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The element of style

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*Fashions Under
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Design**

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Porsche Boat
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Studio MDA
Design Miami
Naked & Angry
Timorous Beasties
Ross Lovegrove
Tord Boontje*

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UNIVERSAL STUDIOS

FIVE DESIGNERS THAT ARE BLURRING THE BOUNDARIES OF SPACE AND SENSIBILITY.

By JOANNE MOLINA

BEAUTY & THE BEAST: TIMOROUS BEASTIES

They're pretty punk. That's right, pretty *and* punk. Scottish textile designers Alistair McAuley and Paul Simmons found themselves frustrated with the banality and lack of creative freedom in the textile market 17 years ago, so they founded Timorous Beasties. "Who doesn't love the sound of the name?" says McAuley when asked about their predilection for the Robert Burns reference. Like their name, their fabrics and wallpaper make you look twice. Their Scottish "Toiles" for The Scottish Show 2007 (May 17th through August 12th) at The Lighthouse, Scotland's National Architecture and Design Centre, are both familiar and unfamiliar. Although they use the traditional colors and techniques found in typical bourgeois homes, their fabrics feature heroin addicts, homeless gents and prostitutes. But don't mistake them for the shock jocks of the design world. "We create beautiful things that are for sophisticated people who think," says McAuley. "Toile is supposed to be a reflection of the world that surrounds you — and we took a look 'round." TimorousBeasties.com





WUNDERKIND: MARKUS DOCHANTSCHI

It might seem odd to hear the orchestrator of Pritzker Prize-winning projects say it's okay to lose. But Markus Dochantschi, principal architect of StudioMDA and one of the global leaders in the next wave of über-architects, has made a career out of defying and exceeding expectations. "Competitions are so important for moving architecture forward," says the Deutschland native and former project architect for Zaha Hadid. "The important thing is that you finish what you start." And he has. Always steps ahead of everyone else, his designs were so innovative as a young exchange student in Arizona that he was falsely accused of plagiarism. Years later he would be the first from his class to complete his final thesis project in Japan under the eyes of renowned architect Arata Isozaki. Whether he's creating socially-conscientious, affordable housing in the Bronx with active and passive sustainability, designing private residences in Chile and Soho or crafting towers for Dublin or Ground Zero, he embraces Isozaki's underlying principle: "You have to feel something and move space so it moves people." Dochantschi pointedly remarks, "Architecture that wants to express freedom can't be a fortress. If we give up our freedom in the face of fear that will be the downfall of architecture." StudioMDA.com

