

DESIGN IN FOCUS

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Further Reductions...

Retail Design Handles the Economy

Second Home...
Two by SCDA

Art House...
Alsopp Goes Public

Lap Dancing...
A Poolhouse in England





Sustainable Startup

Wayne and Geradine Hemmingway have taken street shopping to another level with KioskKiosk, an innovative pop-up shop. The two designers, who are best known for their iconic brand Red is Dead, realised that, with the downturn, it had become close to impossible for emergent creative businesses to find affordable and decent retail spaces. So, during the Londonian summer, emerging designers were able to rent KioskKiosk for free and sell their wares in the streets of the big city. The mobile shop also provided a model of sustainability, with solar panels to meet the designers' electricity needs. According to Wayne Hemmingway, the response was phenomenal and confirmed that the demand and talent was out there. The project was supported by the London Sustainable Development Commission and was part of the Design Museum's Super Contemporary Exhibition. www.kioskiosk.co.uk



From Furniture to Fashion

Ever wondered what a dress designed by Philippe Starck might look like? Well, now you know. It's elegant, modern, feminine and made of cashmere. The star-designer is experimenting for the first time with fashion: hats, scarves, belts, glasses, bags... a whole collection of goods for men and women. Created in partnership with Scotland-based cashmere knitwear manufacturer Ballantyne, the collection is user-friendly and designed to meet everyday needs. "The Starck With Ballantyne collection is nothing else but just what we really need anytime, anywhere, using the natural high technology of cashmere to explore the new territory of timeless elegance with intelligence," explains the world-famous French designer. Starck With Ballantyne comprises multi-functional garments with new ergonomics and contemporary fittings, including pieces with ultra silk linings and fluorescent colors. The new brand will be on sale from October 2009 in Ballantyne flagship stores and selected multi-brand stores around the world. What's next, master? www.starck.com

Soundproof

Hong Kong-based JEB Group has launched a revolutionary demountable partition system - PLUS. The system, which is a sight of visual slenderness and innate strength, has enlisted the help of KplusK Associates to focus on purist detailing to ensure every line and dimension made sense with a beautiful and artistic touch. The best thing about the system is that the aluminium structures can be taken apart and set up again at another location, increasing its reusability, flexibility and adaptability. The finish on the aluminium structure can be selected from a range of standard anodised or powdercoat colours. The glass panels can furthermore be customised with JEB's in-house, specialist glass team Infinity. Depending on the type and thickness of glass, you can create a soundproof area that's perfect for the boardroom or the boss' office. www.jebasia.com



Architecture is Art Festival

The "Architecture is Art Festival" is an art festival encompassing the broad topic of architecture and remains open at the Hong Kong Cultural Centre until 18 October 2009. The Festival, divided into four parts by four questions - "What is architecture?", "What is Chinese architecture?", "What is city odyssey?" and "What is West Kowloon?" - explores the broader philosophical aspects of architecture and examines the specific contexts of China and Hong Kong. The Festival is pioneering and extensive in nature, comprising diverse events such as multi-media theatre performances, exhibitions, conferences, public seminars, lectures and workshops. Consisting of more than 40 sessions, "Architecture is Art Festival" will explore architecture as an art form and its relationship with design and daily living. www.aiaf.hk



Floating Design

For Benjamin Ball and Gaston Nogues, it is definitely the journey that matters, not the destination. This Los Angeles-based design and fabrication studio specialises in the creation of experimental built environment, and likes to put an emphasis on the fabrication process. The firm's latest work, Feathered Edge, is the third in a series of projects called Suspensions, which seeks to modulate space without utilising solid form. Installed at the Pacific Design Center of the Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles, Feathered Edge is made of 21 miles of twine, cut at different lengths, dyed in various colours and suspended in catenary curves - resulting in an installation that is surely aerial and fragile, but also consistent and imposing. True to their love for the fabrication process, Ball and Nogues collaborated with a software developer to create a bespoke modelling tool which enabled them to explore more possibilities with catenary designs. The installation is on show until 15 November. www.ball-nogues.com

Photography by Brian Forrest