

The Language of Design

# VIEWPOINT

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# Trans discip linary Design

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Autumn — Winter 2014

D€69 - I€69 - F€75 - £75



# The Translation

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The design movements and aesthetic directions manifesting as a result of The Big Idea – how these look and feel, pinpointing the associated design cues

## SCIENCE - INSPIRED DESIGN

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We present the new breed of designers championing a transdisciplinary design approach. This issue of The Translation exhibits an emerging design landscape in which scientific exploration and experimentation become the key drivers for innovation, as designers look to explore the intersection of craft, science and technology. Whether they are seeking more meaningful, poetic experience, a greater sense of tactile interaction, or simply aiming to create visual spectacle, these designers emulate, synthesise or draw inspiration from scientific theory to create otherworldly materials, forms and surfaces.

Words: FranklinTill Studio

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# Material Alchemy



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# Ethereal Physics



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# Body Lab



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# Respond / React



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# Digital Surrealism



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# Synth Bio



# Body Lab

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Biological Atelier AW 2082  
by Amy Congdon  
(photography by Jesús Madriñán)





Clockwise from top left — Thought Harvester by Ann-Kristin Abel (photography by Robert Klebenow) — Biological Bakery by Lucy McRae and Rachel Wingfield for Architecture In Helsinki

Designers are increasingly drawn towards flesh and biologically inspired textures in the attempt to humanise our tactile experiences by emulating human-inspired material. This is also linked to advances in synthetic biology; some designers are literally working with biological matter and synthesised skins. A soft spectrum of nude and beige tones, fleshy textures and organic shapes gives a soothing effect, while unexpected human-inspired textural qualities lend a contemporary edge.

Central Saint Martins PhD student Amy Congdon looks to combine textile craft process with biotechnology and tissue engineering, exploring future material application. Her project Biological Atelier investigates the implications of living materials, envisioning a future where materials are grown rather than made.

Biological Bakery by Lucy McRae and Rachel Wingfield presents a playful take on the topic of bioengineering. Hinting at how synthetic biology could be developed in DIY labs at home, they take inspiration from traditional baking processes, creating a production line of cloned body parts dipped in vats of bacterial skin. Evidencing the trickledown of peripheral scientific development into more mass-market consciousness, a music video by Biological Bakery has been commissioned by pop band Architecture in Helsinki.

Probing how synthetic organisms could evolve to form a symbiotic relationship with humans, Ann-Kristin Abel proposes the Thought Harvester, a 'semi-living' that connects directly to the human nervous system. Once synchronised, the device focuses the mind while allowing the virtual yet physical exploration of material properties. Thoughts originated during this process are then harvested, leading to a more intuitive making process.

Clockwise from top left — Inlaid Skin by Andreea Mandrescu — Autumn Winter 2014 collection by Gareth Pugh (photography courtesy catwalking.com) — Inlaid Skin by Andreea Mandrescu — A Body of Skin by Gigi Barker







Clockwise from top left — Waxploration by Katharina Gross — CSM graduation collection by Sang Yoon (photography courtesy catwalking.com) — The Alchemist by Nina van Bart (photography by Thomas van Oorschot) — Chimera by Shai Langen — The Alchemist by Nina van Bart (photography by Thomas van Oorschot)

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Chimera by  
Shai Langen

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Design Fictions:  
Posthumanity in the  
Age of Synthetics by  
Natsai Audrey Chieza

—  
Decellular project  
by The Kitchen

—  
Materiality of Fear  
by Yangzi Wang

—  
Design Fictions:  
Posthumanity in the  
Age of Synthetics by  
Natsai Audrey Chieza

—  
Concept and styling by FranklinTill Studio  
Photography by Ania Wawrzkowicz



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Design Fictions:  
Posthumanity in the  
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—  
Material explorations  
by Amy Congdon



