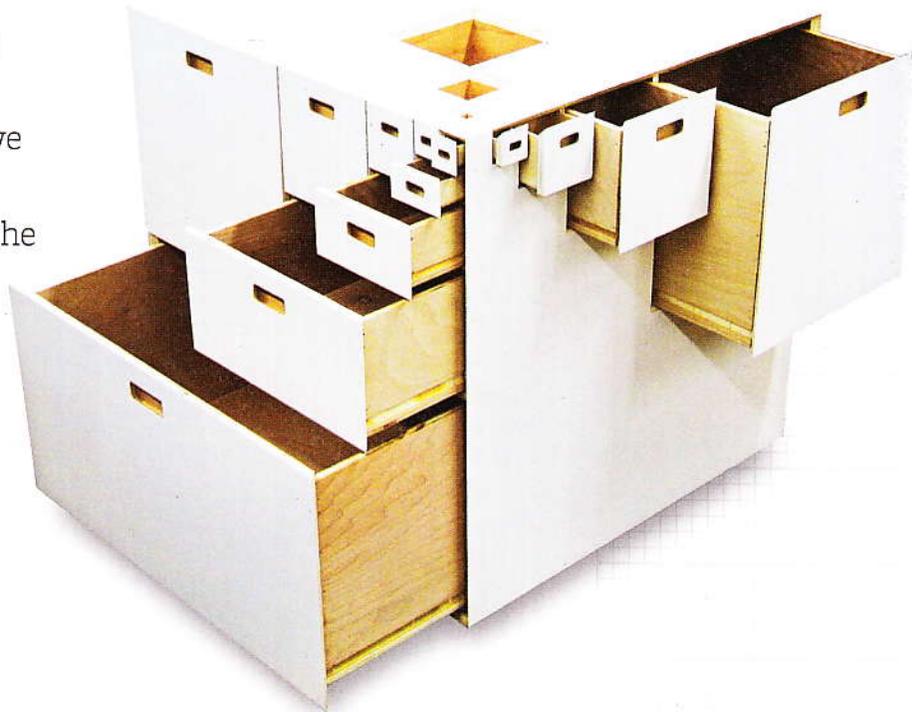


[design i.q.]

HOPE CHEST

Fractal 23 is on our wish list for when we hit pay dirt. Created by Brooklyn-based industrial designer Takeshi Miyakawa, the 28" plywood cube is the nesting doll of dressers. At \$20,000, we figured there must be treasures within, but no dice, explains Miyakawa, who told the *New York Times* by way of explanation, "It was such a pain in the neck to make." —Nicole Jaureguy tmiyakawadesign.com



[best new website]

Designer Democracy

Want to get out the vote? This election cycle, skip the ubiquitous bumper sticker and instead click over to the American Institute of Graphic Arts website, aiga.org. There you'll find more than 200 nonpartisan ready-for-download posters (and YouTube videos) created by nationally recognized designers, including Bart Crosby, Steff Geissbuhler, and *ReadyMade* columnist Ellen Lupton. Print out and paste up. —Matt Dorville

[a brief history]

Candy Store

Best known for its figurine packaging, the Pez confectionery evolved from a smoker's mint to collectible fruit-flavored kitsch over the course of the past century. We took a click back. —Kate Rockwood



1927

Confectioner Eduard Haus III cooks up a compressed peppermint candy in Vienna, Austria. He names it Pez after the German word for peppermint (*Pfefferminz*), and markets it as a post-cigarette breath mint or a palliative for smokers looking to quit (early flavors include menthol and coffee).



1948

Pez employee Oscar Uxa invents a slim mechanical box for dispensing the candy. Without the modern feet or head, it resembles a gold cigarette lighter and replaces the pocket-sized tin.



1952

Pez are introduced in America and gain surprising popularity with children. Haus replaces the original peppermint oil with three fruit flavors: lemon, orange, and strawberry.



[hero worship]

Garage Sail

Held afloat by 15,000 salvaged plastic bottles wrapped in old fishing nets and several retired sailboat masts, and with an old Cessna 310 aircraft fuselage as its cabin, the aptly named *Junk* set off on its maiden voyage this summer. The 30-foot vessel, manned by marine scientists Dr. Marcus Eriksen and Joel Paschal, headed to Hawaii to raise awareness about a massive rotating slew of plastic garbage fouling the Pacific Ocean.

Eriksen and Paschal, along with their land-bound communications manager Anna Cummings, came up with the idea after an expedition to the North Pacific Gyre, a giant vortex of currents that spins the world's waste like a giant toilet bowl that never flushes.

A massive clean-up effort of the gyre would be near-impossible, says Eriksen: "Imagine trying to use a vacuum cleaner to pick up cigarette butts across the entire United States." Instead, the pair is calling for a cultural sea change. "Let your elected officials know that you want to curb the use of plastic disposables through taxes or bans," says Paschal, or support phase two of their campaign, a tour from Vancouver to Mexico on amphibious bikes, which begins next spring. For updates, visit junkraft.blogspot.com. —Alissa Walker



[trade catalog find]

Honor Roll

Furnishing a small space requires an eye for big potential. That's what we saw in Smith System's rolling book carts: They're multifunctional, a touch nostalgic, and available in 13 colors that transcend institutional beige. Fill one with books—or a home bar—and let the good design roll. —Jen Trolio
\$189 and up, modernss.com



1955

Heads begin topping the dispensers. Two of the earliest, Mickey Mouse and Santa Claus, continue to be bestsellers today. Eventually, Pez will create more than 550 different models, from Darth Vader to Hello Kitty.



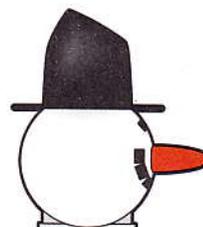
1987

More than 30 years after the heads appear on the dispensers, the company adds feet.



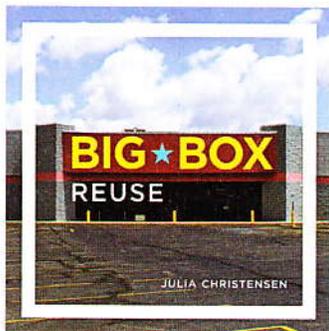
1991

The world's largest annual gathering of Pezheads—Pezamania—opens in Cleveland, Ohio. Organizers John and Linda Gliha admit to buying the most expensive Pez in the company's history: a pineapple wearing sunglasses for \$2,500. Five more states, plus Austria and Finland, now host annual conferences.



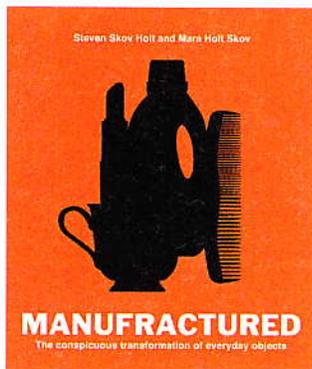
Today

The Burlingame Museum of Pez Memorabilia, in northern California, which owns one of every Pez dispenser sold to the public, holds a Guinness World Record for a custom-built 7'10" snowman that can dispense 6,480 Pez. (Yep, it works).



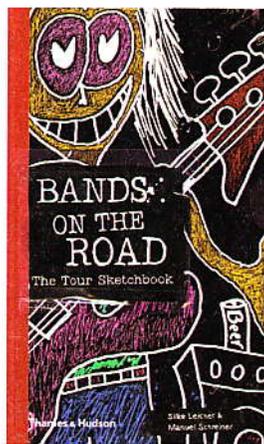
Big Box Reuse
by Julia Christensen
(MIT Press)

Abandoned big-box stores are the shuttered steel factories of our day, with one major exception: Economic downturn isn't always the reason for the door-closings. Some stores are simply replaced when bigger "super-centers" open down the road. And so, now-empty Wal-Marts and Kmart's litter the American landscape. One positive outcome is that citizens have reappropriated and transformed the vacant buildings into senior centers, churches, libraries, and museums (including one for everyone's favorite lunch meat, Spam, no less). *Big Box Reuse* chronicles these inspiring adaptations, proving that resourcefulness and creativity can renew communities—even if that renewal happens within big square shells. —Matt Dorville



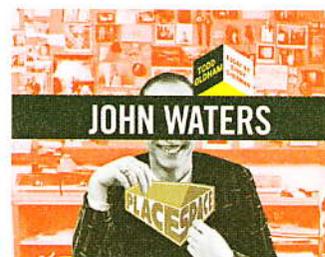
Manufactured: The Conspicuous Transformation of Everyday Objects
by Steven Skov Holt and Mara Holt Skov
(Chronicle Books)

Highly influenced by *ReadyMade's* patron saint, Dada artist Marcel Duchamp, a new generation of artists, designers, and crafters has risen to prominence over the past decade, using mass-produced, off-the-shelf objects as their medium. *Manufactured* offers a comprehensive survey of the diverse array of works to emerge from the movement—including sculptures carved from lipstick and a dress made exclusively of zippers—coupled with photos and essays. For those interested in the ever-expanding canon of post-purchase creative reuse, the book is a coffee-table essential—especially if the coffee table in question began its life as something else. —Nicole Jaureguy



Bands on the Road: The Tour Sketchbook
by Silke Leicher and Manuel Schreiner
(Thames & Hudson)

Road trips are a rare treat—idyllic stretches of open space that provide us with plentiful time to daydream and a surplus of sights to be seen. Which is why *Bands on the Road*, a bound collection of artwork created by touring musicians, is a transporting read: Writers Silke Leicher and Manuel Schreiner equipped bands like Belle and Sebastian, Bloc Party, and We Are Scientists with paper, felt-tip pens, and crayons, asking them to sketch the scenery observed during their treks. The result? A visual journey that's well worth taking. —Ilana Diamond



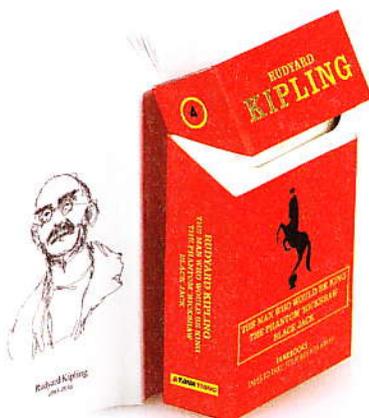
Place Space (volumes 1-4)
by Todd Oldham
(Ammo)

Place Space, a new series of books by *ReadyMade* contributing editor Todd Oldham, is devoted to off-the-wall interiors. The first four installments feature director John Waters's zany abode, creative off-campus housing at the Rhode Island School of Design, Joseph Holtzman's Camp Nest compound, and Bedrock City, Arizona's *Flintstones*-themed tourist stop. Brimming with saturated full-bleed photos, wrapped in book jackets that unfurl into posters, and accompanied by commentary from such outspoken personalities as Amy Sedaris, Michael Graves, Camille Paglia, and Cindy Sherman, the volumes offer a welcome respite from more typically published photo books of perfectly styled pads. —MD

ALL MY LITTLE WORDS

Make space for small books.

by Jonathan Kiefer



Books do furnish a room, as the novelist Anthony Powell wrote in one (a book, that is, and presumably a room). But what to do when our rooms have become as small and crowded as our Web 2.0-addled attention spans? Keep collecting books, of course, just wee ones.

As it turns out, the literature of littleness is huge. Be they ledgers, manifestos, cleverly repackaged classics, or dimly familiar but persistent epics, minibooks are everywhere.

New York City's **Printed Matter** (printedmatter.org), a nonprofit bookstore-as-art-space and public reading room, shelves a dizzying array of artists' books, including many very small ones.

London's **TankBooks** (tankmagazine.com/tankbooks) are "tales to take your

breath away" in boxes that resemble cigarette packs (pictured at left).

TreeFeathers (treefeathers.com), in Albuquerque, New Mexico, takes the scale-model approach, crafting penny-sized replica tomes.

Poems-for-All (sacfreepress.com/poems) is an ongoing series of free miniature chapbooks meant to be "scattered like seeds by those who want to see poetry grow in a barren cultural landscape." (Full disclosure: I wrote one.)

Blue Q (blueq.com) offers tiny, funnily produced art books by the likes of Andrew Jeffrey Wright and Charles Harper Webb.

Literature doesn't recognize your diminished capacities. So remember, when downsizing, that minibooks are easy to pack.

