

BLUJEPRINT

IT'S ALIVE!

Investigating the new breed of biological building



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Parasitic buildings

Designing for death

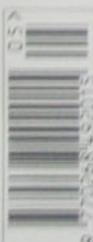
The future of science museums

PLUS

Daniel Libeskind

Hussein Ghalyan v Lucy Orta

Industrial Facility



**Viaduct seeing red**

MDF Italia, famous for its monochromatic furniture, has spectacularly rebelled against its past with a new collection which sees vibrant colours introduced. The range, exhibited at Viaduct this month, includes several items that incorporate technological advances in both colour and materials. The star of the collection, for example, is Colors; an elegant table with a heavy duty, 3mm laminated porcelain top which can apparently take the weight of 40 men. Almost indestructible, it is warp, stain and flame resistant with a surface hardness comparable to topaz. Gloss and glass also feature strongly in the furniture collection.

www.viaduct.co.uk

Hector Serrano

Hector Serrano's new lamp, which is predictably off-the-wall, is designed for use in swimming pools. Called Waterproof, the lamp is produced by Metalarte as part of its new Metalab collection. Serrano's design crosses a traditional lampshade with a floating lifebuoy and emergency marine lights. The lamp is left upside down by the side of the pool during the day, then when night falls the user need simply to throw it into the water, where it floats upright and lights up.

www.hectorserrano.com

**Saddle Seat**

Research has shown that 15 per cent of office workers suffer from daily back pain, and take an average of 18 days off a year because of it. The problem can be alleviated with correct posture – or a new chair from Australia that promotes it. The Bambach Saddle Seat is shaped like a horse's saddle, which uses the biomechanics of the body to position the spine while supporting the pelvis, aiding spinal balance. The chair, claims Bambach, relieves and prevents back pain while giving complete mobility. The seat also allegedly enhances muscle tone, as the position is active rather than inactive. Keen to encourage companies to try before purchase, Bambach is offering a hire option.

www.bambach.co.uk

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