

DESIGN IN FOCUS

hinge

Vol.172

HK\$50
RM\$50
S \$10
INCL. GST
US \$8

HKSD 8824298 - opening doors on the world of architects and interior designers
347, Queen's Lane, Commercial Centre, 31-33 Lockwood Road, Wanchai, HK. www.hinge.hk
For advertising enquiries, call (852) 2218-5468 or simply email info@hinge.hk



SHOOTING AT WALLS... ARCHITECTURAL PHOTOGRAPHY CLICKS AT BRICKS



Proxemics Paradigm...

A photographer encroaches on your personal space

Gehry's Gallery...

The star architect's latest conquest

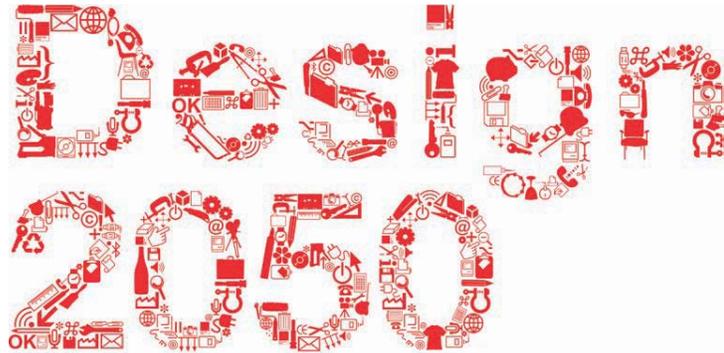
Water World...

Life's basic necessity brings immeasurable pleasure



Rêve it up

Bathroom experts Kohler's latest Rêve collection is a new line of sleek geometric fixtures that bring a modern, continental attitude and an architectural aesthetic to the bathroom. The European-inspired Rêve collection features a dual flush toilet and several lavatory and vanity options offered in a number of shapes that blend seamlessly with diverse surroundings. The collection has a straightforward minimalist elegance. There are no sharp edges – all the corners have been softened. The new Honed White matte finish, inspired by organic and natural elements, will no doubt become a popular choice for stylish Hong Kong homes. Tel +852 2802 2183 www.kohler.com



POSSIBILITIES FOR TOMORROW

Celebrating Design

The biennial Singapore Design Festival will take flight from 20 to 30 November 2009 with a wide range of design events and activities for designers, businesses and consumers. Jointly presented by the DesignSingapore Council and more than 60 partners, this year's festival will bring significant dimension and flavour from Singapore, alongside international presentations from Australia, Denmark, the European Union, Italy, Japan, Korea, Switzerland and the United Kingdom. The 2009 Festival theme, Design2050: Possibilities for Tomorrow, aims to inspire everyone to consider and examine scenarios of how life could be different in the future, by design. The festival activities and partner presentations will specifically examine how design can change business paradigms and create the sustainable and liveable cities of tomorrow. www.designsingapore.org



Colour Your life

Arioste's Iridium tiles surf beyond the frontiers of design to offer new creative cues with an illusion of touchable patterns. The collection features colours designed to liven up every space. Extremely pure pigmentations in a never-seen glazing provide surprising chromatic effects. The available colours include vibrant psychedelic tones and natural hues that resemble the surfaces found in the natural world. The collection can also be used outdoors as it offers resistance to frost and chemical aggression and features surfaces decorated with footprint-like motifs. Tel +852 2510 2666 www.colourliving.com

[The information here is provided by the individual manufacturer or provider and does not constitute an endorsement by hinge.]



Photography by Robert Bean

Relief Chair

Product designer Ben Mickus has remastered the art of sculpting by using digital fabrication and solid, rapidly renewable materials. The statement-making Relief Chair is a layered assembly of medium-density wool felt sheets, fastened together and sleeved over an internal steel frame. The felt body and frame rest on break-formed stainless steel legs, with a satin finish. The chair is part of his solid/surface/series collection, all of which feature thick sheets of natural wool felt, fastened using non-toxic, water-based adhesives. www.mickusprojects.com



Icsid World Design Congress
Singapore 2009



Transport of Tomorrow

With the number of cars in the world predicted to double to 1.7 billion by 2030, the notion of having ecology-friendly vehicles on the road has never been more important. William J Mitchell, one of the leading gurus of life in the age of wireless communication, is now working with some of the brightest minds in academia to conceptualise a sustainable urban transport system for the future. As the Alexander Dreyfoos Professor of Architecture and Media Arts and Sciences at MIT, he and his team of students are the brains behind many revolutionary automobiles including the GreenWheel electric bicycle, the RoboScooter electric scooter, and the CityCar electric automobile. Catch Mitchell at the 50th anniversary ICSID World Design Congress in Singapore from 23 to 25 November 2009 as he presents a talk on how energy demand and carbon emissions can be dramatically reduced through the use of light, intelligent electric vehicles and a new kind of urban mobility system. www.icsidcongress09.com



Nordic Design

This month, innovative Scandinavian design company Muuto has launched the brand-new storage basket Restore. Designed by Finnish designer Mika Tolvanen, it combines functional storage with an environment-friendly material. The container is made of polymer felt derived from recycled plastic bottles, and allows the user to store his or her things without burdening either the environment or the user's conscience. "My idea was to design a basket that could be used for a lot of purposes – something that stores anything from magazines and newspapers to toys and firewood. Also, a lot of thought has gone into the use of polymer felt. The environmentally responsible material choice combined with the basket's soft shape gives Restore an expression that is both warm and welcoming." Tolvanen says. www.muuto.com



Compost as Art

Although environmentally-friendly, compost bins are nearly impossible to maintain in space-challenged Hong Kong, they are practicable in Austria. Swiss product designers Markus and Daniel Freitag were invited last month by the Walking Chair Gallery in Vienna to create an installation and exhibition as part of the Vienna Design Week 2009. Titled Urban Gardening, the show aims to direct and encourage the general public to get involved in recycling and gardening within their local communities. On the exhibition's opening night on 1 October, the duo gave out 100 limited-edition Freitag compost bags to guests, who were instructed to return to the gallery after three months with their compost and place it in the compost bin as part of the installation. The brothers even prepared a soup for the guests, to show them what kind of food scraps could go into the compost bin. The exhibition runs until 31 December. www.walking-chair.com