

1. Surfing the *Freedom of the Seas*

The Royal Caribbean cruise ship line has long been an innovator on the high seas, combining luxury and technology aboard their floating cities. The company is on the verge of introducing a new innovation in nautical extravagance with the May 2006 launch of *Freedom of the Seas*: the largest cruise ship in the world. In addition to accommodating 3800 guests, the one-of-kind vessel features an on-deck wave pool for surfing. Ordinarily reserved for water parks, the "Flow Rider" has been modified to fit the smaller scale of a ship's deck. Waves for surfing are created by circulating 30,000 gallons of water over an elevated rise. Guests can "surf" down the water-immersed slope. The only catch? One surfer at a time.



www.freedomoftheseas.com

2. DIY Mural kits bring nature indoors



Decoradar, a new interior design service founded by artists Elisheva Biernoff and Jen Smith, taps into two prevalent trends with its DIY-nature-inspired mural kits. Each kit coordinates with a single point on the compass. The "North" kit (pictured) consists of paint, stencils, brushes and a sculptural owl element. The "South" kit provides a tree stencil and six wooden oranges. As of December, the "East" and "West" kits are still forthcoming. Although application of the mural is entirely up to the individual, the Decoradar website provides photos of suggested implementations. An apt marriage of the pastoral and DIY, these kits provide the tools for trendy customization in the home.

www.decoradar.com

3. MoMA presents *Safe: Design Takes on Risk*

Running through January 2, 2006, the first large design exhibition at the new MoMA, *Safe: Design Takes on Risk*, addresses modern issues of protection in an increasingly unsafe world. From the fashionable (a black leather bag attached to a bracelet to ward off thieves) to the functional (a wearable motherboard that detects bullet wounds) these items play on both our obvious and our subliminal fears. Addressing issues of terror, comfort and surveillance, the exhibit aims to provide an object for every modern need. An interactive presentation on the MoMA website allows visitors to experience each item, and includes descriptions and designer profiles.

www.moma.org/exhibitions/2005/safe



4. *Wired* magazine pop-up store

Although the pop-up store concept is not new, the magazine sponsored holiday outlet is still fresh. This year *Wired* magazine brings us a six-week version of its online store in SoHo, packed with items previously available only by mail. In addition to trendy electronic gadgets, the store features daily giveaways, a shopping shuttle service, tech tutorials and editors' gift picks. The free services and gift giveaways end December 24th.

160 Wooster Street at Houston



www.wiredstore.net



5. Listen to your dress

The conceptual brainchild of designer Alyce Santoro, Sonic Fabric is an utterly unique textile creation. Inspired by the use of unraveled tape stock to indicate wind direction on sailboats, Sonic Fabric is constructed almost entirely of used cassette tape stock. Amazingly, the woven fabric still emits a sound when a tape head is run over it, producing garments you can actually "play."

Although the average dress does not produce specific melodies (think more along the lines of a record being played backwards), Santoro does create custom work that has been specifically composed for performances, such as the dress at left, worn and played by a member of Phish during a 2004 concert. Sonic Fabric is available by the yard at www.sonicfabric.com.

6. Color throughout fashion

One of numerous fashion-related exhibits to show in New York recently, the Cooper-Hewitt's Fashion in Colors is a history lesson in use of color over the past 300 years. Grouped by color, more than sixty Western-style garments by noted designers like Vivienne Westwood (ensemble at right) are accompanied by text explaining why certain colors were used for a particular dress or time period. We learn that yellow was considered the color of heretics by early Christians and only finally accepted as wearable in Medieval times. In addition to information about the meaning of color, the exhibit also exposes the reasoning behind the choice to use certain colors. For instance, during the Rococo period, designers gravitated towards light, airy blues to accentuate the playful, elegant nature of their clothing. Organized by the Kyoto Costume Institute, New York will be the exhibit's first stop on a tour of major museums around the world. A color catalog (\$45) of the exhibit will not only feature photographs of all the garments, but also essays on the "perception and relevance" of color throughout history from professors at the Fashion Institute of Technology, the University of Tokyo, the Academie Francaise and others.



ndm.si.edu/EXHIBITIONS/fashion_in_colors
Open from December 9 through March 26



7. Hair washed to health

The first water purification system specifically designed to improve the health of your skin and hair has been introduced by Jonathan, star of Bravo's reality TV show *Blow Out*. Responding to our continued interest in natural and holistic ways to improve our appearances, Jonathan developed his "Beauty Water Shower Purification System" to deliver water of the proper pH balance, not only for optimum health, but also to soften skin and hair and preserve hair color.

www.jonathanproduct.com

8. Basel bike

Highlights of December's Art Basel festival in Miami included various site-specific installations and "happenings" orchestrated by participants and event-crashing artists of all disciplines. One of the most witty and noticeable was Jessica Thompson's "Sound Bike" project. A fleet of bicycles, each outfitted with speakers blasting recorded laughter that increased in volume and intensity the faster the rider pedaled, was a presence not exclusively restricted to Basel-related events, but throughout the entire city.



www.coolhunting.com/archives/2005/12/laughing_bike.php

9. The New York Magazine Look Book

For those without a subscription, the Look Book can be found every week at www.nymetro.com under *Shopping and Fashion*



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