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82 ARCHITECTURE & DESIGN



Vlieger & Vandam, *Guardian Angel* handbag, 2002
V.LIEGER & VANDAM

Fear Factor

Is fear a factor for you? No, we're not talking daredevil feats or unspeakable insect innards. Everyday life provides plenty of situations that require us to define just how much risk we're willing to take.

Fear is taking a front seat in the design world, too. From protective helmets and nutrition labels to security cameras and beyond, design professionals are working to protect us. Now, **The Museum of Modern Art** brings their latest creations into the public eye with *Safe: Design Takes On Risk*.

Raúl Cárdenas Osuna of Torolab, a Tijuana-based consortium of artists, designers, and musicians, created the *Securitree* in 2004. Addressing issues of surveillance and privacy, it gives clusters

of security cameras a sleek, streamlined flair. And thanks to the Design Against Crime Research Initiative, purse-snatchers will be less of a threat. Their *Stop Thief Ply Chair* (2000) has a groove in the seat that holds the straps of a purse or pack, letting it hang safely out of range behind your knees.

What about the urban homeless? Electroland, an L.A.-based design team, is looking out for them. Their 2004 *Urban Nomad Shelter* is inexpensive, inflatable, brightly colored, and easily transportable. In all, more than 300 objects tackle the stresses of modern life, from information access and emergency response systems to issues of comfort, security, and fear itself. Take a chance on it, through January 2.