

## art

**Left of Center** Within art there are so many genres. This month, we've opted to focus on the quirky variety. Check out the following:

- The unique, often amusing cartoon drawings of Scott Campbell at [scott-c.blogspot.com](http://scott-c.blogspot.com)
- An odd "culture critique" courtesy of U.K. artist David Blandy.
- The skateboard-deck-as-canvas "invitational" exhibit entitled "Hit the Deck," involving 50 graphic designers and graffiti artist renderings
- The "Charity by Numbers" benefit, involving 100 artists and paint-by-number kits
- Beth Doherty's "amigurumi," crocheted animal workshop
- Rankin's "Eyescapes," extreme close-ups of eyes
- Vik Muniz "temporary images" created from food
- Examples of the work of Scott Wade at [dirtycarart.com](http://dirtycarart.com)

Source: *Flavorpill SF, London, LA, Chicago, 1/31 & 2/14 & 3/28 & 4/11/07; wgsn.com*



Images courtesy of Scott Campbell



• Benjamin Moore's release of "Color Pulse 2008" to the trade only. However, you must know the secret handshake and password.



Image courtesy of Benjamin Moore

- The "creative continuity" created when combining the traditional (materials, techniques, etc.) and modern (design, utility, etc.) – e.g., Lonny van Rijswijk's use of regional clays in her Netherland tableware, Shao Fan's classic woodcarving techniques for his contemporary designed Ming Ladder, couture fashion featuring intricate, traditional embroidery or beadwork, and Auntie Margaret's new casserole using a long-since expired box of macaroni and cheese.
- Upcoming design shows: NeoCon (interior design, June 11–13), National Design Triennial: Design Life Now (through July 29), Tendence Lifestyle (consumer wares, August 24–28), ExperimentalDesign (cultural aspect, September 12–16), 100% Design (September 20–23), IDEX/NeoCon (September 27–28). Or you could skip the whole lot and catch *Cirque de Soleil*.

Source: *The Architectural Review, 12/06; Flavorpill LA, 4/27/07; Artkrush, 3/09/07; I.D., Jan/Feb 2007; ASID Icon; wgsn.com; Azure, Jan/Feb 2007; Architect, 1/07*

## interiors

**Money Pit** As if property taxes and energy costs weren't enough, add "showpiece design" to the latest trend in outfitting your home. According to recent design show insiders, "The market is changing ... there's a new realm of design-slash-art ... is it art? Or is it design? If it's a chair you can't sit on, it's whatever you want it to be." And it appears the preference is for limited edition, commissioned or prototype pieces, which further impact supply and demand (read: cost). Some examples of these high-design home furnishings? Marc Newsom's "Chop Top" tables, Wieki Somer's boat tubs and Peter Ting's china.

Source: *Azure, Mar/April 2007; wgsn.com*

## pop culture

**Status Skills** It's not just the accumulation of experiences that turns consumers on these days – it's also the accumulation of skills. Skill has become synonymous with status and there are several brands making headway with those in acquisition mode. Here's a few examples by category:

- DIY – [instructables.com](http://instructables.com) (online how-tos), [iheartswitch.com](http://iheartswitch.com) (electronics, fashion technology and design online DIY show)
- Travel – [accessstrips.com](http://accessstrips.com) (instructional adventure travel)
- Automotive – BMW Performance Driving School
- Photography – Nikon School and Kodak's One Gallery
- Cooking – Viking Cooking School

Source: [trendwatching.com](http://trendwatching.com), 1/22/07



## architecture

**Commanding Structures** Our current look at international architecture encompasses the structure, as well as related items that "command" our attention:

- Art-infused architecture, e.g., Frank Stella's architectural sculptures, Abu Dhabi's plans for a cultural district with works by Gehry, Hadid, Nouvel and Ando, and on-site performances in architecturally interesting locations by the Berlin Staatsballet (Berlin) and Topographical Amnesias (Brazil's Curitiba neighborhood)
- The unique facades and interiors of establishments designed by London-based architecture firm, FAT
- The cemetery extension in Santo Stefano, Italy, designed by Amoretti, Calvi & Ranalli

Source: *Flavorpill NYC, 5/02/07; Artkrush #52; Earplug, 4/27/07; nytimes.com, 2/02/07; wgsn.com; The Architectural Review, 12/06*



Images courtesy of FAT architectural firm



Images courtesy of [www.taivaanranta.net/mafoombey/](http://www.taivaanranta.net/mafoombey/)



**Speak Up**

Logo courtesy of Under Consideration [www.underconsideration.com/speakup](http://www.underconsideration.com/speakup)

## design

**Booster Shot** Let us inject you with a few thought starters:

- Thinking *inside* the box, e.g., the Mafoombey sound cavern (an enclosure made from corrugated cardboard designed for listening to music), the Want2BSquare art show (featuring artists with cube-based installations), Gavin Scott's Wonder Cabinets (shadow box art), and that shall-remain-nameless SNL video with Justin Timberlake ...
- Graphic design inspiration from [www.underconsideration.com/speakup](http://www.underconsideration.com/speakup) (online graphic design forum), decorative packing tape from Autoband, Droog, Shed and Bugbee, and book "Tables Turned" (artwork created in Microsoft Excel). *Excel art ... the only acceptable way to take work home with you.*

Loomstate, pressure on manufacturers to deliver environmentally friendly packaging, and investigation into paperless instant coupons

- Fashion industry players, e.g., designer Katharine Hamnett (organic cotton, friendlier dyes, ethical production values), Levi's (organic cotton denim), Linda Loudermilk and Organic (sustainable materials), Edun (sustainable employment) and Uniqlo and Patagonia (clothing recycling programs)
- Artists, e.g., Gilles Clement and Philippe Rahm's exhibit, "Environment: Approaches for Tomorrow," Mary Ellen Carroll's "Indestructible Language," and musical group "Cloud Clout," who uses geothermal energy and packages albums with recycled materials

Source: *Flavorpill CHI, 4/17/07; NYT, 12/28/06; Media, 9/06; Creative Review, 1/07; JC Report #109, 1/31/07; Retailing Today, 8/21/06; Iconoculture, 12/15/06 & 3/37/07; I.D., Jan/Feb 2007*

## workplace

**Business School** Time to educate yourself on the latest office antics:

- Pimp My Cubicle kits. *All the rage with hedge fund companies, pharmaceutical firms and government offices.*
- Office coffee upgrades, including better suppliers, single-serve espresso/latte machines, specialty roasters, coffee bars and multiple, exotic flavors. *Beware the Corporate Kool-Aid.*
- Tools to deal with office crazies: The Workplace Bullying Camp, and new (and old) books, "The No Asshole Rule: Building a Civilized Workplace and Surviving One That Isn't," "Somebodies and Nobodies" and "Weirdos in the Workplace." *Of course, locking them in the stairwell works too.*
- Faith-at-work experimentation, ranging from spiritual employee-resource groups to religious holiday recognition to spiritual leadership practices. *Team, let's meet in Conference Room B to kneel over these budget figures.*
- Car office technology, e.g., Iqua Snake (hands-free, car headrest cellphone), CarGo Desk (passenger seat work space), and the Autonet Mobile Unit (wireless in your vehicle). *Soon to be followed by the Backseat Break Room and Trunk Toilet.*
- Eco-friendly efforts to reduce office waste, with some attempting to copy Wal-Mart's highly publicized "zero waste" goal. *And others just opting to emulate Wal-Mart's low, low wages.*

Source: *Iconoculture, 1/10, 4/10, 5/26, 8/22/06 & 1/24/07, WSJ, 3/22/07; Fortune, 3/19/07; Inc, 2/07*

**Deskperation** Some outside inspiration for the ultimate in desk design:

- The Executive Mother and Child Desk, by Charles Rose, featuring a kid space for telecommuting moms, or "Take Your Child to Work Days." *Also works well for intimidating subordinates and vendors at contract renewal time.*
- Mayo Clinic prototype classroom "standing desks" for fighting childhood obesity. *Warning: May cause back, leg and foot pain, but hey, at least they're not fat!*
- Michael Grave's designed lobby "pods," replacing Wyndham Hotel front desks. *A controversial move requiring staff to wear pants to cover previously hidden, robotic legs.*
- Crayola's turtle-shaped lap desk. *Which actually gives us a new cubicle idea ... a shell configuration allowing workers to just pop their head in and out of, as necessary.*

Source: *Iconoculture, 6/23/04 & 8/15, 9/28 & 12/10/06/06*

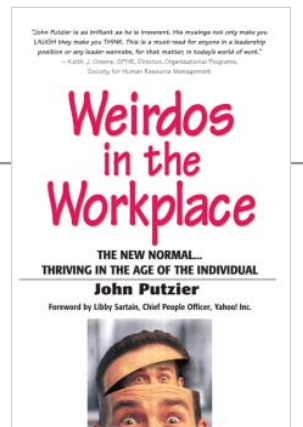


Image courtesy of FT Press



Image courtesy of Iqua



Image courtesy of Charles Rose Architects, [www.charlesrosearchitects.com](http://www.charlesrosearchitects.com)



Image courtesy of Crayola