The 10th Annual
AVANT
GUARD

Design of the Times
Queens goes green, photographers find a new Playground
and Hiroshi Sugimoto celebrates sculptural fashion

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03 SPOT ON It's hard to imagine a more influential lighting designer than Ingo Maurer. The German-born designer has been illuminating the industry with his genre-bending products and installations for over 40 years. It's only fitting then that the maestro is the subject of the first major exhibition by a living artist in over a decade at the Cooper Hewitt National Design Museum in New York, on view until January. Monumental in changing the public's perception of what lighting can be, Maurer created a dozen new works specifically for the show.

04 CALIFORNICATION If Guess by Marciano had a younger, laid-back brother, he might be G by Guess. The new casual concept line from that majority of contemporary American fashion. After launching 30 G locations in 2007 alone, G by Guess plans to double that figure in the year to come. The line's low lighting and club-like feel offer a modern interpretation of Left Coast cool, in contrast to the line's relaxed, vintage look.

05 GAME PADS Considering how much time we spend in virtual worlds nowadays, we're shocked to hear that something like the First Annual Second Life Architecture Competition to take place. While designing structures without regard to real-life restrictions—nothing to mention physics—may seem like an exercise in pure fantasy, the winners selected by a panel of real-world experts shouldn't be taken lightly. After all, one day soon we'll all be spending more time online than off.

06 SWING SETS In the tradition of Visionaire and other such unbound fashion-based publishing ventures comes Playground, a limited-edition set of photographs and other graphic works, sold in a custom-made collectible box by famed product designer Dror Benshetrit and featuring talent such as Surface contributor Joshua Jordan and Artist Guardian Lane Coster. With only 260 of the first edition being produced, Playground is a proof positive that cutting-edge publishing and editorial design never go out of style.

07 PLUGGED IN On view until November 10th, the largest collection of pieces from late 20th-century French sculptor Yves Lebouvier will be on display at "Lebouvier," an exhibit at furniture gallery Gerard in New York. Lebouvier was known for elevating mundane objects into out-of-scale works of art and furniture, all with a whimsical touch, like his two-foot Fiche Mike (1977, pictured), where a lamp is realized in the shape of a common electric plug, with the prongs acting as bulbs. Rauschenberg, eat your heart out.