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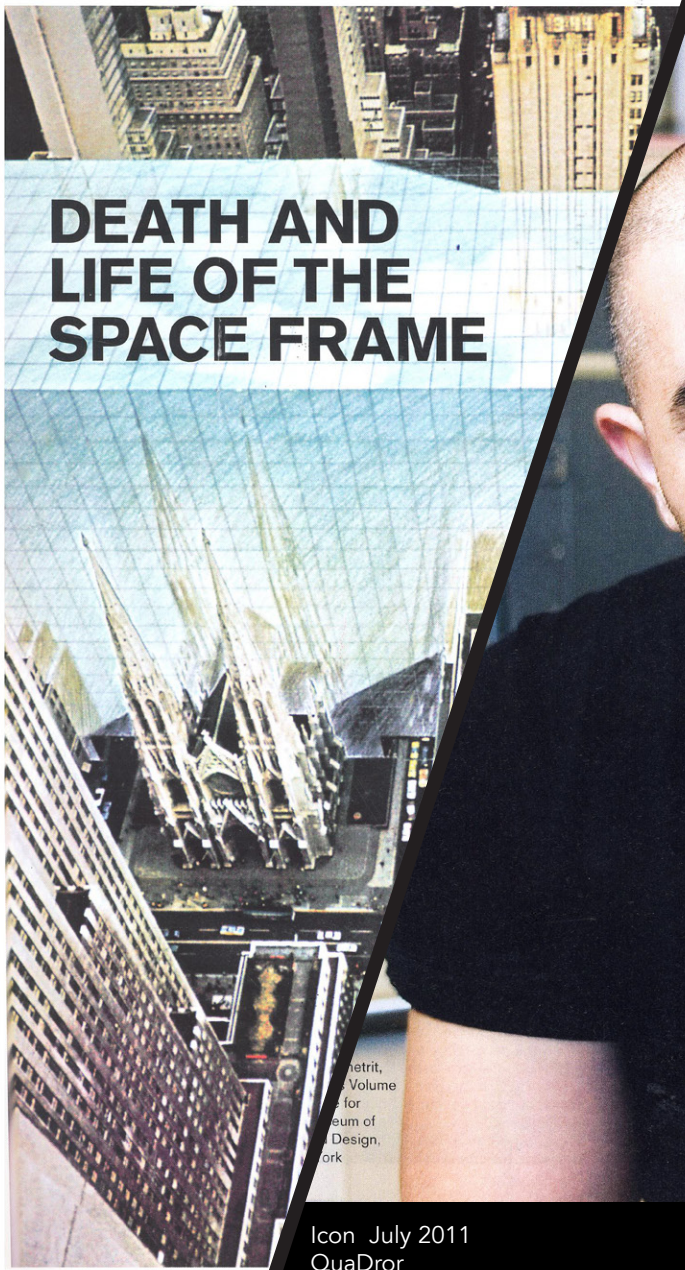
July 201
INTERNATIONAL DESIGN, ARCHITECTURE & CULTURE



DEATH AND LIFE OF THE SPACE FRAME

MEGASTRUCTURES

Trestle mania

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Dror Benshetrit's latest project – a geometrical truss system that can be used as table legs or to buttress a building or a bridge – is rebranding the one-time product designer as a serious player in the field of architecture and engineering

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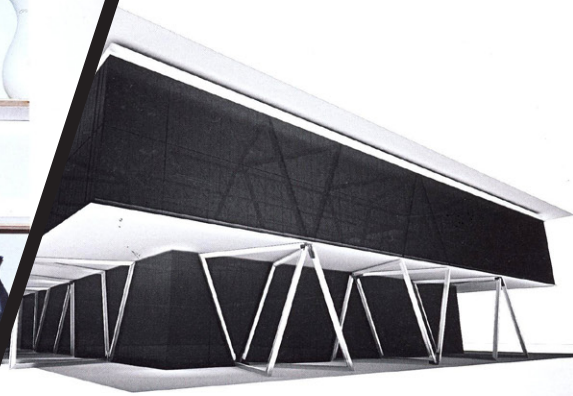

ike many product designers, Dror Benshetrit doesn't like being called a product designer. Nor does he see himself as a mere form-giver. He's created everything from the roundly pleated Peacock Chair for Cappellini, to a boutique interior for fashion designer Yigal Azrouël and a development plan for an island off the coast of Abu Dhabi. And in light of his latest project – a new structural truss system called QuaDror – he'd prefer to assume the title of "transformer".

Benshetrit's QuaDror – so named to reflect its central, four-part form and, well, its creator – is swiftly rebranding the Eindhoven-trained, Israeli-born New Yorker as a polymath of architectural designs both large and small.

The result of more than five years' development, QuaDror was unveiled at Design Indaba in Cape Town this February.

Comprised of four identical, interlocking L-shaped parts joined in oppositional orientation from one another, QuaDror promises to revolutionise the structural efficiency and integrity for projects of varying scale, from micro- to megastructure. The geometric parity of the truss allows for economical flat-packing and

> Clients would ask us, 'Well, what is it? Is this a box or a building? Is it this big or THIS big?'

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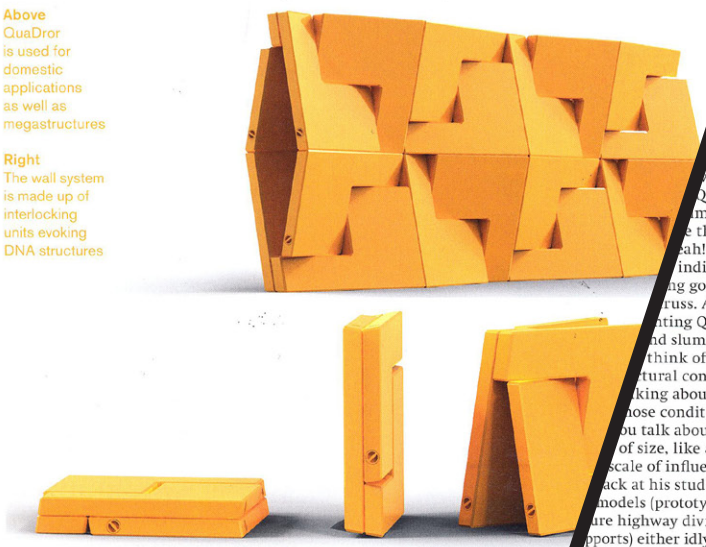
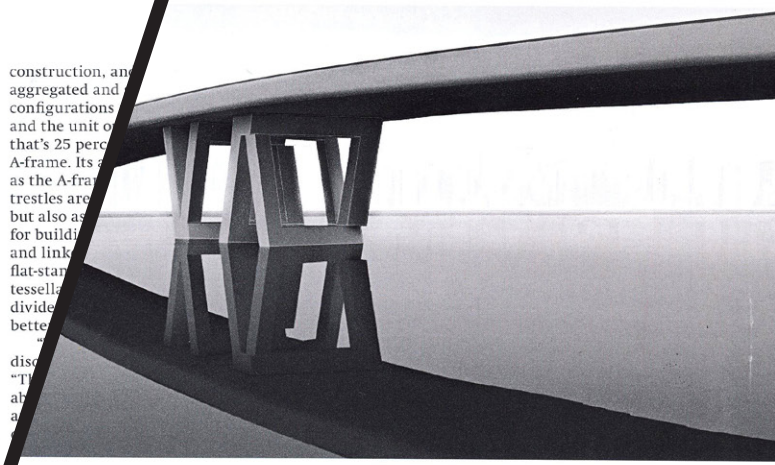


Above
QuaDror is used for domestic applications as well as megastructures

Right
The wall system is made up of interlocking units evoking DNA structures



with people in the
ed them everything
QuaDror. It was a little
most like, 'What are you
e the world?'" he says. "And
ah!" he adds, only half-jokingly.
individual scale, Benshetrit
g goals for his self-named
truss. At Indaba, his talk focused
nting QuaDror for relief housing
nd slums in developing countries.
think of slums and favelas and the
tural conditions they operate in,
king about billions of people who
ose conditions," he explained. "So
ou talk about scale, it's not just about
of size, like a hundred-storey building,
scale of influence."
ack at his studio he continues to toy with
models (prototype miniatures, really, of
ure highway dividers, high-rises and bridge
pports) either idly, as if they were Rubik's
bes, or meditatively, as if they were a pair
of Chinese exercise balls. It's not hard to read the gestures of Benshetrit, who is tall, well built and comfortably reclining in his office chair, as those of a generational visionary (or megalomaniac) reimagining the world with his sculptor's hands. As QuaDror starts to be implemented in the coming months, the strength and ingenuity of its design, which is protected by no fewer than 16 developing patent provisions, will be put to the real test, as a host of engineers, architects and designers eagerly look on.

"We've trained so many different players to go to the Olympics," Benshetrit says. "Now they're all lining up and waiting for the race to start." ⧗

Above
The diagonally intersecting trestles seen in the table legs opposite could be used for supporting megastructures such as this bridge

Right
Concrete QuaDror block