

art

Natural Resources There are plenty of other places to tap art besides the obvious museum. Here are a few resources worth checking out:

- **Nomous Quarterly**, a fine art publication.
- **Maurice**, a contemporary British art magazine for kids.
- **Art and design blogs**, including: we-make-money-not-art.com, designobserver.com, blogs.guardian.co.uk/art/ and signandsight.com.
- **International auction house scenes**.
- **Major international art shows**, e.g., the Venice Biennale, Documenta Kassel, Sculpture Projects Munster, Arco, Art Basel and scores of other fairs and forums.
- **Web sites like** www.dailypainters.com and www.Oddpodz.com.
- **Pop cans**, via Pepsi's user design contest.
- **Graffiti** (especially internationally renowned artist, Banksy) or book "BlackBox" (on the Japanese graffiti scene).
- **Your own environment**, via "land art," the movement beyond graffiti, creating art within natural spaces, e.g., Helen Knodding's "Moss Graffiti," Madelon Galland's "Upholstered Tree Stumps," Patrick Blanc's "Vertical Gardens" and Andy Goldsworthy's "Snow Slab."

Source: *Art Report 1118*, *Architect 457*, *W&A 214/07*, *Metropolis*, *July/August 2007*, *Wired*, *3/07*, *Media*, *5/07*, *Print*, *Jan/Feb 2007*, *BusinessWeek*, *5/08/07*, *egon.com/blog-city/entry/06/06/08/02/08*, *HeadDesign*, *10/07*

design

Simple Simon There's evidence in the design world about "getting back to basics." Design sensibility appears inching ever closer to function, rather than purely for form's sake. Evidence? The reinvention of ordinary objects for increased functionality (e.g., double-spouted teapots), innovation through simple, practical products (e.g., a flashlight that accepts any battery size) and a new crop of "redesigners," guided more by process than design (e.g., Jasper Morrison, Niilo Takasawa and Konstantin Grcic). Here's to hoping someone will pick up and make "The Clapper" applicable to other people's iPods and cell phones...

Source: *egon.com/think-tank/features/02007tag02*, *Acure*, *6/07*

workplace

Fast Company Ever find yourself wishing you could take all the amenities of your workplace (phone number, mailing address, receptionist, office, lounge, etc.) WITH you when you travel on business? Got a short-term project abroad but can't financially commit to opening up a satellite? Consider the latest in office concepts: the instant office. Companies like Regus Group PLC, recognizing that 60% of the space businesses lease often sits empty, leases full-fledged workplaces in some 950 locations and 400 cities worldwide. Added bonuses? One-day or multi-year lease options, quick turnaround and an efficient opportunity to test drive a market before committing.

Source: *www.regus.com*

Water Cooler

Wondering what all the buzz is about? Business Travel. On the one hand, there's downgrading—with employees being asked to cut costs, share rooms, etc. And on the other hand, there's a marked improvement—the debut of DayJet, a six-seater air taxi poised to "radically change the airline industry." Radical change? You mean they're going to feed us again?

• **Organizational Quotient (OQ)**. A new term coined to represent the "toggling between a supervisory/leadership structured workplace and a loose, "do your own thing" environment. The ability to analyze the org chart dynamics and the "invisible" social network dynamics and leverage them both. What for? We all know the head of Office Services runs the place anyway...



Courtesy of mauricemagazine.com



Courtesy of Helen Knodding



Courtesy of Madelon Galland

• **CEO Peer Groups**. Heads of companies who come together with other heads of companies to exchange ideas and get advice. *Coops*. *Our bud*. *We thought that was called "got."*

• **PowerPoint's 20th Anniversary**. A really DULL reference to be sure.

Source: *W&A*, *6/02*, *7/03* & *7/26/07*; *Fast Company*, *5/07*; *Source*, *7/23/07*

pop culture

I Spy With my little eye:

• **Web**: Sites worth checking out: *planet11rillon.com* (imagining what celebrities would look like without all the help), *stardoll.com* (dress up your celebrity, à la paper doll style), *manedictionary.com* (comic superhero bios), *cyborg.namecdirectory.com* (enter your name and get the acronym-like description) and *swivel.com* (rush-ups for Excel fans).

• **Film**: *Mumblecore*, a newly coined film genre referring to "the mundane vacillations of post-collegiate existence." Examples? Independent films like "Dance Party USA," "Puffy Chair" and "Hannah Takes the Stairs."

• **Music**: New artists like LiMama, Kid Sister and GoldieLocks (young, female rappers), Crooked I (rap), Christie Michele (pop/R&B), A Fine Frenzy (pop), Jason Isbell, The Pipers (alternative) and Howlin Rain and Bat for Lashes (indie rock).

• **Collectibles**: Eric Collins' pieces, adorned with plastic stones, circa 1999.

• **Sports & Leisure**: Eco-running: combining exercise and garbage pickup all in one.

Source: *egon.com/think-tank/features/0207/386* & *jean-michel-bastien-jan-2007/02*, *W&A*, *5/19/07*, *wh.com*, *Slate*, *7/07*, *Forrest*, *L.A. & Co.*, *7/07*, *Ironchicken*, *8/17/07*, *Wired*, *2/07*; *Courtesy* *Home*



Courtesy of Samuel Huber

retail

Conceptual Approach As usual, we're seeing a lot of reinvention of the traditional store concept. *Temporary*, a concept popularized by pop-up retail establishments and limited edition guest designers, has taken on a new form in New York's "Den," stocking only one brand each four- to six-week season.

Smart Box, a more intimate, counterfeiter being proposed by well-known retail giants, e.g., Wal-Mart's plans for higher-end, small footprint stores.

Welforints, small stores offering discounts to customers for allowing purchases to be shipped from the warehouse, rather than purchased off the floor, e.g., "Niu." *Instant Gratification*, retailers using technology to entice and satisfy consumers in real time, e.g., Netflix's 30-second downloads for the PC. And finally, *Midnight Madness*, e-tailers' latest attempt to capture night owls with special duck to dawn promotions.

Source: *egon.com/think-tank/features/0207/404*, *W&A*, *5/17/07*; *Time Style & Design*, *6/07*; *Entrepreneur*, *3/20/07*; *www.temporary.com*, *7/10/07*



Courtesy of Den - 230 East 11th Street, New York

technology

Social Hour No surprise to anyone, young consumers dominate the world of social computing (RSS feeds, IMs, podcasts, blogging and social networking). Here's what's new in their world:

• **Widgets**—free software programs touted as "bling for your blog," allowing users to embed their Web pages with data (e.g., weather, ads, etc.) or increase function (e.g., photo slideshow). Popular widget maker? *Slide.com*.

• **Twitter**—described as an "addictive, short-form blog service that allows you 140 characters to tell the world what you're doing or thinking at any given moment" via PC or cell phone.

• **USB Virtual Friends**—user-created, desktop "partners," e.g., *Virtual Boyfriend*.

• **Anonymouschat**—gadgets designed for social interaction, e.g., "jackets that give off 'don't touch me' electrical current, near window communication to other motorists and take background noise on your phone."

Source: *Entrepreneur*, *7/27/06*; *Forbes*, *8/20/07*; *www.twitter.com*, *3/06/07*; *adams.com*, *7/06/07*; *Fast Company*, *9/07*; *Inc.*, *8/07*; *veg.com*, *8/17/07*



Courtesy of slide.com



Courtesy of proprietary.com

interiors

Inspiration Station Consider the following sources of "divine inspiration":

• The palaces, temples and tombs of India—mirror and slucco, inlaid marble, walled corridors and courtyards, and biblical imagery.

• The theatrical, rhythmic, visual feast of Rio's Carnival—metallic mixed with natural colors, colored sequins and futuristic or tribal references.

• The "global cut" of camouflage.

• '80s retro.

• Natural, organic or recycled materials that hint at a "releaved pace of life"—e.g., wool, sunbleached, woven, clay, primitive patterns, earthy textures, translucent and fragrant.

• The "push towards casualization," which caters to current lifestyles and spaces "built around socializing and functionality."

Source: *egon.com/think-tank/features/02/08/06* & *materials/features/02/03/06/06* & *events-infos/features/02/03/06*; *The APD Group*, *Winter 2006*; *Retaining Today*, *7/16/07*

Hot Seat Take a load off with one of the following "it" chairs:

• Dragnet lounge chair (Kenneth Coppenoe for Interior Crafts of the Islands, Inc.).

• Karola foam chair (Lisi Beckmann for Zanotta).

• Arcoblenk nylon/polycarbonate chair (Heller).

• Sumo Lounge bean bag chair (Sumotounge.com).

• Peekaboo wing chair (Stetan Borselius for ICF).

• Patrona armchair (Jaime Hayon for BD Ediciones de Diseño).

• Handtruck chair (Bauklotz/Arto).

• Flying Carpet (Eero Aarnio for Magis).

• Bricks chair (Modersseel).

• The Hatch Lounger (flush-bbag.com).

• Adam's Temptation ball chair.



Dragnet Lounge Chair by Kenneth Coppenoe

Courtesy of Orange Milano



Courtesy of modersseel.com

Source: *Dwell*, *5/07*; *LD*, *March/April 2007*; *NYT*, *2/08* & *6/21/07*; *Acure*, *Jan/Feb 2007*

green

Shopping List Here are a few of our favorite eco-friendly items:

• **Cargo's Plant-Love lipstick**, with tubes made from corn and packaged in a seed-infused box that can be planted to grow flowers.

• **Nellie's Laundry fabric softener** substitute: Dyerballs.

• **Vespa's Candella lamps** with rechargeable batteries.

• **Raguel Martin's Rush Shower**: shower curtain with heat sensitive ink that warms you when your shower is too long.



Courtesy of Raguel Martin

Source: *Working Mother*, *4/07*; *AMR*, *May & June 2007*; *egon.com/materials/features/02/03/07/02*; *Gannco*