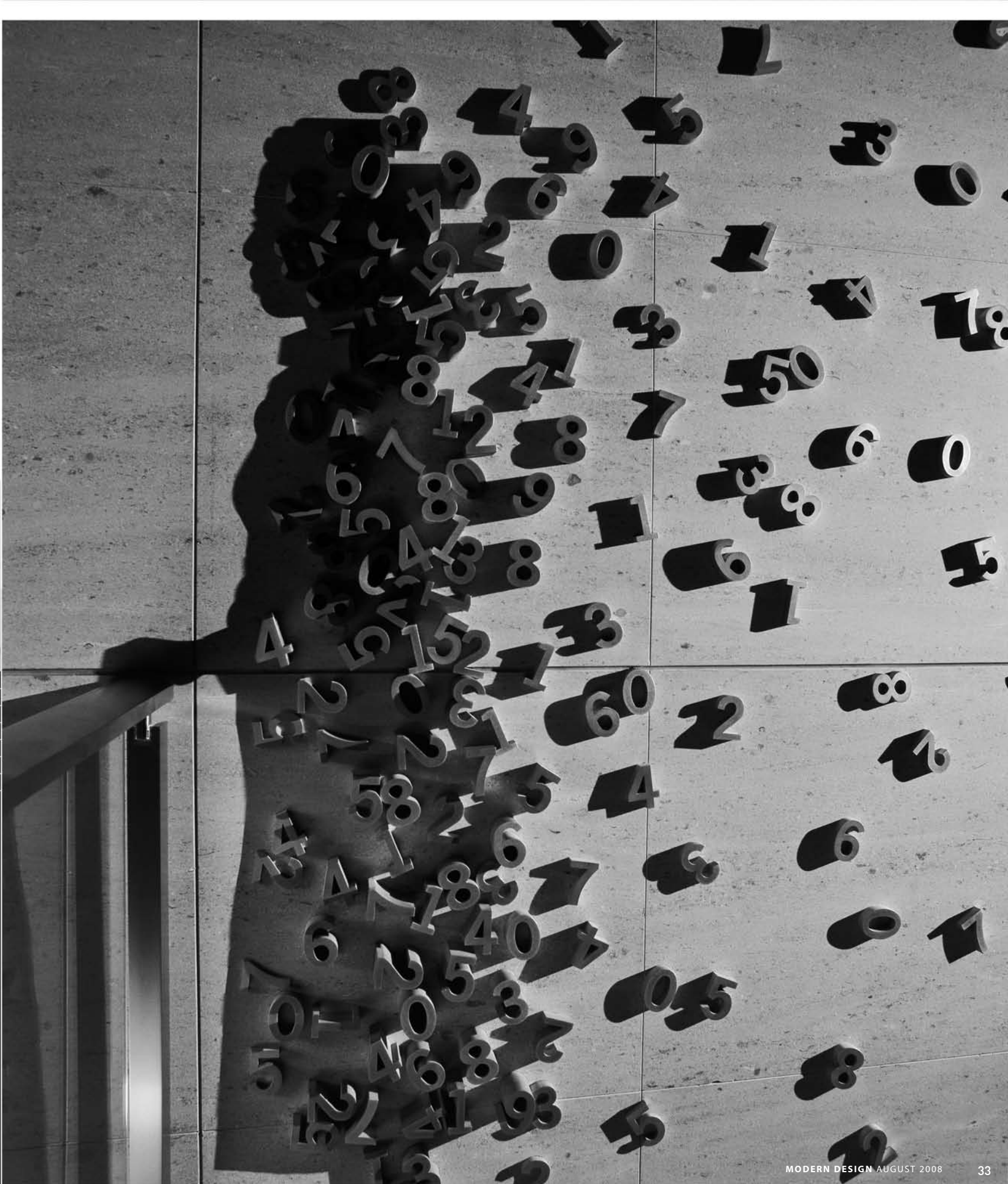
# Make Believe

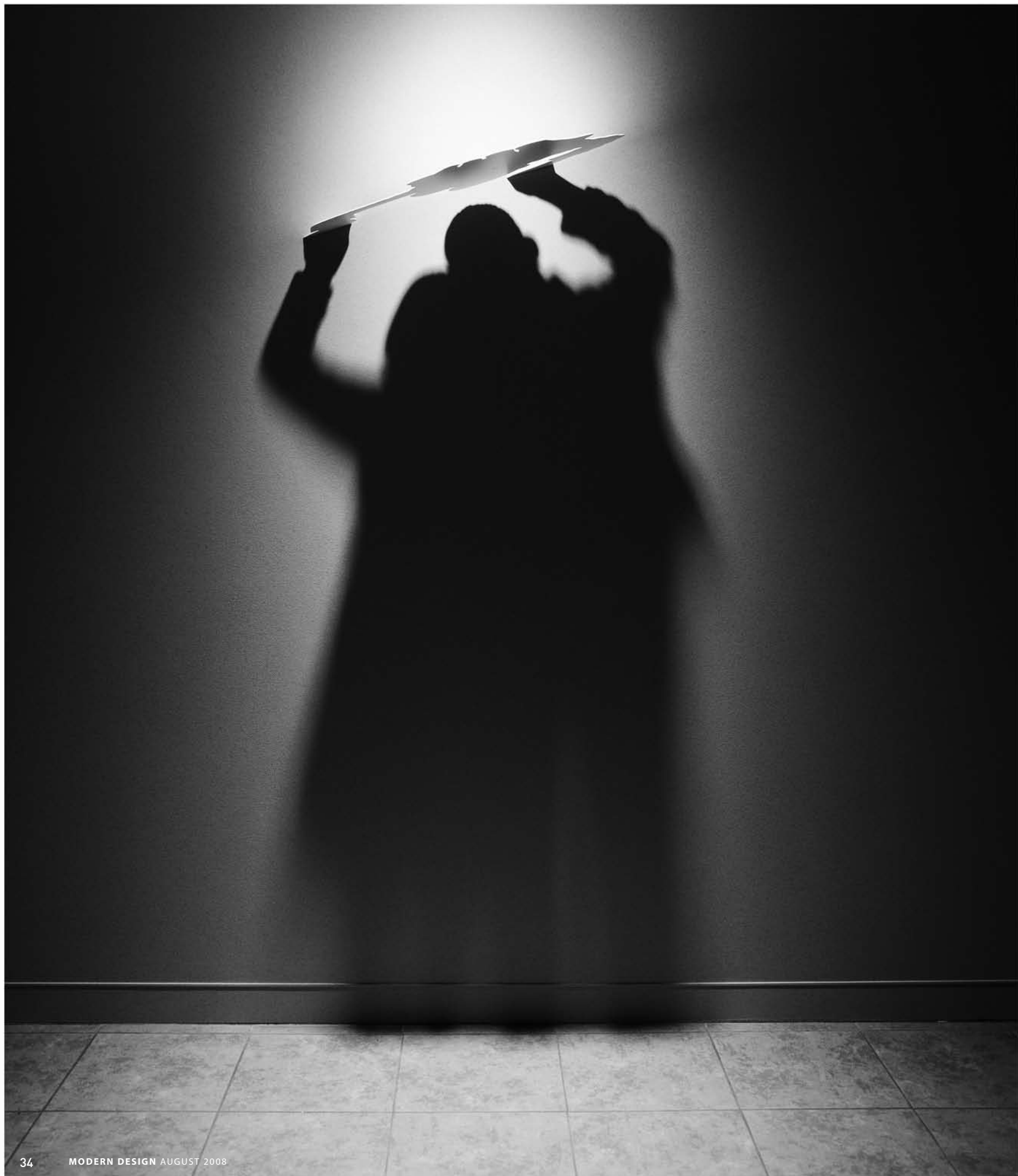
WORDS: CAROLYN MELIÁN IMAGES: COURTESY OF KUMI YAMASHITA & THE KENT GALLERY

## KUMI YAMASHITA > The Art of Illusion

WHETHER IT'S HER POETIC IMAGES CASTING SHADOWS ON WALLS AND FLOORS, PRINTS MADE WITH THE SOLES OF A PAIR OF OLD BOOTS, OR HER PORTRAITS INGENUOUSLY CREATED FROM RUBBINGS TAKEN FROM HER SITTERS' CREDIT CARDS, KUMI YAMASHITA IS BLESSED WITH A RARE TALENT INDEED — THAT OF REVEALING TO US WHAT MAY ACTUALLY NOT BE THERE AT ALL. "I WANT US TO REMIND OURSELVES OF HOW WE PRECONCEIVE WHAT IS AROUND AND INSIDE US," SHE SAYS. "KNOWLEDGE, IDEAS AND VALUES ARE TOO OFTEN ACCEPTED WITHOUT QUESTIONING."





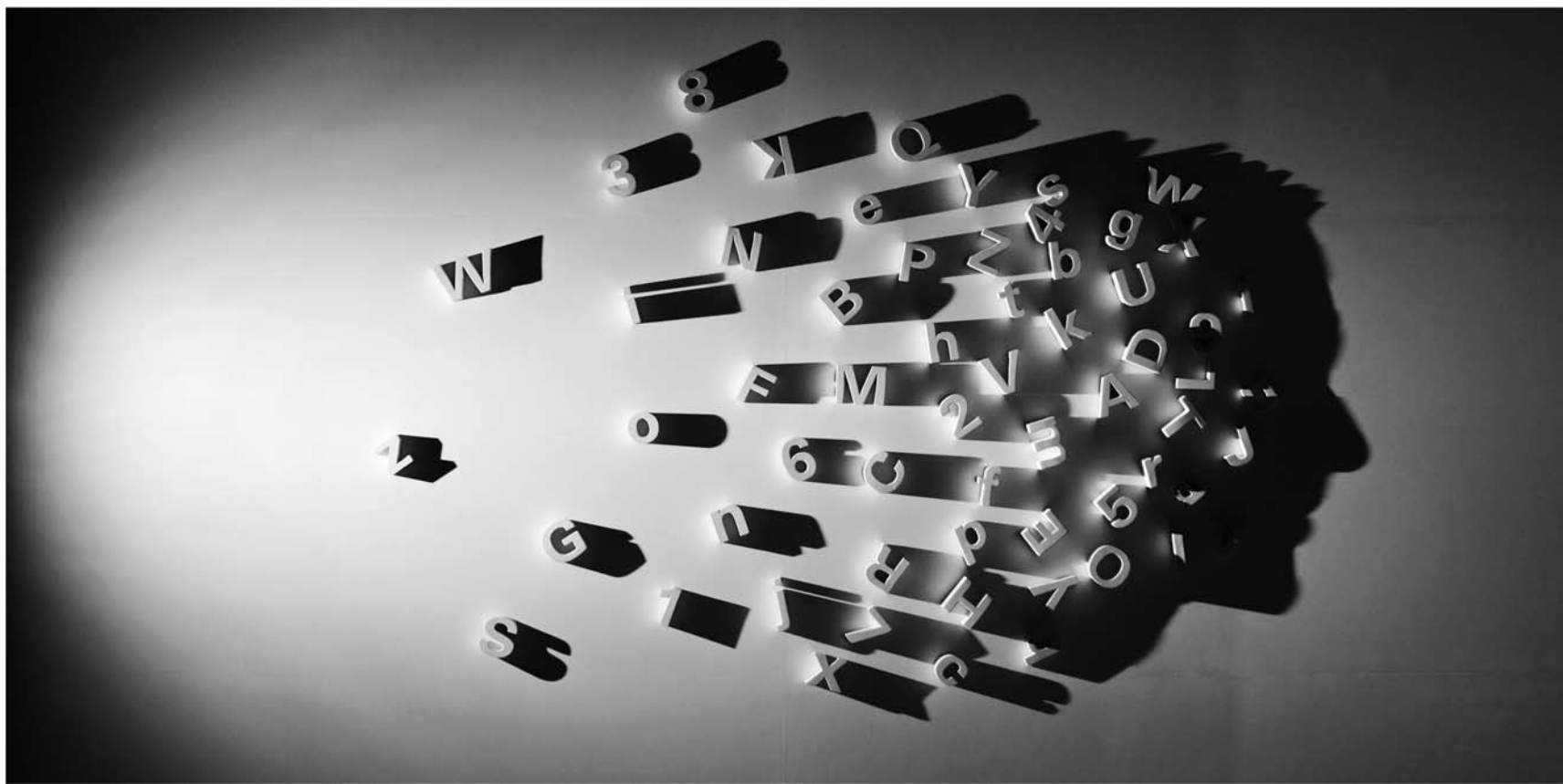




**Photo left:** Clouds, 2005. Light, Aluminium, Shadow. Permanent display at the 3rd floor of Stellar Place, Sapporo JR Tower. Commissioned by Japan Railways Inc.



**Photo above:** Feather, 2006. Light, Wood, Shadow. Permanent display at Akiru Municipal Medical Center, Tokyo. Commissioned by Akiru Municipal Medical Center.





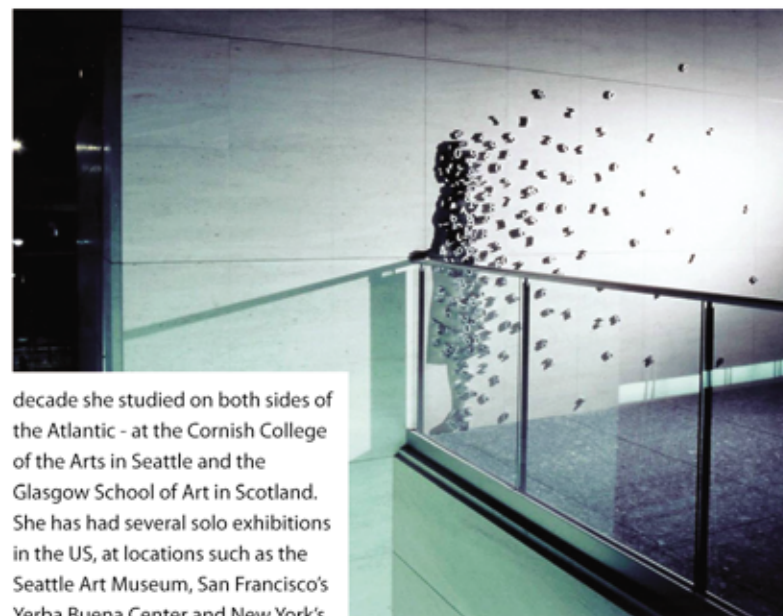
Remember, as a child, holding your hands just so and lacing your fingers together to cast shadows of rabbits and birds in flight? Well, by using the most mundane of objects, Kumi Yamashita has elevated shadow play to one of the most astonishingly beautiful and sublimely creative of art forms.

**AS IF BY MAGIC.** What at first glance may appear to be no more than crumpled paper, or children's building blocks of different shapes and sizes, scattered seemingly carelessly across a wall - but in fact positioned with pinpoint precision - once illuminated by a single strong lamp so that each component throws its own shadow, and when taken with all the others, is transformed as if by magic to give the illusion of reality. In another of her inspired installations, the amazingly lifelike silhouette of a woman morphs into what appear to be an array of numbered refrigerator magnets dissipating into numerical codes as they stream away behind her into infinity.

**IDENTITY.** With the intention of highlighting fragile existence that's sometimes only too easily dissolved

as circumstances change, Yamashita's work is concerned with identity and those essential defining traits and qualities that make us who we are. Hence examples of her earlier pieces include *Somebody Else's Mess* - four patterned bed-sheets each featuring a huge portrait coalescing from the 'mess' of boot prints - while in the case of her highly-detailed *Credit Card Portraits*, one of which is of her father, if you look closely enough it's just possible to discern strings of numbers and occasionally a fragment of a name. Similarly, in the series of portraits of Irish writer, dramatist and poet Samuel Beckett, part of a commission undertaken by Yamashita for Glasgow's Cryptic Theatre, her subtly endearing renderings have been created from rubbings of the plates duplicating the author's handwritten notebooks so that faint yet still just legible words and phrases - the frottage of Beckett's published works - emanate from the delicately-wrought silk-tissue likenesses. "I like looking at the light in the afternoon and watching shadows move", she explains. "It reminds me that everything is always changing." True to her belief, Yamashita certainly doesn't let the grass grow beneath her feet. Embracing flux, her most recent portraits have been drawn from single pieces of string or rendered by meticulously pulling strands from the weft and warp of commercially marketed fabrics.

**AN ARTIST IN TRANSITION.** Born in Takasaki in 1969, Yamashita arrived in the United States in 1984 as a High School exchange student, and it was this early experience away from the homogeneous culture of her native Japan at the tender age of fifteen that acted as a catalyst for her finely-tuned awareness and perception of issues of identity. Constantly on the move, during the next



decade she studied on both sides of the Atlantic - at the Cornish College of the Arts in Seattle and the Glasgow School of Art in Scotland. She has had several solo exhibitions in the US, at locations such as the Seattle Art Museum, San Francisco's Yerba Buena Center and New York's Kent Gallery, as well as in Singapore and Istanbul. Returning to Japan in the wake of 9/11, she discovered that it was no longer possible to obtain artist Visas and was unable to relocate to the US for five years. During this time she was awarded and completed several major public art commissions in Tokyo, Osaka and Hokkaido. Recently, too, there was the Sakura project for the Scottish Parliament in Edinburgh; it was after all in Scotland that Yamashita had graduated. She has been awarded a plethora of prestigious artist residencies including the Edna St. Vincent Millay Colony (New York), Bemis Center for Contemporary Art (Nebraska) and, most recently, the Roswell Artist's Fellowship Program in New Mexico and is also a recipient of the coveted

Pollock-Krasner Award, the Artist Trust Award and the Kirin Art Award.

"I have been experimenting with light and shadows along with various other media to examine what separates solid and ephemeral, visible and invisible, inner and outer," Yamashita affirms. "One of the issues I focus on is the boundary we create within ourselves by categorising the world. Can we find a way to evaporate ourselves from a pond and condensate over an ocean? Can we see a common thread that connects all things?" When you look at her breathtaking body of two- and three-dimensional masterpieces it would certainly seem so. Or then again, maybe it's all just an illusion, a trick of the light. ✕

**Photo top left:** *Profile*, 1994. Wood, Light, Cast Shadow.

**Photo bottom left:** *Origami*, 2005. Light, Aluminium, Shadow. Variable dimensions.

**Photo above:** *City View*, 2003. Light, Aluminium, Shadow. Permanent display at the 2nd floor of Nanba Parks Tower, Osaka, Japan. Commissioned by Nankai Railways Inc.

"AS A TEENAGER, WHEN I WAS FRUSTRATED AND PUZZLED BY CONVENTIONAL VIEWPOINTS, I BEGAN TO APPRECIATE BOTH THE WILLINGNESS TO LEARN ABOUT WHAT IS UNFAMILIAR AND THE ABILITY TO SEE FAMILIAR THINGS FROM DIFFERENT VIEWPOINTS."



## LIVING LIBRARY > Without Prejudice

AN INNOVATIVE CONCEPT AIMED AT BREAKING DOWN COMMONLY HELD PRECONCEPTIONS, IN A LIVING LIBRARY THERE'S NOT A SINGLE HARDBACK, PAPERBACK OR DUST-COLLECTING REFERENCE TOME IN SIGHT. INSTEAD, THE NOVEL IDEA MEANS 'READERS' GET TO BORROW HUMAN 'BOOKS' FOR AN ENLIGHTENING 30-MINUTE CHAT.

# SHELF LIFE

WORDS: CAROLYN MELIAN PHOTOS © COUNCIL OF EUROPE

As in any conventional library, the books are helpfully catalogued. But in the case of Living Libraries – often people who have been exposed to prejudice – this means being filed under categories reflecting readers' prevailing stereotyped views: Traffic warden (jobsworth); Student (waste of space); Career Politician (hasn't done an honest day's work in his life)... you get the drift. And the 'best sellers'? Well, that depends to some extent on the location. "London is a diverse city," says Living Library founder Ronni Abergel. "Perhaps in smaller towns, at least to begin with, we'd have to hold back on some of the more controversial books." In England, where it was introduced earlier this year, Living Library is going down a storm. At the capital's first ever event in Swiss Cottage, perhaps predictably a refugee from Rwanda, a Muslim and a Social Worker were hardly ever left languishing on the shelf, although it was an ex-gang member who was almost constantly out on loan. The brainchild of an altruistic Copenhagen-based youth movement known as Stop The Violence, the first Living Library was held at the Roskilde Festival in 2000. Soon, Living Libraries were touring extensively – particularly in Norway and Hungary. Recognising their potential, the Council of Europe developed the methodology within its Human Rights Education Youth Programme and since 2003 has been supporting, organising and coaching Living Libraries across EU. This month, for example, there's a Living Library at Budapest's mammoth five-day Sziget Festival. In Australia so positive has been the response that, in one town at least, the initiative is a regular monthly fixture. It's only a matter of time before the concept takes off on the Costa del Sol. We can picture the line-up... and personally, we just can't wait! ✕

Photo above: Sober Alcoholic Book with punk reader; Photo top right: Muslim Book with Living Librarian; Photo bottom right: Lesbian Book with reader.



# Agenda&Events

**AUGUST→SEPTEMBER 2008**

► Art

► Architecture

► Design

► Theatre & Music

► Others



## ◀ Noches de Cine

When it comes to simple pleasures, outdoor movies rank right up there, and that's why both the towns of Málaga and Marbella are bringing free outdoor movies to you in August. And yes, the movies are in Spanish, so brush up on your language skills by heading out to the beach or a local park, breathe in the fresh air, and as the sun dips down remember that life doesn't get any better than this.

August 2: San Pedro - Playa de la Salida: Locos por el surf

August 9: Nueva Andalucía - Explanada Recinto Ferial: Alvin y las ardillas

August 15: Marbella - Playa de la Venus: La Brújula dorada

August 16: San Pedro - Playa de la Salida: Monster house

August 23: Marbella - Playa de la Venus: Alvin y las ardillas

August 30: San Pedro - Playa de la Salida: Los seis signos de la luz

All movies start at 22:00. For more information see <http://www.djdmarbella.com/>

For more information about Málaga's El Cine de Verano en tu Barrio schedule which is screening movies like Bajo Las Estrellas, Letters from Iwo Jima, Robert Altman's El Último Show, Ratatouille, and David Fincher's Zodiac, at 11 locations during August, see all the listings at [www.festivaldemalaga.com](http://www.festivaldemalaga.com)

## Home Delivery: Fabricating the Modern Dwelling ►

If you are not aware of the pre-fab movement and the impact it's having on architecture, the New York MoMA is bringing the story to light by installing five modern prehab homes at their vacant lot on West 53rd Street. In addition, the indoor exhibit covers eighty-four architectural projects spanning over 180 years through film, models, drawings, blueprints, photographs, and partial reconstructions.

Through October 20  
MoMA, New York  
[www.momahomedelivery.org](http://www.momahomedelivery.org)



## ● Wine Night in Cómpeta

The local Muscatel wine from the Málaga region of Cómpeta is given away as this fiesta remembers the days when people had to leave the village for several months to pick grapes. So there is nothing modern about this event, but we all enjoy some free wine.

August 15  
Cómpeta, Málaga

## ● Gala for Peace

This year Israel celebrates sixty years of independence and in commemoration the Jewish community in Marbella are hosting a lavish Gala charity evening at the Hotel Puente Romano, in aid of children in need worldwide. Highlights will include a Patricia Nahmad fashion show, sumptuous banquet, live performance from Enrico Macias, dancing to the Crusher Jones band, a silent auction, tombola... and more. Tickets cost €250 each with all profits going to schooling projects mostly in Andalucía.

Reservations (Claudia) & sponsorship / donations (Raphael Cohen):  
[cimarbella@yahoo.es](mailto:cimarbella@yahoo.es), T. 952 859 395;  
or Nicola Bowen:  
[nicola@ompromotions.com](mailto:nicola@ompromotions.com),  
T. 660 720 247

August 19  
Hotel Puente Romano, Marbella





### ▲ Philippe Starck's School of Design - BBC Deadline for Applicants

If you fancy yourself as a design star and a reality TV star, then you should submit an application to the School of Design Show. Philippe Starck will be selecting 10 promising talents to join his team for six months in Paris. Formal training is not necessary, but the ability to catch Starck's attention is.

August 22  
[www.bbc.co.uk/schoolofdesign](http://www.bbc.co.uk/schoolofdesign)



### ▲ Ola Festival 2008

If you are a resident of the Costa del Sol, we absolutely recommend this thumping festival. With a line up like Björk, Massive Attack, and Goldfrapp, it's a memorable year for Ola. Other performers include The Editors, Rataat, Soulwax, Junior Boys, Digitalism, Cut Copy, Saint Etienne, The Enemy, MGMT, Kula Shaker, 2 Many DJ's, Hercules and Love Affair.

August 15  
 Playa de Guardias Viejas, El Ejido, Almería  
[www.olafestival.es](http://www.olafestival.es)

### Living Library at Global City Festival ▶

The Global City Festival will host the Living Library as part of its programme this year. Maja Mandic is the organiser and is expecting to host 20 books at this year's event. Aarhus, which is Denmark's second largest city, has hosted four Living Libraries since 2005.

August 23 – 24  
 Aarhus, Denmark  
[www.living-library.org](http://www.living-library.org)



### ● The Wow Factor! – CUDECA Fundraiser

If you fancy your chances as the next Leona Lewis or Gareth Gates, it's time to polish up your act as auditions for The Wow Factor – a gem of a talent competition for solo singers over the age of 16 – begin this month, with the first two heats taking place in September. Raising much-needed funds for the CUDECA Hospice in Benalmádena, you'll be supporting one of the Coast's most deserving charities.

To enter the competition, contact Nicola Bowen: [nicola@ompromotions.com](mailto:nicola@ompromotions.com); tickets & donations, Laura Haggis: [pr@cudeca.com](mailto:pr@cudeca.com); corporate sponsorship, Maurice Boland: [mauriceb@rem.fm](mailto:mauriceb@rem.fm)

### ● The Requena Wine Harvest Festival

The festival of Requena which was inaugurated in 1948 to unite citizens after the difficult post-war years promotes excellent wines of the region. Most of the festivities date back to medieval times when the start of autumn and the grape harvest were celebrated.

August 22 to September 2  
 Requena, Valencia

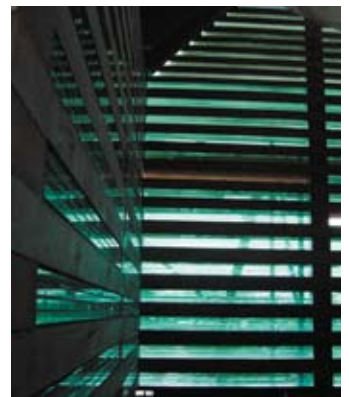


### ◀ Weston-Super-Mare Sand Sculpture Festival

Every year, Somerset hosts this fantastic sand sculpture exhibit that brings sand artists from around the world and inspires the kid in us all. This year's theme is the seven continents, which allows you to Trans-navigate the globe on the beach. Don't forget your bucket and spade!

Through August 31  
 Somerset  
[www.westonsandsculpture.co.uk](http://www.westonsandsculpture.co.uk)





**Top:** Rigid beams form the gable end walls.

**Above:** Timber was cut and finished by a local cabinet maker and glass utilised in many different forms, reinforcing the conceptual 'serial unravelling' of the house.

"The entrance sequence was to discourage casual callers. The most private spaces became the most generous and luxurious; this was to be a building that privileges solitude." SCDLP Architects

Express delivery: the former Dairy converted to a 5-bedroom house

# Dairy House

designed by Skene Catling  
de la Peña Architects, London

**Words:** Chris Dove **Photos:** courtesy of James Morris

"...as a natural extension of the existing structure, the design set out to appear 'un-designed.'"

Some people get all the nice jobs! When asked to redesign a former Dairy set in an 850-acre Estate in picturesque Somerset, southwest England, SCDLP Architects took both literal and literary inspiration from the stacked timber in the yard opposite and from the 18th century architectural treatise and erotic novella 'La Petite Maison – An Architectural Seduction' by Jean-Francois de Bastide.

With their brief to convert the Dairy to a 5-bedroom house with small pool, the space was to be pragmatically re-planned with lean-to sheds removed and an extension added to create the five bedrooms, three bathrooms and more generous circulation space with better proportioned rooms. It was to be a discreet intervention with the design setting out to appear un-designed, combining privacy and seclusion with openness to the wider landscape. As the house was to appear unchanged from the outside, rather than demolishing and rebuilding the sense of retreat was to be reinforced through 'camouflage'; the form and massing of the extension echoing and complementing the existing structure. The entrance sequence was to discourage casual callers. The most private spaces became the most generous and luxurious; this was to be a building that privileges solitude.

Given the Dairy's natural setting, SCDLP's aim was to use as many local materials as possible. Estate timber is planked and dried in the storage barns in the farmyard opposite the site and the method of drying – where raw planks are separated by spacers to allow air circulation – presented them with both the logic and aesthetic of the extension. The glass was layered in the same manner with pieces increasing in depth towards the base to reinforce a sense of weight and textured rustication.

The extension houses two bathrooms – everything behind the retaining wall can be flooded with water. Layered oak and laminated float glass produce an eerie, filtered light while the dematerialising effect of refraction and reflection create an aquatic underworld. The way the light moves around the house over the course of the day draws the user through it: in the morning low light floods the east with the glass acting as a prism projecting watery green lozenges over floors and walls; by midday, the sun is streaming overhead through the rooflight slot, penetrating the two-way mirror bridge giving views from the ground floor through the building. At night this is reversed and flames in the fireplace are visible through the landing floor.



# Shop•No

WORDS: DAVE VICKERS



## GIVE 'EM A TASTE

> Wine bottle opener by Jonathan Sabine

This exuberant design will certainly pop a few corks, mainly ones of the weapons control officers in the 'Met'. Not surprising really, that corkscrew looks downright lethal attached to a knuckle duster! Still despite its menacing profile, Bourgeois Brass Knuckles is intended as a fun object, in a sort of Chablis meets the Krays kind of vein. However, if you ever do see it being used, let's hope you don't end up in a concrete wine barrel.

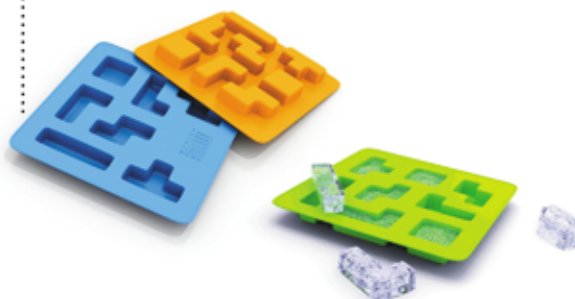
[www.chromoly.ca](http://www.chromoly.ca)

## RUBIK'S ICE-CUBE

> The Tetris icemaker by Uvodní Strana

It's the time of year for ice, and don't we just love a challenge or two – well here's the perfect combo – an icemaker that creates a full Tetris set. In all honesty, the main challenge would be completing a game before your pieces melt into the pavement; still, these cool little quadrangles would look fantastic bobbing around in a G+T – not cider though!! – you can bet your bottom dollar that the idea of iced-cider was conceived in a wine bar in Pimlico!

[www.martin.zampach.com](http://www.martin.zampach.com)



## MOUNTING SUCCESS

> Cima Ladder by Cima

At last, a totally useless, impractical yet utterly gorgeous way to elevate your backside. Weighing in at around a kilo, this composite-climber takes the bulk out of the age-old hefty ladder genre. Arriving in luminous green or pink, the Cima Ladder is definitely not one for the building site – nor would we recommend using it for anything except climbing up into the top bunk.

[www.cimaladder.com](http://www.cimaladder.com)

## HOODWINKED

> Hoodies with a personality by Clinton

Headhoods are the latest in cool fashion for the poor over-persecuted teen Hoodies that aimlessly wander the streets with no other purpose than to become scapegoats for all forms of community ills. At least now we have a face to look at, there could be anything hidden under them hoods! Might cause a bit of confusion with the elderly though; "Honestly officer, our local bus stop has been ravaged again – and I saw Barack Obama running from the scene!"

[www.headhoods.com](http://www.headhoods.com)





## RACK 'EM UP

### > Bicycle Stand by Wolters

A couple of bike racks around the place wouldn't go amiss, taking a lesson from the Dutch, the more bike lanes and racks out there, the more we'll use the bike – it doesn't take an Einstein to work that out. Trouble is the old rack, it's a bit cumbersome and unsightly – well it used to be at least! Check out the Bicycle Stand by Wolters Street Design, my super-lightweight Cannondale would look so cool strapped to the chic minimalist profile of this rack, right outside work. It grips, it locks and helps prevent wheel theft, absolute leaps and bounds ahead of my favourite lamppost and - available in shiny metallic, rough polyester and RAL polyester powder coatings – a damn site more attractive too.

[www.streetdesign.es](http://www.streetdesign.es)



## TEAK-A-BOO

### > Sustainable wooden sunglasses by iwood Ecodesigns

You won't be seeing any of these in your local 'lookie-lookie man' collections. Made from high-quality, sustainable wood veneer and Italian lenses, it looks like these eco-bins are going to be extremely hard to copy. Of course all that style and concern comes at a price, so you can guarantee Hollywood A-listers will soon be sporting iwood. These super-trendy designs easily come up to the chic individuality afforded by Coco and Prada face-furniture, without the unfortunate sweat-shop shame.

[www.iwoodecodesign.com](http://www.iwoodecodesign.com)



## BLING DEAN

### > Aduki Ni Light from Mathmos

Mathmos, the inventors of the lava lamp, have introduced this compact, rechargeable bean-shaped light unit that will go indoors, outdoors or anywhere really. Aduki fits into the palm of your hand or can be hung up or simply placed on a table. Once charged it'll provide a whole spectrum of light colours for hours. Easy on the eye and even nicer to the touch, the metal casing and silicon soft-touch buttons make this the most tactile, and desirable mini light available.

[www.mathmos.com](http://www.mathmos.com)





## HOMER BEACON

### > Floating Homer Simpson radio

Homer is right at home here, floating around in your pool with a can of Duff beer on his belly – which is incidentally a waterproof tuning button for his built-in FM/AM radio. Just add some batteries and he'll float all day dishing out the music, or the baseball scores or whatever you desire; just as long as he has a good supply of doughnuts and Marge doesn't rock his boat – maybe she already has by the look of that tuning button!

[www.drinkstuff.com](http://www.drinkstuff.com)



## MUHAB IS YOUR-HAB

### > Myhab tent from Myhab

Festival accommodation is a serious problem. For those who can't stump up the funds for the Winnebago village, a student has come up with an ingenious mud-dodging camping concept. Myhab is a waterproof, platform elevated capsule that'll keep your 3-Day wardrobe dry and, though not sound insulated, will allow some form of crucial festival rest and recoup (until the rave tent climaxes at least). This roomy little slumber-tunnel is easy to build and won't need abandoning after one soggy use. The British festival fraternity plan on hiring out Myhab villages to save on huge post-festival canvas clean-up operations.

[www.myhab.com](http://www.myhab.com)



## CUTTING EDGE MAN-MIRROR

### > The Razorblade shaving mirror

An absolute must-have addition to any bachelor's muscular bathroom strategy, the novelty Razorblade Mirror will ensure stringent shaving patterns are strictly adhered to. Never a scruffy shadow will cast across a jaw-line again, purely because you won't be able to wait to get your mush smiling back at you in the coolest looking bathroom fitting ever. And come on let's admit it, it's not just for shaving, all those new-man products you got for Christmas 2006 will slowly start to get used up too. You know you love yourself!

[www.suck.uk.com](http://www.suck.uk.com)



# THE GREAT ALFRESCO?

WORDS: DAVE VICKERS



## OUTDOOR FURNITURE > Modern Design Selection

OUTDOORS IS WHERE WE BELONG, NOT WEDGED INTO SOME ARMCHAIR TRANSFIXED TO A TV SCREEN – LEAVE THAT PURSUIT FOR THE DARK DEPTHS OF WINTER. THIS MONTH, MODERN DESIGN HAS BURST THROUGH THE LOUNGE PATIO DOORS ON TO THE RICH AND DIVERSE PLATFORM OF OUTDOOR FURNITURE DESIGN, AND TRUST US, THERE'S SOME REALLY COOL STUFF OUT THERE JUST WAITING TO NURSE YOU INTO A LUXURY SLUMBER – AL FRESCO.

With the Trade Winds and trailing clouds of spring long gone northwards to bone-chill the less fortunate, residents of Spain are happily enjoying a scorching five-month session by the pool. We know it's rotten, but someone has to do it! The truth is, by shredding ourselves away from the TV for so long, we do have to think about design intervention al fresco. But wait a minute; before you go sinking back into last year's sweat-stained sun-loungers, ask yourself how up-to-date your garden garments really are. Sagging seats, calamitous cushions, the dreaded Coca-Cola umbrellas and grimy gazebos are a massive no-no this year; it's a simple fact that summer 2008 is the season of the terrazza. Risk overlooking this straightforward design detail and the Patio Fashion Police will swoop down in the covert guise of neighbourly judgement, and worst of all, sparsely populated cocktail parties and barren barbeques! **Tumbleweed.** To avoid the tumbleweed surging through your social life, we have put together a collection of creations from our favourite outdoor designers, and boy have these wicker-weaving geniuses been busy this winter. So if the varnish on your pool chairs is flaking like the skin on a holidaymaker's crimson-carcass, make sure you read on!



### Confused bed

The Poissonmobile from Confused Direction takes its form from the sushi mat and it's just about as compact. This incredible, ergonomic chaise longue will roll up to the size and shape of a beach mat, very handy for storage - and picnics.



### The Royal Botania E-Z chair

The hammock form has been reinterpreted many times over the years, from the traditional Mexican back-breaker to more modern frame-suspended concepts, but it's still a hammock! It's tough to find a place to tie one up without murdering saplings, more difficult to mount than a frisky polo-pony and sometimes just damn impossible to squeeze into any design strategy. This innovative little number from Royal Botania smoothly tackles all of the above. Not only does it solve these issues with elegance and comfort; this stylish hammock incorporates a soothing rocking chair mentality, so you can lay back and take it easy in the E-Z and rock yourself into a chic pool-side siesta.



### Extremis Icecube

Casting a cool atmospheric mood light across the dance floor while providing chilled drinks, the Icecube is without doubt the ultimate functional party lighting available. The ice filled polyethylene case allows guests to serve themselves, leaving plenty of time for the host or hostess to relax and enjoy the proceedings. For a change of ambience, just change the colour of the light bulb, or the strength of the alcoholic content.





### Wheelaxation

Why not bring recycling to the outdoors, the Tyred Chair by Play Design Ltd does just that. These reformed used-tyres should keep your little monkeys quiet, too.



### Extremis Bronco

How often have you got down to a perfect outdoor evening with friends, flawless in every aspect save the lack of a flickering flame or two? There is nothing like a camp fire to exaggerate story-telling and fill in the awkward blanks. Curiously however, local safety regulations prevent the stoking-up of crater camp fires; damn community killjoys! Designer Dirk Wynants obviously sympathised with the kind of pyro-party folk we are talking about, and, possibly influenced by 'Blazing Saddles' set about curing the ills of modern commune gatherings. The Corral, with its warming inner glow of comfort lighting creates a believable impression of the all-absent blaze, but here's the really neat bit. The Bronco chairs (that stack so precisely around Corral-like orange segments) are rotation moulded polyethylene horse saddles! The ergonomic horse saddle shape promotes a healthy spine-straightening posture, while the clever front-located tinny holder (doubled up with Bronco's leather carrying strap) promotes consumption and provides something to hang onto when things get a bit wild. Extremis have come up with a real winner here and delectably steer us into an irresistible age of rodeo revelry where shakin' a hoof will never be the same again. The design ain't all horns and rattles neither, no patio set has ever threatened to outlaw our restrained nocturnal conduct as much as Corral and Bronco. It'll have you grinnin' like a possum eatin' a yellow jacket.





#### **Out of sight, out of mind**

The B Chair from Lebello lends its form to the lethargic among us who shove magazines and food under the seat. A chair-rack with oodles of style, and plenty of sun-shade for cocktails.



#### **Bubble Swing Chair by Fletcher and Myburgh**

If you can afford one of these babies you've probably earned the right to a bit of repose. The Bubble Chair (£5,000) however, is extraordinarily unique; the eclectic circular cocoon shape intends to be the ultimate in relaxation. The artificial bubble form entices and soothes while a gentle swinging motion, provided by a convenient tree (Gratis), floats you off to slumber land. Fashioned in rings of stainless steel, the Bubble Swing Chair is a decadent daydream pod that will set any outdoor arrangement on fire.



#### **The Gehry Collection**

Celebrated architect Frank Gehry presents his cubic furniture collection. Moulded in silver resin, the spectacular flowing lines and sleek surfaces bring functional sculpture to the outdoors. This is about as good as it gets when it comes to innovation combined with styling, and no modernist infinity lap-pool should be without a set.



#### **Extremis Beehive**

Up to twelve of you can enjoy the comforts of this tree-camp for grown-ups. The Beehive is based on a system of tightly stretched fabric suspended 60cm above the ground. The spring-tensioned fabric is designed to adapt to your body shape ensuring maximum comfort, integrated lighting and soft side-cushions should keep you all firmly in place for the evening.





### B-Lux Lighting

Of course none of these stylish outdoor elements are any good after dark without the correct lighting. It would be a sin to spend your hard-earned bundles populating your patio, only to screw in a couple of naked bulbs or eye-singeing fluorescents. Spanish designers B-Lux seem to know what makes the difference between innovative illuminations and brash 'venta'-style tube-lighting. Their designs cast a comfortable footnote to any pool or patio theme, keeping the glow low, and capitalising on the stirring atmosphere of temperate outdoor evenings. Boletus is one of the more striking, a mushroom form with diffused light pouring out of the underside of the head and down through the stalk. Some of the lights incorporate seating which gives you an idea of the scale of these chic illuminations, but their award-winning Kanpazar lawn light perhaps brings the whole style-lighting concept into a new arena. The giant cone-shaped appearance of these oversized lawn lights articulate garden design, and like rows of glowing Cypress firs, embellish walkways and patios with a subtle flavour of diffused opulence.

What seems strangely compelling about outdoor furniture, and probably most outdoor design, is the fact that the pieces are assembled with intense relaxation in mind. A leisurely approach to the art of comfort that enhances our protracted outdoor season, dresses up our open-air facilities keeping us all firmly fixed in the healthy great outdoors, Mojito in hand, gleefully acknowledging the sunsets and hot summer nights that we once dreamed of in rainier climes. ✕



# Minimal outlay

## LET IT FLOW > Kyouei Design

THE QUIRKY ORIGINALITY OF JAPANESE CONCEPTION CULMINATES HERE IN THE MORE ABSTRACT OF MODERN DESIGN THEORY. THE NOTION IS SIMPLICITY MIXED WITH THE MINIMUM OF NECESSITY, AND KYOUEI — A WORD MEANING 'FLOURISH TOGETHER', SEEMS TO BE DOING EXACTLY THAT.



WORDS: **DAVE VICKERS** IMAGES: **COURTESY OF KYOUEI DESIGN**

Kyouei is one of the more 'out there' studios in our selection; designer Kouichi Okamoto is Japanese of course, and one of the more popular designers around. His odd-jects valiantly decorate the shelves of many an experimental designer-outlet worldwide. Things like the Balloon Lamp, and DVDs that boldly demote your precious HD-ready flat-screen into nothing but a 42-inch coloured-light emitting diode, are proving extremely popular on the elusive global design scene. The thought process is simple but ingenious; it seems everything has depth, a dual purpose. For instance, the rain residue that runs from your umbrella normally does nothing except create a mouldy wet patch on the carpet, but the minimalist Umbrella Pot trains it into a reservoir that hydrates a green tuft of vegetation at the pot base... smart, you'll be almost praying for rain. It wouldn't take a genius to work out that Kouichi (or someone in the team) may have had an unfortunate accident at some point; the conceptual 'Plaster Lamp' obviously comes from the result of some genius being restrained to a couch with a broken limb and a tad too much thinking time on his hands... The euphoria of eventual freedom resulting in this celebratory leg-cast lamp on a crutch-tripod and arm-pot mood-light hanging from a surgical sling. So next time someone offers to sign your plaster you can tell them where to get-off, considering it will eventually become an essential part of your domestic lighting philosophy. Whatever you may make of this curious approach to functional design, get used to it, Kyouei's ideas have a habit of catching on, in a big way! ✖



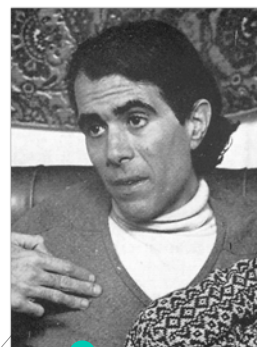
- 1| When this bulb pops, you'll know all about it — The Balloon Lamp.
- 2| Plaster casts a diffused light across the casualty of design conception.
- 3| A Honeycomb Lamp is not just for Christmas.
- 4| Umbrella Pot: rain residue gives life.
- 5| Designer Kouichi Okamoto.



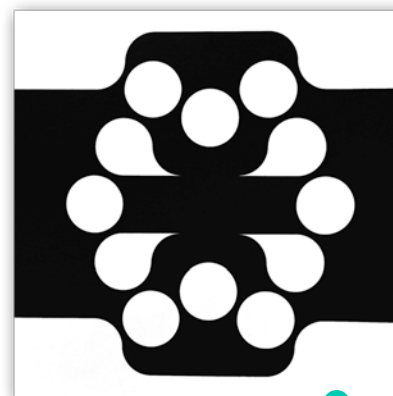
# The Appliance of Science

**MANUEL BARBADILLO** > GACMA, Málaga

"WHEN MY WORK WAS MORE DEVELOPED, I REALISED THAT ALONG WITH ART'S COLLECTIVE EVOLUTION, I HAD BEEN MAKING, ON MY OWN, THE WAY TO CYBERNETICS. OR, RATHER, TO A CYBERNETIC VISION OF THE WORLD." – MANUEL BARBADILLO.



2



3

1 | **Zojar**, (Manuel Barbadillo). Acrylic on canvas, 92 x 92cm, 1984

2 | **The artist**, Manuel Barbadillo

3 | **Izane**, (Manuel Barbadillo). Acrylic on canvas, 100 x 100cm, 1974/1984.

A pioneer and master of cybernetic art, whose paintings have been showcased around the world, Málaga's Gacma is currently hosting a major retrospective of some thirty works created by Andalusian artist Manuel Barbadillo and spanning three decades. When Barbadillo first began to investigate the artistic possibilities of information technology, computers were pretty much in their infancy; huge, unwieldy and intimidating machines that ran on vacuum tubes and occupied an entire room. First meticulously sketching his modular geometric repetitions on graph paper before committing them to canvas, 1968 – the year that the Sevilla-born artist became a member of the Calculus Center at Madrid's Complutense University – marked a turning point in his career. Later, with his own computer installed at home and the assistance of a neighbouring programmer, he immersed himself in applying art to computer science, and was hugely instrumental to the creation of a whole new genre. With a palette almost exclusively comprised of black or dark brown and white, Barbadillo's signature works evolved over the decades from the repetition of a single 'U'-shaped module to highly complex compositions based on ten modules and a geometry dominated by circles. Born in Cazalla de la Sierra in 1929, the retrospective is a tribute to one of Andalucía's most influential of artists who passed away in Torremolinos in 2003. The Exhibition runs until August 15th. ✕

WORDS: **CAROLYN MELIAN** IMAGES: **CURRO GRANADOS / COURTESY OF GACMA**

# ARKANGEL

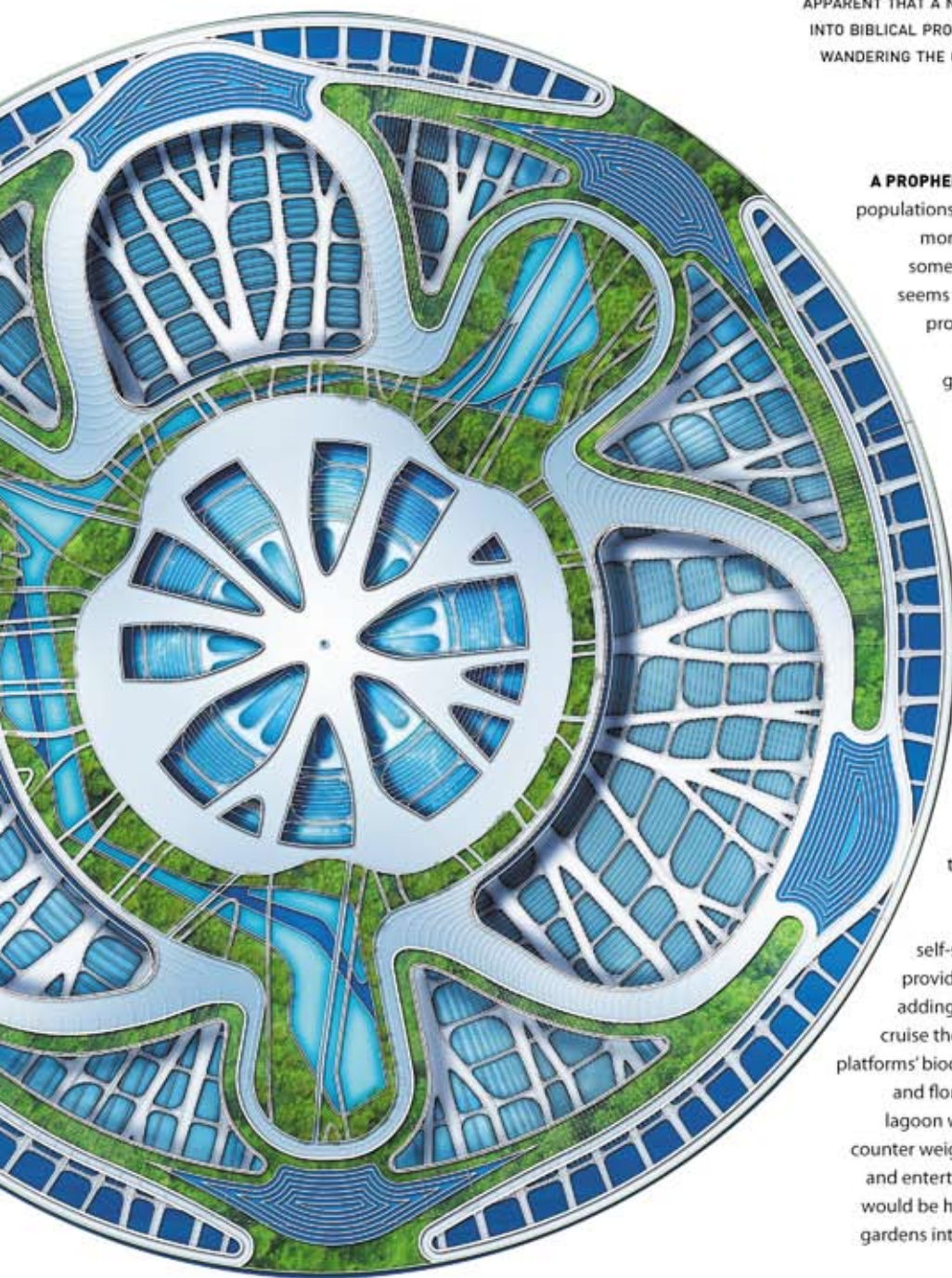
## LILYPAD > Vincent Callebaut Architectures

WITH OCEANS SWELLING AND POISED TO RISE AT AN ALARMING RATE, IT BECOMES APPARENT THAT A NEW PROBLEM – ONE OF HUMAN DISPLACEMENT – COULD ERUPT INTO BIBLICAL PROPORTIONS. A FLEET OF SUPER-SIZED NOMADIC ECO LIFE-RAFTS WANDERING THE CURRENTS MAY SEEM FAR-FETCHED, BUT PERHAPS MUCH MORE ESSENTIAL THAN YOU'D PREFER TO BELIEVE.

**A PROPHECY.** In a catastrophic twist of fate, it does appear that as global populations swell, the land mass that we inhabit (and inherently will need more of) will slowly decrease. Perhaps the world is trying to tell us something, with sea levels rising and low-lying regions drowning, it seems the famous biblical fable of Noah's Ark may actually become a prophecy. Vincent Callebaut would make a fitting Noah character in the modern-day sequel to this disaster story; he has generously volunteered to take on the angelic role as protector of the species, and perhaps millions of climatic refugees in the future will thank him for doing so.

**WATER RISING.** The number-crunchers who predict our impending return to the waves say that a temperature elevation of just 1°C will lead to a one metre rise in sea levels. This first metre (yes, there's more) would affect up to 50 million people in low-lying developing countries causing mass ecological exodus, the invasion of salt water would devastate local ecosystems. The second metre... well that's a different story – up to 9 per cent of the world's land mass would be lost to the oceans with a human displacement somewhere in the order of 250 million.

**ECOPOLIS.** It makes complete sense then to think of a seaborne solution, a self-sustaining floating metropolis riding the ecological storm while providing invaluable living space to the displaced. Callebaut's Lilypad concept does just that. Described as a floating Ecopolis, Lilypad would be a self-sustaining, life-giving Ark for up to 50,000 ecological refugees, providing food, water, power and oxygen to the inhabitants without adding to the world's climatic woes. These Nomadic eco-cities would cruise the oceans, searching out climatic conditions that best serve the platforms' biodiversity, something that will allow the natural on-board fauna and flora to flourish, and in turn feed the occupants. The huge central lagoon would collect and purify rain water; partly submerged it would counter weight the three on-board mountain structures (containing shops and entertainment facilities) and successfully ballast the city. Inhabitants would be housed in planted eco-homes located within frame-suspended gardens interconnected by a network of green-streets and eco-alley ways.







The harvesting of solar, wind and wave energy would power the island, and, run in tandem with efficient waste and CO2 recycling, would afford Lilypad an impressive - positive energy - balance with zero carbon emissions.

**A REAL SOLUTION.** So, apart from the possibility of mutiny, Lilypad seems to have the whole nomadic eco-island thing sewn-up. As a solution to the ensuing problems caused by global warming (and by not adding to them), Callebaut certainly has a winner here. The fact that it is a solution, and not a temporary billion dollar 'thumb in the dyke' type operation, is perhaps its strongest point, ensuring that this dramatic, life saving form of Aquaculture could really be part of our future. ✕

> project	Lilypad concept
> location	Nomadic, ocean faring
> function	Habitat for climatic refugees
> architect	Vincent Callebaut Architectures
> fuel	Renewable energies
> date	Prototype - estimated 2100
> population	50,000
> surface area	500,000 m <sup>2</sup>
> materials	Polyester fibre and titanium dioxide double skin



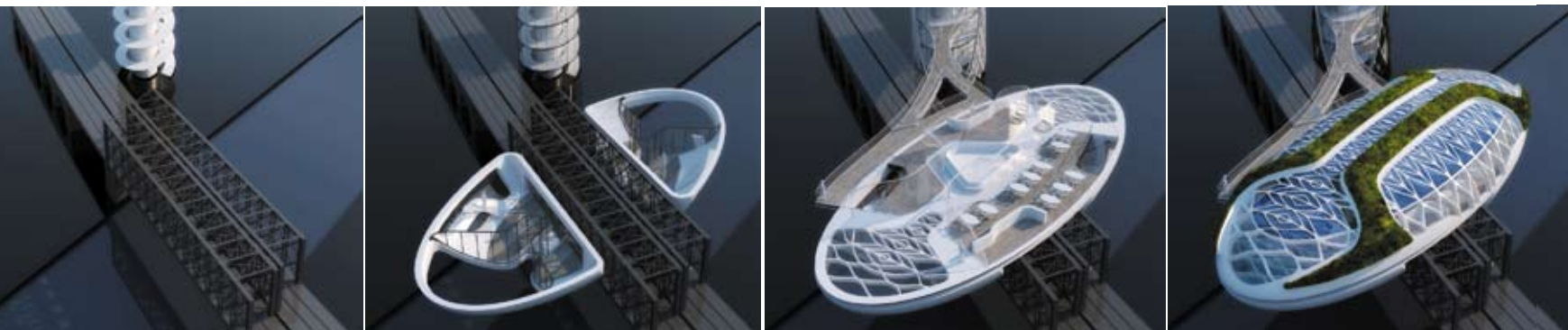
# BREATH OF FRESH AIR

**With the intrepid Lilypad concept providing a solution to the more concerning symptoms of global warming, how about tackling the causes? While some architects are content with creating completely sustainable buildings – not that there’s anything wrong with that, in fact, we’re entirely committed to it – it is French architect Vincent Callebaut’s dream to create completely sustainable cities.**

Naturally, he’s starting his seriously ambitious project in his home country of France, with a spaceship-like design that’s set to hover ominously over the Canal de l’Ourcq in Paris. To comprise public galleries, meeting rooms and gathering spaces, Callebaut’s Anti-Smog: An Innovation Centre will help spring-clean the capital’s air and act as a catalyst for similar buildings to crop up in other cities. The structure – which will also sit over unused railroad tracks – will produce most of its own energy and water, with 2,700-square-foot of solar panels, rainwater collected on the rooftop, and a 148-foot Wind

Tower that will transfer canal breezes into useable energy. The cleverest bit, however, has to be the structure’s surface, which is coated with titanium oxide. Called the Solar Drop, UV rays from the sun will react with the coating and break down smog in a process called photo-catalysm. In the words of Callebaut himself, the centre will be “a self-sufficient dépolluante”. Making use of an otherwise redundant urban space in a visually and environmentally engaging way, we think Callebaut’s project might actually have the power to draw the world’s attention away from the Eiffel Tower for once.

**Photos below, Plans for the Solar Drop:** 1 | Located on both sides of the rail bridge of the Canal de l’Ourcq 2 | A double entrance links to the foot bridge 3 | The second level of the Drop has a pathway to the tower and also contains an exhibition and function room built around a central garden, a phyto-purified aquatic lagoon 4 | The thermo regulating solar roof is planted with greenery





**Photo top:** The Solar Drop and Wind Tower illuminated at night. **Photo bottom left:** The cafeteria in the Solar Drop. **Photo bottom right:** Image depicts the glass floors on the bottom of the Drop, which create the illusion of walking over the water.







# On the street with garbitecture

## RECLAIM ARCHITECTURE > Refunc Design

STEPTOE AND SON EAT YOUR HEART OUT; REFUNC HAVE TAKEN THE ART OF GARBAGE COLLECTION, SPIDGING, RAG 'N' BONING — WHATEVER YOU WANT TO CALL IT — AND TURNED IT INTO CARBON-NEUTRAL CONSTRUCTION AND DESIGN.



- 1| Denis Oudendijk & Jan Körbes tread carefully.
- 2| The all-season Maisongomme – an eco-shed.
- 3| Return of the Fridges, a chilling view.
- 4| Various versions of 'Pimp my Bin'.



Giant scorpions from used car tyres, interactive walls made of old fridges, suitcase bridge-seats, pimp my bin, capsule hotels, dynamic letter fencing and some other cool stuff we just can't really get our heads around; it has to come from the Netherlands! And so it does; Refunc are from The Hague, or somewhere there about, and are a bunch of talented architects/designers who concluded that (considering what we as a race generally throw away) all the use of brand new materials in construction is criminal. So, they decided to bring the chic back into rag and boning. This internationally eclectic mix of creative Steptoes see no shame in garbage hunting excursions – nor should they – some of the old gear they come across is outstanding, and if it isn't, they certainly have a good go at making it so. Garbage-architecture, or 'garbitecture' as we call it, is an up and coming trend in the Benelux regions, and though things do tend to look a bit rough round the edges at times, is a very cool concept that our precious planet would dearly love a bit more of. Anyway, besides Dj pods and bass-woofers skilfully wedged into retired wheelie bins, and mini-hotels moulded from naval ship escape pods, Refunc seem smart enough to apply their heroic design skills to a more pragmatic market of home refurbs and funky shop fits; each and every one with its own novel twist on traditional design and of course, extremely planet friendly. A number of these now internationally received projects are conceived from up to 90 per cent of reclaimed materials, found around the streets or donated by kindly (though perhaps slightly guilty) farmers and tyre companies. In the eyes of Refunc, design should be "Simple, honest, functional and useful, a clever use of material with definitely more than one life-cycle." \_\_\_\_\_ It seems the Dutch have a lot more to teach us than just boudoir-boulevards and THC tolerance! ✕

WORDS: DAVE VICKERS IMAGES: COURTESY OF JAN KÖRBES



# Iconic designs built in stunning locations

## The Mirage



A highly unique, contemporary villa to be built in La Quinta with fabulous views over the golf course and towards the La Concha mountain.

State-of-the-art design incorporates sustainability features that reduce the carbon footprint to practically zero, but by no means has the design element of the building been forfeited over ecological function.

Upon approach, a 'floating' glass walkway runs to the entrance of a double height glass atrium enjoying stunning 180° views and comprising the main living room, dining room and kitchen, two terraces, swimming pool plus separate guest accommodation situated at the far end of the plot.

The luminous main living area hovers above a 'mirage' of water which appears to merge with the swimming pool but is in fact part of the cooling system. Complemented by solar panelling, smart glass technology, geo-thermal heating systems and water management processes, waste and running costs are reduced to an almost self-sufficient level.

Stairs lead down to a lower level housing three bedrooms, two bathrooms, a master suite, TV room, family living room and an en-suite study. This is a strikingly original home packed with a wealth of design and sustainability features epitomising 21st century luxury living.

Build 650 m<sup>2</sup> on a 3125 m<sup>2</sup> plot

For more information call Amanda on **+34 951 260 041**

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[www.blueprint-unique.com](http://www.blueprint-unique.com)

# CANNY INITIATIVE

WORDS: CAROLYN MELIAN

IMAGES: COURTESY OF COCA-COLA GREAT BRITAIN / TRIMEDIA UK

## COCA-COLA > Raising Recycle Week Awareness

IN THE UK, WHERE IF EVERY CITIZEN WERE TO RECYCLE JUST ONE MORE ALUMINIUM DRINKS CAN, 9,000 TONNES OF CO<sub>2</sub> – EQUIVALENT TO TAKING 2,848 CARS OFF THE ROAD – WOULD BE SAVED. FOUR ICONIC SCULPTURES COMMISSIONED BY COCA-COLA WERE RECENTLY UNVEILED IN A BID TO ENCOURAGE MORE CONSUMERS TO RECYCLE THEIR SOFT DRINKS PACKAGING.

Using Coca-Cola, diet Coke and Coke Zero cans, replicas of London's famous Big Ben Clock Tower, Bristol's Clifton Suspension Bridge, Gateshead's Angel of the North and the Birmingham Bullring Bull were spectacularly designed and recreated respectively by British sculptors Robert Bradford, Stuart Murdoch, Sam McGeever and Pamina Stewart. True works of art, the Big Ben 'double' stands six metres tall, while the scaled-down reproduction of Antony Gormley's landmark Angel was fashioned from 10,000 miniature Coke cans. \_\_\_\_\_ But although Recycle Week has come to a close, it's certainly not the end of the line for these four enigmatic sculptures because in order to spread the word to a wider audience they will be displayed at various public exhibitions around the country. Then, the medium being the message, they will of course themselves eventually be recycled. Meanwhile, in partnership with WRAP – the Oxfordshire-based Waste & Resources Action Programme – Coca-Cola, who claim that over 90 per cent of the waste produced at their manufacturing sites is now recycled with only 10 per cent going to Landfill, have just announced plans to create 80 Recycling Zones across the UK over the next three years.

### RECYCLING FACTS

- > One recycled aluminium can saves enough energy to run a TV set for 3 hours.
- > Recycling one plastic bottle saves enough energy to power a 60W light bulb for 6 hours.
- > Recycling aluminium requires only 5 per cent of the energy it takes to make new aluminium, and produces only 5 per cent of the CO<sub>2</sub> emissions
- > In the UK, £36 million worth of aluminium drinks cans are thrown away each year.





# SUMMER MADNESS

## ALTERNATIVE GAMES TO GET YOU MOVING

WORDS: DAVE VICKERS

The popular virtual home-gym known as the Wii Fit, though certified as actually 'good for you', does tend to keep you firmly planted in the wild indoors. Though millions would argue, let's face it; we need to enjoy the great open stretches beyond the living room and despite Wii golf having realistic wind speed properties and water traps, there is no substitute for all that beautiful fresh air rushing through your lungs. To tempt you away from the plasma screen, we have taken it upon ourselves to provide some exciting new sporting bait – cutting-edge stuff that blows your poncey theatrical football and frumpy fishing out of the water. Summer will never be the same again with the Modern Design Alternative Sporting Pursuit Inventory. Hope you're feeling adventurous.



Chessboxing. Photo: Sascha Pohflepp

### CHESSBOXING

Kasparov meets Tyson in the latest hybrid sport to hit the streets; Chessboxing. The sport consists of two opponents playing alternating rounds of chess and boxing. Basically, if you can't pound your opponent against the ropes or jab him out, you can let your bishop do the talking in the next round. A contest consists of 11 rounds, six of speed chess and five of boxing. There is a one-minute pause between rounds for the players to get their gloves on and off and the contest can be decided by a KO (boxing round) or a checkmate (chess round). Though we've never really met any academic hard-nuts, this brains or brawn mega-tussle is becoming hugely popular, already massive in Russia and taking off in a big way in the States, so they must be out there.

[www.site.wcbo.org](http://www.site.wcbo.org)



### BOSSABALL

Bossaball is the way to go and it's happening on a beach near you! This spanking new beach pursuit is a cross between beach volleyball and a visit to the bouncy castle. Sorry kids, bouncy castle is just a strap line, you best keep away because the Bossaball league is damn serious, as are the toned, oiled-up fitness freaks that play it. Realistically, Bossaball combines skills from volleyball, football and gymnastics, the court is a combination of inflatables and trampolines divided by a net. This unusual blend provides players with a good and proper vascular hammering while observers have plenty to gawk at – any loose bikini item will certainly fall foul to the forces of gravity.

[www.bossaball.com](http://www.bossaball.com)



Extreme Ironing on Mountain. Photo: Robert Goldberg

### EXTREME IRONING

We do have reports that extreme ironing is not that new, but we thought it best brought to your attention. Not so long ago, some lunatic decided to take an ironing board, iron and of course a shirt to a dangerous icy peak in the Alps somewhere. The photographic evidence of this strange achievement was splashed all over the Internet and sparked off a sporting phenomenon. Now, organised groups of lunatics take their dowdy domestic chore to the most lethal outer reaches of extreme sport territories and snap themselves taking the creases out of their favourite garments – on say a rocky outcrop, under the perilous flow of Angel Falls, while land-kite bugging and the most strange of all, scuba ironing. We might all be stupid but there's no way a steam iron is going to work its best at 35 metres below the surface, the ruffling would be catastrophic!

[www.extremeironing.com](http://www.extremeironing.com)



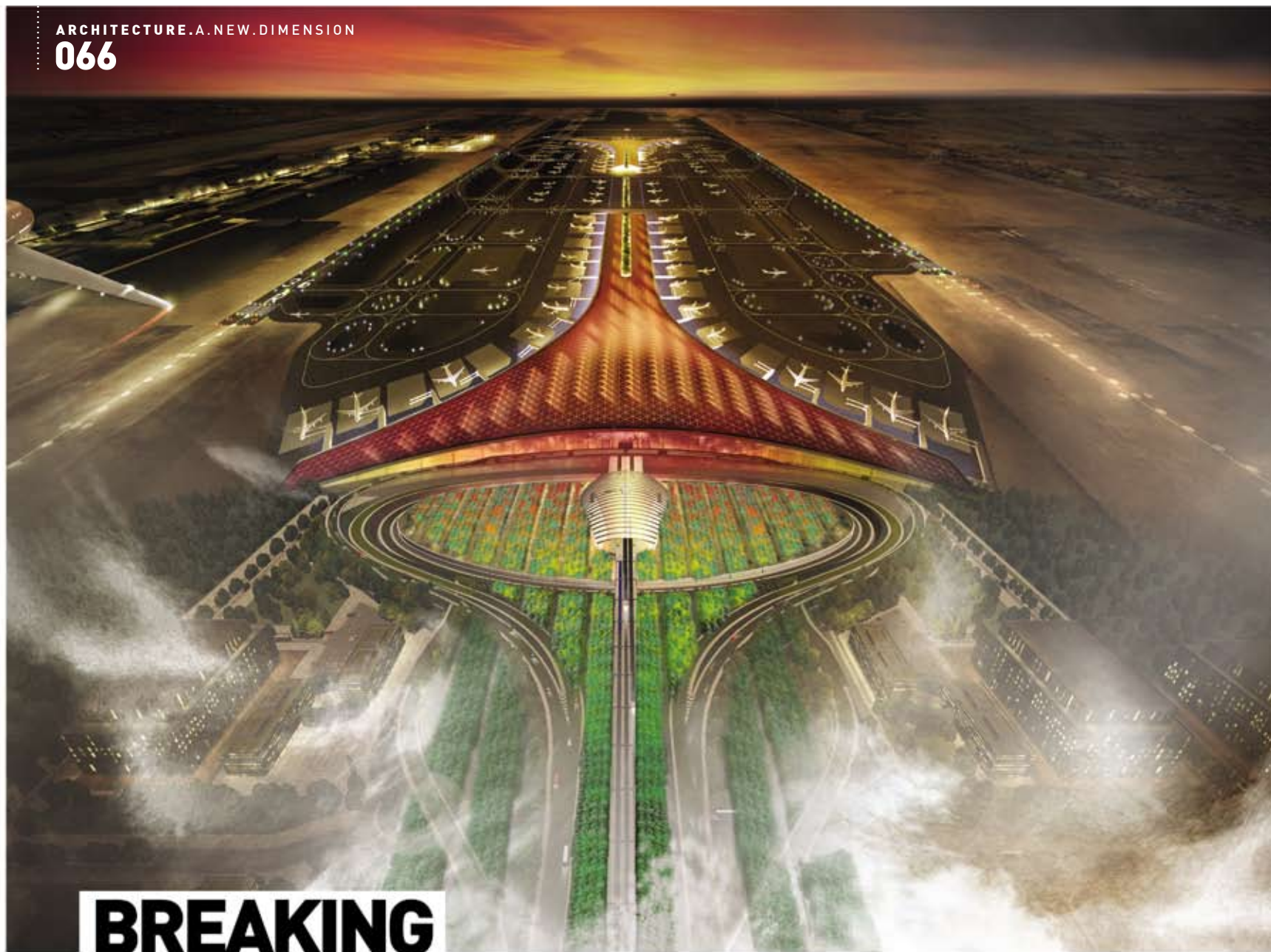
Design by Alice Kaiserswerth. Image: Sina Chojnacki.

### URBAN CROQUET

Break out the Pimms, Urban Croquet is on a street corner near you. This strangely appealing permutation of the aristocratic lawn game can and will go anywhere; industrial estates, shopping centres, tenement underpasses – even passing the time in a benefits queue outside the social. Now that it's gone all downtown and street bound, Croquet knows no restrictions, though certain gang territories might be off limits, still the mallet would come in handy in that case. This is one sport where fashion is everything, and Urban Croquet provides its very own, whiter than white street wear – just in case you feel like you don't stick out like a sore thumb playing a toffy ball game in a municipal car park.

[www.a-kaiserswerth.com](http://www.a-kaiserswerth.com)





# BREAKING THE BARRIER

WORDS: CAROLYN MELIAN IMAGES: COURTESY OF NIGEL YOUNG / FOSTER + PARTNERS

## TERMINAL 3, BEIJING CAPITAL INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT > Foster + Partners

STRETCHING A MIND-NUMBING 3.25 KILOMETRES FROM NORTH TO SOUTH, AND WITH A FLOORSPACE 17 PER CENT GREATER THAN THAT OF ALL FIVE HEATHROW TERMINALS COMBINED, FOSTER + PARTNERS' TERMINAL 3 AT BEIJING CAPITAL INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT IS THE LARGEST BUILDING ON EARTH. NOT ONLY DID IT OPEN AHEAD OF SCHEDULE, BUT ASTONISHINGLY THE ENTIRE PROJECT TOOK ONLY A LITTLE MORE THAN FOUR YEARS FROM START TO FINISH. WITH A FLOOR AREA OF AROUND 1.3 MILLION SQUARE METRES – VIRTUALLY ALL UNDER ONE ROOF – IT'S THE FIRST BUILDING TO BREAK THE ONE MILLION SQUARE METRE BARRIER, AND THE MOST ADVANCED AIRPORT IN THE WORLD.





> project	Beijing Capital International Airport
> location	Beijing, China
> client	Beijing Capital International Airport Company Ltd
> architect	Foster + Partners
> consultants	Arup, Davis Langdon, Michel Desvigne, Speirs & Major, BIAD, BNP Associates Inc., Design Solutions, Logplan GmbH, NACO, Reef UK
> date	2003>2008
> area	1.3 million m <sup>2</sup>

**THE CONCEPT.** Designed to be both welcoming and uplifting, the building is borne of its context and communicates a uniquely Chinese sense of place. The soaring aerodynamic roof and its dragon-like form celebrate the thrill and poetry of flight. Inside, the distinctive ranks of red columns marching into the far distance are evocative of time-honoured Chinese temples, while the 16-tone colour palette – which starting with red at the entrance gradually moves through orange before finally merging into yellow at the far end – in addition to having been chosen for its traditionally Chinese hues, makes it easy for passengers to find their way around in such a vast building by subtly breaking down its huge scale. The gold roof of course conjures up images of the Forbidden City, while the shape of the structure, with its broad head, long tail and scale-like vents, is a modern-day reincarnation of China's iconic, fire-breathing mythical monster.

**LOGISTICS.** “The Beijing Terminal moved very fast indeed,” Lord Foster explains. “We received confirmation that we had won the competition in mid-November 2003; by the end of that month we

had mobilised thirty-eight staff in London, and set up an office of eleven in Beijing. Over the next four months the team completed something like 2,500 design drawings.” During the most labour intensive phase of construction there were no fewer than 50,000 workers on site while the project involved a staggering 10,600,000 cubic metres of earthworks. Add to the equation the 19,488 foundation piles; 200,000 tonnes of reinforcement; 800,000 cubic metres of concrete; the 18,950 tonnes of steel that forms the roof and the 26,850 tonnes of steel columns that support it; and you get some idea of the sheer magnitude of this colossal undertaking. Yet even allowing for the mammoth task of relocating the ten entire villages that the scheme entailed, Terminal 3 and its associated Ground Transportation Centre was inaugurated in February 2008, well ahead of the twenty-ninth Olympiad and the major role it will play as the gateway to Beijing for athletes, world dignitaries and the international media alike. To put the overall time-scale into perspective, the whole project took less time to complete than it did to organise and

conduct the public enquiry into the proposals for Heathrow's Terminal 5!

**SUSTAINABILITY.** But as well as being the biggest, most advanced and user-friendly airport capable of handling up to 60 million passengers annually, the Terminal is also one of the world's most eco-friendly, incorporating a raft of passive environmental design concepts including skylights orientated to the southeast to maximise heat gain from the early morning sun, while in order to minimise energy consumption and carbon emissions, it additionally features an integrated environment-control system. ✖

“THE AWESOME PACE OF THIS PROJECT HAS BEEN MORE ABOUT THE INTELLIGENT DEPLOYMENT, MANAGEMENT AND ORGANISATION OF RESOURCES RATHER THAN THE QUANTITY OF THOSE RESOURCES.”

"DEMONSTRATING IN A STUNNING WAY, HOW THE **DELIBERATE MORPHING OF MOLECULAR SCIENCE, ARCHITECTURE AND PHENOMENOLOGY** CAN CREATE AN AIRY AND MISTY ATMOSPHERE FOR A PERSONAL EXPERIENCE OF WATER LEISURE"

# BUBBUL RAPT

WORDS: CAROLYN MELIÁN

## WATER CUBE > PTW in association with CSCEC & Arup

COMBINING ALL THE SYMBOLISM OF THE EQUILATERAL RECTANGLE – THE FUNDAMENTAL SHAPE OF THE HOUSE INHERENT TO CHINESE TRADITION AND MYTHOLOGY – WITH THE NATURAL STRUCTURE OF SOAP BUBBLES TRANSLATED INTO ARCHITECTURAL FORM, THE WATER CUBE HAS BEEN HAILED AS THE SHOWPIECE OF THE BEIJING OLYMPICS; AND EVERY INCH AS VISUALLY STRIKING AS IT IS ECOLOGICALLY FRIENDLY AND ENERGY EFFICIENT.





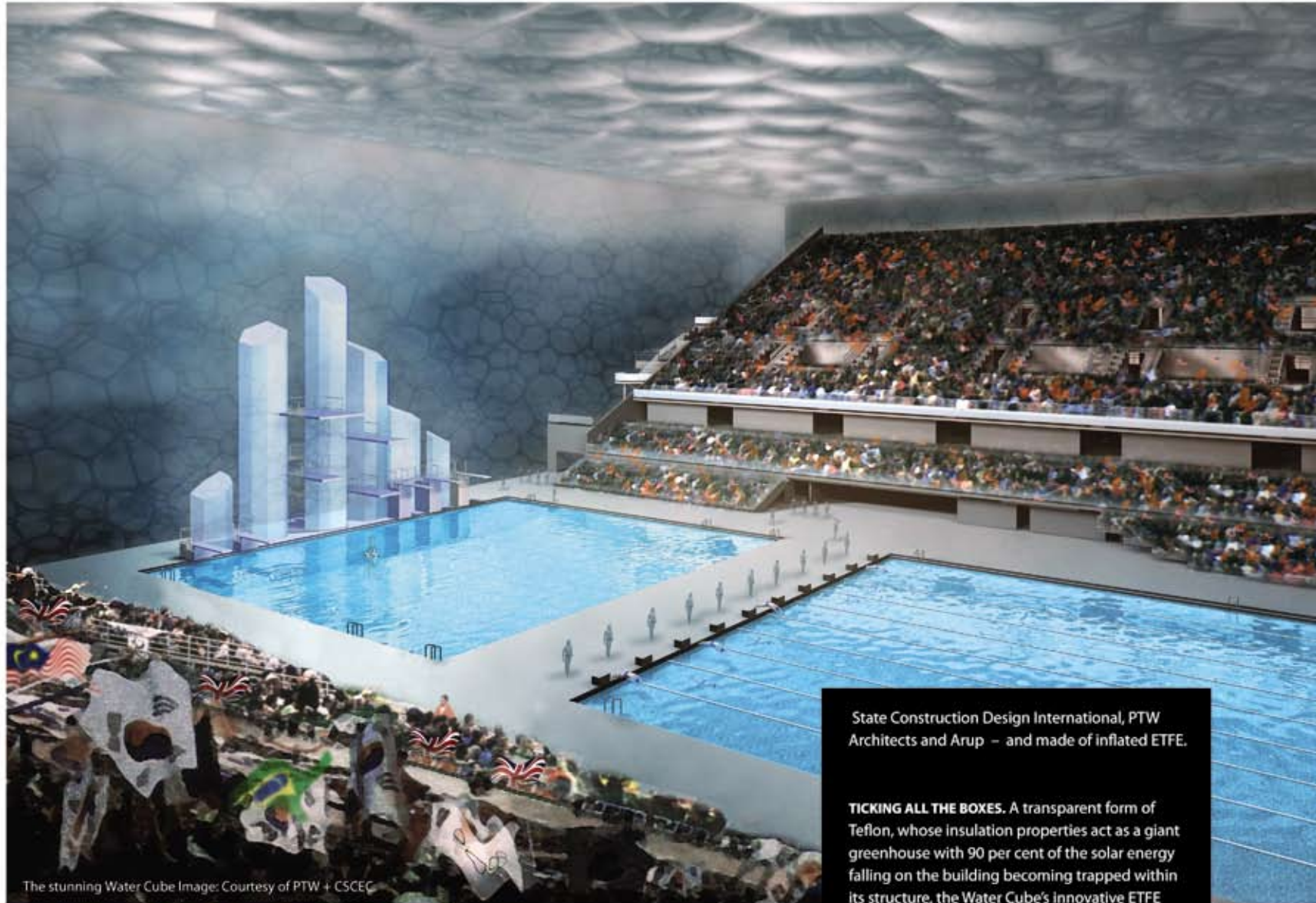


- > **project** The National Swimming Centre (Water Cube) for the Beijing Olympic Games
- > **location** Beijing Olympic Green, Beijing, China
- > **client** People's Government of Beijing Municipality, Beijing State-owned Assets Management Co. Ltd
- > **architect** PTW Architects in association with CSCEC and Arup
- > **date** 2003 → 2007
- > **area** 70,000 m<sup>2</sup>
- > **capacity** 17,000 spectators
- > **awards** 2004 Venice Biennale – Award for most accomplished work – Atmosphere section; Popular Science Magazine's 2006 'Best of What's New' Award – Engineering Category



Yin and Yang: Water Cube and Herzog de Meuron's 'Bird's Nest' Olympic Stadium. Image: Courtesy of PTW + CSCEC.





The stunning Water Cube Image: Courtesy of PTW + CSCEC

State Construction Design International, PTW Architects and Arup – and made of inflated ETFE.

**TICKING ALL THE BOXES.** A transparent form of Teflon, whose insulation properties act as a giant greenhouse with 90 per cent of the solar energy falling on the building becoming trapped within its structure, the Water Cube's innovative ETFE cladding makes excellent use of natural daylight, harnessing the sun's energy to passively heat the interior of the building as well as the pool water, reducing conventional consumption of the leisure pool hall by an estimated 30 per cent and cutting lighting bills by up to 55 per cent. In Northern China, H2O is a particularly precious commodity and its conservation is central to the Water Cube ethos. So to reduce the reliance and pressures on local receiving waters, and district water and sewerage systems, the project seeks to reuse or recycle 80 per cent of the valuable liquid harvested from the rooftop rain catchment areas, pool backwash systems and overland flows. And while at first glance the bubble design may seem less robust than a more traditional structure, it is in fact so strong that the entire building could be stood on its end and still retain its shape and integrity. Perhaps not surprisingly the Water Cube project was singled out for praise at the 2004 Venice Biennale for "demonstrating in a stunning way, how the deliberate morphing of molecular science, architecture and phenomenology can create an airy and misty atmosphere for a personal experience of water leisure". ✕

**THE CHALLENGE.** An ambitious design project involving 22,000 steel beams which, if laid end-to-end would stretch 90 kilometres, the creators of the Water Cube had more than their fair share of challenges to contend with. Meeting Beijing's seismic design requirements was paramount, and as a long span roof structure expends much of its strength purely holding itself up, self-weight was a critical factor, too. In addition to which, the scheme would also have to meet international competition standards while maximising social and economic benefits. In other words, once Beijing's Olympic flame has been extinguished, the National Swimming Centre will have to earn its own keep as a public multifunctional leisure and fitness facility. On top of all that, the Beijing Games having been billed as the 'Green Olympics', sustainability also figured prominently on the wish-list, not only because indoor swimming pools are notoriously heat-driven but in drought-prone regions, optimum water conservation was also a key consideration.

**BORROWING FROM PHYSICS.** Thinking outside the box, the first question for the Chinese, Australian and European architects and engineers responsible for the project was, "How does structure fill space?" Because unlike traditional stadium structures with their enormous columns and beams, cables and spans to which a façade system is applied, the Water Cube's architectural space, structure and façade would all be united in one single element; the structure being based on the most effective sub-division of three-dimensional space with equally-sized cells – the cardinal arrangement of organic cells and the natural formation of soap bubbles. The answer to the design team's next question, "In a continuous array of soap bubbles, what form would the bubbles take?", had been partially arrived at by Victorian physicist Lord Kelvin at the end of the 19th century, and expanded on by Weaire and Phelan, both Professors of Physics at Trinity College, Dublin, some 100 years later; and is the basis of Water Cube's unique lightweight construction – developed by China



IN THE RUN-UP TO THE BEIJING OLYMPICS, NO SUBJECT HAS MADE MORE BACK PAGE READING THAN THE PLIGHT OF BELOW-THE-KNEE AMPUTEE-ATHLETE, OSCAR PISTORIUS. FOR YEARS HE HAS BEEN DESTROYING PARALYMPICS TRACK RECORDS, SHAVING WHOLE SECONDS OFF ALREADY IMPRESSIVE RUNNING TRACK TIMES.

Blade Runner; team Ossur member Oscar Pistorius

Cheetah Flex-foot

## FAIR PLAY OR CHEETAH?

WORDS: DAVE VICKERS IMAGES: COURTESY OF WWW.OSSUR.COM

These days Oscar, the nemesis of supposedly more restricted single amputee athletes, wants to compete with the big guns at Beijing, and after months of campaigning and appeals, he won the right to do so this spring. Oscar was born missing the Fibula from both legs, and after an agonising decision, his parents decided that amputation and a life of prosthetics would be better for him than being restricted to a wheelchair. His lower legs were amputated when he was just eleven months old. \_\_\_\_\_ It is the advanced technology of those prosthetics and sheer bloody-minded triumph that have projected Pistorius to the heights of controversial recognition that he has reached. He's just a normal guy - but below the knee - the addition of the Cheetah Flex-Foot carbon-fibre running prosthetics gives him a menacing demeanour, something you'd relate to the set of *I Robot* rather than at a 400 metre track event. It's a menace that has penetrated the psyche of fully able-bodied athletes, many wondering if the notorious snip-snip sound of the Cheetah blades rallying behind them and getting louder might put them off their stride. However, despite the advanced technology (riding the Cheetah is apparently akin to driving The BMW 'M' class), Oscar is adamant he is not punching below the belt - and perhaps he's been proved correct. The qualification time for the 400 metre event of 45.55 seconds has so far eluded the runner, and he's now left with only one more chance to make it. Openly admitted by Oscar's trainer, there are a few problems, mainly the fact that the runner's stride is lengthy, leaving him airborne for too long and losing him essential power. However, 2012 looms large for the South African athlete and he's plenty of time to hit the 'M' button, lower his suspension and perfect his relationship with the radical limb extensions. For now, thanks to the decision by the Court of Arbitration for Sport to overturn the ban on carbon-fibre prosthetic limbs, he and many others like him have a very fair chance of Olympic participation, and who knows, perhaps the glory and immortality that comes with it. ✕



## Slick Design

> Oil spill siege bots by Ji-hoon Kim

Oil spills are without doubt a devastating environmental slip-up that we just can't afford anymore. Inevitably it will happen again, though next time, let's hope these environmental bots get involved. Dropped like a battalion of depth-charges from the carrier, these solar-powered bots will communicate, unite and form a common front against the offending spill. Once connected, they deploy an inflatable barrier that contains the slick, isolating it and keeping it well out of harm's way while the clean-up teams come in and manage a more controlled disaster with much less of an impact on marine and coastal birdlife.

[www.gadgets-reviews.com/osp-robot.html](http://www.gadgets-reviews.com/osp-robot.html)



## R2D2 joins the club

> Robotic Caddy by Shadow Caddy

Plant a transponder in your pocket and this ingenious robo-caddy will follow you everywhere like a faithful puppy. Okay, it won't give you any shot advice or hold the pin on long putts, but then again, neither will it need any fizzy drinks, beer or make silly golf-gags about sandwiches. With the hands-free Shadow Caddy liberating you of heavy clubs, you can relax right into the round, and, with a touch of robo-etiquette, it'll even keep a polite distance while you make shots.

[www.shadowcaddy.com](http://www.shadowcaddy.com)



## Desert Buddy

> ERSA solar-powered survival kit concept

The problem with jumping in your Ute and going dune dodging in the Outback is water. If you get stranded, you can frazzle up pretty quickly. ERSA tackles the growing problem of desert dehydration by employing ground-breaking technologies that can grab moisture from the air to generate water. As a by-product, the solar-powered unit can charge-up your GPS and communication devices and also trickle charge the car battery. ERSA is specifically designed (by students) for intrepid 4WD users with a bit of a screw loose and, if produced, should save a fortune on rescue chopper costs.

[www.student.designawards.com](http://www.student.designawards.com)





## Mask the effects

> Digital escapism mask from frogConcept

No, this isn't a motor-cross mask from the year 2050. The device is a virtual-reality mask, sadly intended to remove a decrepit, worn out, eco-damaged planet-of-the-future from our awareness. Once our apparent eco-Armageddon has struck, mankind will feel a touch depressed by his wrongdoings. To save it all being too much of a downer, the mask would scrub out our dishevelled environs and replace them with visuals of virtual spring-blossomed hillsides. More essentially, the then poisoned atmosphere would be filtered and converted to a mountain-fresh air supply for the user. Although damn cool-looking, let's hope we never have to use this alarming concept.

coming soon



## Splash out?

> The world's first underwater video camera by Sanyo

Underwater filming is so much fun; millions of aspiring Cousteaus would love a bash at making a family version of 'The Deep'. Sanyo realise this of course and have launched the Xacti VPC-CA65 underwater DVD cam. Okay, 1.5 metres isn't what we'd call the deep by any means, but it's far down enough for a start, and the simple one-hand operating system should leave you with enough spare cerebral function to remember to hold your breath. The pistol-grip cam is tiny in comparison to other underwater cams and is free of cumbersome underwater casing, so John Carpenter watch out, this 'thing' delivers full DVD quality movies and punches out impressive 6megapixel stills.

[www.sanyo.co.uk](http://www.sanyo.co.uk)

## Giga-Goggles

> Oakley Mp3 Sunnies

As far as the concept of hybrid Mp3/sunglasses goes, things so far have been pretty messy. Oakley, however, seem to have a winning combo with the Thump; these goggles actually look like shades, act like shades and at the same time deliver a decent bass-thumping vibe that'll get you bouncing through your pump turns. The anti-slip glasses are 100% UV protective and include anti-glare, the music player has a reasonable seven-hour battery life and enough storage to get you through at least a few Meat Loaf albums, now that is impressive – though the price 'took the words right out of my mouth' a bit! Ouch!

[www.oakley.com/pd/5219](http://www.oakley.com/pd/5219)



## Talk to the Hand

> Drivemocion emotive expressionism

This morning on my way to work, some dude in a Golf was so close up my tailpipe I felt like handing him the keys so he could get in my boot, obviously he needed a lend of my spare wheel or something. Well watch out buddy, I bought one of these and trust me, next time I can see your face follicles in my rear view you're gonna get the finger, big time! Not that I suffer from road rage or anything, but this in-car emotion gadget works way better than my 'baby on board' sign.

[www.drivemocion.com](http://www.drivemocion.com)



WORDS: DAVE VICKERS

PHOTOS: COURTESY OF NOKIA



# iNano?

## NANO-TECH DEVICE CONCEPT > by Nokia

THE MOBILE DEVICE HAS TAKEN OVER OUR LIVES, JUST TRY AND LEAVE THE HOUSE WITHOUT ONE – IMPOSSIBLE! GO TO A MUSIC FESTIVAL, IT'S FULL OF KIDS HOLDING CELL PHONES ALOFT AND WATCHING LIVE ACTS THROUGH A 2 INCH LCD SCREEN – MADNESS. THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT THE MOBILE IS HERE TO STAY, BUT HOW MUCH FUNCTIONALITY CAN WE PACK INTO OUR TINY TECHNO BUDDIES – AND WHERE IS IT ALL GOING...?



Some of the mobile devices we carry around are getting pretty flashy these days, and it seems as though we've reached a milestone in the electronic shrinking process. Rather than miniscule appeal, we tend to prefer more functions and fittings, expanding the capabilities of our all-essential mobile companions. Besides, if things got too small, surely we'd equate the tiny volume against value-for-money and feel a bit ripped off. Whatever the reason, it's not as if technology can't keep the pace, and with Nano technology poised to invade the mobile market, that all important functionality level is about to go through the roof! Nokia have kindly taken some time-out and peered into the hand-held crystal ball of the future, the results of their time travelling prophecies have been packed into the exciting Morph Concept – a chic looking mobile-model of the future.

Nokia predict that personal devices will take on a whole new nano-structure, the results of which would create units capable of single molecular precision. Mimicking the microscopic biology of the common fly with its impressive 10,000 transistors present on a single hair, such a device would be capable of executing unimaginably precise duties. A nanoscale mesh of fibres like this would be bendable and stretchable, fitting comfortably to the wrist for portability or morphing back to conventional solid hand-held proportions for use. A huge surface area created by nanowire grass would revolutionise solar harnessing capabilities allowing natural recharging in minutes, and this superhydrophobic surface would be extremely dirt repellent, making it more or less self cleaning – no more fingerprints! By integrating nano technology with our devices, communication, music and photos would be just the beginning of the functionality. It is predicted that they would be environmentally aware, warning us of potential bad air, UV over-exposure and unclean surfaces and food (some of which we'd surely rather not know about). However, besides all the extra computing power, Nokia predict that the nature of nano will allow invisibility, a wonder for the anti theft lobby but a complete nightmare for people who already mislay their mobiles on a daily basis (this morning I found mine in the fridge with a bottle of milk taking its place in the charger). The accurate prediction is that transparent electronics will have the capability to render devices invisible to the human eye, something that has got us all here at Modern Design jumping through hoops; I mean where does it all end? – This is like something out of Deep Space 9! For now the Morph Concept unit is a brave prediction, not really possessing all the nano bells-and-whistles we've mentioned above; but rest assured, nanotech is on its way and when it hits us – your scratchy, greasy-fingerprinted, non-supple, completely visible to the human eye, clasp trap iphone will be accompanying your Walkman and Atari Pong in the electronic memorabilia drawer of yesteryear – unless of course Apple get there first. ✕



Warp drive; Nanotech devices will take portability to galactic levels. Morphology; a nanoscale mesh of fibres would add elasticity to an already impressive list of device capabilities – including invisibility.





# COOL PHOTOGRAPHY SITES

WORDS: **DAVE VICKERS**

WE HAVE TO ADMIT THAT THE DISCIPLINE OF PHOTOGRAPHY IS PRETTY DAMN ICE-COOL. OF COURSE THERE'S MORE TO IT THAN JUST POPPING OUT YOUR CYBER-SHOT AND GOING ZOOM CRAZY, BUT IT CAN'T BE THAT HARD CAN IT? THE VISUAL NATURE OF THE WEB LENDS ITSELF WELL TO THE STILL PHOTOGRAPHER, AND THE EXPERTS KNOW HOW TO GET THEIR PRECIOUS IMAGES OUT TO THE MASSES, AND PRECIOUS THEY CERTAINLY ARE! THESE LAMP LUGGING, TRIPOD TRAILING GENIUSES LAUGH IN THE FACE OF ALL THE PEDESTRIAN DIGITAL CLAP-TRAP OUT THERE, THE TYPE OF STUFF THAT CLOGS UP FACEBOOK. WHAT THEY HAVEN'T SEEN THROUGH THEIR DIAPHRAGMS – AIN'T WORTH SEEING. SO IF YOU THINK EXPOSURE IS SOMETHING YOU DO WHEN YOU'RE DRUNK, F-STOP IS FIVE MINUTES IN A BUS SHELTER WITH YOUR DEAREST AND 'HOT SHOE' IS A NOISE YOU MAKE WHEN YOU SNEEZE – THEN YOU'D BETTER READ ON.



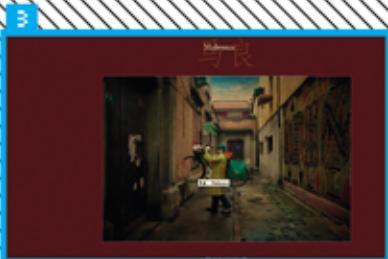
## 1. [WWW.LETSTAKEPICTURES.INFO](http://WWW.LETSTAKEPICTURES.INFO)

This site is wildly dynamic, the main control menu pops up in front of you like something from Minority Report then scrolls along while stunning background images wipe across the page. Though obviously selective in what they put up for perusal, Lets Take Pictures strongly promotes user upload, but rules is rules and any uploaded image has to be accompanied by subject, aperture, shutter-speed and iso info. So no, they won't accept stuff like - my granny on her birthday - candle light mode and :- face recognition. So, not one for the happy-snapper kind then, but very influential for aspiring David Baileys, there is a lot to be learned here and plenty of stimulus to go with it.



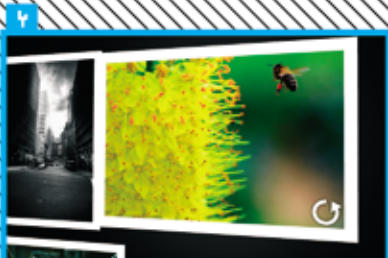
## 2. [WWW.KUNSTWILD.DE](http://WWW.KUNSTWILD.DE)

As we all know, any photographers manual will tell you the basic rule of great photography is to keep still. Some connoisseurs even stop breathing while they are taking a snap, but that's just crazy...anyway Sabine Wild ignored everyone. By turning her back on conventional 'still' photography, and deliberately jumping around with a gaping shutter, she is making quite a good living for herself. Serendipity or not, her mesmerizing blurry architectural images surprisingly don't make you feel like rushing out for an eye test, quite the contrary, they seem to be carving out an impressive, previously unfilled niche in the photo-art genus and make a great opener to her other works.



## 3. [WWW.MALEONN.COM](http://WWW.MALEONN.COM)

There is no doubt that Shanghai-born Maleonn has very strange dreams, and he has no problem sharing the inner-workings of his abstract mind with the rest of us. In fact it does appear that Maleonn spends a lot of time directing his photo shoots, placing each component exactly as it should be and precisely echoing the darker corners of his surreal subconscious. Despite all that stuff, his work is compelling and he's one of the more original photo-artists you'll find out there. His inspiring online archive is thrilling, a tad worrying at times, extremely technical and laced with a kind of dark, 'out there' farcical flavour.



## 4. [WWW.AIRTIGHTINTERACTIVE.COM](http://WWW.AIRTIGHTINTERACTIVE.COM)

Take your face-focals over to Tiltviewer; this 3d interactive photo panel lets you navigate through an impressive collection of amateur shots from all different artists, and ranging through most subjects. Zoom in for closer inspection by clicking an image, and if suitably impressed by the composition, there is a handy button that flips the image over to expose the all important snap-info. Some of the more kindly photographers will even give up their f-stop secrets and provide a quick-link to their own Flickr photo page; okay you can copy a bit, but try to be original – photography is a feeling you know!



## 5. [WWW.JOSHUASTEARN.COM](http://WWW.JOSHUASTEARN.COM)

He's chic, he's urban, he's cool; LA photographer Joshua Stearns is poking his lens in the right places as far as we are concerned. His shady online portfolio is downtown and street bound, compelling to the rap-trained eye and as bad-ass and bling as Hip Hop dentistry. His cool vignetted urban landscapes, mix right in with the gritty portraits and funky fashion shoots to make this website one of the most confident, easy-nav online collections around. It comes as no surprise that he has a talent for dragging the 'bad' out of his growing collection of gangster rapper subjects. A'int nuthin' but a gold digger!





**CATTUCCINO.** So far as we know Kopi Luwak was the first gourmet coffee made from, well, not to beat about the bush, cat poo. But not from your bog standard moggie, nor by association is it any old poo. Creating a niche market virtually overnight, 'Kopi' (Indonesian for coffee), 'Luwak' (the tree-dwelling civet native to Indonesia and the Philippines), is neither a gimmick, nor a joke in bad taste. It seems that aficionados and those in the know almost unanimously concur that on a scale of one to ten, it's easily nudging, say, twenty-five. In April, it was selling at Peter Jones in Sloane Square (with all profits going to Macmillan Cancer Research) at £50 a cup; and if you're wondering whether it's safe for human consumption, well, it's been exposed to a temperature of 400+°F during roasting, while a study by Canada's University of Guelph reassures us that it has a significantly lower bacterial count than those of conventional green coffee beans. Fans wax lyrical about its taste and aroma. "Darkly tropical, startlingly lush floral and orange notes, low acidity, earth hints, caramel or chocolate undertones, almost syrupy in flavour..." – you get the gist. As you'd expect, there are plenty of fakes, although we do have it on authority that only authentic Kopi Luwak

beans have microscopic striations etched by the marsupial's gastric juices. That's a dead giveaway, then.

**POOP GOES THE WEASEL.** If the going rate for the world's rarest and most exclusive coffee is a tad too rich for your palate, then you'll be relieved to hear that the gastric enzymes of the Luwak's close relation, the Vietnamese weasel, perform almost the very same job at a fraction of the cost.

**MONKEY BUSINESS.** The thought of resourceful little simians scampering through tea plantations, stopping off here and there to pluck the ripest green leaves is certainly endearing. According to legend, more than a thousand years ago, in a remote mountainous region of China, a helpful monkey watching his master struggle to reach the best bushes, decided to lend a hand. So delicious was the wild tea he had collected that soon other people began to train their monkeys to harvest the leaves for them. Nowadays it's claimed that this tradition continues only in one small village, but whether it's fact or marketing hype we'll leave you to decide. The manufacturers insist that no monkeys are harmed and are treated as respected family members, which we fervently hope is the case. Still, it's got to be better than joining a circus.

**FULL OF BEANS.** What's definitely harder to swallow, especially for



imbibers of a squeamish disposition, is monkey-picked coffee involving more than merely a hands-on approach, because in Southern India, troops of Rhesus Macaques not only gather the sweetest 'cherries', but apparently then store them in their pouch-like cheeks, sucking on the fruits for hours before eventually spitting out the inner beans – which are collected, cleaned you'll be relieved to hear,

valuable beans pre-wrapped in its parchment droppings. Said to have even more body, flavour and aroma than the coffee processed by its four-legged rivals, the end product apparently tastes of blueberries and lemons, and is so sweet as to make the addition of sugar redundant.

**NON ZOOLOGICA EXOTICA.** On the other hand, if like most of us you'd rather be the first to ingest the steaming contents of your cuppa without relinquishing the exotic, you could always impress your guests by serving them a mouth-watering slice of Matcha Red Bean Loaf – made from the powdered green tea used in the time-honoured Japanese tea ceremony – accompanied either by Oolong Tea, cultivated from just five constantly guarded bushes each more than 350 years old; or

THE THOUGHT OF RESOURCEFUL LITTLE SIMIANS SCAMPERING THROUGH TEA PLANTATIONS, STOPPING TO PLUCK THE RIPEST GREEN LEAVES, IS CERTAINLY ENDEARING.



and roasted. We trust their union knows they're only paid peanuts.

**WATCH THE BIRDIE.** Not wishing to be left out, a Brazilian coffee farmer has recently spilled the beans about his novel fowl initiative. Indigenous to South America, the Jacu Bird also knows its stuff when it comes to coffee cherries, scooping them up in its beak, and neatly depositing the

delighting the eyes as well as the taste-buds, a captivating 'display tea' which, when steeped in hot water, magically unfurls its leaves into a delicately blooming flower. In the end, it all boils down to a matter of taste. ✕

Oolong Tea. Image: Courtesy of Ostensen Herbs.



Matcha, powdered Japanese green tea. Image: Courtesy of Aura Teas.



# Edible Design

DITTE KUIJPERS DESIGN > Utrecht

CULINARY REVOLUTIONIST DITTE IS USING HER ECCENTRIC DINNER-TIME PHILOSOPHY TO EXTINGUISH OUR UNDERSTANDING OF EVERYDAY FOOD PRESENTATION. A RICE-TABLE WOULD MAKE PERFECT SENSE IN DITTE'S MADCAP WORLD OF CROCKERY CONSUMPTION, AND THE TIME SAVED ON WASHING-UP WOULD BE BORDERING ON DOMESTIC MUTINY.



WORDS: **DAVE VICKERS** IMAGES: **COURTESY OF DITTE KUIJPERS**

Trapped somewhere out there in the stratosphere is Ditte's eccentric culinary spirit, we think it shot up there after she successfully finished her studies at the Design Academy Eindhoven. But let's be fair, to attempt to change the way we perceive food, and the well-established vessels that we use to contain and present it, is a courageous objective. However, no matter how far Ditte manages to pull us away from conventional food conception, her nourishing notions certainly initiate a unique process of contemplation, giving excited observers plenty to chew over. In basic terms, her banana leaf philosophy sets an impressive dinner service, always minimalist with incredible attention to detail (even the way a bowl casts a shadow is carefully considered with its orientation), the result of this artistic, edible-endavour is total consumption; not a scrap left, the plate forming an essential part of the menu, the bowl becoming part of the dessert. Okay, it has been done before, but with so much attention and finesse? We doubt it. Logically, you would expect certain foodstuffs to be completely revolutionised in such a forum of thought, and Ditte doesn't let us down, her take on the humble sandwich is a slice of genius; her biscuit saucer is completely mutinous to the world of tea-set snobbery - a saucer you can dunk - surely a concept that borders on brilliance. Whatever next, a fudge fridge, a chocolate cooker? No honestly Ditte, we are only kidding, honest. Still, at least one thing she certainly won't need to reinvent in her unique world of unmitigated consumption is the dishwasher...! ✕



1| The Dinnerish Bowl collection, where food is the carrier and the staple of the meal.

3| Designer Ditte Kuijpers

3| If anyone can, Jerry Can! The portable Radio DB, inspired by the Ghetto Blaster.

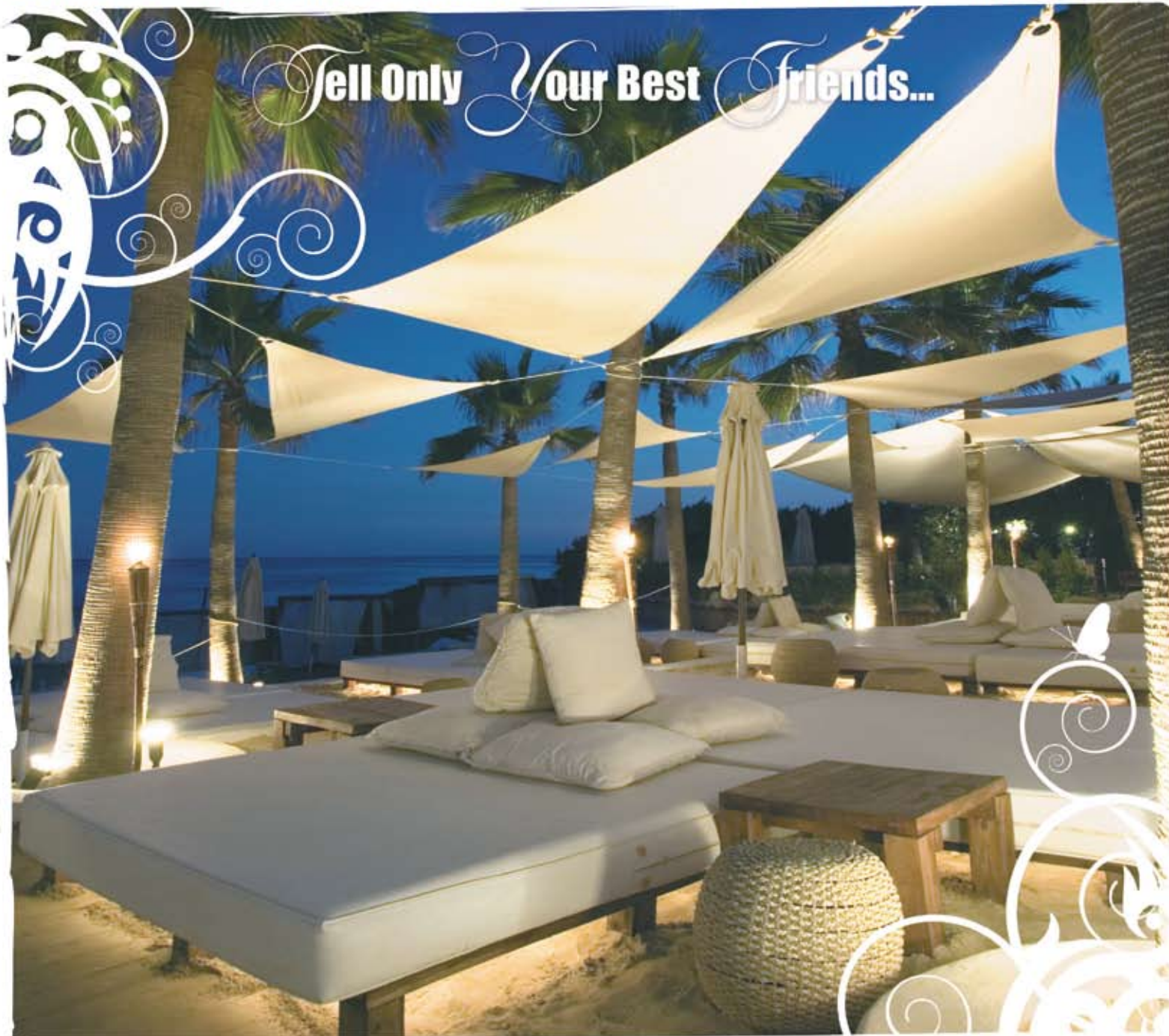


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WHO NEEDS A  
FACE LIFT?

## CLASH OF THE TITANS > Carbon Silicon

EVERY NOW AND THEN, WHAT WITH ALL THE UP-TO-THE-MINUTE STUFF LEAPING OUT AT YOU FROM OUR ENLIGHTENED GLOSSINESS, MODERN DESIGN GETS THE URGE TO GO ALL RETRO. STYLE BROKERS THAT WE ARE, FERVENTLY PUSHING THE DESIGNER DISCO-BISCUITS THAT ELUCIDATE YOUR CONCEPTION HUNGRY CRAVINGS, IT'S NICE FOR US ALL, AND PRESUMABLY YOU, TO OCCASIONALLY KICK-BACK AND GO ALL NOS-TALGIC. MUSIC IS THE PERFECT VEHICLE FOR A FORAGE INTO RETRO-KIND - AND THOUGH A TOUCH MORE JAGGED THAN THE USUAL CLEAN LINES AND AVANT-GARDE ATTITUDE YOU'D FIND ON THESE PAGES - PUNKS ARE FIRMLY IN THE DRIVING SEAT.

WORDS: **DAVE VICKERS** PHOTOS: **COURTESY OF CARBON SILICON INC.**





**CRISIS POINT.** For anyone out there suffering a terrible mid-life crisis with all its embarrassing trappings; bogus Harley (Yamaha Virago) in the garage, Subaru Impreza outside the office, belated tongue and belly piercing and baggy jeans hanging round your creaking 40+ knee joints – Stop, just stop! We can be cool; in fact we're from an era that gave birth to all your Arctic Monkeys and The Rakes 'n' stuff, so don't worry. Risking sounding like Uncle Albert, if the kids these days don't realise who we are (or were) then it's just their tough crap – God luvvem.

**ROCK CV.** In a definite push to be myself, I downloaded the recently released Last Post by Carbon Silicon, the baby-band of Mick Jones; The Clash, and Tony James of Generation X. That's some musical CV by the way, what those boys don't know about Rock 'n' Roll touring, writing, producing and general bad-boy over-indulgence just isn't worth knowing, savvy? As a Clash die-hard, I was slightly dubious about Jones without the legendary Joe Strummer, but I pretty much knew what was coming when itunes delivered a bunch of virtual ones and zeros that culminated in an electronic musical package (yup I paid for it – rebel!). It seems amazing considering these guys come from an age of valve-technology and crackly vinyl, but the download is something they've sensibly embraced and used as a catapult,

it is after all a kind of upgrade on punk's DIY ethic. Anyway, tucked away nicely next to the Buzzcocks, the Clash and the Pistols in a cozy-rebel 70s pogo playlist on my ipod, the album looked like it was well at home, and I wasn't wrong. I cranked it up, and on hearing the start of track one; The News, I whizzed back to the menu to see if I'd mistakenly selected Combat Rock – no this was definitely Carbon, the hairs on my neck stood up – a bit like the Mohican I never really had.

**LOST IN TIME.** The rough-riff thrashing of Mick Jones was unmistakable, in fact so

punk perfection, great for leaving a bit of rubber on the tarmac, and the more you listen the more you can't believe how lucky you are to actually know where these boys come from. A contemporary album written and produced by London's best, like a spanking new Clash with tons of modern-day grief to get off their chests and brag about. Imagine what Sid Vicious would have made of global terrorism, or Ian Curtis's thoughts on the modern human condition? Well it's all here, a punk veteran's take on a mad modern world – which is basically stick your fingers up at it all and create a slamming groove. Okay, being veterans, Carbon Silicon are a touch more sensitive than the punk icons of old (more shrugged shoulder bemusement

well produced. So, balding old blokes they might be, and though they swear they've turned their back on the legacy and started afresh, a retro-punk treat it is.

**SHOULD I STAY OR SHOULD I GO?** Personally I recommend the band, and the album, even though in true Clash LP style you may need to listen to it a few times to grasp it. And of course, if you are under 40, slightly punkish and in love with the world, don't let me put

**FOR ANYONE OUT THERE SUFFERING A TERRIBLE MID-LIFE CRISIS WITH ALL ITS EMBARRASSING TRAPPINGS; BOGUS HARLEY IN THE GARAGE, SUBARU IMPREZA OUTSIDE THE OFFICE, BELATED TONGUE AND BELLY PIERCING AND BAGGY JEANS HANGING ROUND YOUR CREAKING 40+ KNEE JOINTS – STOP, JUST STOP!**

incredibly like the Clash I was amazed he'd talked the other band members into releasing. There was no doubt here who the boss was, and when he started croaking over the guitar – I was right back there – thirteen years old, sliding London Calling out of a beautiful double sleeve and gently cleaning it with a Ronco anti-static record cleaner before taking my dad's Grundig through decibel hell. If I hadn't actually been in my Rover negotiating the perilous bends of the Spanish highway, I would have been bouncing around and infuriating my northern soul inspired, long-suffering girlfriend. Fortunately, the album is driving heaven – touching on Brand New Cadillac for sheer blues-driven

than anger) but then surely so are we, why else would we have a mid-life crisis? If I must add a criticism, the songs are a bit long – perhaps a touch more to say than the former two-and-a-half minute 'f-you' messages of punk yesteryear.

**RUDIE CAN'T FAIL.** It seems as though Jones and James - friends since the early days and one-time band members of London S.S. - have reunited in style. The chemistry is good, and enhanced by a magical two-pronged journey through the musical ages, with projects like Big Audio Dynamite, The Libertines and of course Gen X and the Clash in the collective musical coffer, it is certainly

you off, this band is as much yours as it is ours – and you'll probably dig The Last Post. I just needed to get a few things off my chest and let some other mid-ranged adults know that there is always an answer out there. Just in case you fit into neither bracket, you were probably mincing around to the tones of Abba or something, just forget it – and incidentally, I know someone who's got a lovely Yamaha Viagra for sale if you're interested. ✖

# LEG YOUR INHIBITIONS!

*Brick Art by Nathan Sawaya.*

It's very true that some of us, certain animated individuals, just never really manage to grow up. Fortunately the ever remarkable rhythm of life provides natural outlets for our puerile conduct, our immature side conveniently manifesting in acceptable adult forums such as stag nights or over-entertaining the offspring. "Dad, I don't want a Scalextric" – "Yes you do son, yes you do." \_\_\_\_\_ However, in most of us, the art of block building died the second we discovered football or Barbie, our hand-eye coordination naturally ascending the challenge chain of command. But for New York-based Nathan Sawaya, life's challenges have remained firmly on the living room floor; a Lego city, the twelve-year toil of a devoted brick-bound childhood, eventually evolving into these magnificent million-brick models. Consequently, as Nathan the child matured, then so did his block building escapades season, eventually ripening to full blown sculpture. \_\_\_\_\_ It's a progression that has pushed Nathan to the artistic fore, stateside at least he is becoming a bit of a celeb, his 3-dimensional brick-art sculptures proving irresistible to TV producers, affording the artist plenty of primetime air. Commercially also, large conglomerates are taking Nathan firmly under the corporate wing, so there seems to be plenty of paid reward for his undying block devotion. Fortunately for us, the enthused observers, his sculptures are currently on the yellow brick road, touring North American museums in a show titled, *The Art of the Brick*. It's the only exhibition on the planet focusing exclusively on LEGO as an art medium. Let's hope Nathan decides to bridge the Atlantic breach (with blocks obviously) and politely go on show here in Europe – after all, wasn't it the Swedes who invented the tools of his trade? ✕



*Blue*

Nathan Sawaya  
Lego brick human  
42" x 34" x 18"

*The Art of the Brick*

Image Courtesy of brickartist.com



# Music for all Ears

WORDS: DAVE VICKERS & LOLY ECHAIRI

## BECK MODERN GUILT



### Modern Guilt

»Beck

Beck is back, though he seems to have gone all Tom and Jerry on us. This rock-solid collaborative album is laid down with the help of Danger Mouse (the rodent half of the Gnarles Barkley duo) and the vocal stylings of folk-rock poster girl Cat Power. It must have been cat 'n' mouse comic hell in the recording studio, still like the burly bulldog 'Spike', Beck has managed to pull everyone together and come up with a really decent album, laying to rest recent fears of devoted fans who thought he was going a bit nuts. The complexity of the album unfortunately won't be delivering us another 'Loser', but it's certainly no offence to the alternative-rock-tuned ear drum.

### All hope is gone

»Slipknot

Grammy winning metal band, SLIPKNOT, are set to release their fourth album, All Hope is Gone, on August 26th via Roadrunner Records. The album was recorded this spring in the band's home state of Iowa and is co-produced by the band and Dave Fortman. "All Hope is Gone" is more of a statement than a record. Singer Corey Taylor commented, "Every album we have made is a statement about that space in time. I think this era is the most mature, most beautiful and the most powerful. We have made an album that will show the road behind, the road ahead, and where we are as men. I think it's the best thing I've ever made. And I challenge anyone to prove me wrong." – Okay, you're on!



### For my friends

»Blind Melon

After the tragic passing of frontman Shannon Hoon in 1995, we haven't heard much from our old psychedelic rock friends Blind Melon. However, the discovery of powerful vocalist Travis Warren has drawn the splintered factions of the surviving band members back together. The reunion culminates in this hard-edged album that musically transcends right back to where Blind Melon left off. All good then, and Warren's tones manage to fill the Hoon breach pretty accurately, though his lyrics are a touch more optimistic. Perhaps this is for the best, if they'd have been anything as despondent as Hoon's rhythmic scrawlings, the whole thing may have been a bit too eerie.

### Seeing things

»Jakob Dylan

Jakob, Jakob, Jakob, what have you done. Though obviously genetically talented, the offspring of Dylan has certainly sprung this one on us. The happy-clappy-folky guitar finger pickin' backs up a desperate 'please recognise me for what I am, not who I am' Jakob, who manages to hold-out sounding exactly like his dad until the very last track. Ironically the track is called 'This end of the telescope', and we know where we'd like to put it. To be fair, if you are into all that jingly-jangly folk stuff then you may love this album, as will Dylan devotees probably – which is a few million. But to be frank, Dylan on downers is not what we'd call entertainment.



Paul Heaton  
THE CROSS EYED RAMBLER



### The cross eyed rambler

»Paul Heaton

You never doubted him did you? Paul Heaton of Beautiful South fame disappeared for a while it seems - he probably had quite a bit of cash to squander. Anyway, he's had plenty of time to put together this (his 14th studio album), and it's a cracker. His social lyrical ramblings remain familiar, crossing taboo territories such as drink driving and failed suicides, but it is all just so Paul Heaton, smart, cute, depressing and at the same time comical. The tunes are totally reminiscent of both Housemartin and 85 tracks, and throw a touch of well needed neurotic nostalgia our way. Expect a couple of hits from this album – it is well loved already.

### Songs to scream at the sun

»Have Heart

The clue is in the title, hardcore soft-boys Have Heart yet again produce an album that lyrically confronts the evil strains of modern social life with a straight-laced total non-punk attitude, but make it loud and raucous enough to split up families. Don't you just love the irony? We love the hardcore, like Rage Against the Machine on bible duty they thrash this new album out, and will ensure yet another generation of aggrieved, head-banging, bedroom incarcerated straight-laced teenagers will need neck and back surgery by the time they reach forty!





# POWER DRESSING

## SUPERHEROES > Fashion and Fantasy

FEATURING SOME 60 ENSEMBLES – INCLUDING MOVIE COSTUMES, AVANT-GARDE HAUTE COUTURE AND HIGH-PERFORMANCE SPORTSWEAR – NEW YORK'S SUPERHEROES: FASHION AND FANTASY EXHIBITION HIGHLIGHTS THE SUPERHERO'S ROLE AS THE ULTIMATE METAPHOR FOR FASHION AND ITS ABILITY TO EMPOWER AND TRANSFORM THE HUMAN BODY.



Ever since Superman's 1938 debut, the superhero has exerted a powerful influence over our collective imagination, serving as avatars for all our dreams, desires and aspirations. But until fairly recently – having been co-opted by high art – they were often dismissed as frivolous and superficial, even though it's their apparent triviality that gives them the ability to address serious issues. Not only sharing the superhero's allegorical pliability but also responding to the potency of transformation, fashion celebrates metamorphosis with its infinite opportunities to remake and reshape both the flesh and the self, giving us permission to indulge in the freedom to fantasise, to escape the drab and the utilitarian. The Superheroes collective (made possible by Giorgio Armani and with the support of Condé Nast), embraces the links between the design and iconography of the comic book – think of the effect that Andy Warhol and Roy Liechtenstein had on mainstream art – and the world of fashion. If you're planning to be Stateside this month, make sure not to miss it! \_\_\_\_\_ Designers taking part in the exhibition – showcasing through September 1st at the New York Metropolitan Museum of Art – include Atair, Giorgio Armani, Balenciaga, Pierre Cardin, Dolce & Gabbana, Jean Paul Gaultier, Eiko Ishioka, Alexander McQueen, Julien Macdonald, Moschino, Thierry Mugler, Nike, Rick Owens, Gareth Pugh, Spyder, As Four, Walter van Beirendonck, Versace and Bernhard Willhelm. ✕

WORDS: CAROLYN MELIAN

1] Bernhard Willhelm, spring/summer 2006. Photograph courtesy of Chris Moore.

2] Thierry Mugler, spring/summer 1992. Photograph © Patrice Stabile.

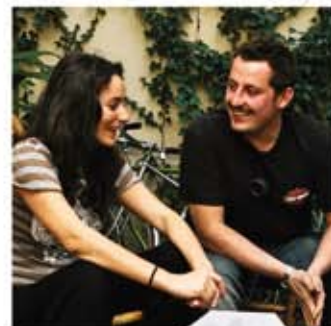
3] John Galiano for Christian Dior Haute Couture, spring/summer 2001 Wonder Woman Collection. Photograph courtesy of firstVIEW.



# Mutant Beauty

## THE MYSTIC ONION > Fashion meets artistic expression

AT THE SHARP END OF STYLE, BARCELONA HAS TO BE ONE OF THE VERY COOLEST OF EUROPEAN CITIES, A HOTBED OF CREATIVE TALENT. AND WHEN QUITE BY CHANCE MADRID ILLUSTRATOR ALBERTO GABARI MET CATALAN ART DIRECTOR AND GRAPHIC DESIGNER EVA RIU AT BREAD&BUTTER – BILLED AS EUROPE'S LARGEST CONTEMPORARY FASHION TRADESHOW – THE MYSTIC ONION, WHOSE SIGNATURE DESIGNS FUSE FASHION WITH ARTISTIC EXPRESSION, WAS ON ITS WAY.



**Graphic images.** Raising the fashion stakes with a twist of irony, fantasy and humour. Iconic hoodies, slouchy cover-ups and frocks, skirts and tops in satin, cotton and chiffon, tulle and leather appliqué.

Creating their first garments in 2004 for Spain's Merkafad platform showcasing the collections of the country's hottest young designers, the pair spent all summer long silk-screening by hand while Gabari painstakingly produces a notebook of drawings every month that serve both as "inspiration and expiration". They regularly present their collections both at the Pasarela Cibeles in Madrid and of course at Barcelona's Bread& Butter where for them it all began, and their short-run and exclusive designs with their trademark meticulous detail combined with plenty of attitude are exported throughout Europe and Japan. The world of The Mystic Onion – according to its creators the name represents the contradiction between mysticism and the banal, innocence and the most primeval of instincts – defines itself as an amalgam of everyday images, but with more than a twist of irony, fantasy and humour. Their summer 2008 collection, 'Mutant Beauty', owes its inspiration to the current obsession with the body beautiful, cosmetic and aesthetic surgery, show business and the celebrity cult. A stunningly original capsule wardrobe with items for both male and female followers of fashion, the collection features oversized slouchy sweatshirts and iconic cycloptic Mohican hoodies as well as delectable satin frocks in mouth-watering multicolour prints, veering from the edgy and overtly streetwise, to downright sexy, but always with The Mystic Onion's hallmark graphic design influence. Just like the layers of the ubiquitous vegetable from which the company takes its name, their clothes are designed as complements to be worn one on top of the other and their growing number of retailers all have one thing in common – their love and appreciation of fashion from a different point of view. "You'll find The Mystic Onion label in all those places where people who understand our clothes tend to go," says Eva Riu. ✕

WORDS: CAROLYN MELIÁN

IMAGES: COURTESY OF ERIC GARCÍA





## New Seaside Interiors

**> author** Ian Phillips  
**> editor** Angelika Taschen

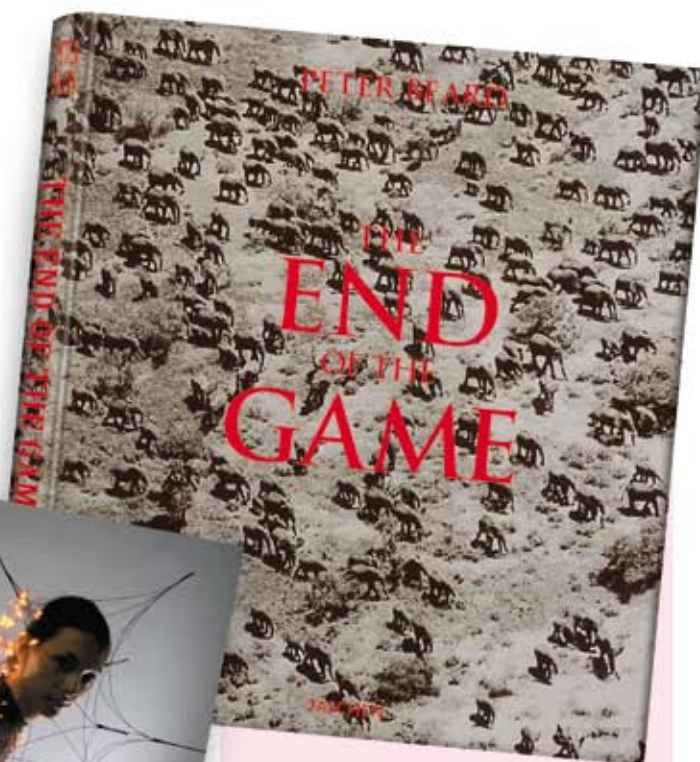
The ultimate in 'tome-alone' page-thumbing for domestic design addicts, *New Seaside Interiors* brings us "the best in coastal living from Iceland to Chile", and it's no tall story. It is without doubt a flagrant, visual tour of the world's most delectable coastal interiors and 'Mar-vista' outdoor living spaces. If this tome were a scratch-and-sniff, it'd be all honeysuckle, seaweed and Jo Malone candles. Perfect for the Marbella jet-set, we guarantee you'll find your ultimate seaside living space, and never rest again until you have it yourself!



## Fashionable Technology

**> author** Sabine Seymour  
**> graphic design** Mahir Mustafa Yavuz

Doing exactly what it says on the cover, this intersectional study of design, fashion, science and technology takes us on a tour of the world's latest electronic textiles and wearable technologies. With over 50 beautifully illustrated innovative examples of clothing-integrated gadgetry, this is a hard back conceptual catwalk for techno-nerds with a penchant for panache. Wearable computing aside, some of the designs are real eye-openers, especially the Space Invader scarf. For those interested in next generation fashion, this is a compelling read.

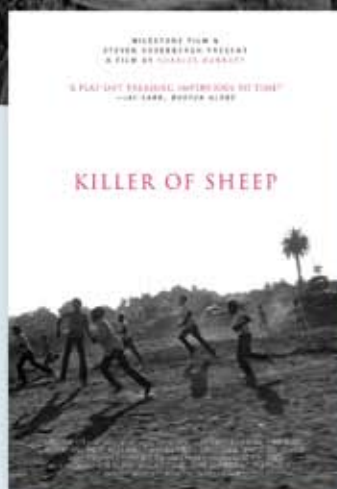
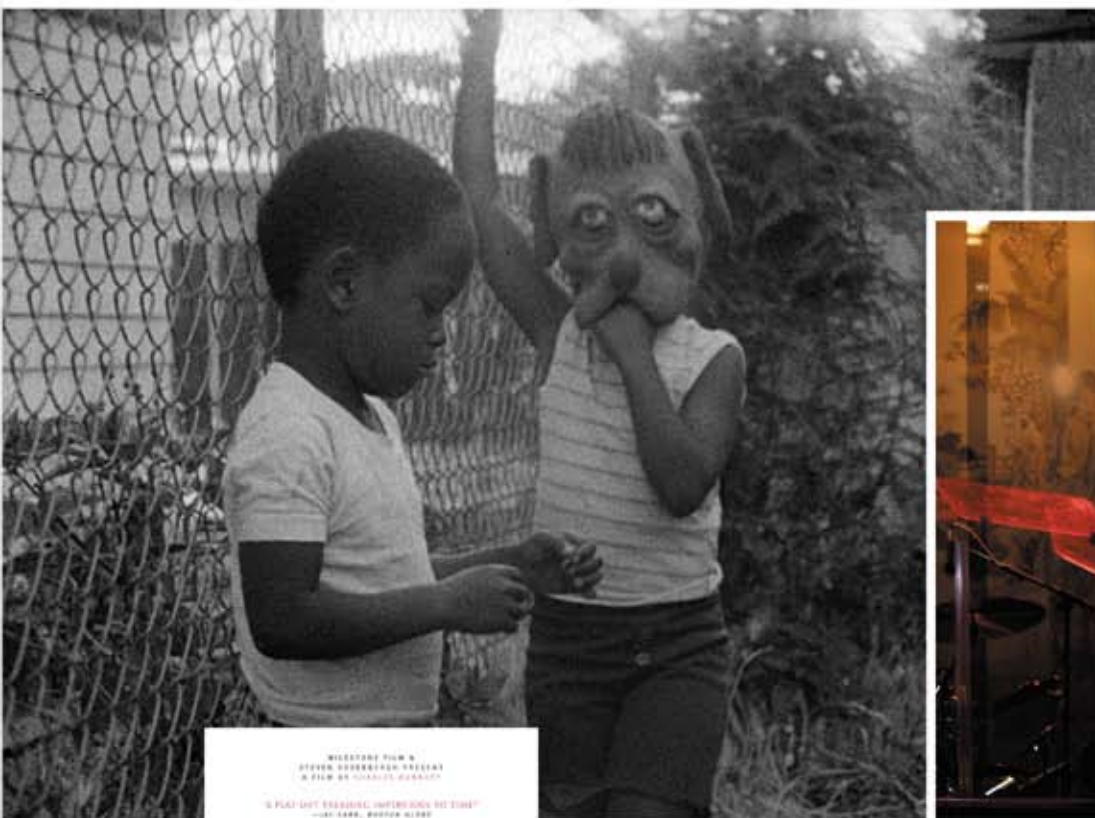


## The End of the Game: The Last Word from Paradise

**> author/editor** Peter Beard  
**> Contributing** Paul Theroux

An historical chronicle documenting the pompous ramblings of Deer Stalker clad British madmen on tour of Africa's wildlife killing fields. The book is assembled from hundreds of historical photographs and writings, starting with the building of the Mombasa Railroad ("The Lunatic Line") and the consequent opening-up of darkest Africa. Enterprisers, explorers, missionaries, and big-game hunters were the first real African tourists, and in their wake, managed to change the face of tribal Africa for ever. With the real time writings of men such as J. H. Patterson (who became famous as the relentless hunter of the 'Man-Eating Lions of Tsavo'), reading the book is akin to watching history unfold in this enormous, wild and beautiful region of Earth.

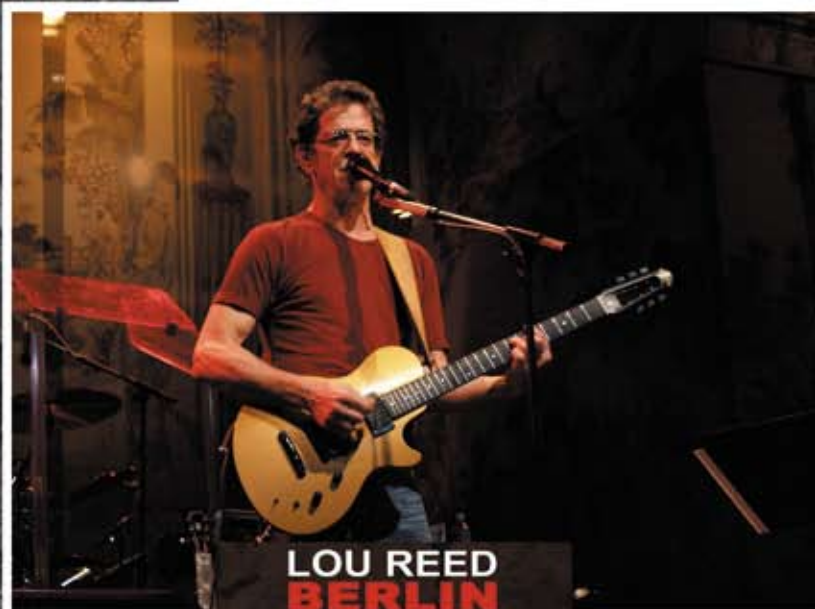




## Killer Of Sheep

**>director** Charles Burnett  
**>starring** Henry Gayle Sanders, Kaycee Moore

Shot over a period of weekends in 1977 on 16mm and using a budget of less than \$10,000, *Killer of Sheep* is a true-to-life representation of life in the black African Los Angeles suburb of Watts in the seventies. The expert weird-angle cinematography and enthused performances of non-professional actors adds to the gritty street-level ambience of the desecrated lifestyle of Stan, a slaughterhouse worker. Despite the obvious depth of quality, director/producer/cameraman Charles Burnett strangely made very little after this film, and it remained an enigma, trapped in a dusty tin, only to be seen at a few art exhibitions. After an offer Burnett couldn't refuse was placed on the table, the film has finally made the leap to a brilliantly restored 35mm format, and it now hawks in the glory it always deserved – as does Burnett.



## Berlin

**>director** Julian Schnabel  
**>starring** Lou Reed, Fernando Saunders, Sharon Jones, Anthony Hegarty.

Considering Lou played here at the Cervantes Theatre Málaga last month, it seems fitting to report on his recent Rock 'n' Roll concert movie 'Berlin'. His concept album of the same name was released in 1973 and flopped, never to be played live again until 2006. Filmed over five nights at St. Ann's Warehouse in Brooklyn, New York, the amazing sound of Reed's huge band, including horns and choir, mixed with director Julian Schnabel's adept understanding and execution of the art of Rock 'n' Roll film making, combine to make this classic concert hit the big screen in some style. Released in Spain on July 25th, this is a must for fans and an education for the masses, and is certainly the next best thing to actually being there.



## A Complete History of My Sexual Failures

**>director** Chris Waitt  
**>starring** Him, his mom and a whole load of angry exes.

No one knows why Kurt Cobain look-alike and filmmaker Chris Waitt has such bad luck with the ladies, and neither does he. For this very reason, a comically depressed and recently jilted Chris goes on an historical, chronological tour of his ex-lovers and girlfriends to see if he can find out where he went wrong. Starting in Scotland (where a few of them reside), Chris can't seem to get an interview, strangely enough, and gets a serious ear bashing from his mom for being so pathetic; things just get funnier from there. This autobiographical soul-smashing docu-comedy has been described as "Louis Theroux on very strong Spanish Fly", and that should be credit enough to get most of us settled in front of the big screen and ready for an emotional, side-splitting rollercoaster of a ride.



# Iconic designs built in stunning locations



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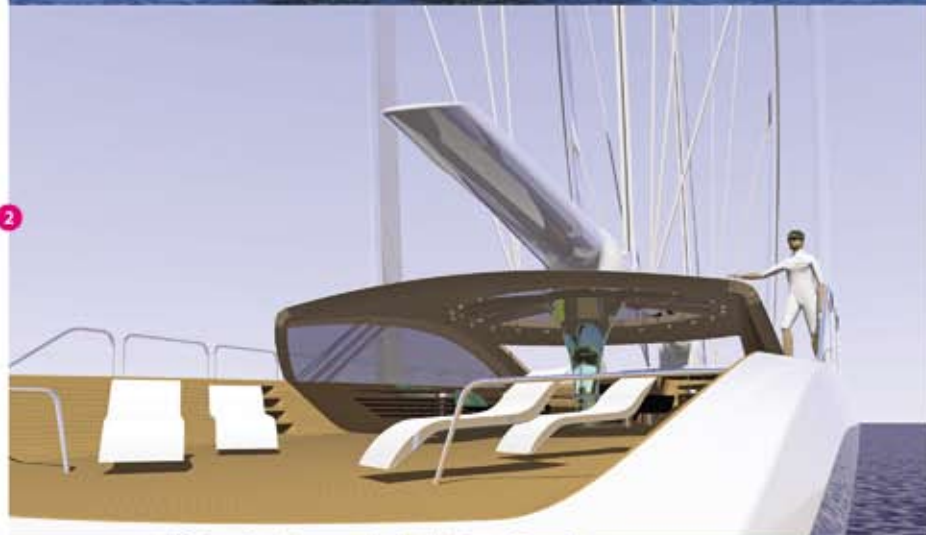
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## Point of Sail

### PROJECT GREEN JET > Erik Sifrer

FASTER, MORE EFFICIENT, LESS LABOUR INTENSIVE AND WITH A VIRTUALLY IMPERCEPTIBLE IMPACT ON THE ENVIRONMENT, PROJECT GREEN JET IS A BLUEPRINT FOR THE FUTURE OF SAILING.

Measuring 57 metres from stem to stern and with a sail area of almost 2,000 square metres, you'd think it would take a very full complement of athletically-honed crew to put this absolutely stunning concept megayacht through her paces. But with her cutting-edge touch screen technology, all the single-handed skipper of this planet-friendly, drop dead gorgeous, super luxury craft need provide is fingertip control. \_\_\_\_\_ The brainchild of Slovenian industrial designer Erik Sifrer, Project Green Jet – it owes its name to the speed and ease with which the twin automated Aero-sails can be unfurled, hoisted and trimmed to perfection – was unveiled, in association with Mides Engineering and Mides Design, at the 2008 Dubai International Boat Show; and though bigger, faster and more technologically advanced, is a logical progression of his acclaimed 36-metre concept yacht, the SY 120. \_\_\_\_\_ Sifrer – who points out that a conventional sail boat may be powered solely by the wind for a miniscule 2 per cent of the time – believes that in the last 250 years, cutting-edge sailing technology has remained pretty much in the doldrums. However, the whole point of Green Jet is that it will be navigated and controlled by its computerised sail system, so from the time you get underway until you make it back to your home port, instead of wrestling with dozens of ropes, winches, pulleys, trackers and a host of deck gear, the most strenuous thing you'll have to do is to push a button. \_\_\_\_\_ Creature comforts include bespoke interiors, sails that light up the sky (dance floor-style) at night, and a centrally located pool with built-in Jacuzzi, which also separates the owner's and guest accommodation aft, from the crew's quarters forward. After all, as they won't be scrambling up the rigging, they'll have plenty of time on their hands to pour the G&Ts and pass around the canapés, plus it'd be a pity to be living in all this splendour and not have anyone to share it with. \_\_\_\_\_ All that remains to be done before Green Jet finally rolls down the slipway are wind tunnel and tank tests that will be applied to a scale model. Sifrer, who is currently looking for backers for his €70m project, reckons she'll take between three and six years to build. "Nowadays everything's possible", he says. ✕

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3| The shape of things to come. Dynamic, minimalist design.

WORDS: CAROLYN MELIAN IMAGES: COURTESY OF ERIK SIFRER





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1| The sleek Carbon-fibre hull of Czeers demolishes any notion of biodiversity strictly going hand-in-hand with mediocre design.

2| Solar speedboat design at render stage.

## Czeers to **bio-diversity**

In the ever morphing world of eco-tech solutions, transport can sometimes fall victim to over-compensation on the design front. Not that that's a bad thing in general, the fact that eco-motors are slowly evolving into ultramodern streamlined bubble-mobiles is a measure of our compassion for the planet and practicality in size. However, when it comes to the pleasure market, that's a different thing, it's much harder to convince luxury-seekers about taking a design tumble in favour of the environment. \_\_\_\_\_ As a perfect example, it would be almost impossible to surrender the sleek sexy lines of a speedboat to global culpability – surely, by definition, it wouldn't be called a speedboat anymore – more a blunt-ended pleasure boat with little or no sex appeal or identity; that's what you'd think anyway. However, the Delft Technical University Solarboat Team seem to be confidently wading in the shallows of green design while literally wallowing in the depths (and significance) of concept masculinity. Their baby, the Czeers Mk1 is a completely solar-powered speedboat; 14 square metres of photovoltaic cells line the lustrous carbon-fibre hull, soak up the rays and power a silent 80kw electric motor that can reach impressive speeds of up to 30 knots. The ten metre hull comes in enigmatic carbon-fibre shades and skilfully trimmed in tangy orange leather, it's a package that impressed the judges at the Nuon Frisian Solar challenge, giving the team first prize for innovation. It seems the judges won't be the only ones impressed. As only 4 - 8 of these will be made a year, the boat is sure to fulfil its promising twofold warranty; by not harming a scrap of delicate marine life while guaranteeing mobs of bikini-clad babes cat-fight to get on board. Now that's what we call bio-diversity! Remember though, the more sisters you have draped over the cells, the lower the top end... ✕

WORDS: **DAVE VICKERS** PHOTOS: **COURTESY OF CZEERS MK1**