

L

DESIGN &
CRAFTSMANSHIP

I

F

E



ISSUE 18 | APRIL/MAY 2020

LEXUS.CO.ZA



NOW AND ZEN

Kyoto garden
retreat in Japan

HEART STRINGS

Collectable
handcrafted violins

LC 500 CONVERTIBLE

Striking to look at
– and to drive

MORE THAN A FEELING

RACING-INSPIRED ENGINEERING

Through its nearly mile-long straightaway and twelve unforgiving corners, the Fuji Speedway in Japan is our proving ground for performance. And it is from this world-renowned racetrack, and the silhouettes of the curves themselves, that our F SPORT range takes its name. From the muscular exterior design and sports-focused interiors to the expressive mesh grille and exclusively-tuned handling, every part of an F SPORT vehicle works together to deliver a look and feel of absolute exhilaration. And with special performance enhancements to the brakes, stabiliser bars, suspension, clutch and chassis, every drive is guaranteed to be a thrilling driving experience.



C O N T E N T S

THOUGHT LEADER

02

Business Maverick editor Tim Cohen on how business objectives have changed in the past 50 years



THE ART OF LIVING

04

Travel: The Aman Kyoto forest retreat is a study in Japanese *shinrin-yoku*

10

Travel: Luxury safari lodges that feature interior designer Caline Williams-Wynn's unique touch

16

Beauty: Signature fragrances for memorable occasions

20

Technology: The state-of-the-art Kronos Sparta turntable

22

Fashion: Shoes that combine speed and comfort with the latest tech

26

The Master: Violin-maker Albertus Bekker



THE ART OF DRIVING

30

New from Lexus: the present and the future



DIRECTIONS

36

The 2020 Lexus Design Award finalists shine a spotlight on sustainability and human wellbeing



THE INNOVATOR

40

Creative entrepreneur Zuko Mandlakazi's groundbreaking device for the hearing-impaired





HOW CAN YOU STAY CONNECTED BUT NEVER DISTRACTED?

We questioned the conventions of connectivity in the new RX.
Featuring a Remote Touch centre console, voice-activated navigation and a
12.3-inch multimedia touchscreen display with Apple CarPlay and Android Auto,
driving has never been more intuitive.

CHALLENGE EVERYTHING



7
YEAR
7YR WARRANTY
7YR / 105 000KM
MAINTENANCE PLAN

lexus.co.za

South African vehicle specifications may differ.

THE NEW
RX

LEXUS
EXPERIENCE AMAZING

Thought Leader

SUSTAINABILITY... IS IT A BUSINESS IMPERATIVE?

TIM COHEN, respected editor of *Business Maverick*, examines how and why business objectives have changed over the past 50 years

It's become the straw man everybody loves to attack. In a 1972 article published in *The New York Times*, renowned economist and Nobel Memorial Prize winner Milton Friedman wrote about "the social responsibility of business". Reading what he had to say today is eye-popping: Friedman said the social responsibility of business was "to increase its profits". But he went further – those who took a contrary view were "puppets of the intellectual forces that have been undermining the basis of a free society", and their opinions were a "fundamentally subversive doctrine".

Today, sustainability has become an all-encompassing watchword. The whole world of business and finance has twisted on its axis. The business of business is no longer business. Amazing. We are, as they say, in a different era.

Except it's more complicated than that. If you go back to Friedman's 1972 article, written during the Cold War, he was arguing not so much about companies doing good (he thought that was fine), but against those who derided the fundamental idea of profit and of private business.

One of the best lines in the article is this: "In a free society it's hard for 'good' people to do 'good', but that is a small price to pay for making it hard for 'evil' people to do 'evil', especially when one person's 'good' is another person's 'evil'." You can almost see the "evil" Soviet system looming in the background of his thoughts.



TIM COHEN is editor of *Business Maverick*, part of the *Daily Maverick* group. He is the former editor of *Business Day* and *Financial Mail*.

With the bipolar world gone, the opposition to the notion of profit per se is also largely diminished. The opposition exists in universities and among trade union activists, and it's very visible in South Africa. But around the globe, the lack of an ideologically polarised planet – and the emergence of new problems, most notably climate change – has morphed the idea of business profitability into something akin to a fact of life.

Now, the question is, what happens with that profit? How is it derived? Where? At what expense to the planet? Was it fairly acquired? Is it fairly distributed?

In fact, the concept of sustainability is even more subtle than that. The question is this: aren't profit and sustainability intertwined? Shouldn't they be pursued together? You can go further (and some business people do): isn't sustainability a sure-fire route to increasing profitability? Sustainability helps profitability – or at least it should.

In economic jargon, you might talk about "externalities". That sounds very highfalutin, until you realise that what they are saying is that, for example, it might be a good idea not to destroy the planet in the process of digging oil out of the ground and burning it in cars. For oil companies, climate change is an "externality", in the sense that the cost is paid not by the company but by a third party. That would be us.

But climate change aside, the world now abounds with companies that are explicitly aiming to both do "good" and make money. Of course, this wonderfully benign idea isn't totally convincing; neither is it practised with any real conviction in huge swathes of business across the world. Many businesses' approach to "sustainability" is a function of its public relations and its corporate social responsibility programmes. That is not sustainability; it's a kind of altruism, if that.

Yet in a world in which a bipolar struggle has shattered into a multi-polar, intra-country gnashing of teeth, and a world in which electorates are choosing increasingly authoritarian leaders, sustainability sounds – particularly to young people – like a pretty good idea.

And my guess is that Friedman, if he were alive today, would not disagree with that. Well... perhaps a little.

**THE QUESTION IS
THIS: AREN'T PROFIT
AND SUSTAINABILITY
INTERTWINED?
SHOULDN'T THEY BE
PURSUED TOGETHER?**

The Art of Living

SECRET GARDEN



Hidden deep within a forest in Kyoto, Japan, this new
HEALING HAVEN is one for the bucket list





Already positioned as one of the world's most sought-after holistic retreats, the recently opened Aman Kyoto has garnered plenty of buzz. With the global wellness industry currently valued at \$4-trillion, health-and-healing holidays are big business. But you'll find no gym at this refuge, and there's no hard work required on your part. What you *will* discover is a beautifully minimalist and modern sanctuary, cocooned within a Garden of Eden – it's as if the whole establishment benefits from forest bathing therapy, or *shinrin-yoku*, as the locals call it.

Designed by the late great Australian architect Kerry Hill, renowned for his extraordinary hotel projects, both the exterior and the interior are pared-down, understated and composed. Incorporating traditional Japanese architecture completed by local artisans, with customary touches throughout – think black timber façades, bamboo accents and *tatami* mats – the aesthetic is a minimalist's dream.

Each of the 26 suites benefits from floor-to-ceiling windows that perfectly frame the lush outdoors beyond and allow in just the right amount of dappled natural light. Furnishings are all low-slung and luxe; fragrant

The Art of Living

**INCORPORATING
TRADITIONAL
JAPANESE
ARCHITECTURE
COMPLETED BY LOCAL
ARTISANS, WITH
CUSTOMARY TOUCHES
THROUGHOUT,
THE AESTHETIC IS A
MINIMALIST'S DREAM.**



cypress soaking tubs beg to be filled with hot water; and intricate ornaments – such as scrolls by artist Yuji Sakai, Shigeo Yoshimura's handcrafted ceramic tiles, and Teppei Terada sake glasses doubling up as vases – solicit a closer inspection.

While the suites and communal areas are a feast for the senses, it's the breathtaking and verdant surrounding nature that's really the star here. Located within almost 80 acres of jungle-like forest, the property – referred to as a forgotten secret garden – was previously owned by one of Japan's most respected collectors of the *obi* (traditional sashes), who used it as a textile museum of sorts.

1 2

1 & 2. The Washigamine is a two-bedroom pavilion suite located at the highest, most secluded point of the property. The lounge area and *tokonoma* (alcove) overlook the surrounding landscape.

OPENING SPREAD With fire-warmed interior and a breathtaking garden terrace, the Living Pavilion by Aman offers both Western and Kyoto-style cuisine.



The Art of Living

Curved stone pathways alive with moss lead you around the secluded grounds, and the air is so pure you'd be forgiven for forgetting that you were near a metropolitan area. The mineral-rich water that springs near Aman Kyoto is central to the philosophy at the resort's Aman Spa. These natural hot springs make *onsen* – both indoor and open-air – an integral part of the property's wellness offering, bolstered by traditional treatments honouring Japan's natural apothecary, from green tea and local sake to cold-pressed camellia oil. A signature offering is shiatsu, an intuitive massage technique based on the same principles as acupuncture. Aiming to restore the flow of energy – or *qi* – in the body, it is known to improve muscle tone, strengthen immunity and eliminate stress. Various yoga and mindfulness sessions are also on offer to ground and calm, as are tailor-made healing itineraries.

Dining is equally epic, taking its direction from traditional Japanese fare with a Western influence here and there. All seasonal produce is sourced as ethically and sustainably as possible, as well as nearby – from the Ohara free-range eggs and Kobatake Kyoto rice to the miso from legendary Matsuno Shoyu, founded in 1805, which is just a 10-minute walk from the hotel.

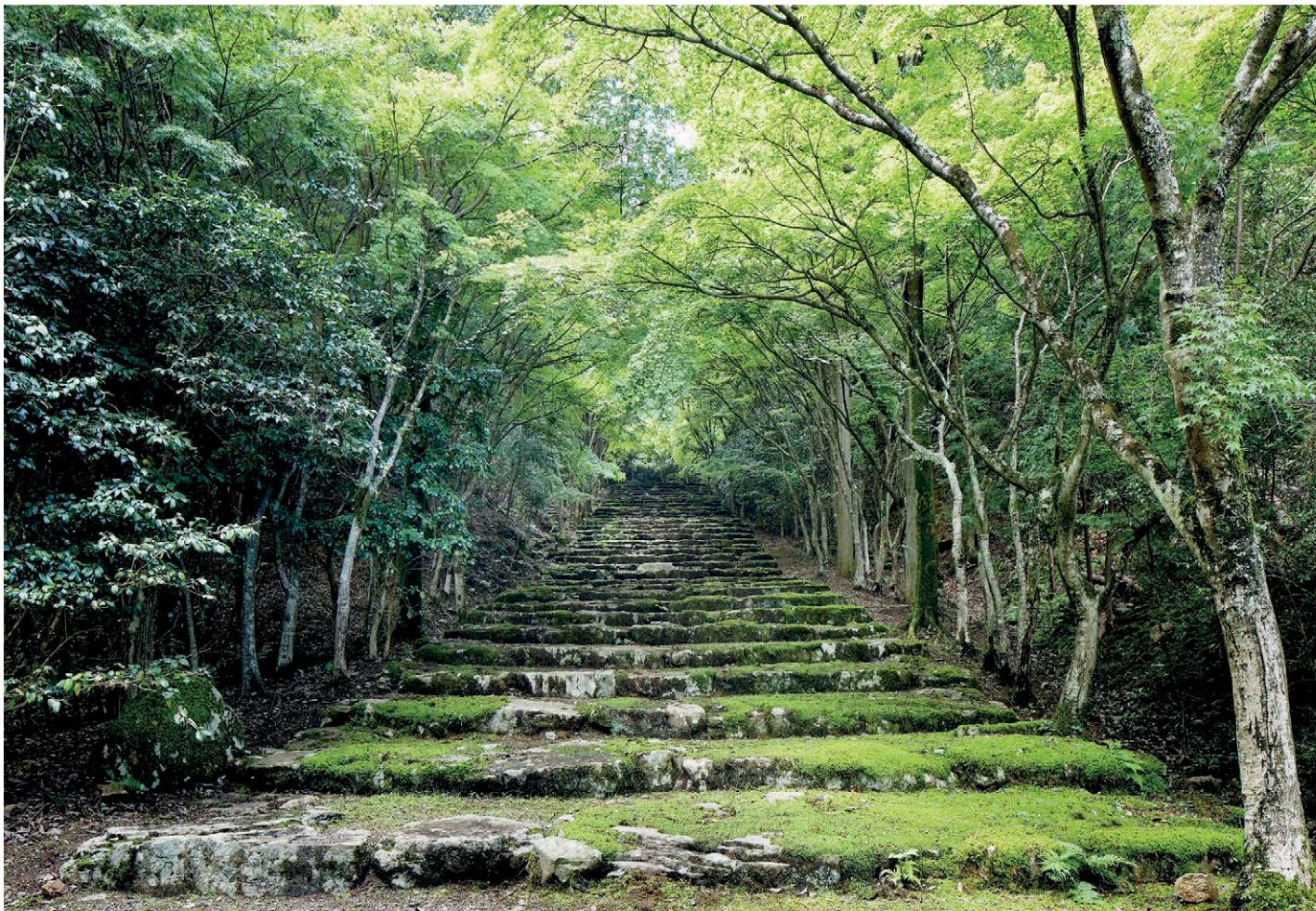
Aman Kyoto benefits from an accessible location – about an hour's drive from Osaka International Airport, or a two-hour drive from Kansai International Airport – with the city's 17 UNESCO World Heritage Sites all close by. And the resort has already nabbed top honours (such as the *Wallpaper* Design Award for Best New Hotel 2020) and secured a spot on *Condé Nast Traveler's* Gold List – which leaves no doubt that if you're looking for rest and recuperation, you should book a stay here. Stat.

aman.com

1. The bedroom and living areas at Kyoto Aman feature natural wood, floor-to-ceiling windows and *tatami* mat flooring.
2. The Aman Spa's indoor *onsen* (bathing pool) delivers relaxation in its purest form.
3. Each minimalist bathroom is equipped with a traditional hinoki bathtub.
4. Tranquil gardens, bathed in green, restore the soul.

1

2 3 4





The unique thatched villas of Bisate Lodge in Rwanda.

The Art of Living



SENSE OF PLACE

One of Africa's most sought-after
LUXURY SAFARI LODGE
designers Caline Williams-Wynn
doesn't have a business card
- at least not a traditional one...



1. Bisate Lodge, Rwanda

With community partnerships at the heart of operations, the beehive-shaped thatched forest villas are decorated in locally crafted baskets and *imigongo* (cow-dung artwork) while exuding opulence. The lodge's unique selling point is definitely its location in the amphitheatre of an eroded volcanic cone within Volcanoes National Park, from where guests can undertake gorilla trekking.

wilderness-safaris.com

If you were to take an epic road trip with the intention of visiting just one luxurious safari lodge in each of the seven African countries where South African interior designer Caline Williams-Wynn has worked, you would clock up to six thousand kilometres. One way.

You could tailor-make your adventure wby choosing from a selection of over 40 safari lodges with Caline's remarkable touch, from KwaZulu-Natal and Botswana's Linyanti region to Victoria Falls and Mozambique. Beyond southern Africa, you'd traverse Zambia and Tanzania's Serengeti to finish off with a stay on the rim of an eroded volcanic cone in Rwanda's Volcanoes National Park.

Caline, owner of Cape Town-based Artichoke Design, claims not to have a signature style. She also hasn't reused a single piece of furniture, decor or art in the past 23 years. And she doesn't need to, as she draws her design ethos and inspiration from a sense of place. This sees her spend weeks at a time in the region where she's refurbishing or designing her latest safari destination.



2. Mombo Camp, Botswana

The spacious, rustic-chic tents of this all-inclusive lodge in an Okavango Delta floodplain give guests the sense of being in their own luxe apartment complete with a private plunge pool. When it was rebuilt in 2018, much attention was paid to retaining the history and traditions that made this safari camp a firm favourite, while encouraging responsible travel.

wilderness-safaris.com

1

2

3

2

The Art of Living

3. The Highlands, Tanzania

Expect a high-style contemporary escape during a stay at the perspex-and-canvas domed suites of The Highlands. Set in a mountain forest on the edge of the Olmoti Volcano, north of the Ngorongoro Crater, this safari camp is solar- and generator-powered.

asiliaafrica.com



The Art of Living



For a recent project at Wilderness Safaris' Little Makalolo in the heart of Zimbabwe's Hwange National Park, Caline went into the neighbouring Ndebele villages and drew inspiration from the way the villagers had painted their homes. "With their permission, we took photos of the geometric designs on the walls and printed a fabric for the lodge," she says.

Establishing authentic partnerships with local communities and regional women-run non-profit organisations helps her ensure environmental and economic sustainability. "We use sustainable elements – such as paper instead of plastic bags and beeswax container covers instead of plastic wrap – to ensure longevity," she says. "In Rwanda, we involve local communities to make beeswax candles instead of importing tealights from South Africa, make light fittings from recycled glass, and reuse wine bottles as lamp features."

Caline admits to falling into lodge refurbishments by pure chance – but she has made a big name for herself in the industry. In fact, she no longer needs a business card or a website – all her projects arise from word-of-mouth recommendations.

4. Vumbura Plains, Botswana

Each of the spacious modern suites at the two raised camps found at Vumbura Plains boasts a wraparound deck – and a plunge pool that allows for game viewing right from the suite. These northern Okavango Delta camps offer land- and water-based safari excursions in the private Kwedi Concession.

wilderness-safaris.com

5. Little Makalolo, Zimbabwe

With suites interspersed along teak walkways – and a mesmerising Madison Pan star bed – this intimate tented bush camp offers a luxurious safari experience with a lighter environmental footprint. Located in a private concession within Hwange National Park, on the edge of a watering hole, Little Makalolo boasts spectacular game viewing from your veranda and the log-pile hide.

wilderness-safaris.com

6. Magashi Camp, Rwanda

Inspired by Rwandan culture and traditions, this raised tented camp in the only exclusive-use area of the Akagera National Park defines ultra-luxe glamping. The solar-powered camp offers sweeping panoramas over Lake Rwanyakazinga and sunset views from the sundeck, while subtly blending into the surrounding landscape.

wilderness-safaris.com



4 5
5
6



SCENTS OF STYLE

FRAGRANCE can be a powerful thing. It has the ability to conjure up sweet memories and sentimental feelings, and it can help you develop a new attitude, bridging the gap between the past and the future. Create new memories this year, and find your signature scent for 2020

FOR HIM



BAD BOY

BY CAROLINA HERRERA

Bad Boy is an oriental scent that expresses strength, temerity and rebellion. If the bottle hasn't already caught your attention, perhaps the brightness of the green bergamot and pepper will do it. Consider this one a cold-weather staple.

HEAD NOTES | bergamot,
black pepper, white pepper

HEART NOTES | cedar, sage

BASE NOTES | tonka bean,
amber wood, cacao

100ML EDT | R1 675



COACH FOR MEN BY COACH

Don't be put off by the moody packaging: Coach for Men provides an almost unmatched summer freshness, perfectly balanced by cut grass, citrus and suede.

HEAD NOTES | black-pepper oil, pineapple

HEART NOTES | cashmere, clary sage

BASE NOTES | vanilla, leather, patchouli

100ML EDT | R1 245



TERRE D'HERMÈS EAU INTENSE VÉTIVER BY HERMÈS

If you're familiar with the brand's flagship scent, Terre d'Hermès, you're in for a treat: amping up the heat with the vetiver, Eau Intense Vétiver is perfect for the winter months. Wear it to work or on a date, and you're bound to get results.

HEAD NOTES | bergamot, grapefruit, lemon

HEART NOTES | geranium, Sichuan pepper

BASE NOTES | vetiver, amber wood,
patchouli, olibanum

100ML EDP | R1 935



K BY DOLCE & GABBANA

Don't be afraid to declare yourself the king of your own castle. This modern fragrance combines two old favourites – Light Blue and The One Grey – to produce a hearty mixture of pimento and patchouli.

HEAD NOTES | blood orange,
Sicilian lemon, juniper berry

HEART NOTES | clary sage, geranium,
pimento essence, lavandin

BASE NOTES | cedarwood, vetiver, patchouli

100ML EDT | R1 615



SAUVAGE PARFUM BY DIOR

Once described as part pure James Bond and part rugged lumberjack, this super-musky fragrance has solidified its place as an iconic scent. It's both powerful and sophisticated, with just a hint of mischief.

HEAD NOTES | Calabrian bergamot, Sichuan pepper

HEART NOTES | star anise, nutmeg, lavender

BASE NOTES | Tahitian vanilla, ambroxan

50ml EDP | R1 995

MON GUERLAIN BY GUERLAIN

The woman who means business is both feminine and fierce – and just a glance at the elegant packaging of this fragrance reveals a similar juxtaposition between curves and strong lines. Fans of vanilla and smouldering patchouli will be pleased.

HEAD NOTES | *lavender, mandarin orange, bergamot*

HEART NOTES | *iris, rose, Arabian jasmine, Tahitian vanilla, Madagascan vanilla*

BASE NOTES | *patchouli, benzoin, liquorice, coumarin, Australian sandalwood, white musk*

50ML EDP INTENSE | R1 925



FOR HER



COLLECTION GRANDS CRUS GUARIA MORADA BY BERDOUES

Inspired by the iconic flower of the same name, which is found only in Costa Rica, the Guaria Morada's notes of orange and patchouli will massage you into relaxed mode.

HEAD NOTES | *Brazilian orange*

HEART NOTES | *Haitian amyris*

BASE NOTES | *patchouli*

100ML EDP | R1 595

DREAMS BY COACH

It's adventure, beauty and freedom in a bottle: inspired by iconic American road trips, Coach Dreams manages to harness both the past and the future. The California citrus and woody aromas will have you reminiscing over lazy summer days.

HEAD NOTES | *bitter orange, pear*

HEART NOTES | *gardenia, cactus blossom*

BASE NOTES | *Joshua tree, ambroxan*

90ML EDP | R1 505





IDÔLE BY LANCÔME

Paging all sustainable-beauty gurus: Lancôme is looking at the bigger picture. From packaging to ingredients and messaging, Idôle is a legitimate social justice warrior – and its rose-laced scent is absolutely divine.

HEAD NOTES | bergamot, juicy pear, pink peppercorn

HEART NOTES | rose, jasmine

BASE NOTES | white musk, vanilla, patchouli, cedarwood

50ML EDP | R1 340

TAKE NOTE!

Scent notes aren't just marketing mumbo-jumbo – they're actually created to help you measure how the fragrance evolves over time. Overall, these notes are blended to create magic in a bottle.

Head notes (or top notes) are the first elements you smell after applying a fragrance. They are the first to fade, giving way to a heavier scent after a couple of hours. Typical head notes include bergamot, lavender, sage and light fruit.

Heart notes are way more complex than head notes, and tend to make their appearance once the head notes have faded. They usually last up to four hours, and basically make up 80% of the total scent. Typical heart notes include rose, pine, black pepper and geranium.

Base notes help a fragrance leave a lasting impression, and are the final notes to appear once all the others have completely evaporated. Typical base notes include vanilla, amber, sandalwood and patchouli.

ESSENTIAL SCENT TIPS

Fragrances can be divided into four basic categories: floral, fresh, oriental and woody. With so many to choose from, it's best to decide what type of scent you're looking for to avoid getting overwhelmed.

When you're at a fragrance counter, it's easy to get carried away with the testers – but after the fifth spritz, you'll find that everything starts to smell the same. It's called nose blindness (yes, that's a real thing!), and it's only temporary – but try to limit your testing to three scents, or sniff a pot of coffee beans to reset your senses.

LIBRE BY YSL

This top pick for lovers of orange blossom and lavender represents the essence of a contemporary woman – it's strong, feisty and real. Most importantly, it pays homage to YSL's most intrinsic value: freedom.

HEAD NOTES | mandarin orange, lavender, blackcurrant, petitgrain

HEART NOTES | jasmine, lavender, orange blossom

BASE NOTES | Madagascan vanilla, cedar, ambergris, musk

50ML EDP | R1 570



L'INTERDIT BY GIVENCHY

Consider yourself in the same league as Audrey Hepburn: this classic scent combines the elegant white flowers, orange blossom and Arabian jasmine that evokes the *Breakfast At Tiffany's* star's spontaneity and spunk.

HEAD NOTES | bergamot, pear

HEART NOTES | orange blossom, jasmine, tuberose

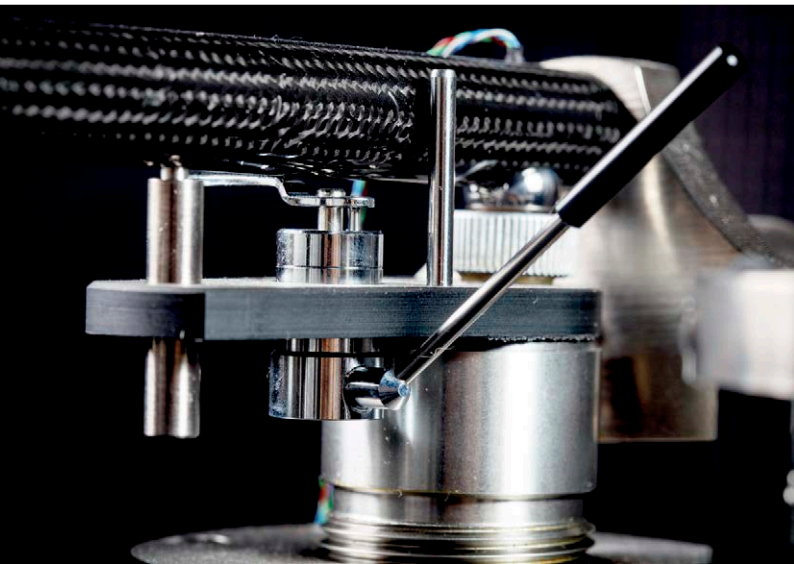
BASE NOTES | patchouli, vetiver, vanilla, ambroxan

50ML EDP | R1 325



V I N Y L V O G U E

When it comes to this distinguished turntable,
it's all about **DYNAMIC** stabilisation



You don't need to be an audiophile to appreciate the mastery of the Kronos Sparta turntable. With its three-layer construction, this pared-down version of the bigger, more ornate Kronos Pro is a study in elegance and technology.

As an analogue rig, the Sparta streaks ahead of its counterparts. Clarity of sound is an obvious virtue, but listeners can even identify how musicians were positioned during a recording. Without getting too technical, the vibration-inducing torque force present in suspended turntables simply doesn't exist in this hi-fi setup.

That's because this special piece of wizardry showcases the "dual platter counter-rotating revolution", which effectively eliminates all environmental and mechanical noise. It's a clear application of Newton's second law of motion, with two platters of the same mass, rotating in opposite directions at the same speed, using the same bearings and motors. No other turntable compares.

R596 000 | thelisteningroom.co.za | kronosaudio.com



SHURE

HARMONY

SHURE
S P A K

CHANGES A FOOT

Innovative technologies are being used in a new crop
of faster, smarter and more comfortable
RUNNING SHOES



UNDER ARMOUR HOVR MACHINA KEY TECH: THE CONNECTED SHOE

A Bluetooth pod in the HOVR Machina's sole connects to Under Armour's MapMyRun app. Being digitally connected to your running shoes not only means you can track and analyse your runs – you can also get insight into your running form via real-time Form Coaching. This personalised feature helps you monitor form, better manage risk of injury, and improve performance.
R3 000 | [underarmour.com](https://www.underarmour.com)



**THESE DIGITALLY
CONNECTED SHOES
WITH REAL-TIME FORM
COACHING GIVE YOU
INSIGHT INTO YOUR
RUNNING FORM.**

The Art of Living



ADIDAS ADIZERO PRO
KEY TECH: CUSHIONING & PROPULSION

Described by adidas as its most advanced and fastest distance-running shoe, the adizero Pro has a multidirectional, flexible Carbitex carbon plate for a snappy toe-off and an economically guided stride. Super-light Lightstrike cushioning enhances toe-off, while Boost cushioning in the heel provides maximum energy return.

R3 500 | adidas.co.za

PUMA SPEED 600 2

KEY TECH: CUSHIONING & PROPULSION

Puma's Hybrid Foam is a mix of two innovative midsole foams: Ignite Foam and NRGY beads. The NRGY beads provide cushioning, while the Ignite Foam offers instant responsiveness, with a bottom layer of ProFoam for more lightweight responsiveness. In addition, Puma's engineered Proplate system ensures a reflex toe-off, with extra midfoot stability for a smoother transition.

R2 400 | za.puma.com





**NIKE CLAIMS THE ZOOMX
VAPORFLY NEXT% TO BE
ITS FASTEST SHOE EVER.**

NIKE ZOOMX VAPORFLY NEXT%
KEY TECH: CUSHIONING & PROPULSION

This is the latest version of the shoe that has dominated the world marathon circuit, and it's been described by Nike as its fastest shoe ever. A full-length carbon-fibre plate provides stability and the sensation of propulsion – and there's now more lightweight ZoomX foam in the midsole. That foam has also been redistributed to decrease the offset from 11mm to 8mm, providing a more stable feeling, and helping to maximise energy return at the critical toe-off.

R4 700 | nike.com



NEW BALANCE 880 V10
KEY TECH: ULTRA CUSHIONING

Designed according to carefully calculated geometries with forefoot flexibility in mind, these shoes are created specifically for long runs. New Balance's Fresh Foam midsole cushioning is precision-engineered to deliver an ultra-cushioned, lightweight ride, while the upper provides strategic areas of stretch and support.
R2 400 | newbalance.co.za



**SALOMON'S OPTIVIBE TECH
 HELPS REDUCE VIBRATION
 ON FOOT STRIKE.**

**SALOMON SONIC 3
 ACCELERATE**
KEY TECH: VIBRATION REDUCTION

Salomon's Optivibe tech is a unique combination of two foams – one to dampen, the other to propel – which helps to reduce vibration on foot strike, decreasing muscle fatigue without affecting your overall ride. To ensure a fast, efficient transition from contact to propulsion, the shoe's geometric decoupling axis promotes a quick forward transition.

R2 400 | salomonsports.co.za

H E A R T

A musician, craftsman and mechanical engineer,
ABERTUS BEKKER
creates violins that provide enduring pleasure



S T R I N G S



In a cluttered – yet strangely orderly – studio in Linden, Johannesburg, violin-maker Albertus Bekker teases exquisite instruments out of spruce and flamed maple.

WHEN DID YOU FIRST BECOME FASCINATED BY THE VIOLIN?

I grew up in a musical family as the youngest of three siblings. My brother and sister both played the piano, so by the time I came along, my parents (and the neighbours!) were probably sick of listening to scales all day. They suggested the violin to me at the age of eight. I was too young to make an informed choice, but I was immediately captivated by the look of the instrument, the shiny varnish and the delicate strings.

WHAT INSPIRED YOU TO MAKE YOUR FIRST INSTRUMENT?

I played violin throughout school. While studying mechanical engineering, I visited Mittenwald in Germany as part of a European holiday. This is the centre of the German violin trade, and the site of the German violin-building school, which is where I first saw how a violin is built. When I got home, I got a basic instruction manual and tried building one on a very limited budget and without the correct tools, wood or glue. I basically tried to sand a hardwood plank until it resembled a violin! I shelved the idea until 2000, when the internet – and being able to access information – made all the difference.

FROM WHERE DO YOU DRAW YOUR INSPIRATION?

The most revered violins in the world were built in a town called Cremona in Italy at the end of the 17th and beginning of the 18th century. Nicolo Amati – grandson of one of the probable inventors of the violin, Andrea Amati – ran a fantastic workshop in Cremona. One of his apprentices was young Antonio

Stradivari, the most famous violin-maker of all time. Giuseppe Guarneri was a bit younger than Stradivari, and probably learnt his craft from his father. His style was much more rough and experimental than the meticulous craftsmanship of Stradivari. There are very few things that rival his famous violins as cultural objects. Some of the earliest violins (made in the 1500s) are still in daily use in the modern world; the craftsmanship on some of them is so exquisite, they can almost be considered art.

WHAT IS YOUR PROCESS?

I build a violin today pretty much in the same way that Stradivari did in 1700. First, I decide on a model or design. Most of my designs are inspired by famous concert violins, and are based on circle arches flowing smoothly into one another. Then wood is chosen: light and resonant spruce for the top or soundboard, and harder but highly flamed maple for the rest of the body (back, sides, neck and scroll).

The top and bottom plates with the hollow bowl shapes are literally carved from a thick piece of solid wood. All carving is done using traditional hand tools such as gouges and finger planes. The sides are made from thin strips of maple wood, and bent to shape using heat and steam. The parts are glued together with traditional hot hide glue – basically unrefined gelatine made from animal hides.

Next is the finishing process: final scraping of the wood to a smooth finish, staining the wood, filling and sealing the pores of the wood, colour varnishing or glazing, and final layers of clear varnish. Each layer of varnish needs to dry completely before another is applied, so the finishing process can take months.

Finally, the violin must be set up. This involves things such as strings, fingerboard, chin rest, bridge (the piece of wood keeping the strings up) and tuning pegs. A good setup is crucial to get the full potential out of an instrument. Usually, a new violin does not sound good, but over the first few months the sound opens up and improves markedly. The cause of this is still a mystery, and the topic of many debates.

HOW LONG DOES IT TAKE TO CREATE ONE FROM START TO FINISH?

I suspect it is about 60 hours of work. I do this part-time, and I build two or three per year. I sell my violins – which cost up to R60 000 – to professional players, university students and advanced high-school pupils.

HOW DOES IT MAKE YOU FEEL TO KNOW THAT SOMEONE IS APPRECIATING YOUR CRAFT WHILE CREATING BEAUTIFUL MUSIC?

That is the best part. The end result is a tool that's not only beautiful, but that will be used for years, even after my death, by an unknown string of musicians, giving pleasure to many, many thousands of people. bakkerviolins.com



**"I BUILD A VIOLIN
TODAY THE SAME WAY
ANTONIO STRADIVARI
DID IN 1700."**





T H E G E N E V A

Had this year's **GENEVA INTERNATIONAL MOTOR SHOW** not been cancelled,

The Art of Driving



TRIUMVIRATE

these three models would have undoubtedly been some of its highlights

Renowned as a launching pad for exciting new production models as well as far-out concept vehicles, the annual Geneva International Motor Show is one of the most prestigious events on the automotive calendar. The 2020 edition was unfortunately cancelled over fears surrounding COVID-19; had it not been, showgoers would've had a first glimpse of three new Lexus models.



— / —
**LEXUS HAS EQUIPPED ITS
ELECTRIC FLAGSHIP WITH
THE LATEST IN CONNECTED
CAR TECHNOLOGY.**

The Art of Driving



The UX 300e is a stylish compact crossover that swaps a conventional internal combustion engine for an electric motor.

The Art of Driving



LF-30 ELECTRIFIED CONCEPT

With its radical exterior styling and distinctive gull-wing doors, this racy concept vehicle offers us a glimpse at what electric Lexus vehicles may look like in the not-too-distant future. Aesthetics aside, it also showcases a whole new suite of smart technologies aimed to make driving safer and more efficient.

Lexus hasn't forgotten about the enthusiast, however; as such, the LF-30 features high-torque in-wheel electric motors for each of the vehicle's four wheels. This ensures not only optimal power delivery in all driving conditions but also robust straight-line performance. To guarantee sharp handling and less lateral inertia, the car's battery has been mounted as low down in the chassis as possible. Other standout features include a weight-saving steer-by-wire system as well as wireless charging to help make recharging the battery simple and seamless.

On the inside, Lexus worked tirelessly to make the cabin of the LF-30 mimic that of a luxury airliner. All switches and other controls being comfortably within reach and a gesture-control large-screen display for the passenger seat add to the achievement of interior comfort and convenience. The rear seats also use artificial muscle technology to mould to their occupant, and can support various modes, such as reclining, relaxation and alert functions.

UX 300e

The first all-electric Lexus vehicle to debut in Europe is the UX 300e: a stylish compact crossover that swaps the conventional internal combustion engine for an electric motor that's good for 150kW and 300Nm worth of torque.

Here it's powered by a 54.3kWh lithium-ion battery pack that delivers a claimed range of 400km (based on the NEDC cycle), and can go from fully depleted to 80% charge in just 50 minutes when using the car's 50kW fast charger. Besides the fuel filler cap making way for a charging port, other unique features specific to the UX 300e include aerodynamic wheels, an extra-slippery underbody as well as a retuned suspension system that sits 20mm lower to the asphalt.

Lexus has also equipped this electric flagship with the latest in connected car technology. By linking to a smartphone using the Lexus Link app, drivers can, with a swipe of a thumb, check the battery charge level and driving range. Charging controls are also included, such as a timer function to inform the owner when the vehicle will be fully charged, or to schedule the charging according to when the vehicle is expected to be driven next or when energy prices are low. The app also allows the owner to remotely control the climate of the car.

— / —

**THE LEXUS LC 500
CONVERTIBLE DELIVERS
THE ULTIMATE
WIND-IN-YOUR-HAIR
EXPERIENCE.**



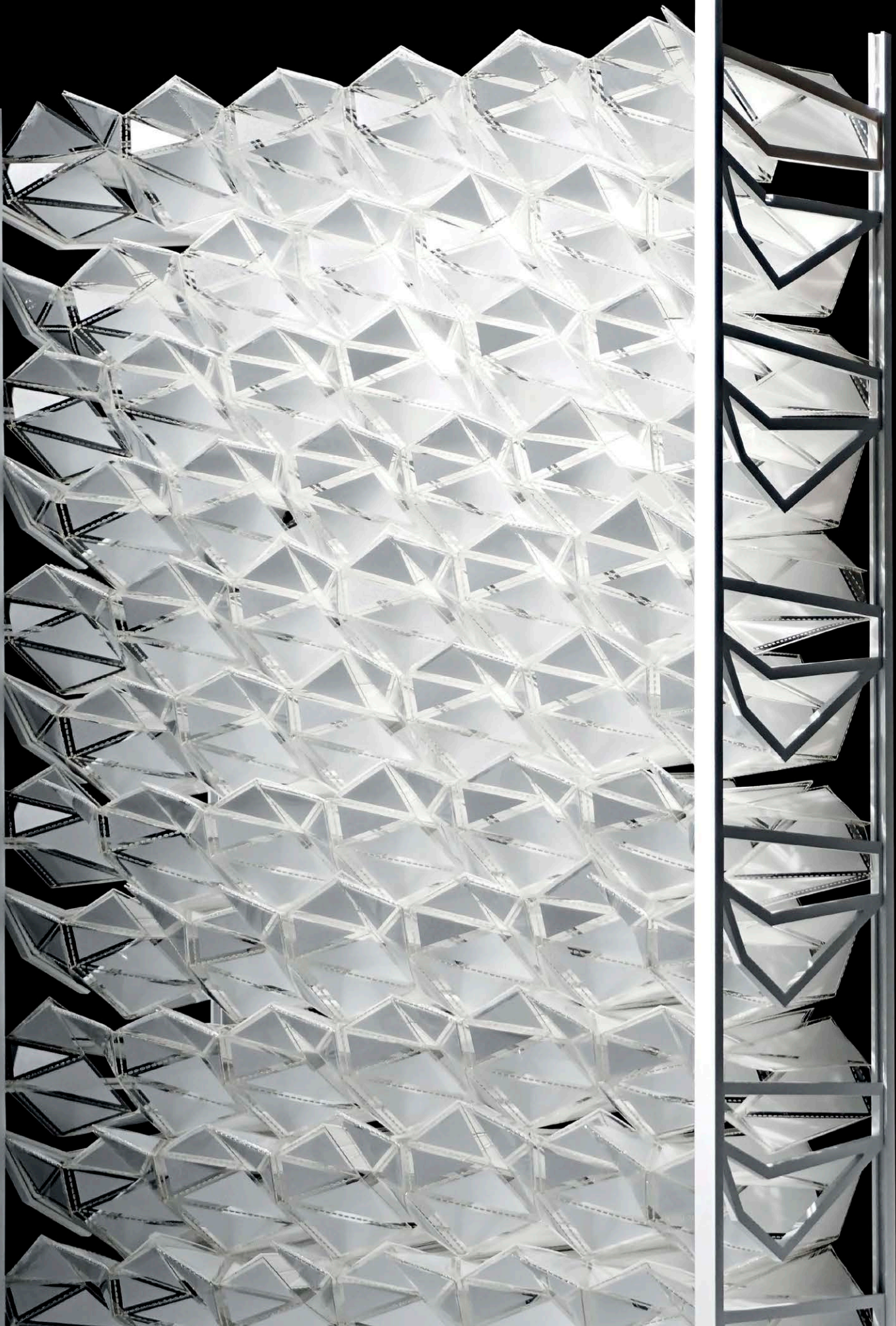
LEXUS LC 500 CONVERTIBLE

All set to thrill Europe this coming summer is the new – and much-anticipated – Lexus LC 500 Convertible: a breathtaking halo car that delivers the ultimate wind-in-your-hair driving experience, thanks to a special four-layer folding fabric roof that can be automatically stowed under an integrated tonneau cover at speeds of up to 50km/h.

This action will bring you closer to what is probably one of the finest engines available in the world today – that free-revving, naturally aspirated Lexus 5.0-litre V8 that delivers 351kW at a heady 7 100rpm.

With rapid performance guaranteed, the whole body structure of the LC 500 Convertible was newly designed to help achieve a rigidity level equal to that of the Coupe. Lexus achieved this by installing a special rear suspension tower brace, which is constructed from lightweight die-cast aluminium. Complemented by extensive underbody bracing plus liberal use of gravity-cheating materials such as magnesium, the LC 500 Convertible promises to be as striking to drive as it is to look at.

And, knowing that owners will make the most of that folding roof, Lexus has fitted the LC 500 Convertible with seat and neck heaters to take the bite out of chilly weather.



DESIGN FOR A BETTER TOMORROW

The international 2020 Lexus Design Award provides the chance of a lifetime for up-and-coming designers – and shines a spotlight on **RENEWABLE ENERGY**

Now in its eighth year, the Lexus Design Award for innovative design excellence provides a platform for young creators to demonstrate and further develop their talents. The winner of the 2020 award will receive mentorship from design leaders, and funding of more than \$25 000 to create a prototype of their project.

This year, finalists from the US, China, Europe, Pakistan and Kenya were selected from a record-setting group of 2 042 submissions from 79 countries. The proposals were selected based on their expression of three key principles of the Lexus brand: Anticipate, Innovate and Captivate, with an emphasis on design that leads to a better tomorrow.

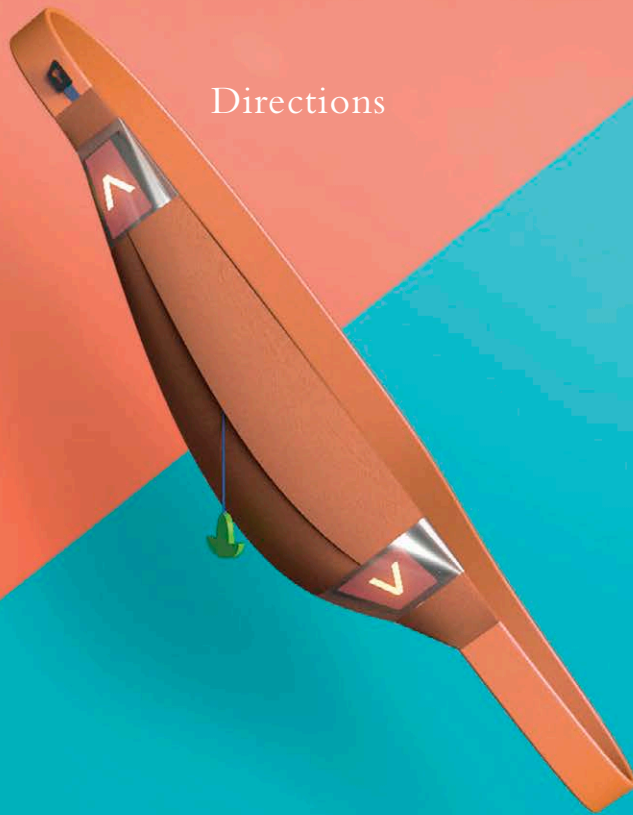
The finalists' concepts and designs feature a diverse range of innovative craftsmanship techniques, materials and applications. In many cases, they incorporate biodegradable materials, use renewable energy sources and reduce our carbon footprint.

As US designer and competition judge John Maeda says, "This year's Lexus Design Award finalists speak to two main themes: consciousness and the environment, which are increasingly relevant as technological progress impacts our world."

The chosen few have gone beyond just asking questions – they've provided concrete answers based on innovative reasoning and engineering. "I think we found the right set of captivating projects to represent the themes of mind and body that are critical to our future," John says.

The six finalists will present their completed prototypes to the world during the competition's Grand Prix event at Milan Design Week. Judges include Italian architect and curator Paola Antonelli, US architect Jeanne Gang and Toyota global design chief Simon Humphries.

Directions



1

1 2

2

LEXUS DESIGN AWARD 2020 FINALISTS

1. FLASH PAK by Yaokun Wu (China)

A smart survival apparatus and floatation device that protects groups of students and helps them stay together in the event of a flash flood.

2. BIO.SCALES by Sutherlin Santo (US)

A modular, carbon-sequestering air-filtration system made from natural materials, assembled from robotically 3D-printed biopolymer scales.





3 3
4 4
5
6 6 5

3. LICK by Irina Samoilova (Russia)

A portable body cleaner for humans, with a unique surface that's similar to a cat's tongue.

4. PURSEWIT by Aqsa Ajmal (Pakistan)

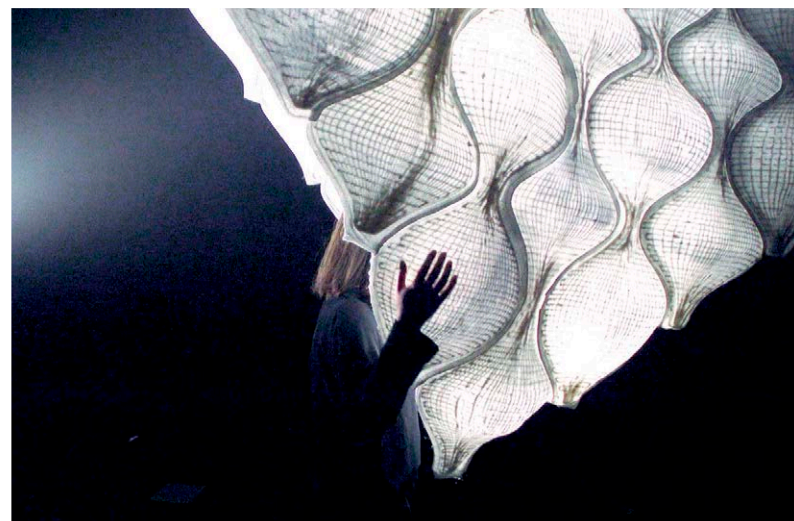
An accessible, more intuitive sewing machine that incorporates sewing skills to assist the visually impaired in income generation.

5. FELTSCAPE by Théophile Peju and Salvatore Cicero (France & Italy)

A breathing felt/thermoplastic cloud that interacts with people and spaces to enhance wellbeing.

6. OPEN SOURCE COMMUNITIES by BellTower (Kenya)

A project exploring the future of smart, sustainable communities in developing countries using open-source home plans.



The Innovator

W R I S T - T A K E R

Entrepreneur

ZUKO MANDLAKAZI'S

invention is set to change the lives of many people
- including his aunt

Growing up in a large extended family in the Eastern Cape, just outside of Queenstown, Zuko Mandlakazi, 34, recalls feeling hurt when people spoke about his aunt as though she weren't in the room – just because she couldn't hear them. As a youngster, he promised himself he would find a way to make her life easier as a deaf person – to make her feel less excluded.

After completing an accounting diploma and working in the banking sector, Zuko's determination to keep his promise grew stronger. In 2014, he seriously started researching ways to invent a device to change his aunt's life. However, his initial ideas – such as translating voices to alerts – never saw the light of day. "That just wasn't going to work without more resources for research," he explains. Undeterred, the committed inventor kept at it while holding down a full-time job.

A year later, it was time to make a big move. "I knew I wanted to commit 100% to my invention," he says of his decision to leave permanent employment in 2015 to start building a prototype. "I relied on my savings and the 3Fs – the fools, friends and family who believed in me."

The Senso is the result – a wearable, wristwatch-type device that gives alert signals to a deaf wearer. It works on radio frequency, and can currently pick up five different sounds that a user can choose and set. The sounds show up as corresponding coloured lights and

vibrations on the device. Typical sounds deaf people want to be alerted to include a baby crying, general commotion or loud shouting, a doorbell ringing, and hissing from an air-conditioning unit or a boiling pot.

Zuko admits that balancing life as an inventor without a steady income and having bills to pay made for some "difficult times" – but that thoughts of his aunt kept him motivated. Of course there were naysayers, but as Zuko says, "Everything we have today didn't exist at some point, so why should the Senso not exist?"

From the outset, Zuko wanted to build his device as a solution for people in the global community. "I knew that we would have to collaborate with people from everywhere – including Ghana, Rwanda, the US and Europe," he says, adding that collaboration is "a mother of innovation".

Zuko's partnerships and relationships have connected him with talented engineers, designers, sign-language translators, focus-group participants and patent lawyers from around the world. He entered innovation and invention competitions, winning several awards, and ploughing the prize money back into more research and development.

The Senso will finally come off a production line in a Cape Town factory this year, and will be sold via its e-commerce website for about R4 500. Zuko is exploring payment models and subsidy options to make sure that more people can access the device, even if they can't afford R4 500 upfront.

The creative entrepreneur beams with pride and gratitude for his journey so far. But he has one more important step to take: head back to his rural home town and strap a Senso on his aunt's wrist. "I am sure it's going to be an emotional moment," he says – and he can't wait.

senso.co.za



**THE SENSO
IS A WEARABLE,
WRISTWATCH-TYPE
DEVICE THAT GIVES
ALERT SIGNALS
TO A DEAF WEARER.**

