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ISSN 1561-781-5



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Shining a Light

In March, the latest edition of the biennial Light + Building trade fair will take place in Frankfurt. Debuting at the coming event will be a new Young Design Zone. This space will provide newcomers to the lighting industry with a dedicated area in which they can introduce themselves and their products to a professional audience. The lamps on display will not yet be in production, with the rights for the exhibited designs still up for grabs. "We want to give young talents the opportunity to showcase their creativity and design skills and to make contact with partners, who will be able to help them further their careers," says Light + Building director of brand management Maria Hasselman. "This is often where the foundation stones for successful collaborations between designers and manufacturers are laid – an ideal springboard for the sector." Stands in the Young Design Zone will be let free of charge to those under the age of 35 with less than five years of design experience under their belt.

One of the themes of the main event will be *Digital, Reductionist, Refined – Lighting for the Modern World*. Over the last few years, the world has embraced the latest development in lighting: energy-efficient LEDs. "After a few years of 'transition', LEDs have become a well-established standard, and creative new approaches are now emerging from this new perspective on light and lighting that would have been unthinkable up until a few years ago," reads the Light + Building press release. Designers are still adjusting to the sudden changes. "Whilst, until a few years ago, lighting design was still concerned with devising the most decorative models possible to create sculptural accents in the home, luminaires can now be seen to be receding into the background." The current trend is for lamps in minimalist, reductionist forms.

Another topic that will be mulled over in Frankfurt is organic shapes versus geometric ones. The fair will explore all the latest design trends within the lighting industry. Light + Building 2018 runs from 18 to 23 March.
www.light-building.messefrankfurt.com



Comic Turns

Hong Kong's Wanchai district is the epicentre of the city's animation and comic industry. As part of celebrations for the 20th anniversary of Hong Kong's return to Chinese rule, a number of artworks and installations are currently on public display at various locations around Wanchai. "Comixtreem in the City [is] a project that transforms the district's public spaces into exciting anicom encounters," says the Hong Kong Arts Centre, one of the organisers. The entrance and interior walls of the Southorn Playground are adorned with art by graphic artists Jerry Cho and Mandycat. Other locations where artwork is on public display include the east entrance and ground floor of Revenue Tower, and the exterior wall of the Hong Kong Arts Centre on Gloucester Road. Five lampposts in Wanchai have been painted by local illustrator Bo Law. The event is sponsored by Create Hong Kong of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, and runs until July.
www.hkac.org.hk

 egis

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Getting Together

In October last year, French infrastructure engineers Egis Group acquired Hong Kong-based architectural practice 10 Design. "Both firms are delighted to announce Egis' investment of a majority interest in 10 Design," said the companies in a joint statement. "The complementary geographic footprints and design skills of each firm provide an incredible platform for multiskill collaboration." The Hong Kong firm is well established in Asia; its current leadership will be preserved. "Egis has been looking into [expanding its] building design activities in Southeast Asia for some time," said Thomas Salvant, executive director of Buildings at Egis. "The strategic partnership with 10 Design presents a great opportunity to enrich Egis' services to include high-value-added architectural design."
www.egis-group.com www.10design.com



A New Beginning

The Environmental Bubble is a mobile, inflatable structure that recently hosted dance workshops at various locations across New York City. The portable venue is based on an unrealised architectural project of the same name by French architect-and-artist Francois Dallegret. Originally an illustration accompanying English architecture critic Reyner Banham's seminal article *A Home is Not a Home* (first published in the April 1965 edition of *Art in America* magazine), The Environmental Bubble became a reference point for architects who sought to challenge the dualism of public and private spaces. In order, finally, to realise the project, LA-based architect Francois Perrin and French dance choreographer Dimitri Chamblas collaborated with Dallegret, resulting in an updated bubble that responds to a new urban context. Central Park, Times Square and Main Street Park were among the places in the Big Apple where The Environmental Bubble pitched up, as part of New York's Performa 17 arts festival.

www.17.performa-arts.org



High-Fliers

A concept design for Tehran International Airport Terminal 2 by Istanbul-based architectural practice GMW MIMARLIK has won the 2017 American Architecture Prize (AAP) in the category of Architectural Design/Transportation. The proposed 175,000sq m terminal would house 28 gates, and be able to serve 26.5 million passengers per annum. The AAP jury panel included Yale University lecturer Peggy Deamer and Guggenheim Foundation and Museum curator Troy Conrad Therrien, among others. The award was bestowed at the AAP Winners Cocktail Evening at the New Museum in New York City last October.

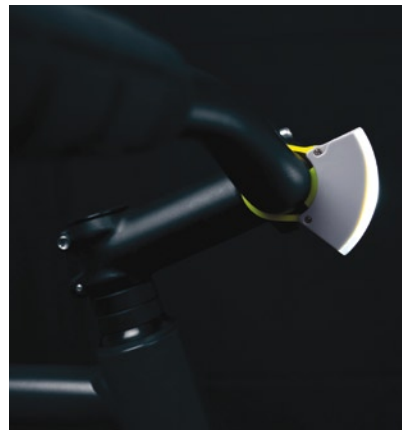
www.architectureprize.com



Heavenly Light

Catalan lamp-maker Vibia has launched HALO, a new collection designed by Barcelona-based Basque Martín Azúa. The range comprises two LED-powered units: HALO LINEAR, a light strip that can be arranged to create abstract shapes; and HALO CIRCULAR, which looks like an enormous onion ring. The units are finished in matt white lacquer, and are secured to ceilings by inconspicuous cords, allowing the lamps to appear afloat.

www.vibia.com



Bright Bikes

Swedish bicycle-accessories manufacturer Bookman AB has launched a range of curved lights, for both the front and rear of a bike. Curved Light 2 can stay illuminated for up to seven-and-a-half hours, although this reduces if the device is run at its full brightness of 100 lumens, at which setting it will remain powered for two-and-a-half hours. There is also a flicker mode that extends the length of time the unit can remain operational. Curved Light 2 can be easily attached to (and removed from) a bike frame via an elastic silicone clip. The units are water-resistant, and available in three colour options: grey-and-yellow, pink-and-blue, and all-black. €9 buys you one; €5 buys you a front-and-rear set.



Brave New Digital World

The Hong Kong Design Institute (HKDI) and the Institute of Vocational Education in Hong Kong (IVE) have collaborated with the Red Dot Design Museum to present *Homo Ex Data – The Natural of the Artificial*, an exhibition that explores the ways digital technology is changing society. Over 150 Red Dot Award-winning products are on display. The exhibition opened with a talk by Red Dot founder Dr Peter Zec, who shared his insights on the subject of design and technology.

“Following Homo Sapiens and Homo Faber, a new type of human, which we call Homo Ex Data, is emerging,” said Zec. “Fitted with and surrounded by sensors, Homo Ex Data becomes part of a systematically constructed ‘bio-artificial’ reality... With Homo Ex Data, human evolution is entering a whole new phase. Unlike Homo Faber, this new type of human is no longer interested in having power over technology in order to control his environment. Instead, such humans themselves become part of a world that strives for absolute transparency, organised by universal data transfer. This world regenerates itself again and again by coupling artificial with natural systems.”

Among the VIPs in attendance were the German Consul General in Hong Kong Thomas Walther, president of the Industrial Designers Society of Hong Kong Steve Yeung, honorary secretary of the Hong Kong Designers Association Eddy Hui, and the city’s Chief Secretary for Administration Matthew Cheung. “The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region is committed to furthering the development of the creative industries, in particular the design sector,” said Cheung. “We believe that design thinking should become a problem-solving capability and a new way of thinking that promotes value-adding and advocates interdisciplinary collaboration.”

Homo Ex Data – The Natural of the Artificial is being held at the HKDI Gallery in Tseung Kwan O, and runs till 27 May 2018.

www.hkdi.edu.hk



Mirror, Mirror, On the Wall

The Pilkington MirroView and Pilkington MirroView 50/50 are monitors that, when switched off, look like mirrors. This allows digital displays and video screens to be ‘camouflaged’ when not in use. MirroView is ideal for residential living rooms and bathrooms, bars and restaurants, hotel lobbies and guestrooms, shops, and digital signage, whereas Pilkington MirroView 50/50 is specially designed for use in areas where there is a lot of ambient light. The MirroView screens have been given a clear pyrolytic coating, preventing them from degrading over time. Pilkington is a subsidiary of Nippon Sheet Glass Company.



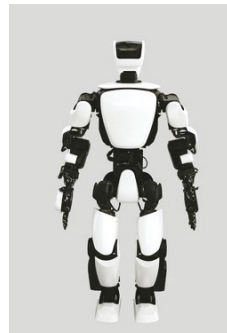
Morning Light

In November last year, LANZ LED held a “morning session” at the Grand Hyatt hotel in Hong Kong. The main event was a presentation by LANZ LED creator Ruediger Lanz, who talked about the technology behind some of his firm’s products. This was followed by a bout of Q&As. The event attracted more than 40 guests, most of whom were property developers, lighting designers, or LANZ LED customers from public utilities.
www.lanz-asia.com



The Sound of Silence

PX is a new headphone by British hi-fi-ers Bowers & Wilkins. The wireless headpiece features leather-lined padding and sculpted aluminium elements, and boasts noise-cancelling technology in three specialised modes: flight, city and office. To achieve its wireless status, PX employs the latest-generation Bluetooth (aptX HD), and a battery that provides 22 hours of use. PX is available in two colour combinations: black with “space grey” aluminium, or dark blue with “soft gold”.
www.bowers-wilkins.com



Dreams of Electric Sheep

The Partner Robot Division of Japanese firm Toyota has unveiled its third-generation “humanoid robot”. The T-HR3 represents a significant development in commercial robot technology. It features the Torque Servo Module and the Master Manoeuvring System. The latter allows an operator to manipulate the robot via wearable controls that make the robot mimic the actions and movements of the operator, while a head-mounted display allows the controller to see from T-HR3’s perspective. The former precisely measures the force exerted by the robot, and relays that information back to the operator. This technology, which was developed in collaboration with Tamagawa Seiko Company and Nidec Copal Electronics Corporation, allows the robot to be used for quite delicate operations. T-HR3 was on display at the recent International Robot Exhibition in Tokyo.
www.toyota-global.com



Roman Revival

Milanese wallpaperers Wallpepper has launched the new Classic Collection, a range inspired by Italy’s rich art history. The series includes, among others, Vestale in azzurro, a design influenced by Roman parietal decorations; Livia, based on the Casa di Livia in the Eternal City; and Liberty, Le nouveau fleur and Ginko – all three reference famous Art Deco designs. The Classic catalogue is PVC-free, resistant to abrasion, and made of fireproof and odourless cellulose and fibre.



Teutonic Taps

German shower-and-tap specialist Hansgrohe is spotlighting a new kitchen sink with mixer. The Metris two-hole single-lever kitchen mixer has an ergonomic design and a pull-out spout. The faucet can swivel 150 degrees, and a hose allows the pull-out spout to be extended to up to 76cm. The length of the hose is neatly housed in the sink's space-saving sBox, which prevents beneath-sink clutter. A "select button" located at the near right corner of the sink allows users to control water flow with one's elbow – a handy function when both mitts are occupied, holding hot pots and pans. The sink-and-mixer unit is available in chrome or stainless steel, and can be installed flat on a countertop, or be mounted flush.

www.hansgrohe.com



Wake-Up Call

Circa is a new bedside alarm clock conceived by Dutch designer Robert Bronwasser. The unit has a plastic housing, with Kvadrat fabric covering the speaker. It is controlled by a large wristwatch-inspired crown on the unit's side, and a touchscreen. To help facilitate a night of undisturbed sleep, the screen is dark – lighting up only when tapped. "The proposition is a one-to-one match with the way I think about design: you go to sleep with Circa and wake up with a smile," says Bronwasser. Circa was recently launched at Dutch Design Week in Eindhoven.

www.robertbronwasser.com



Printed Matter

Print Your City! is an initiative by Dutch research-and-design studio The New Raw that seeks to explore ways in which 3D-printing technology can be used to recycle household plastic waste. Municipal trash is ground into pellets and flakes, which are then fed into a 3D printer that creates civic furniture items. The first piece off their eco-friendly production line is a rocking bench named XXX. Weighing 50kg and measuring 150-by-80cm, the bench seats up to four persons. It can be seen in some public areas in the Dutch capital.

"As the name suggests, Print your City! is a call for action, rallying citizens to recycle household plastic waste in order to transform it into raw material for public furniture, via a 3D printing process," says The New Raw. Amsterdam-based 3D-printing studio Aectual collaborated on the project.

www.printyour.city



Fresh Facility

Tat Ming Wallpaper Company recently opened a new showroom in Hong Kong. The two-storey “concept gallery” is located at 54 Hollywood Road, in the Central district of Hong Kong Island. Among the multiple product lines on display at the 2,300sqft premises are curtain fabrics, wallpaper, flooring, carpets and cushions. The firm stocks an array of high-end materials, many of which have been imported from countries such as the US, Netherlands, Belgium, Spain and Japan. “In order to continue building an excellent brand image, the new [facility] will be a brand new and upgraded showroom for customers, [and will] aim to provide them [with] a more comfortable [environment] and convenient location to shop in,” says Tat Ming. www.tatming.com

Sacred Shelf

Californian manufacturer Blankblank has relaunched Juxtaposed: Religion Tenth Anniversary Edition, a bookshelf that comes complete with seven hardback volumes of religious teachings. Designed by San Francisco-based studio Mike & Maaike, the bookshelf has uneven, fluctuating slots for each tome carved into the pinewood ledge, so that all seven books sit back-to-back and reach the same height. Included are the Bible, the Koran, the Torah, the Gita, the Laozi, as well as two books about Buddhism. “We all have felt the decline of physical books,” says Maaike Evers of Mike & Maaike. “We would like to highlight the importance of the physicality of certain books. Seeing them related and next to one another, a new message arises. We would like to think that having access to many points of view and creating empathy is at the heart of this project.” Juxtaposed: Religion was originally released in 2017 as a limited-edition piece. www.blankblank.net

