LISA S. ROBERTS



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FRED HUMIDIFIER MATTI WALKER





introduction 6 materiality 12 process 36 design for technology 64 shape shifters 84 variance 108 blurring the lines 130 sustainability 150 design for good 174 resources 192



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DesignPOP explores game-changing design and the explosion of innovation in the twenty-first century. What is a game changer in the world of design? It could be a product that pioneers the use of new materials or a new production process. Or a new typology that alters our expectations about what something should look like. Game-changing design pushes boundaries, creating new possibilities—and ultimately products that enrich our lives.

BLOW-UP BOWL CAMPANA BROTHERS This generation has become accustomed to innovation. But it was the 1980s that marked the beginning of a mind-blowing design revolution. The obvious game-changing catalyst was the explosion of technology. Suddenly it played a role in every aspect of the design process from creation to manufacturing to distribution. New materials (resin, carbon fiber, high-performance plastics) and new processes (injection molding, laser-cutting, 3-D printing), allowed designers to realize their designs, formerly impossible or too expensive to produce. Designers innovated their way through roadblocks and historic boundaries. And toward the end of the twentieth century, a renaissance began unparalleled in the history of design.



Today, products need to be even more spectacular and surprising to get our attention. Materials and processes previously used only in specific industries are finding their way into consumer applications. Sustainability and social responsibility are influencing new directions. Even the definition of designer is changing as the lines between disciplines begin to blur. *DesignPOP* features a curated selection of game-changing products that have popped up since 2000. Each chapter illustrates different criteria. Taken as a whole, the breadth of ideas and innovation reveals distinct patterns in a changing industry—and hints as to how the industry might invent an even more remarkable future.





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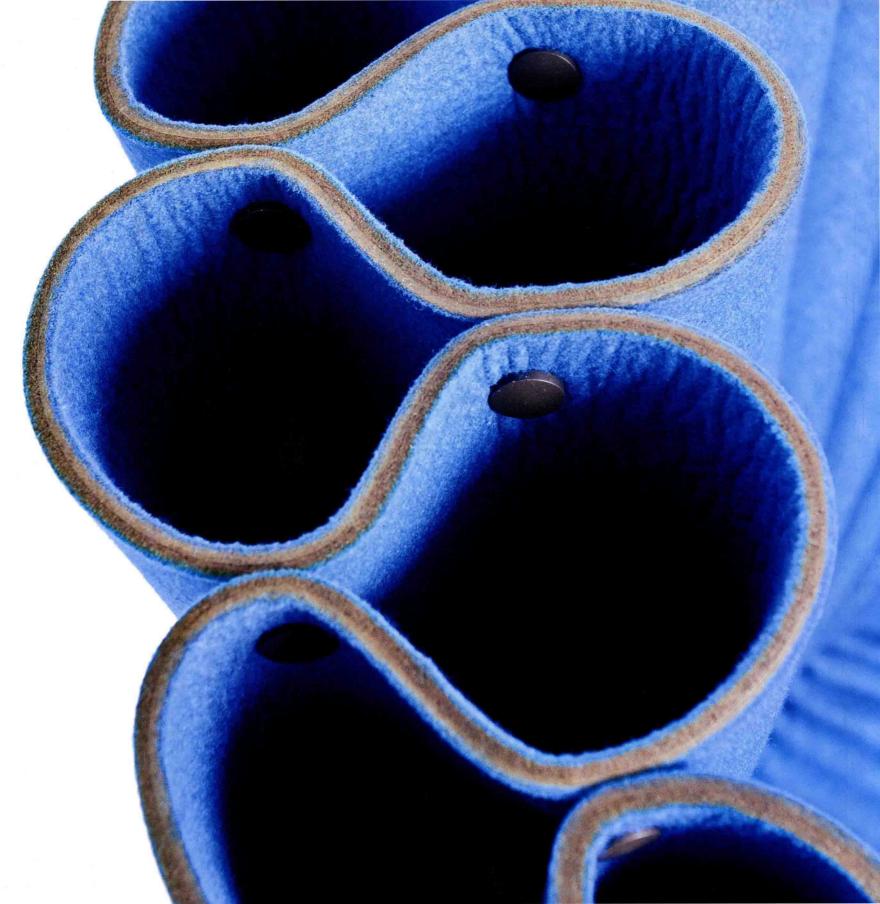
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### chapter 1

### materiality

### Designers are more inventive than ever in the ways they use materials.

Aided by such resources as "material libraries," designers can look up thousands of different materials and determine what is best to use for each design. The availability of information has given designers the opportunity to be more creative. A great example is the use of Tyvek, a popular material originally produced for insulation in house construction. This synthetic paper is now being transformed into lighting fixtures, wallpaper, bags, coats, and much more. Another instance can be found in the application of epoxy resins to carbon fibers. This combination makes the delicate carbon fibers so strong and resilient that they can be woven into sturdy yet extremely lightweight chairs. These examples illustrate how increased knowledge and increased choice of materials has opened up a world of possibilities to the designer that didn't exist before.