

# SPRING

## EXHIBITS

### CA Boom 4 : The West Coast Independent Design Show

March 30 – April 1  
Santa Monica Airport, Barker Hangar  
Santa Monica, CA

North America's only multi-discipline design trade fair and exhibition features the best of contemporary architecture and independent design. Exhibitors will showcase what's next in how we live and how we work. Specific areas in the show include: prefab, fine furnishings, green living and design, architecture, surfaces and finishes, modern parenting, and modern pets.

### Op Art Revisited: Selections from the Albright-Knox Art Gallery

through April 22  
San Jose Museum of Art  
San Jose, CA

Op art, short for "optical art," refers to the work of abstract painters in the early 1960s who used parallel lines, concentric circles, and electric colors to create works of art that result in visual effects, such as afterimages. Today, op art is enjoying a resurgence of interest from both artists and the general public. Op Art Revisited will feature a selection of paintings and sculptures from artists central to the op art movement.

### Elegant Distortions

March 3 – June 10  
de Young Museum  
San Francisco, CA

In the late 1980s Vivienne Westwood reintroduced the corset, transforming it from restrictive underwear into fashionable outerwear. Her revival of the corset may be her most important contribution to late 20th century fashion. This exhibition chronicles the evolution of the corset through a selection of six historical pieces from the museum's permanent collection, along with print selections from the Achenbach Foundation for Graphic Arts.

### Contemporary Netsuke: Masterful Miniatures

through June 17  
Museum of Arts & Design  
New York City, NY

The 100 objects showcased in this exhibition will be a revelation both to viewers familiar with traditional netsuke as well as to those making their initial foray into this world of miniature carvings. Based on a centuries-old Japanese art form, these tiny treasures are being produced today by established Japanese masters as well as carvers from around the world who continue to infuse this field with fresh energy and ideas. The works of 54 carvers featured in this exhibition highlight innovative materials, virtuoso techniques, and surprising subjects.

## CONFERENCES

### Alternative Press Expo (APE)

April 21 – 22  
Concourse Pavilion  
San Francisco, CA

APE returns to the city and its old train station venue, The Concourse. More funky flea market than traditional exhibit hall, APE fills this great space with some of the best and most cutting-edge comics, art, books, 'zines, and more. Billed as the largest gathering of alternative and self-published comics in the country, APE features hundreds of artists and publishers under one roof. APE also features special guests who represent the top names in alternative comics along with some of its fastest rising stars.

### Computer-Human Interaction (CHI) Conference

April 28 – May 3  
San Jose Convention Center  
San Jose, CA

CHI is the premiere conference in Human-Computer Interaction (HCI) for professionals, academics, and students to discuss HCI issues and research and make lasting connections in the HCI community. This year's theme is "Reach Beyond," and organizers are asking conference-goers to take the next step, to reach beyond; beyond comfortable methods and praxis; beyond exciting and innovative technology; beyond established scientific frameworks and reputations; beyond the common ground of professional and national cultures; and beyond far-flung social networks.

### GRAVITY FREE: The Geography of Curiosity, presented by Exhibitor Magazine

May 14 – 16  
Yerba Buena Center  
San Francisco, CA

GRAVITY FREE is a multidisciplinary design innovation conference that explores a provocative landscape of essential questions familiar to every practicing designer. Self-described as



Roy Rankin  
*Crouching Nude*, 1989  
from *Contemporary Netsuke: Masterful Miniatures*  
Photo courtesy of Norman L. Sandfield



Kiho Takagi  
Puzzled Frog, 1997  
from *Contemporary Netsuke: Masterful Miniatures*  
Photo by Susan Einstein

## COMPETITIONS

IIDA/Metropolis Smart Environments Award  
Deadline: April 6

In the 21st century a first-rate interior must not only excel aesthetically but be in tune with society and the earth. It must tread lightly on the environment and be resolute in its mission to serve the humans who will use it. The Smart Environments Awards recognize distinction in interiors that integrate design excellence, human well-being, and sustainability. The competition is open to all interior design and architecture professionals and the winning projects will be considered for publication in *Metropolis* magazine.

The Spark Design Awards  
Deadline: April 15

The Spark Awards invite professionals and non-professionals to participate in a range of design categories, including graphics, product, transportation, and architecture. Special categories include sustainable design, produced in partnership with *Dwell* magazine, public sector design, produced with Rutgers' National Center for Public Productivity, and Newark campus and mobility design, produced with Jean Jennings' *Automobile* magazine.

Lifecycle Building Challenge  
Deadline: May 15

Lifecycle building is the design of building materials, components, information systems, and management practices to create buildings that facilitate and anticipate future changes to and eventual adaptation or dismantling for recovery of all systems, components, and materials. The purpose of this competition is to change how people think about, design, and construct and deconstruct buildings. By contributing to a library of strategies that maximize materials recovery and reduce environmental and economic costs, contestants can advance

building industry lifecycle planning, inspiring the green building movement to look beyond a single iteration of a building and address real world issues.

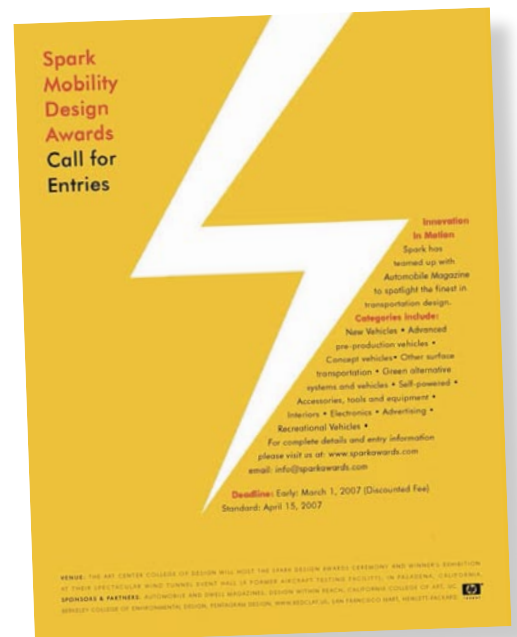
Collegiate Inventors Competition  
Deadline: June 1

Introduced in 1990, the Collegiate Inventors Competition has encouraged and rewarded hundreds of students to share their inventive ideas with the world. The competition promotes exploration in invention, science, engineering, technology, and other creative endeavors and provides a window on the future technologies from which society might benefit in the future.

a “why” conference, not a technical “how to” conference, it is an event where curious designers can hear, meet, and rub shoulders with a unique group of more than 50 speakers including prominent design thinkers, iconoclasts and visionaries. Each speaker will share his/her passion for a specific question and the projects and ideas that the questions produce.

IIT Institute of Design Strategy Conference  
May 17 – 18  
Museum of Contemporary Art  
Chicago, IL

The Institute of Design Strategy Conference is an international executive forum addressing how businesses can use design to explore emerging opportunities, solve complex problems, and achieve lasting strategic advantage. Global businesses increasingly appreciate how design and design thinking can provide them with high-level, strategic value and competitive advantage. Design, with its ability to understand users, redefine problems, and create systemic, human-centered solutions, can help companies better understand their customers' daily lives, and lead directly to valuable (and valued) offerings that are effectively tailored to their market.



Poster for Spark Mobility Design Awards