

Text: Dave Vickers Photos: Dr. Mitchell Joachim

HOME GROWN



Forget your sacred vegetable plot; according to MIT architect Mitchell Joachim, we'll be cultivating our very own homes in the future.

Mitchell and his visionary colleagues have conceived a home that doesn't just utilise "green" design, but is itself a living ecosystem. They call it the 'Fab Tree Hab'.

In a process that would make Spanish builders look positively hasty, the basic framework of 'Fab-Hab' would be a lattice of carefully woven sapling trees, lovingly nurtured over years or even decades. As the trees reach maturity the home grower would gradually weave a screen of vines to form the outer walls of the structure, plugging any gaping holes with local soil and other plants. The interior walls, consisting of packed straw

covered by a smoothed layer of clay, would create a moisture barrier from the outside.

The idea of sustainability goes beyond just the structure; a gravitational eco-plumbing system would collect and distribute rain water throughout the home.

Waste water would be purified in an outdoor pond with bacteria, fish, and plants that consume organic waste. (Any dreams of a swimming pool end right there!)

The 'Fab-Hab' would truly be the pinnacle of sustainable domestic living, but if you are wondering where your state-of-the-art home cinema system fits into all this, don't worry; it appears the initiative is more suited to sub-tropical locations where fast-growing trees are readily available, for now at least!



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I PREDICT A RIOT

There will be when this device comes into service! Miranda is a personal black-box device designed for use at public gatherings and hot-bed protests. This tiny digital sin-snapper produces a slide-show of first-person felonies as they unfold. Designed to protect the rights of law enforcers accused of brutality in the riot-place, this mini arrest documentation device records video, audio, motion, impact, location, and other data; then streams it over cell phone data networks. There is no escape! But police beware; it is assured that the technology will take a role reversal and become a counter-corruption device for rioters, protecting their civil rights. There seems no real solution, just more paperwork, why can't we all just get along?!

www.tuvie.com



LOVER LAMP

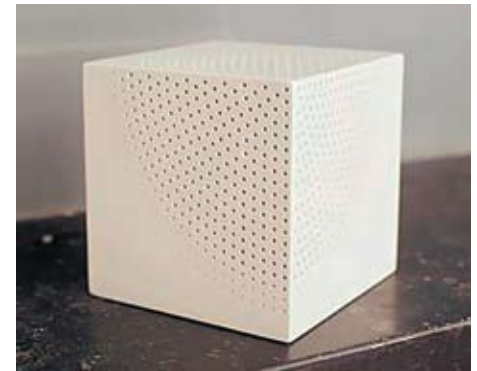
As if we need any encouragement...! This is one sure way to get your dishy date to deliver the goods. The flashing LED lights and swirling colours of the Lava Lamp Shot Glass are like a red rag to a raging bull when it comes to binge-boozers. Mixologists are about to make a mint with this - all singing and dancing - shot glass that illuminates your liquor, at least until it's drained. When this high-tech vomit-vessel is emptied, it refuses to flash again until topped up; ensuring a colourful night not to remember and a certain trip home on the Gin-GPS.

www.lighterside.com

CUBIC SOUND

Ever find your Mp3 player in a 'shuffle-mood'? Some days it just won't move away from 'Cash' and 'Cohen'. These little digital blighters can ruin your day, unless of course, you've got time to make a dreaded play-list! Well how about this to get your gadget out of a rut? Cubic sound has six faces, a simple roll of this digital dice (not literally) and you can easily go from melancholy to metal, angry to ambient or hippy to hip hop. Simply program a genre or mood to each face of Cubic Sound, and when you start to hear the heart-break, just flip it over. Not for sale just yet, but almost ready and raring to go.

www.gizmowatch.com



KILLER JULES!

Is it a bird? Is it a plane? No it's a coffee machine for design-savvy, caffeine aficionados! The orb-like 'Jules Espresso Machine', is about to make a classic close encounter with the coffee-bore kind. Fashioned of metals yet unknown to household appliances and taking us to a new distil-dimension, it's time to file the DeLonghi to history and take coffee making into the cosmos.

www.cbindustries.ch