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ART AND MEDIA

When Art Blows the Fuse

GESCHÄFTSPARTNER Russland
THEMA Gastgeschenke weltweit
BASICS Risk Assessment
BUSINESS Quality Control
HISTORY Inventor of the Future



The Mobile Overcoat

Imagine good old R2-D2 had a passenger seat. It would look like the i-Swing, Toyota's suggestion for a wheelchair for healthy people. The single-person vehicle has two travel modes. In a bustling street full of people, the i-Swing can operate on two wheels taking up little space, so that it is possible to travel while keeping pace and talking with someone on foot. When there is a need to move quickly, the i-Swing can change to a three-wheeled mode. In addition to the stick control, a pedal control can be used to provide a fresh cornering feeling, as if you were on skis. And

finding a parking lot is easy, just leave your mobile overcoat at the cloak room. www.toyota.de



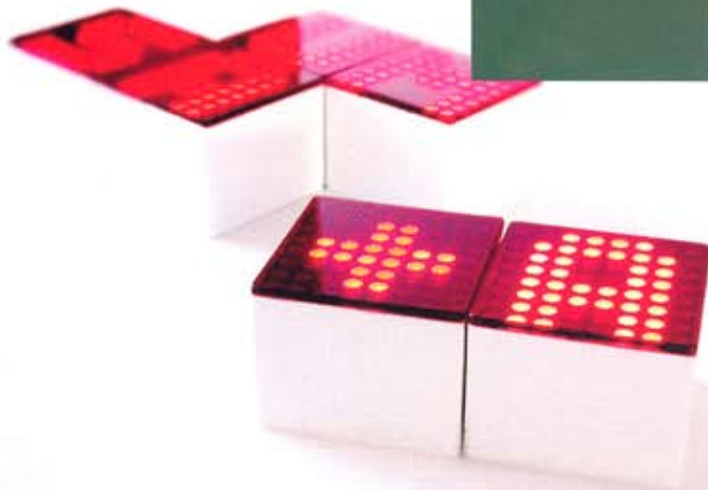
Bild: Toyota

Campers Keep Cool in the Desert

If you like the wide open spaces of a Sahara or Gobi desert camp ground, look out for this tent. The Desert Seal is a prototype for a one-person inflatable tent and it takes advantage of the extreme desert temperatures to make travelling in the desert more comfortable.

The architects Vogler and Vittori designed Desert Seal specifically for hot arid environments where the air becomes considerably cooler the more distant it is from the Earth's surface. During the day, an electric fan in the top of the tent, 2.3 metres above the ground, constantly blows cooler air inside, thus reducing the temperature inside the tent. The fan is powered by batteries charged by a flexible solar panel mounted outside the tent. During the night, the desert radiates heat off to space and quickly reaches temperature below zero degree Celsius. Since air acts as a good insulator, on higher levels it stays considerably warmer. The fan on top now runs on batteries and blows warmer air into the tent, protecting from the chilly desert nights. The tent consists of an air beam structure made of polyethylene-coated material. It has an awning in silver-coated high-strength textile to reflect the heat and provide protection from direct sunshine. The L-shaped tent allows upright entry and also minimises the aerodynamic load.

www.ea.int, www.architectureandvision.com



Puzzling Talking Bricks

Bild: Tiletoy

Our parents played with wooden building bricks and we most likely favoured Lego bricks. But what will the kids of the post dotcom era play with? Interactive bricks, of course! Tuomo Tammenpää's and Daniel Blackburn's Tiletoy is a modular, electronic game prototype for tangible LED game tiles. It brings the flexibility inherent in digital software to a physical tile that people can touch and interact with. By arranging the electronic tiles, players can engage themselves in various kinds of game play, ranging from fast-paced arcade style games to puzzle and learning games.

Compared with traditional tile games Tiletoy can take advantage of such things as changing state, animations and games where the tiles can affect the state of adjoining tiles. The re-programmable and constantly updated graphical information on each tile is displayed with a LED matrix system. Each tile is controlled individually and can be used to transmit information on its own or in groups of several tiles.

So far Tiletoy isn't available in shops but a soldering iron will help you on: Tile Toy is an open project and a detailed construction manual can be downloaded. <http://tiletoy.blogspot.com>



Bild: Architecture and Vision