UNEXPECTED POSSIBILITIES

Once again we are looking to Berlin to bring us the best in young, innovative and ultimately ‘uber’ cool architecture and design. This time we are inspired by the team at Hackenbroich Architekten. The Sit scape project is a couch-like piece with six preferred seating positions, creating a relaxed solution for all six positions while also allowing the user a smooth and comfortable transition between them all. The transitional areas are undetermined in their use – they provide new and unexpected possibilities, for the user to discover. The main structural elements are the sections, which are digitally-cut from laminated wood. The connecting structure is a steel and aluminium construction, and is minimally visible. Whether you want to sit up straight to read a book, or recline while watching a film or having an afternoon nap, this six-metre couch will always be the perfect fit.

www.hackenbroich.com

WILFRED HACKENBROICH AND RAINER MÜHR, SITSCAPE, 2006.
PHOTO: COURTESY HAACKENBROICH ARCHITEKTEN

DESIGN IN THE PLAYGROUND

Innovation, multi-functionality, sustainability and process are the drivers for the Netherlands-based design and engineering company, Carve. Focusing on the planning and development of public space for use by children and young people, Carve believes in the importance of applying certain, less definable elements to play areas, which can bring together several age groups rather than strictly separating them. Carve’s mantra – ‘public space belongs to and is for everyone’– promotes sociability and mutual acceptance, resulting in a lively outside space. Carve’s colourful skate parks and unconventional recreational areas are guaranteed to bring out the child in all of us.

www.carve.nl

CARVE, WALL-HOLLA, 2006. PHOTO: COURTESY CARVE

INNOVATIONS CRYSTALLISE AT thehomeproject*

German and Portuguese duo, Kathi Stertzig and Albio Nascimento, make up thehomeproject* design studio. These two charismatic characters believe in the little something, and their aim is to create both atmospheric and disturbing questions. The Salty Egg project takes the old Portuguese tradition of selling boiled eggs out of a salt-filled plate and gives it a glamorous, crafty spin. This egg holder interprets tradition by bringing together past knowledge and contemporary aesthetics. A crochet technique is used to build a structure in which salt can crystallise, and the outcome is a standard egg holder made of pure white salt crystals – a natural and useful object with which to expose, serve and eat boiled eggs. On the horizon for thehomeproject* is ‘universal cutlery’, which aims to combine two eating habits and cultures in one cutlery set: a fork and knife, both with a chopstick application. Keep your eye on their website.

www.the-home-project.com

ALBIO NASCIMENTO AND KATHI STERTZIG, SALTY EGG, 2006, SALT CRYSTALS.
PHOTO: BOB NORRIS

OUT OF THE SHADOWS

PSLAB is a Beirut-based team of architects, designers, engineers and technicians dedicated to creating tailored lighting interventions that bring spaces to life. The team is known for the development of its lighting concept for the Waterlemon restaurant in Beirut where, facing the prospect of no natural light, they managed to create a dynamic, sufi  cient feel for the space. Their secret? A working method involving designers willing to sketch and tinker with every detail. Exciting news is that PSLAB has recently completed its newest project: focusing on an old traditional Ottoman building in Istanbul. PSLAB has transformed it into a denim showroom. Custom-suspended light fixtures have been designed with a long, adjustable arm extending to a large cylindrical black fabric circumference and white translucent front. These suspended fixtures designed specifically for the project provide the right light for the space while respecting its nature and the history of the building.

www.pslab.net

DENIM SHOWROOM, ISTANBUL, TURKEY, 2007. PHOTO: COURTESY PSLAB