

Anti-crime design on show

Design Against Crime aims to put crime resistant design on the agenda for business and education

Wouldn't you like to buy products designed to foil criminals? It's already happening in some sectors – look at the security features on cars – but we want to see it happening in many more. And that's the reason for our Design Against Crime initiative, which had a public outing in December and January with an exhibition at the Design Museum in London.

The exhibition featured crime resistant products created by designers from Central Saint Martin's College of Art & Design, including bags designed to prevent thieves dipping in and helping themselves and chairs with devices to deny snatchers an easy lift in pubs, cafés and restaurants. Also on show was the college's CD-ROM teaching resource, developed to encourage other design schools to address crime in their courses.

Over the next couple of years we will be working closely with Sheffield Hallam and Salford University on other key aspects of our Design Against Crime initiative, funded by the Home Office. They will be researching and showcasing products with innovative crime resistance features as well as developing imaginative teaching materials for students from key stage three to degree level and

organising a competition rewarding anti-crime initiatives at community level. There will also be information and training for designers and design decision-makers to boost awareness of their role in cutting crime, and we are publishing a policy paper by criminologist Professor Ken Pease containing recommendations on what government can do to encourage businesses to adopt anti-crime design.

For more information call Alison Huxley on 020 7420 5200.



Share your innovation

Do your products and services break down barriers, create opportunities and solve problems?

If the answer is yes, they and the stories behind them could become part of the Design Council's Sharing Innovation resource.

We have already told hundreds of the Innovation Stories which led to Millennium Products, making them all available through our website.

Now we're making that resource even bigger by tracking down new stories for our Sharing Innovation programme. Again via the web, we'll be telling the stories behind products and services – what inspired them, how they were created and what impact they had on their markets.

Businesses, students, investors, government departments and other organisations will be able to draw inspiration from the stories, some of which will be used in events, publications and other Design Council activities. We will also be focusing on new Innovation Stories in future editions of *i*.

If you want to take part in the programme, all you need to do is complete a simple questionnaire, which will go to an independent panel of experts. If your story is chosen for the programme, the next stage is an interview with a researcher.

For more information about the programme and how you can be part of it, call Frank Gleiter on 020 7420 5200 or e-mail sharinginnovation@designcouncil.org.uk

Network means business

When did you last learn from another company? That's what our Business Network is all about, and it's certain to be heading your way soon.

The Network is made up of Millennium Products companies and other innovators who meet regularly at events all over the UK to trade ideas and insights. It is part of the Design Council's Sharing Innovation programme, which gives businesses the chance to learn from each other's successes and experiences of the innovation process.

Since September, we've held events in Manchester, Oxford and Bristol, with each exploring a different theme. In Manchester the spotlight was on making digital technology work for your business, with speakers including Simon Dye, of financial services provider wisemoney.com, Stuart Armstrong, of online ironmongers cooksons.com and Keith Taylor, of new media specialists Immerse.

The crucial importance of understanding your intellectual property rights before protecting and exploiting them was the focus in Oxford, with Mandy Haberman, inventor of the Anywayup Cup, telling of the legal battles she has waged to protect her idea from infringers. Advice came from Ian Craig, specialist intellectual property lawyer with Hewitson Becke + Shaw, and Peter Mucci, of the DTI Futures and Innovation Unit.

The subject in Bristol was raising finance, with Mike Bird, of Investor Champions plc, and Bob Ormond, of Lloyds TSB Commercial, giving the business angel's and banker's views of what makes a would-be investment project's business plan stand out. Paul Beazeley-Long, of event hosts BAE Systems, explained the financial background to the new Airbus A3XX project.

For more information on the Network, visit www.designcouncil.org.uk or e-mail businessnetwork@designcouncil.org.uk

Toast the winner

In the last edition we asked for your views on *i* in a prize draw. First out of the hat for a case of champagne was Elizabeth Wright, of Central Saint Martin's.