

OPRAH MAGAZINE / September 2005

Safe Bets



For most people the idea of "safety design" brings thoughts of childproof caps and

seat belts—necessary annoyances. But for Paola Antonelli, curator of architecture and design at New York's Museum of Modern Art, these objects contain the power to inspire. To prove the point, Antonelli is mounting *Safe: Design Takes On Risk*, an exhibition opening October 16 that will survey the latest innovative devices created with safety in mind. Among the show's offerings are a minimalist lifeguard station, stuffed toys with mirror faces for calming special-needs children, and Matthias Megyeri's ironic (and functional) *Sweet Dreams Security* series, with chains forged of heart-shaped links and razor wire with butterfly-shaped barbs. For the *Stop Thief Ply Chair* (below), designers cut a notch into an auditorium seat for hanging a handbag, thus discouraging theft. "Safety is not only a fire truck or a gas mask," says Antonelli. "It's also about what makes us feel secure within ourselves." (moma.org)

—HOWARD HALLE



Safe keeping: A chair that protects your valuables.

IT OF CHINA, MARCUS WILCOCKS, ZOHAR LAZAR.

