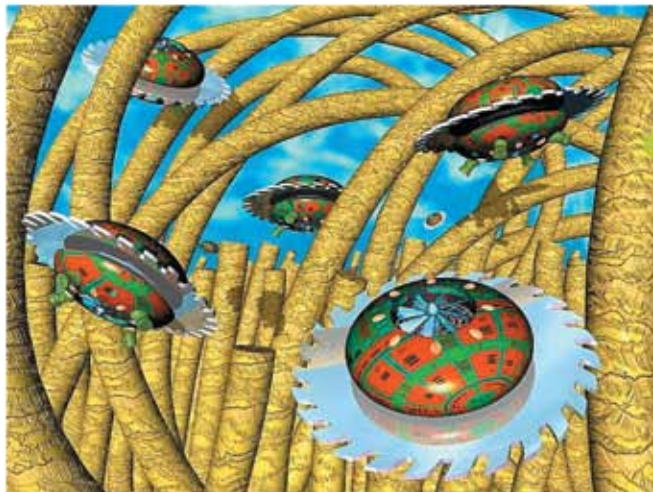
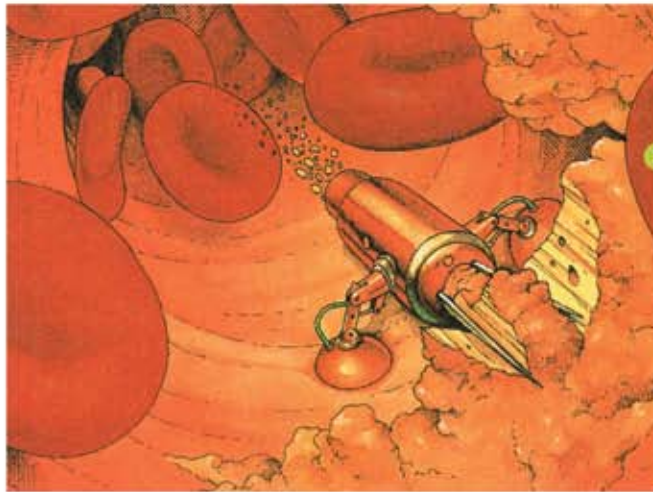


Text: Carolyn Mellan

Small is Beautiful

COVERING A WHOLE RAFT OF APPLICATIONS – FROM AIR AND WATER QUALITY, CONSUMER PRODUCTS, MEDICINE AND FOOD, TO THE ENERGY, ELECTRONICS, MOLECULAR MANUFACTURING AND SPACE INDUSTRIES – **NANOTECHNOLOGY PROMISES A BRAVE NEW WORLD.** BUT IT'S PARTICULARLY IN THE FIELDS OF BEAUTY AND ANTI-AGING THAT SCIENCE FICTION IS EVOLVING INTO SCIENCE FACT... BEFORE OUR VERY EYES.



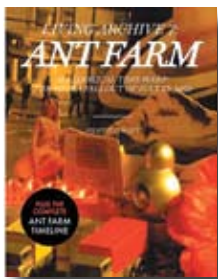
- 1 | **Absolutely flawless:** getting under your skin.
- 2 | **Artery cleaner:** mending broken hearts
- 3 | An artist's impression of a futuristic conceptual nanobot, the **Barberbot**. The Barberbots could be programmed to run across your skin and create a pre-selected hairstyle like a Mohawk © Tim Fonseca



The latest big idea in wrinkle prevention is very, very small. Nano small. To put that into perspective, while new-generation microparticles typically measure only a few nanometers across, by contrast the diameter of a single human hair is around a whopping 80,000 nanometers. So with super-efficient powers of absorption, it's easy to see just why the beauty industry and consumers alike are so smitten by nanotechnology and its potential to unlock the elusive secrets of youth and beauty. _____ It's precisely because nanoparticles can penetrate deeper into the skin, delivering their microscopic payloads of vitamins and other compounds to plump and smooth tissue that they have already dramatically begun to conquer the cosmetic marketplace. But new-generation fillers and moisturisers, lipsticks, sun creams, nail polish and the rest are only the beginning. _____ Intriguingly, a Michigan State University chemical engineer working on new technology in the field of electronic monitors, has recently made the breakthrough discovery that crucially nanoparticles can stop thin polymer films from buckling and wrinkling during the manufacturing process. Perhaps more significantly in a world obsessed by hard bodies and smooth, supple, flawless skin, the very same principle could soon join the cosmetic arsenal available to fight human wrinkles. To this end, current research is being supported by the National Science Foundation and the Michigan Economic Development Corp. _____ It's envisioned that infinitesimally thin films could be injected between the thinning outer layer of the skin, the epidermis - which so inconveniently and treacherously stiffens and buckles with the passing of the years - and the thicker dermis beneath it, which remains more pliable over time. Although nanoparticle films wouldn't in themselves be a face-lift, the research team does foresee the possibility of inserting the wrinkle-free film during a cosmetic process - an eyelift perhaps - to stabilise the area and prevent further creasing. Artificial skin for surgical use is another promising application and although research is still only in the early stages with possible health and safety issues yet to be addressed, polymer films are now being lab tested to detect any toxic reactions. _____ Meanwhile, scientists in Illinois are already developing new skin, this time using corn protein, while the dreaded bad hair day may soon be no more than a dim and distant memory thanks to Ohio State University researchers who have recently completed the first comprehensive study of human hair on the nanometer level, allowing them to get up close and personal as never before with a rogue's gallery of culprits ranging from curls turned kinky by humidity to chemically over-processed locks. _____ Of course we all know that beauty is more than skin deep, but with the quantum leap of nanotechnology, we're only starting to realise just how much truth lies behind that particular pearl of wisdom.

For further information:
www.physorg.com
www.azonano.com

Books



ANT FARM: LIVING ARCHIVE 7

Author: Felicity D. Scott

Don't let the creepy-crawly name put you off; the Ant Farm to which the title of this book refers is actually a group of environmental activists who go by the same name. Having rummaged through a stack of archival material on their practices, including experimental

works that border on the 'fringe of architecture', author Felicity D. Scott delivers a comprehensive guide to one of the most influential eco-collectives out there. A must-read for those into the green scene.



CRISIS

Author: Barbara Hitchcock

Despite what the title would lead you to believe, Verb Crisis doesn't trace the misuse of verbs in the modern-day English language. What it does do, however, is examine architectural solutions for an increasingly populated and interdependent planet.

Packed with original photos, essays and interviews from leading figures in the industry, the 288-page book covers a wide range of innovative projects across the globe that address the issues of the world's current condition. Covering everything from global affairs to urban planning, this is a designer's survival bible from start to finish. Other than being the saviour of our souls, it'll look damn fantastic on your coffee table, too.



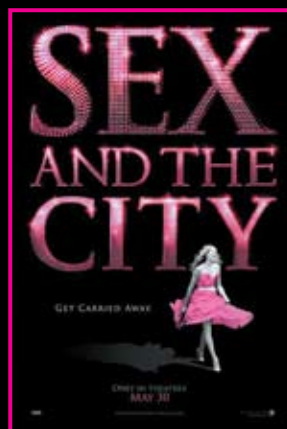
HANDLED WITH CARE: CONTEMPORARY CERAMIC DESIGN

Author: Designboom

A fully-loaded guide to contemporary ceramic design, *Handled with Care* features 180 different designs spread across 112 gloriously glossy pages. Taken from designboom's 2007 *Handled with Care* exhibition – which comprised 500 pieces by 163 designers from 35 countries – this bright yellow book is a showcase of one of design's most underrated

forms. What makes this page-turner even more appealing is that it's limited to just 1,000 copies, each numbered and certified by designboom. Snap one up while you still can.

Cinema



SEX AND THE CITY: THE MOVIE

Starring: Sarah Jessica Parker, Kim Cattrall, Kristin Davis, Cynthia Nixon, Jennifer Hudson

Ladies were weeping tears of joy when this designer-wrapped delight hit cinemas on 30th May. Beginning where the series left off, the movie

version of the cult HBO comedy classic centres around the trials and tribulations of four successful women in New York; Carrie, the style-mad writer; Samantha, the man-eating PR guru; Charlotte, the prim Pollyanna; and Miranda, the no-nonsense lawyer. Thrown together, their lives are a heady mix of bar-and bed-hopping, with lots of glamour, humour and poignancy thrown in for good measure. Written and directed by Michael Patrick King, the movie has been a long time coming, but for fans everywhere, it'll be worth every second.

INDIANA JONES AND THE KINGDOM OF THE CRYSTAL SKULL

Starring: Harrison Ford, Ray Winstone, Shia LeBeouf, Cate Blanchett



Despite nearing his 115th birthday, or at least that's what we're guessing, Harrison Ford is back to reprise his role as Indiana Jones for the latest instalment of the nostalgic 80s franchise. Ominously titled *Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull*, the plot of the fourth movie pits Indy and his son, played by boy of the moment Shia LeBeouf, against the Soviet Union in an adrenaline-packed battle for something known only as the Crystal Skull. Of course, there'll be all the usual whip-cracking, womanising action, as well as real stunts and surprise cameos from past cast members. Producer George Lucas and director Steven Spielberg are also on-hand to lend their magical touch to the much-anticipated movie, which hit cinemas on 22nd May.