Systems in corporate design Guest Prof. Eike König

October 23rd 2008

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1 <u>Introduction</u> <u>-</u> <u>Origins of visual systems</u>

1 Introduction – Origins of visual systems

<u>Example – Stonemasons symbols/signatures</u>

→ First appeared during the ancient period.

1 Introduction - Origins of visual systems

<u>Example – Stonemasons symbols/signatures</u>

→ But weren't commonly used until the late romance period.

1 Introduction - Origins of visual systems

<u>Example – Stonemasons symbols/signatures</u>

→ It wasn't until the gothic period, that stonemasons began to mark their work with their own personal signature/ mark.

1 Introduction – Origins of visual systems

<u>Example – Stonemasons symbols/signatures</u>

→ First, these symbols were personal, then they developed into a kind of a quality label for the stonemason.

1 Introduction – Origins of visual systems

<u>Example – Stonemasons symbols/signatures</u>

→ These symbols also made the settlement for the stonemasons easier.

1 Introduction – Origins of visual systems

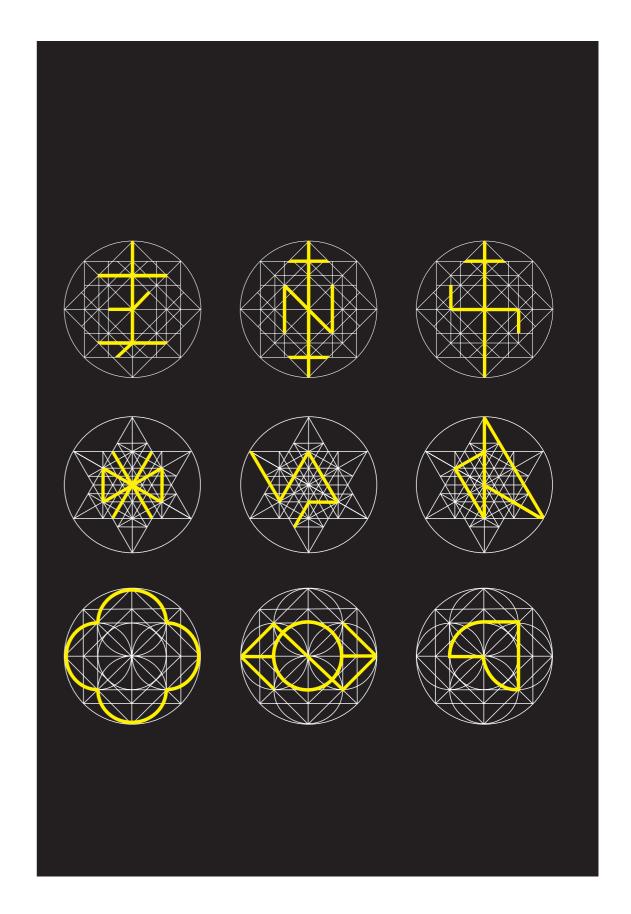
<u>Example – Stonemasons symbols/signatures</u>

→ Initially very figurative, they developed more and more into abstract geometric shapes.

1 Introduction - Origins of visual systems

<u>Example – Stonemasons symbols/signatures</u>

→ The forms of the signs were based on different geometric grids.



2 <u>Introduction</u> – <u>Changing needs</u>

2 Introduction - Changing needs

Aspects and fields of change

- → Communication
- → Company
- → Products
- → The Market
- → Consumer/Target Group
- → Technology
- → Cultural trends

2 Introduction - Changing needs

Changing needs

→ Communication

The rapid development of the communication landscape leads to lower life expectancy of corporate identities/corporate design.

2 Introduction - Changing needs

Changing needs

→ Companies

The company structures are getting more complex, mergers or repositioning require a frequent change of the companies face.

2 Introduction - Changing needs

Changing needs

→ Products

Shorter development cycles, bigger product range.

2 Introduction - Changing needs

Changing needs

→ The Market

Faster, more complex and global (tapping global markets requires adaptation of the visual appearance of various cultures and languages. e.g. Carlsberg logo).



2 Introduction - Changing needs

Changing needs

→ Technology

Through new technologies and new media, new areas of corporate design appear.

2 Introduction - Changing needs

Changing needs

→ Cultural trends

Faster changes than 50 years ago: Corporate designs must quickly adapt things and get rid of elements that no longer fit the current cultural trends. (e.g. 3M logo-evolution)















2 Introduction - Changing needs

Changing needs

→ Demanding, which requires the constant need for change.

2 Introduction - Changing needs

The consumers

- → Demanding, which requires the constant need for change.
- → The shift from passive to active consumer requires more interaction.

2 Introduction - Changing needs

The consumers

- → demanding and with constant need for change
- → The shift from passive to active consumer requires more interaction.
- → Conventional communication models can sometimes fail for certain companies. For example, bigger corporate companies may require a separate visual language for their external (consumer) and internal (stakeholders) audience.

2 Introduction - Changing needs

Conclusion

→ A corporate design which is only represented by a logo, can no longer reflect the company as a whole.

2 Introduction - Changing needs

Conclusion

→ All global, economic, technological and cultural changes require a variation instead of beign static.

2 Introduction - Changing needs

Conclusion

→ A corporate design must be flexible. It must be able to adapt to changing conditions.

(e.g. M3 logo-evolution p. 13)

2 Introduction - Changing needs

Conclusion

→ Changing needs are reflected through new corporate design strategies.

2 Introduction - Changing needs

Conclusion

→ Open systems allow flexibility and offer a greater range of possibilities within tight constraints.

2 Introduction - Changing needs

Conclusion

→ The rules set within an open system should allow for the brand to change, grow and adapt while still retaining the integrity of the brand.

From the logo to the system to the visual language

3 From the logo to the system to the visual language

From the logo to the system to the visual language

→ New strategies for flexible appearances start with a convertible catching logo, which can exist in many variations.

3 From the logo to the system to the visual language

From the logo to the system to the visual language

- → New strategies for flexible appearances start with a convertible catching logo, which can exist in many variations.
- → The variations can reach up to a kind of visual language with a vocabulary and a syntax, in which individual elements are no longer defined as such, but the combination of all of them turns into the sign itself.

3a The logo as the smallest unit

3a The logo as the smallest unit

The logo as the smallest unit

→ A 'logo' is a word- or imagemark, or a combination of both, which represents a company.

3a The logo as the smallest unit

The logo as the smallest unit

→ A logo should be easily identifiable. Expressing aspects of the company, like origin and ownership. It should be durable and technically versatile i.e. does it work in black in white? What does it look like when it is produced small, or blown up really big.

3a The logo as the smallest unit

The logo as the smallest unit

→ A good logo is unique, this makes it memorable.

3a The logo as the smallest unit

The logo as the smallest unit

→ But the logo only makes up one small part of the whole system.

3a The logo as the smallest unit

The logo as the smallest unit

→ It is the most clear representation of the company.

3a The logo as the smallest unit

The flexible logo

→ A flexible logo is a logo that can easily adapt and change with social and cultural trends within ruining the integrity of the design.

3a The logo as the smallest unit

The flexible logo

- → A flexible logo is a logo that can easily adapt and change with social and cultural trends within ruining the integrity of the design.
- → The MTV Logo is a great example. While the base outline of the logo always remains the same, additional elements like colour, texture and patterns are used to change the tone of voice so that it appeals to different audience.

3b Systems and rules

3b Systems and rules

Systems and rules

→ The logo is only one part of the corporate design. There are corporate fonts, corporate colours, corporate image worlds etc.

3b Systems and rules

Systems and rules

→ All these elements result in a modular system. This makes it possible to generate a consistent communication for the company.

3b Systems and rules

Systems and rules

→ The combination of these elements provides a visual language for the company. A corporate design manual provides the rules how to use this language.

3b Systems and rules

Systems and rules

→ A coporate design manual contains rules that ensure that all the different design elements result in a homogenous identity.

3b Systems and rules

Systems and rules

→ The manual also insures that the corporate design retains its true identity and intergrity.

3b Systems and rules

Systems and rules

→ But even dictatorial manuals often leave a little room for the creative use of a corporate design.

3b Systems and rules

Systems and rules

→ To plan everything in detail is very labor-intensive. It can also make the use of the corporate design sobering and exhausting.

3b Systems and rules

Systems and rules

→ This can often result in solutions that are uninspiring, as there is no room for creativity and innovation.

3b Systems and rules

Systems and rules

→ Karl Gerstner: "There is never an absolute solution, instead of solutions for problems it is about designing programs for solutions."

3b Systems and rules

Systems and rules

→ So there is always a space for different possibilities.

3b Systems and rules

Systems and rules

→ Variation will replace static.

3b Systems and rules

Systems and rules

→ If all the elements work together the combination of them all becomes the identity.

4 Types of variations

4 Different types of open systems

<u>Different types of open systems</u>

- → 4 types of open systems will be presented:
- 4a Grid systems
- 4b Container systems
- 4c Algorithms and generative designs
- 4d Modular systems

4a Grid systems

4a Grid systems

$\underline{\text{Grid}} \ \underline{\text{systems}}$

→ Within a corporate design the grid can be the stable and flexible element at the same time.

4a Grid systems

$\underline{\text{Grid}} \ \underline{\text{systems}}$

→ The grid provides stability.

4a Grid systems

<u>Grid</u> <u>systems</u>

→ The intuitive composition is replaced by a systematic design.

4a Grid systems

<u>Grid</u> <u>systems</u>

→ The main task is to create the basic grid.

4a Grid systems

<u>Grid</u> <u>systems</u>

→ The grid should not be used in a strickt manner, but as a system that provides flexible space.

4a Grid systems

<u>Grid</u> <u>systems</u>

→ A balance between maximum and minimum freedom should be achieved.

4a Grid systems

<u>Grid</u> <u>systems</u>

→ According to Karl Gerstner, there is never an absolute solution for a task, in his opinion, there are always multitude solutions.

4a Grid systems

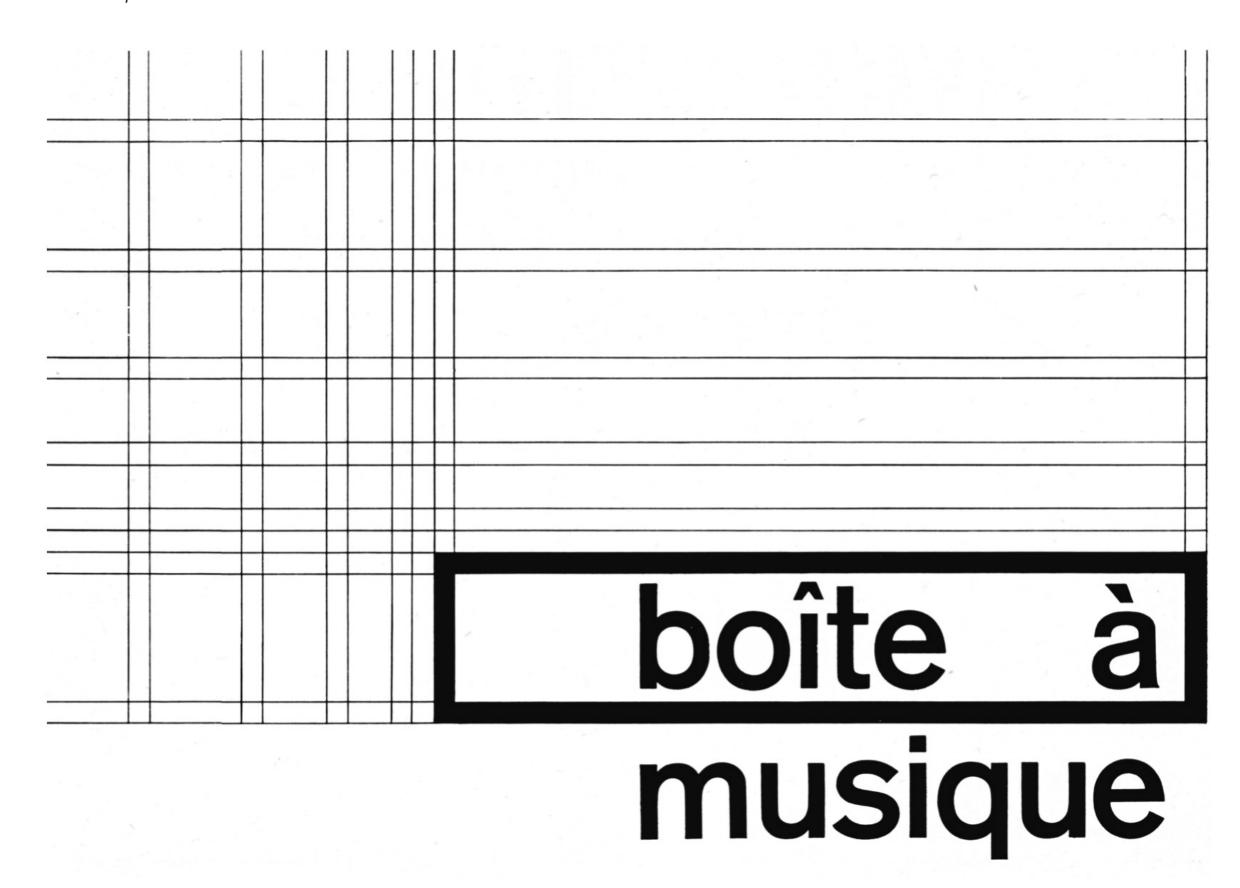
<u>Grid</u> <u>systems</u>

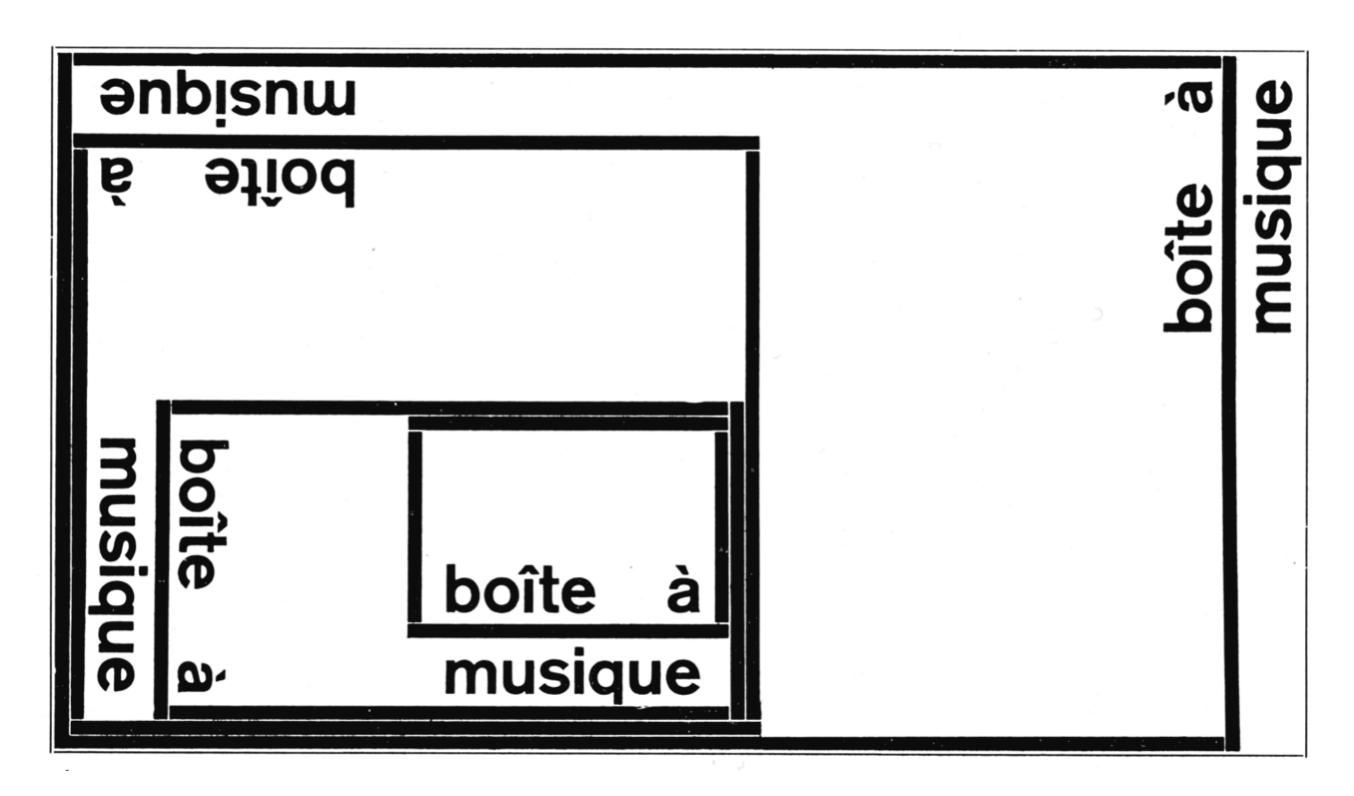
→ Instead of solutions for tasks he proposes "Programs for solutions".

4a Grid systems — Example boîte à musique

Example

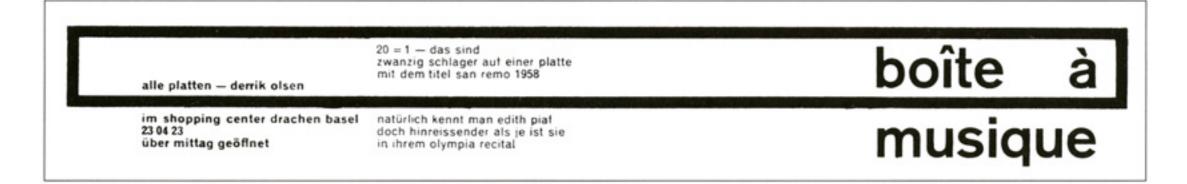
<u>boîte à musique</u> (musicshop based in Basel, Switzerland), Karl Gerstner, 1955



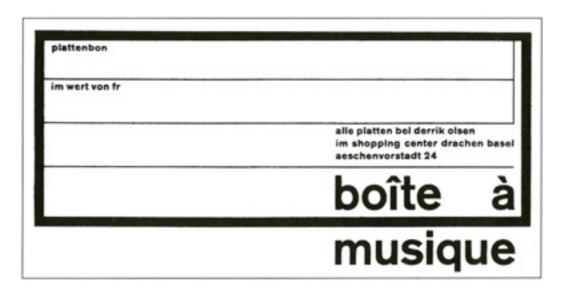


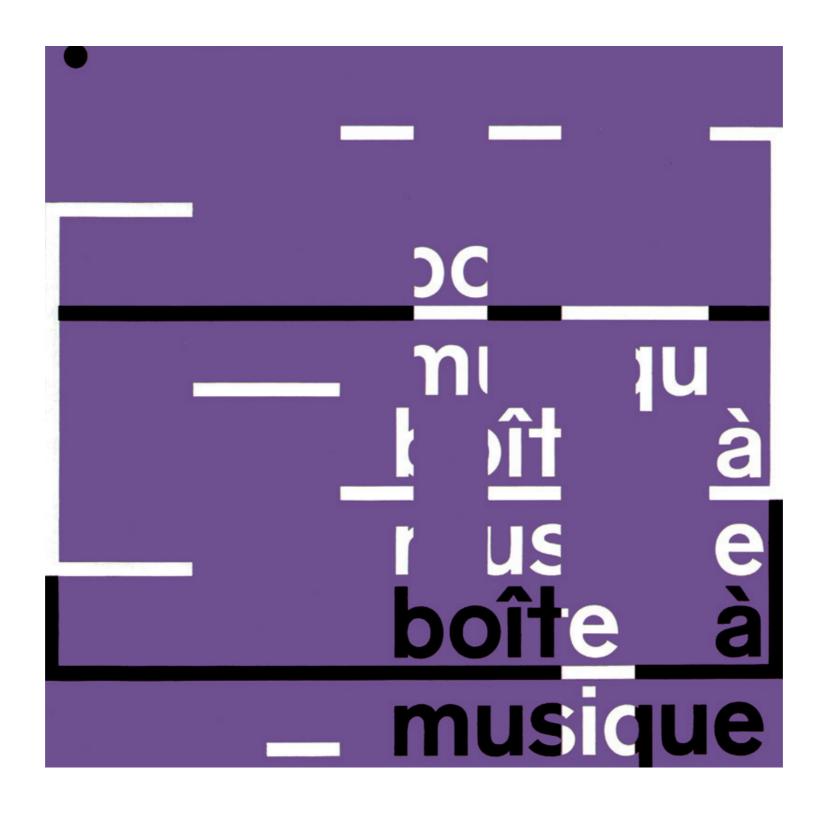


4a Grid systems - Example boîte à musique



alle platten - derrik olsen im shopping center drachen basel 23 04 23 boîte à musique





4a Grid systems – Example boîte à musique

bei derrik olsen-alle platten-im shopping center drachen basel aeschenvorstadt 24



boîte à musique

4b Container systems

4b Container systems

Container systems

→ The wordmark is not changing, it remains stabel.

4b Container systems

<u>Container</u> <u>systems</u>

→ Using the wordmark as a base variations of the wordmark could be developed using different textures and fills.

4b Container systems

<u>Container</u> <u>systems</u>

→ The base attribute (e.g. the wordmark) remains the same.

4b Container systems

<u>Container</u> <u>systems</u>

→ This system could work well for a company that may have samller subdivisions or aditional umbrella brands.

4b Container systems

<u>Container</u> <u>systems</u>

→ But they can also be refreshing, for example in the case of seasonal flexibility and versatility.

4b Container systems – Example New Museum

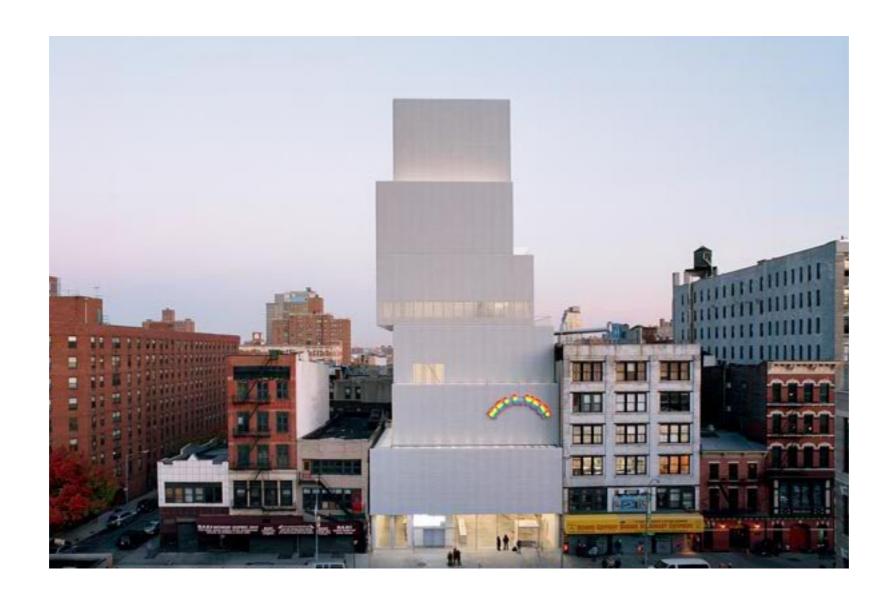
Example

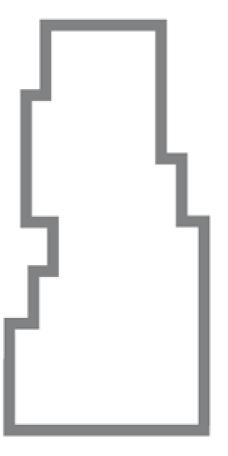
<u>New Museum</u> (New York, USA), Wolff Olins, 2007

-1			
V	NEW	NEW HELL RAISING MUSEUM	NEW
IEROUS	LIVING		UPSIDE DOWN
SEUM	MUSEUM		MUSEUM
V SEUM	NEW OH HAI! MUSEUM	NEW CUTE MUSEUM	NEW CARPE DIEM MUSEUM
V	NEW	NEW	NEW
KITTEN	SLEEPER CELL	EAT ME	ROYAL
SEUM	MUSEUM	MUSEUM	MUSEUM
V	NEW	NEW	NEW
RADISE	SOUP DU JOUR	PERFECT	CAN O' WORMS
SEUM	MUSEUM	MUSEUM	MUSEUM
V	NEW	NEW	NEW
SIONATE	SWEET JESUS	IMPATIENT	VAGUE
SEUM	MUSEUM	MUSEUM	MUSEUM
V	NEW	NEW	NEW
S IECTIVE	DEADLY	LOVE AFFAIR	ATHLETIC
SEUMI	MUSEUM	MUSEUM	MUSEUM
V SEUM	NEW EMPIRE STATE MUSEUM	NEW WORKING MUSEUM	NEW WISHFUL MUSEUM
V	NEW	NEW	NEW
IRTLESS	NATURAL	BLACK	BLOODY MARY
SEUM	MÜSEUM	MUSEUM	MUSEUM

MOSICOM	MUELLUM	MUDITUM	Michigan
NEW	NEW	NEW	NEW
BLANK	COLORFUL	FANATICAL	CLEAR
MUSEUM	MUSEUM	MUSEUM	MUSEUR
NEW	NEW	NEW	NEW
BULLSHIT	WHISPER	SAFE SEX	CALLA L
MUSEUM	MUSEUM	MUSEUM	MUSEUN
NEW	NEW	NEW	NEW
X0X0	FASHION WEEK	CHALLENGING	DOCUME
MUSEUM	MUSEUM	MUSEUM	MUSEUR
NEW	NEW	NEW	NEW
RESTLESS	SMILEY	STACKED	SPONTA
MUSEUM	MUSEUM	MUSEUM	MUSEUR
NEW	NEW	NEW	NEW
DRUGGED	WHAT THE?	EARTHLY	CHEWY
MUSEUM	MUSEUM	MUSEUM	MUSEUR
NEW	NEW	NEW	NEW
BE WELL	IDIOSYNCRATIC	ENCHANTING	AFFORD/
MUSEUM	MUSEUM	MUSEUM	MUSEUN
NEW	NEW	NEW	NEW
KUMBAYAH	TRANQUIL	COSMETIC	<mark>DEADLY</mark>
MUSEUM	MUSEUM	MUSEUM	MUSEUN
NEW	NEW	NEW	NEW
SINCERE	MEANINGFUL	UNCONDITIONAL	FFFFOUN
MUSEUM	MUSEUM	MUSEUM	MUSEUN





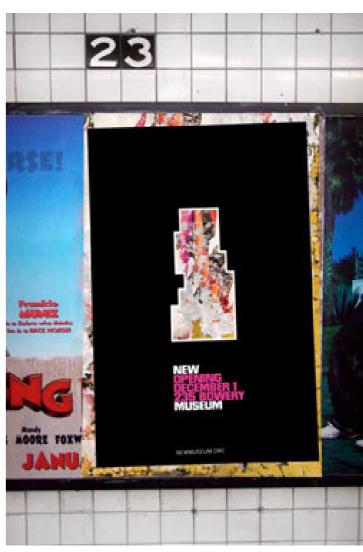






























4c <u>Algorithms and</u> <u>generative designs</u>

4c Algorithms and generative designs

<u>Algorithms</u> und generative designs

→ In the traditional design process the outcome of the logo is usually represented by one form.

4c Algorithms and generative designs

Algorithms und generative designs

→ This process involves developing a method or program to generate multiple forms to represent a company.

4c Algorithms and generative designs

<u>Algorithms</u> und generative designs

→ Inspiration for this method of design stems from Concrete and Generative Art.

4c Algorithms and generative designs

Algorithms und generative designs

→ Once the instructions (algorithms) have been defined the system can be programed and put into use. From this point on no real creative tasks need to be performed by the designer. Everything is automaticly generated.

4c Algorithms and generative designs

Algorithms und generative designs

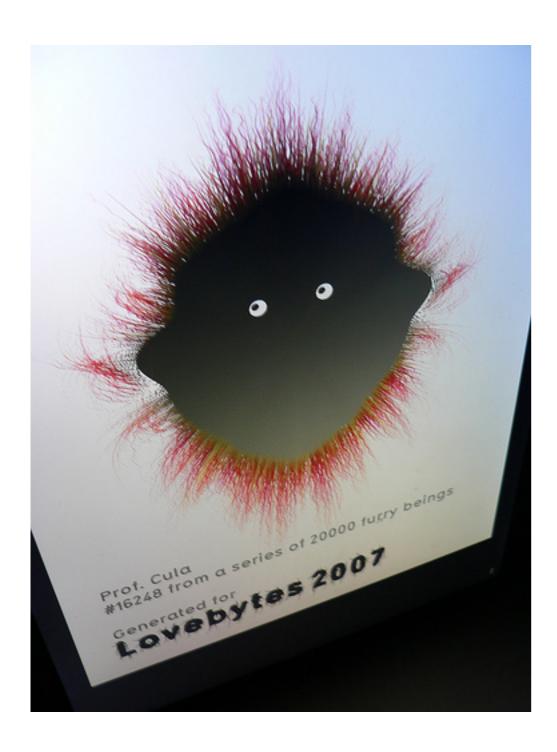
→ The arrival of the computer has opened up new methods of visual expression for the designer.

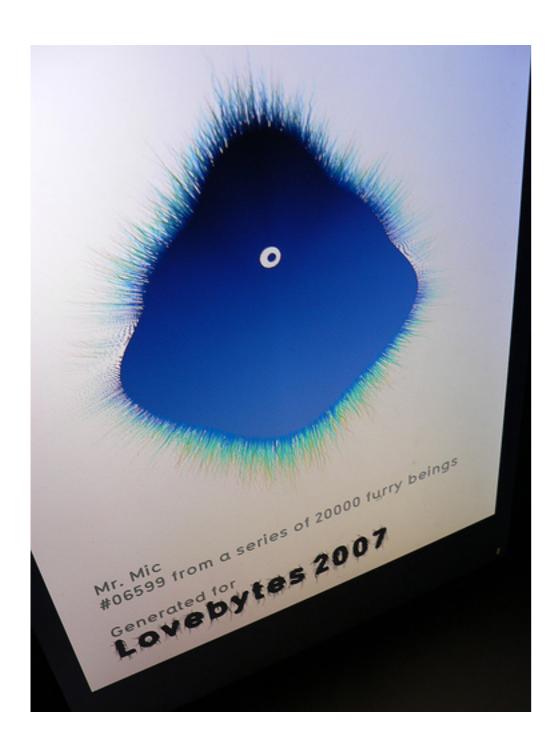
4c Algorithms and generative designs — Example Lovebytes Festival 2007

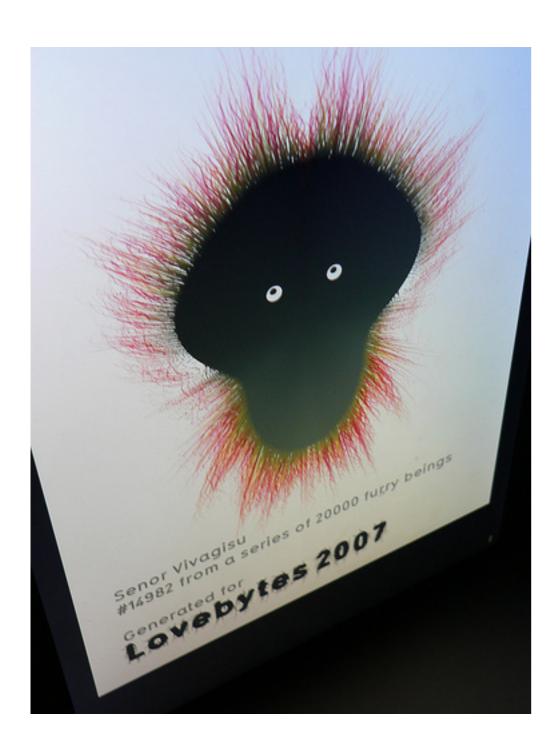
Example

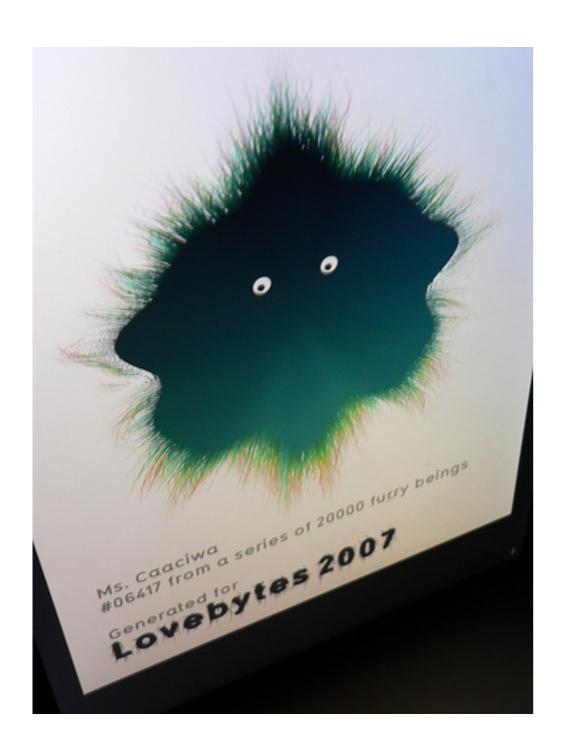
Lovebytes Digital-Arts Festival (Sheffield, England),
Universal Everything, 2007

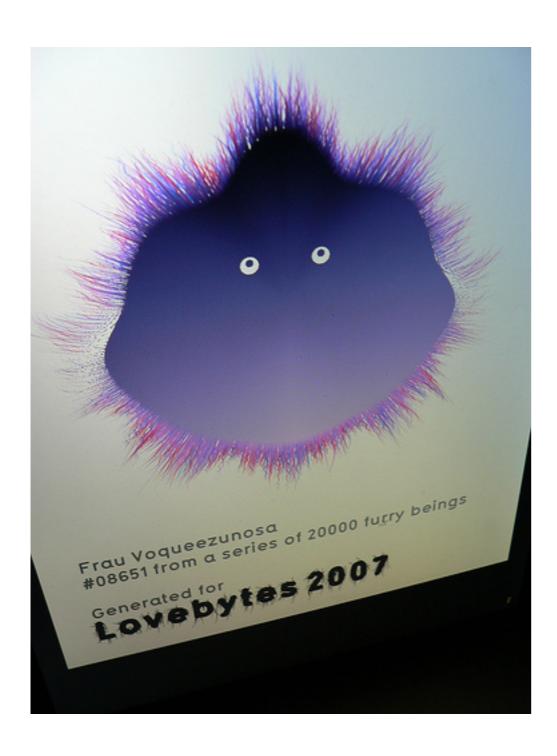


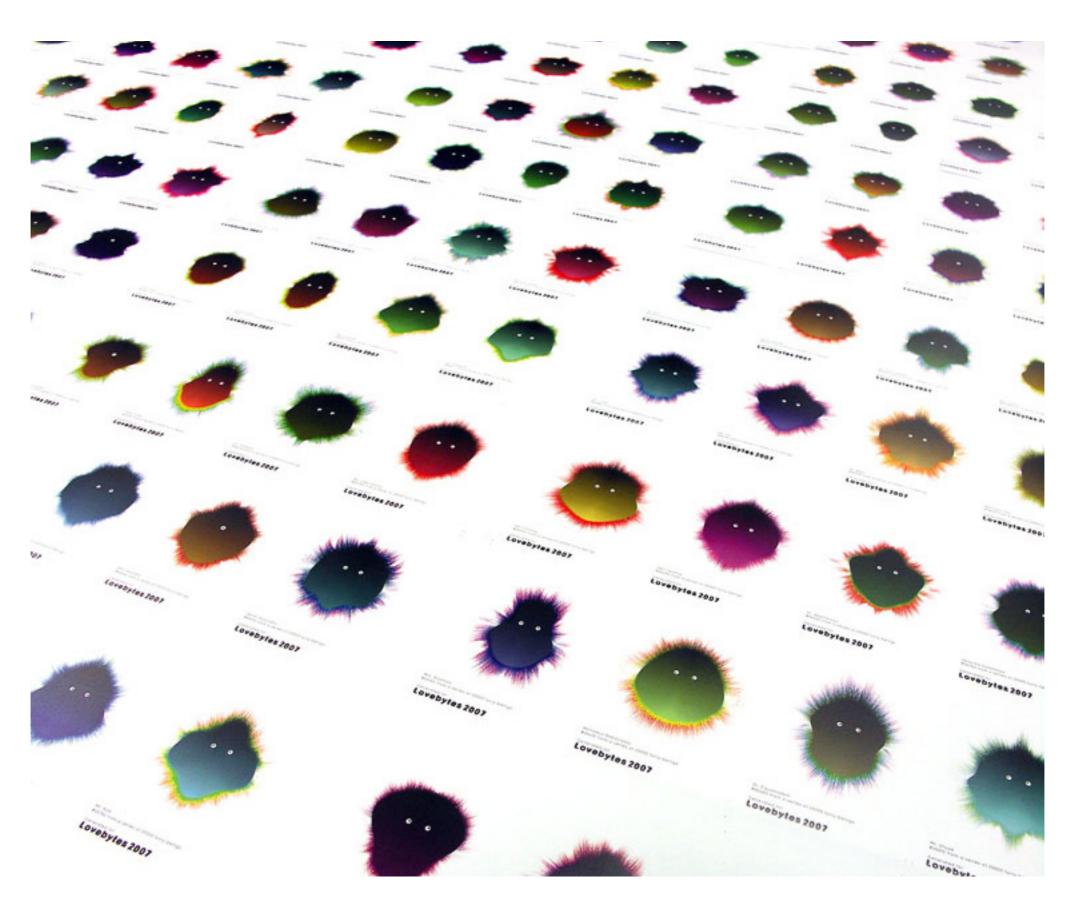


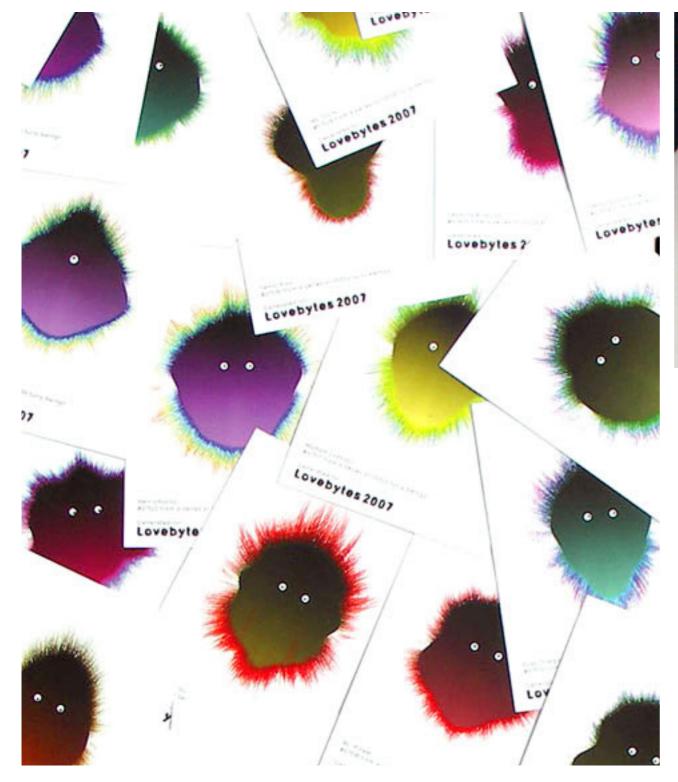






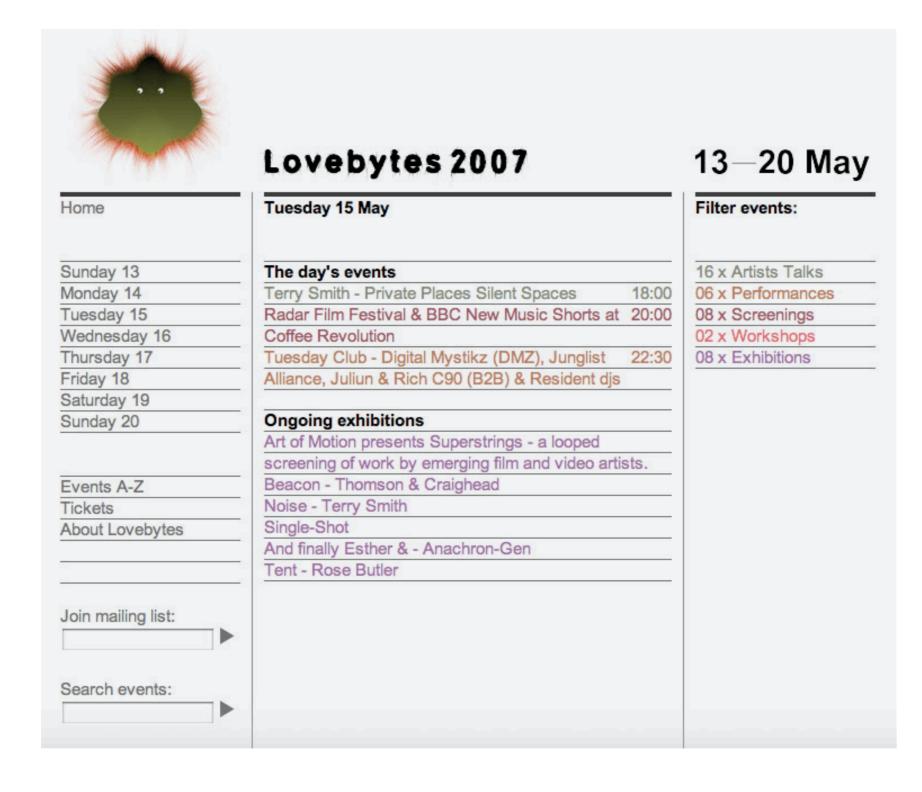












4d <u>Modular system</u>

4d Modular systems

<u>Modular</u> <u>systems</u>

→ A corporate design is not only represented by a logo.

4d Modular systems

<u>Modular</u> <u>systems</u>

→ The way the components interact with each other is essential to a corporate design.

4d Modular systems

Modular systems

→ The corporate logo, typeface, color, image etc. is what shapes the image of a company.

4d Modular systems

<u>Modular</u> <u>systems</u>

→ A modular system allows you to design more efficiently.

4d Modular systems

Modular systems

→ A modular system has to ensure that all graphical elements harmonise and look/ work like a family.

4d Modular systems

Modular systems

→ This allows for the designer to have a pool of harmonious working elements. The designer can play and design applications that are visually consistent and retain the integrity of the corporate design.

4d Modular systems

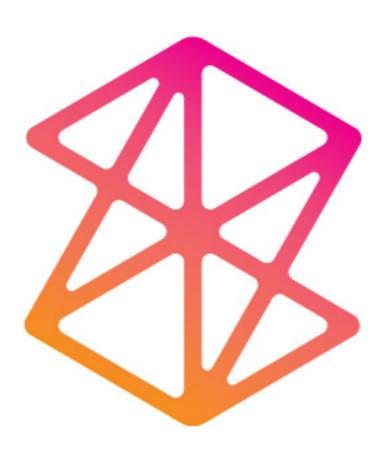
Modular systems

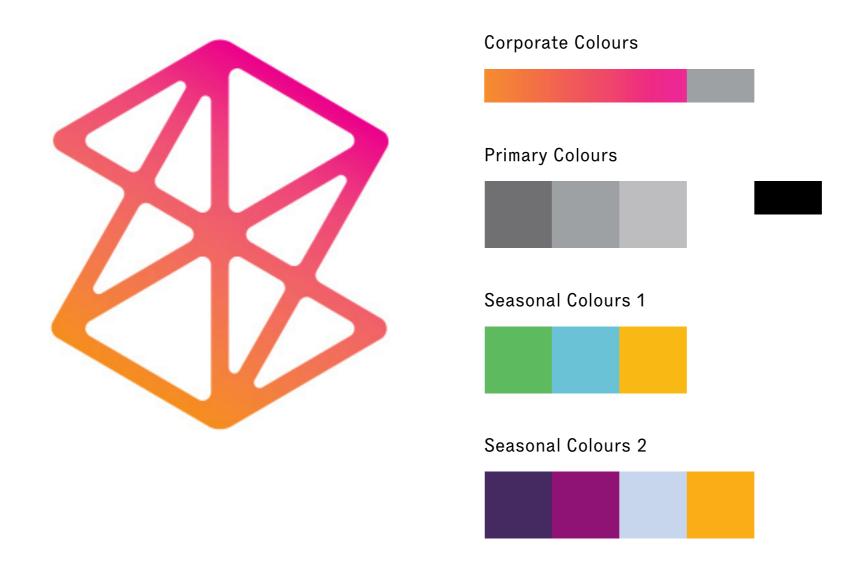
→ A modular system allows the corporate design to constantly change, evolve and grow.

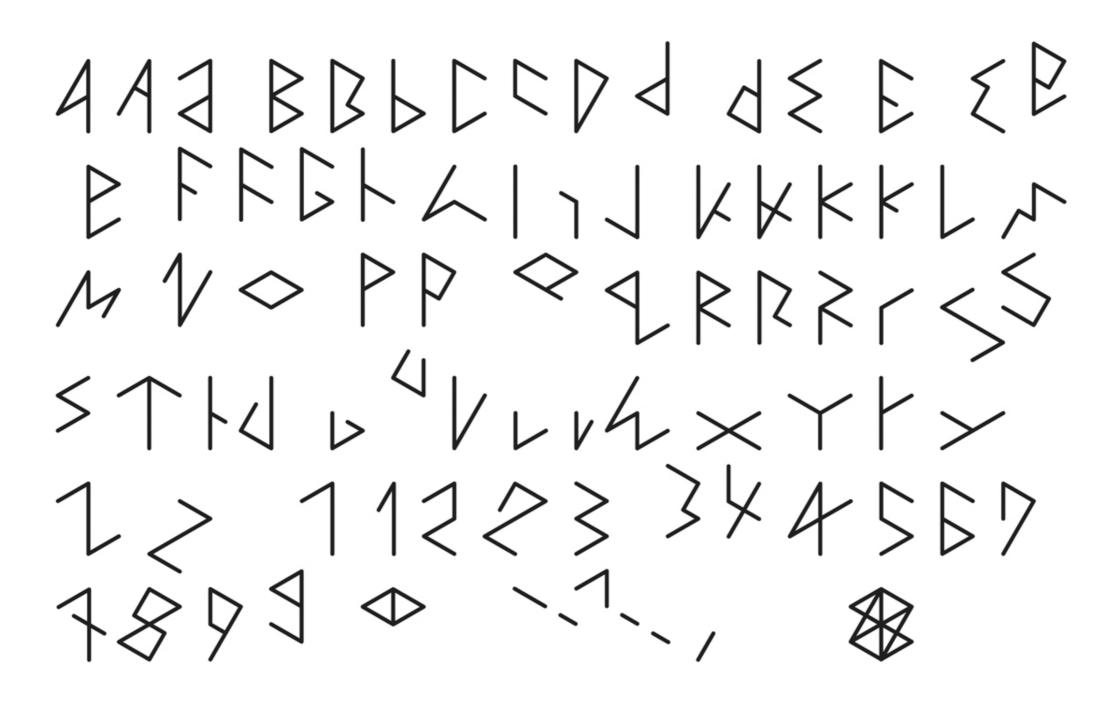
4d Modular systems - Example *Zune* corporate design pitch

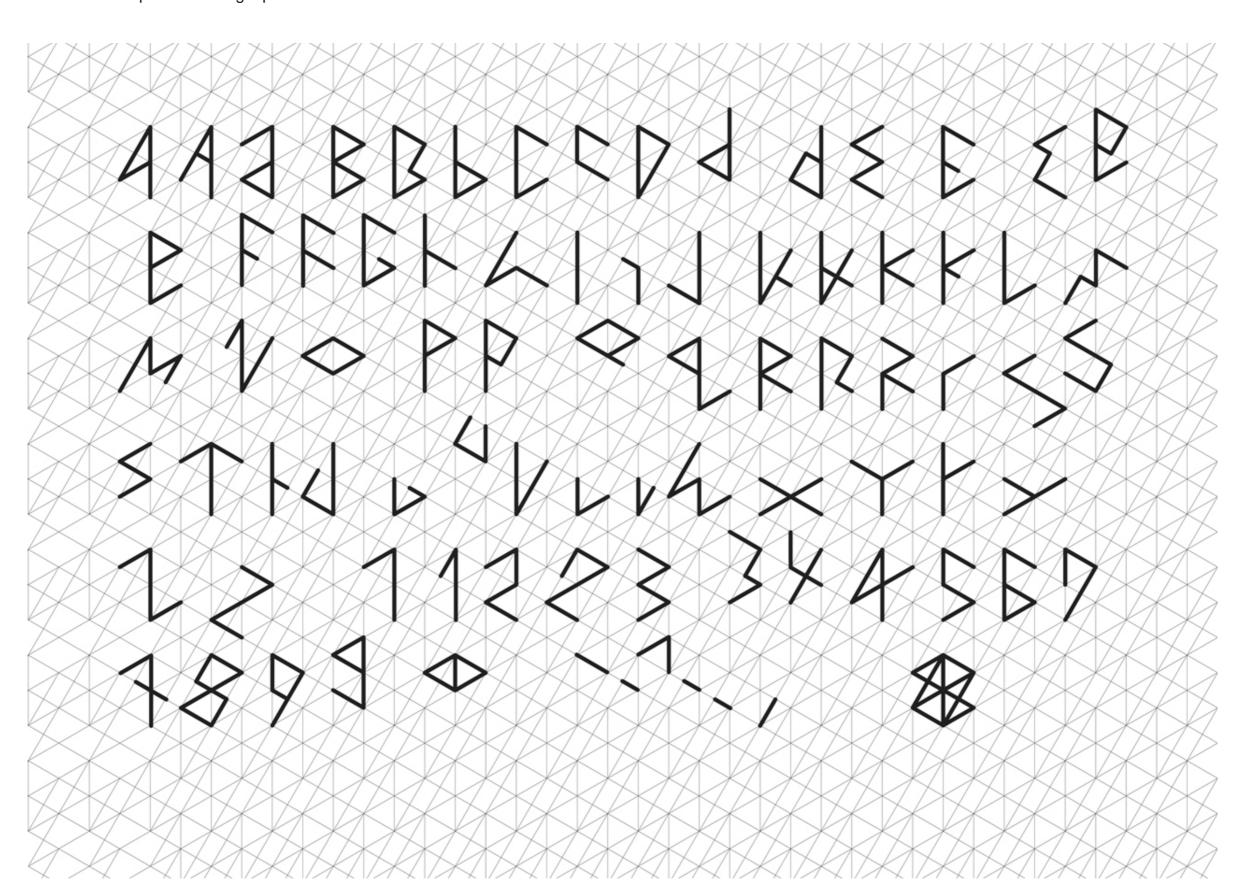
Example

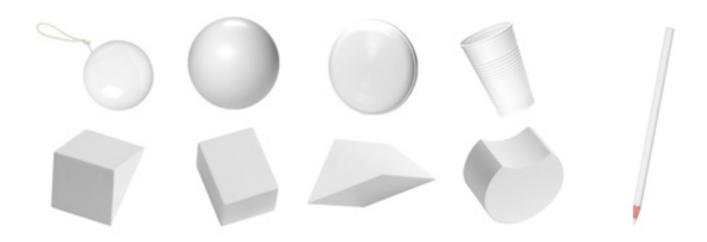
Zune Corporate Design Pitch, **HORT**, 2008



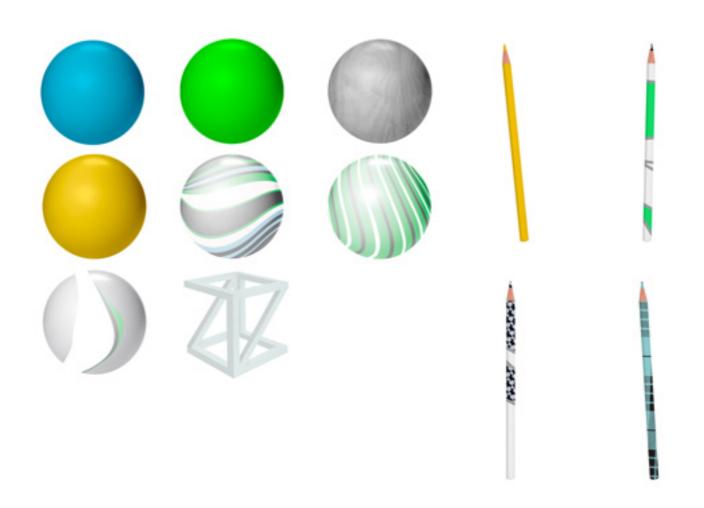


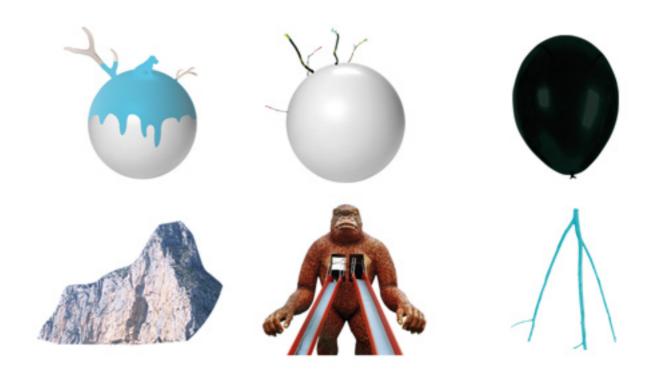


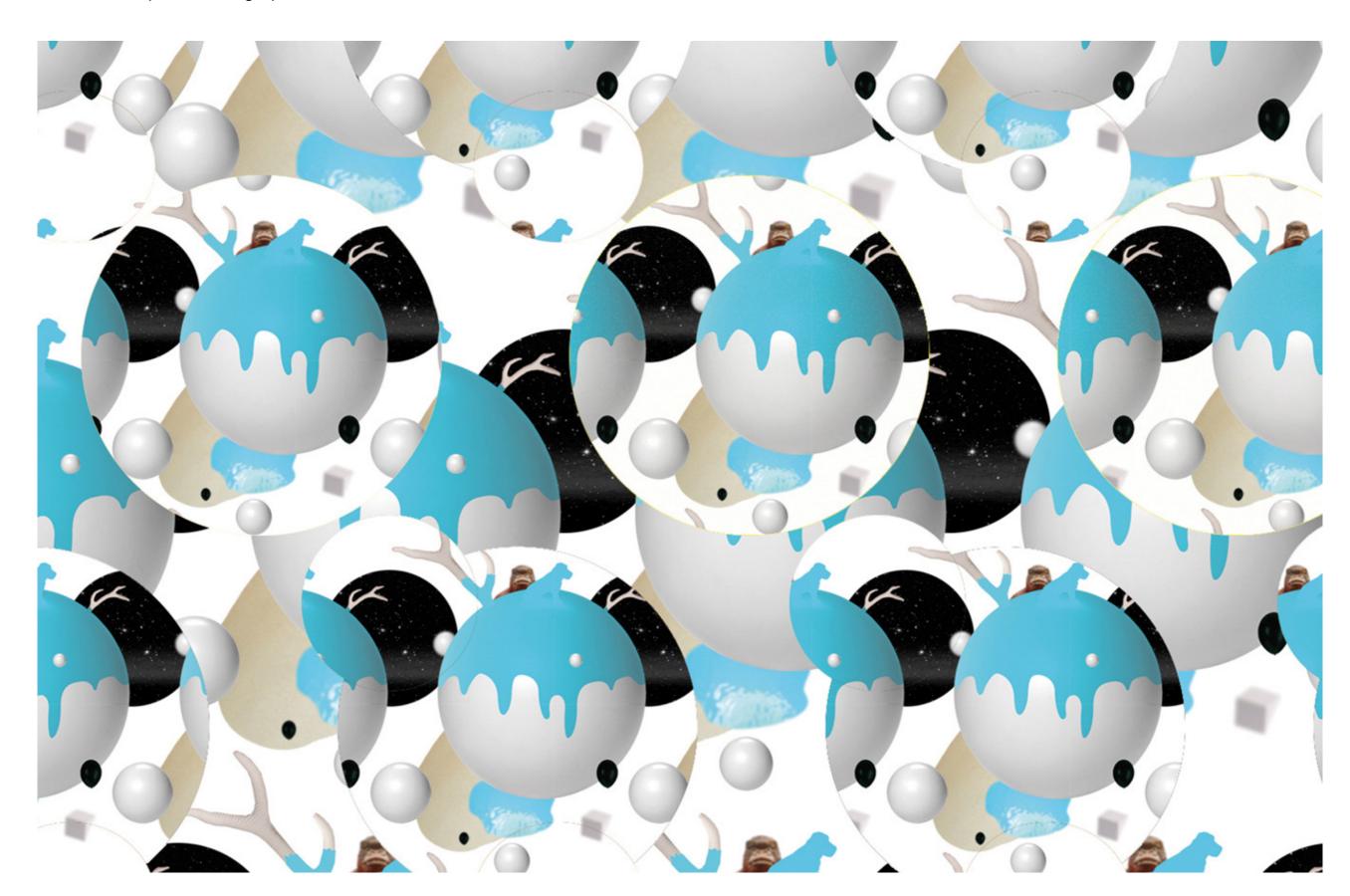


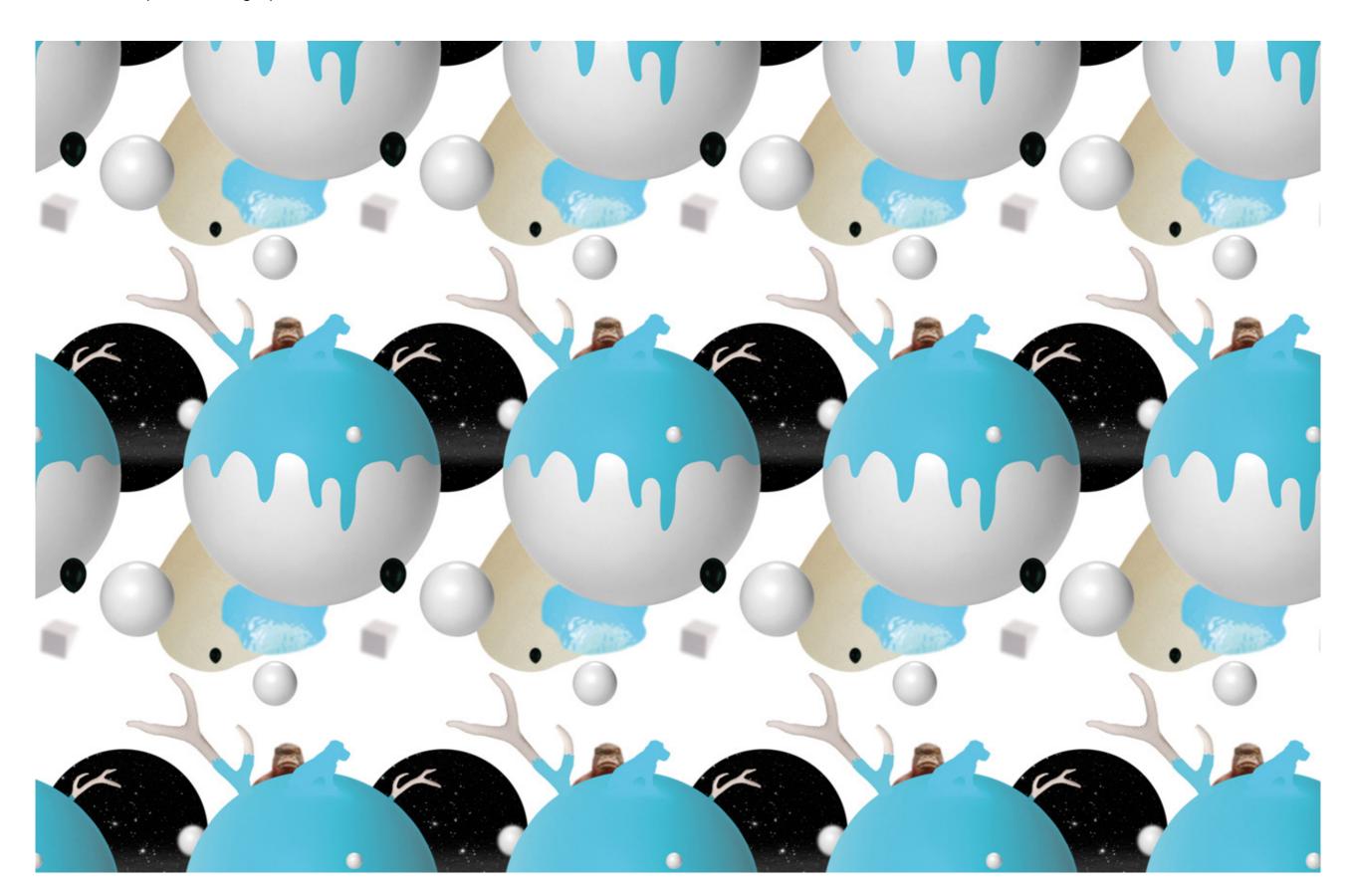




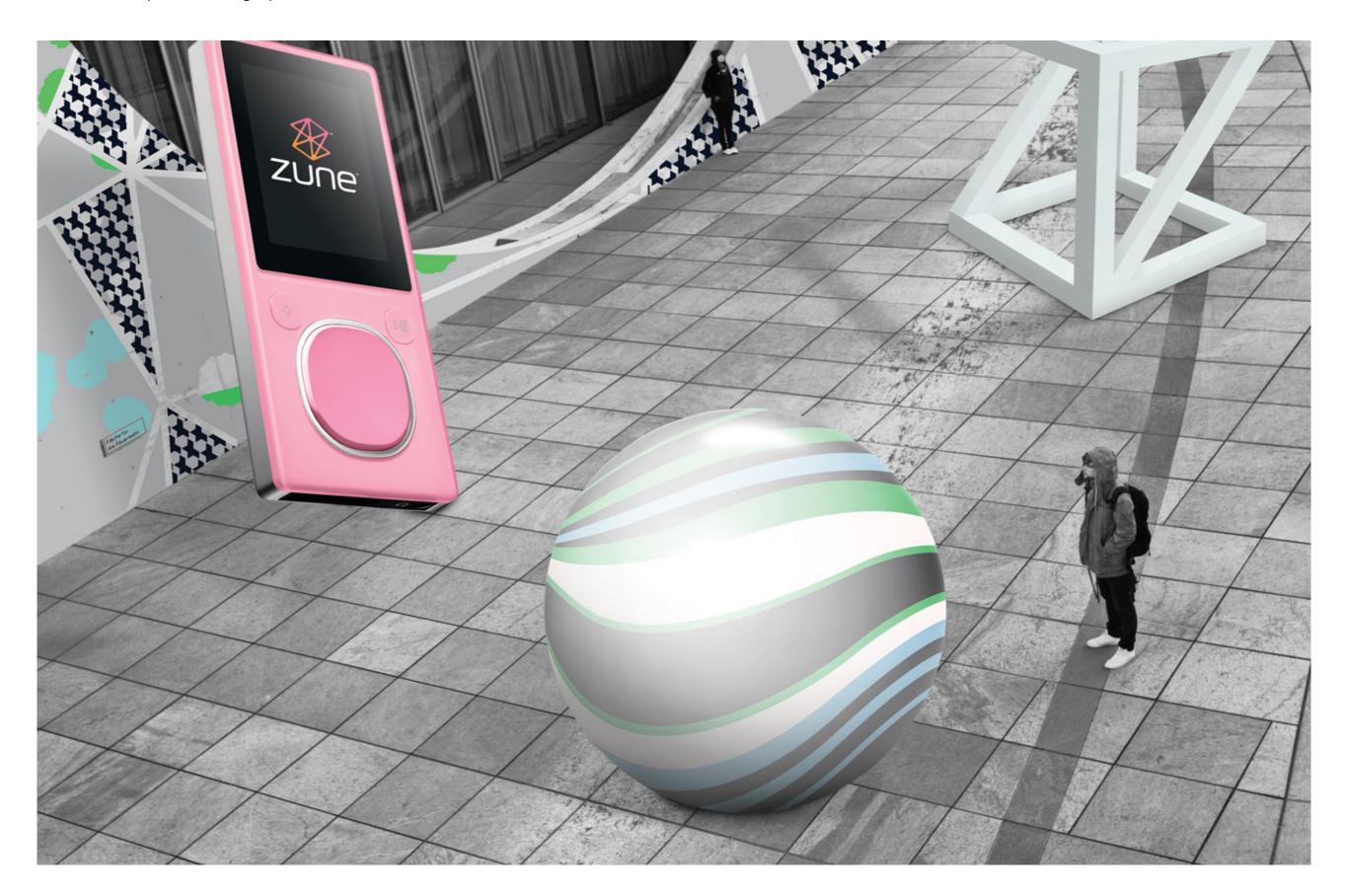


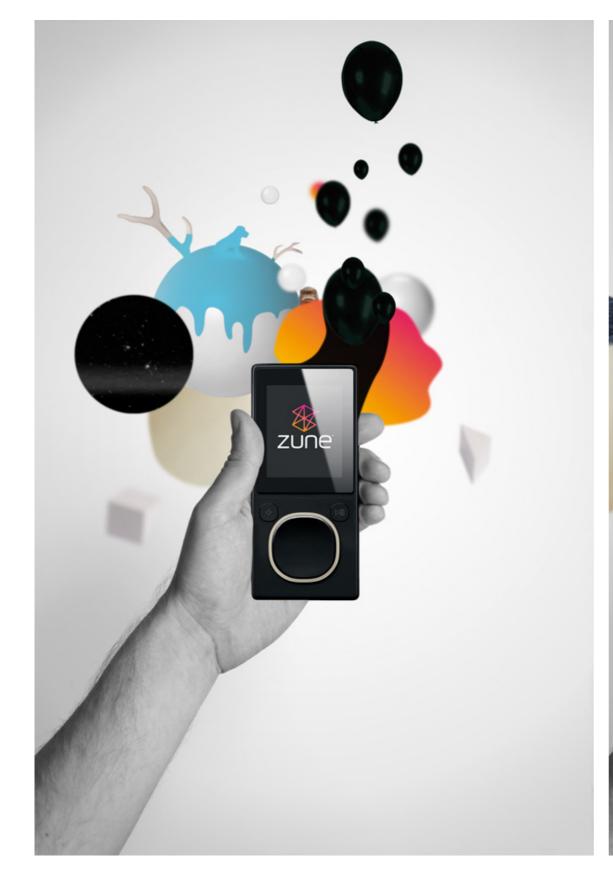


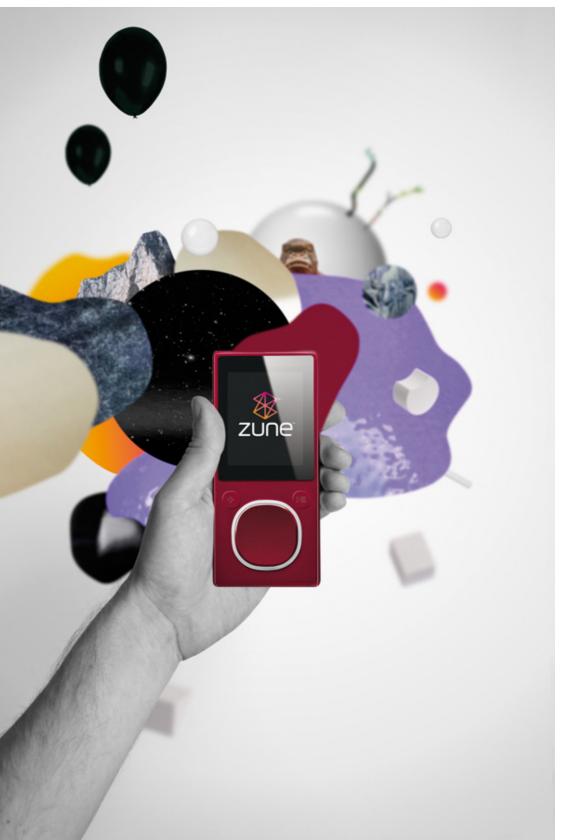


















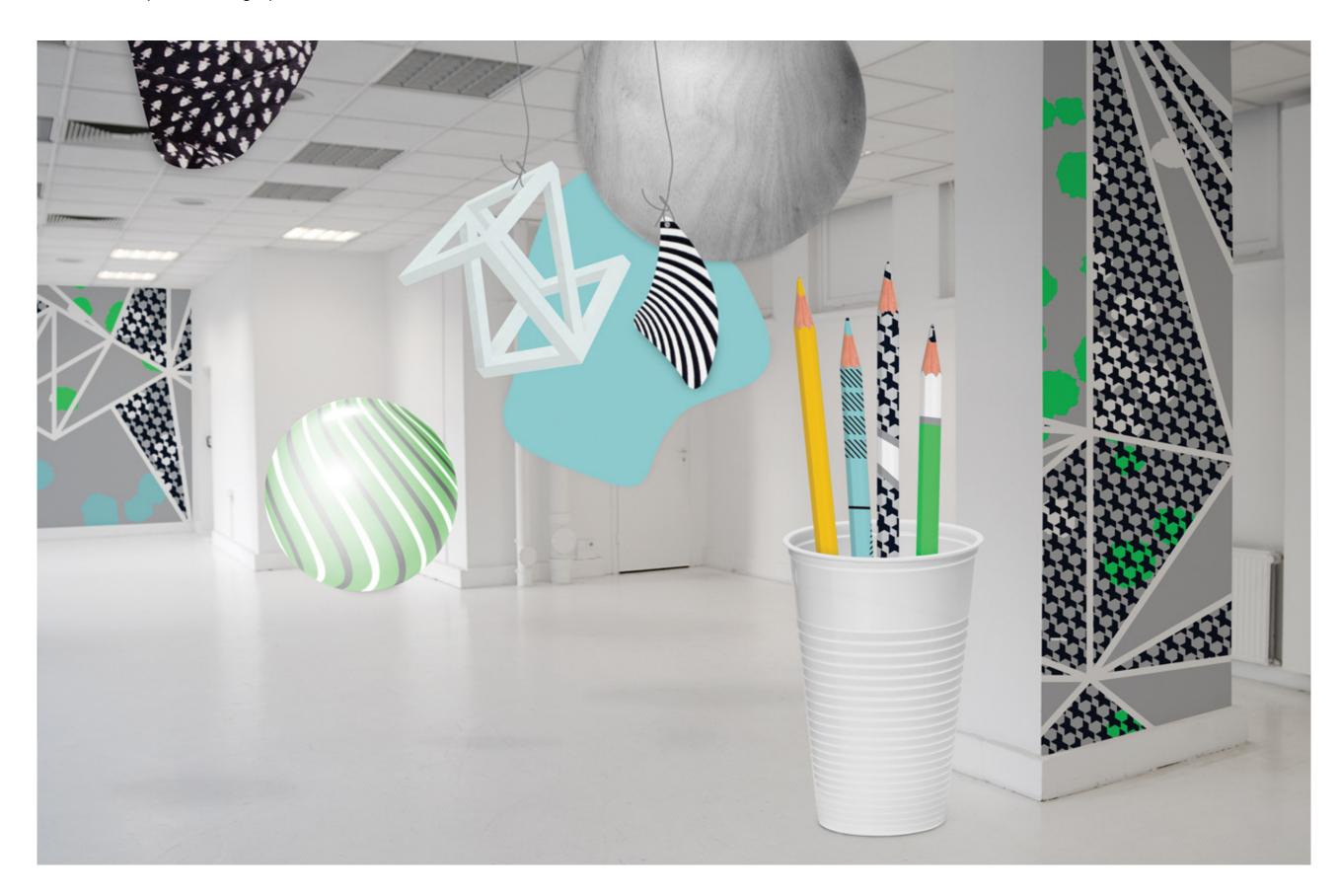






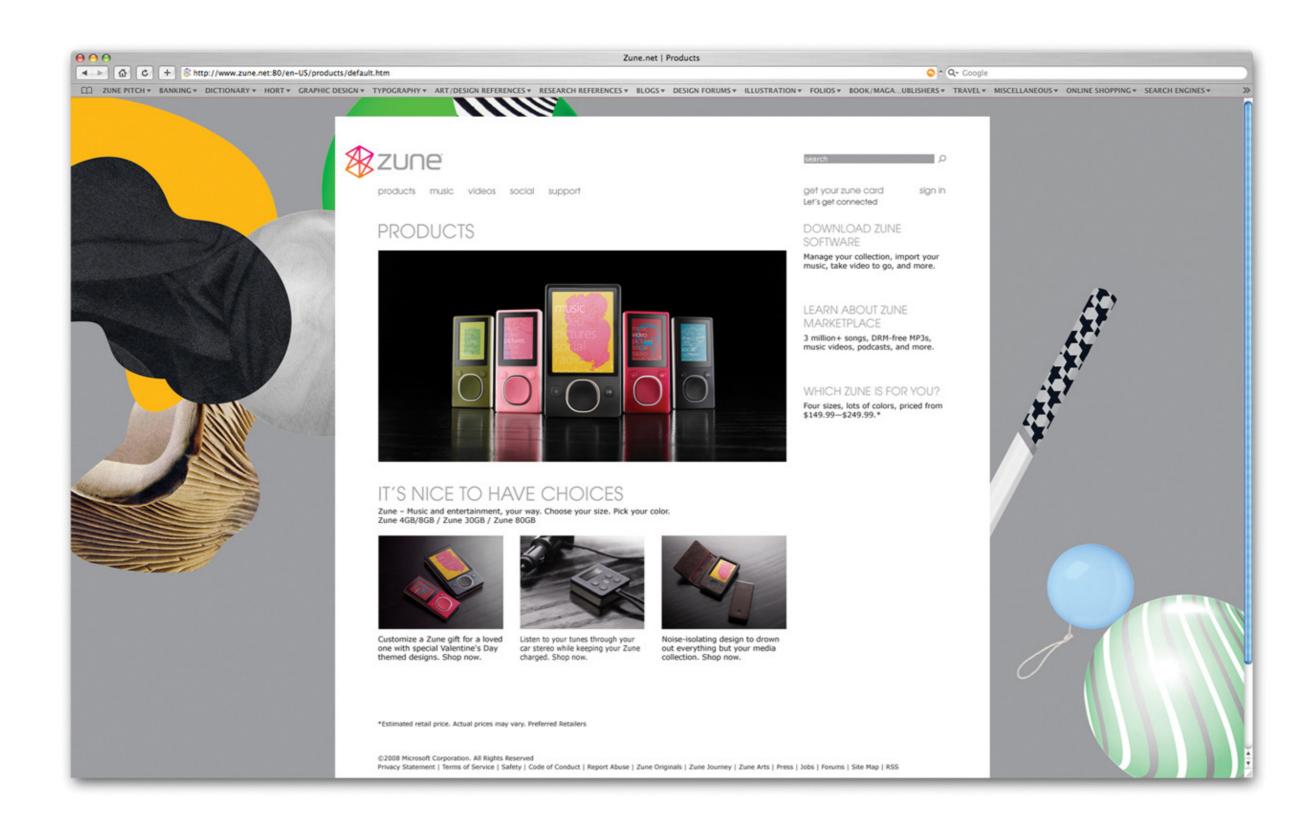


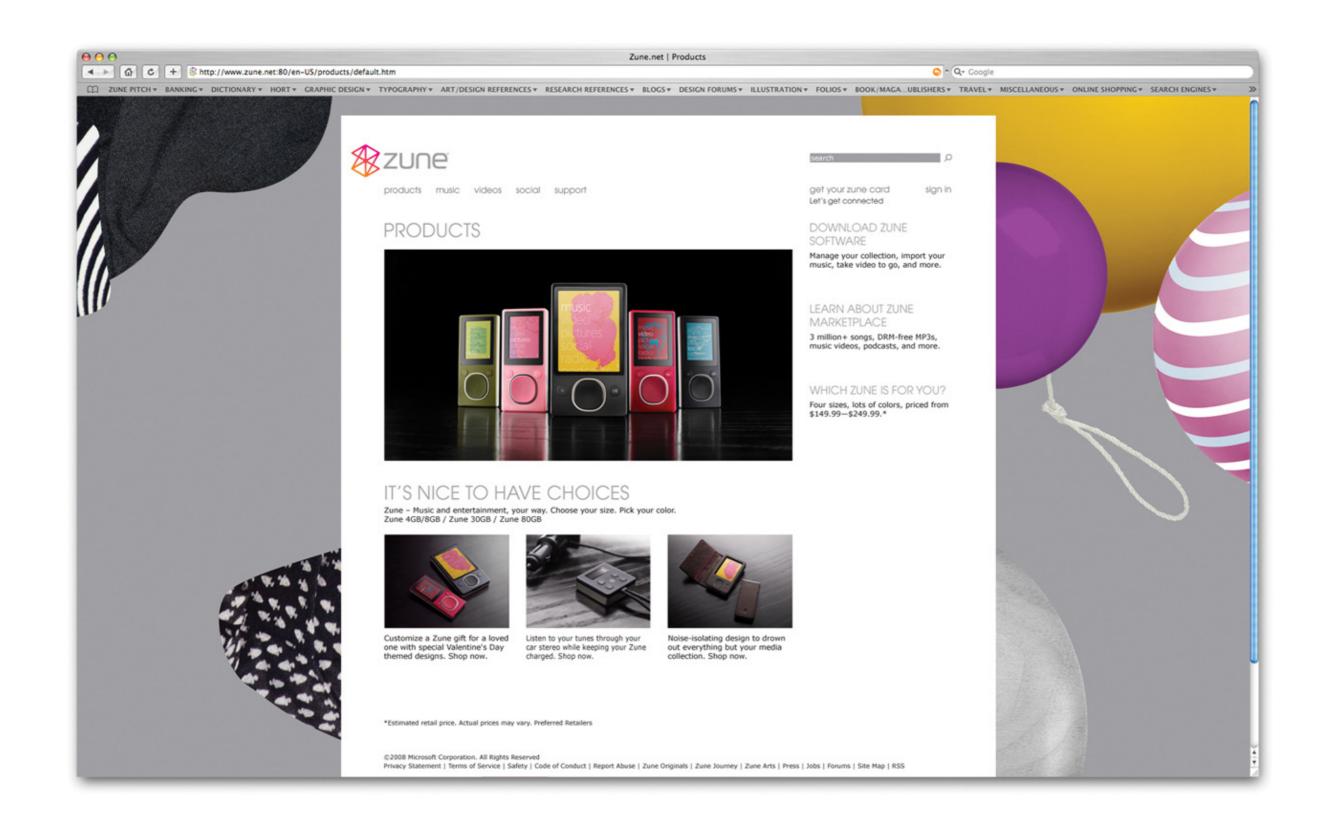


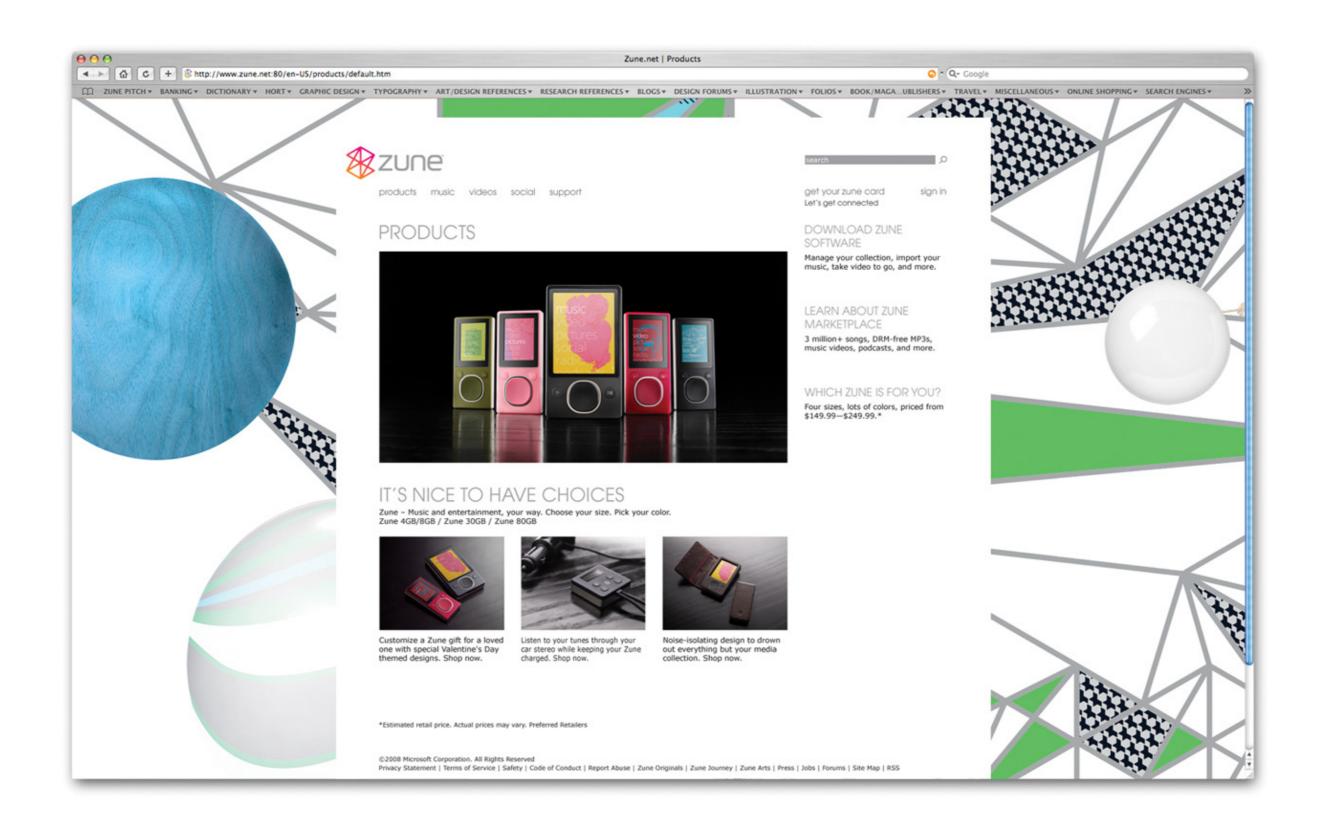


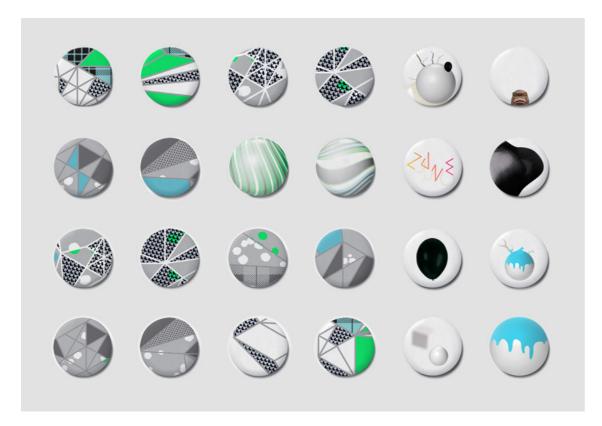


















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