

SUBSTANCE + STYLE

surface

FASHION ARCHITECTURE DESIGN

69



HOMME MAKEOVER

DESIGNING THE MEN
OF TOMORROW





16 SPACE MOUNTAIN

The National Mountain Centre in Alberta will be dedicated to and situated among Canada's highest peaks – it will even look the part. Architectural firm Saucier+Perrotte will fashion concrete and glass to resemble geological strata. To be completed in 2010, the NMC will house exhibitions, research space and a world-class climbing wall. Scaling the stairs will feel like a scenic hike itself, as the spaces separating the "strata" open to reveal panoramic mountain views. saucierperrotte.com

16

17 THE INSECTICONS

Robotics engineers have long mimicked nature. Collaborating with robotics firm fuRo, Shunji Yamanaka of Leading Edge Design plundered different phyla of the animal kingdom to conceive the Halluc II. Powered by 56 motors, it features an eight-wheel vehicle mode, an eight-legged insect mode and an animal mode that allows it to stand. Yamanaka focused on establishing physiological overlaps in his design. "Living creatures have innumerable muscles," he says. "With this greater redundancy, robots can also adapt and move more efficiently." leedd.com



17

18 TOP NOTCH

Every season, the Serpentine Gallery in London works with a different collection of artists and architects to erect a temporary pavilion. This past fall, Norwegian firm Snehetta and artist Olafur Eliasson concocted a swirling top at the edge of London's Hyde Park. The upper and lower halves were connected by crisscrossed cables and the structure was illuminated by overhead LED lights that gave the impression of motion so the circular, steel- and timber-clad structure appeared to spin. The amphitheater hosted a series of public talks while defying the distinctions between inside and outside space – an Eliasson trademark. We can only pray next year's rendition is equally as poetic. serpentinegallery.org



19

19 GRAY AREA

Playing with the form of ordinary shipping crates, Normal Studio's latest Greyscale furniture collection is an experiment in material applications. Shown at the Paris Tools Gallery last fall, the deceptively monochromatic collection – which includes dressers, shelves, stools and lights – explores the values of black and charcoal grey through the application of a fine layer of polished and waxed pewter on an oak grain. "There's a deliberate opposition between the simplicity of the forms and the complexity of the *étamage* process, a very old technique of metal wrapping, which provides the furniture with a sense of nobility," says Normal's Jean-François Dingjian. Who knew there could be so many shades of gray? normalstudio.fr

