



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**SMITHSONIAN SPOTLIGHT: DESIGN TRIENNIAL  
FEATURES NEW APPROACHES TO TACKLE THE  
WORLD'S MOST DAUNTING PROBLEMS PREMIERING  
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 15TH AT 8PM ET/PT ON  
SMITHSONIAN CHANNEL**

**New Episode Takes In-Depth Look At The Innovative Designs  
Displayed At Cooper Hewitt National Design Museum**

**New York – December 10, 2010** – New approaches that designers use to tackle the world's most pressing social and environmental problems are the subject of "Design Triennial," the latest episode of the Smithsonian Channel original series SMITHSONIAN SPOTLIGHT, premiering Wednesday, December 15 at 8 p.m. ET/PT.

Host Susan Spencer gets a behind-the-scenes, firsthand look at the National Design Triennial: Why Design Now? exhibition at Cooper-Hewitt National Design Museum in New York, where curators have assembled a remarkable collection of groundbreaking innovations that are making the world safer, more comfortable, and energy efficient. The exhibition asks "Why Design Now?" and the inventions explored answer that question by showing off pioneering, elegant and compassionate solutions to some of the many problems facing today's world. The program features innovative new designs including eye glasses that enable the wearer to set their own prescription, an incubator for newborns made out of car parts and a robotic arm that actually restores a sense of touch for amputees.

SMITHSONIAN SPOTLIGHT takes an in-depth look at the exhibits, fieldwork, and personalities of the Smithsonian Institution. Host Susan Spencer has informed and spirited discussions with the scientists, artists, and innovators who shape our world and sometimes risk their lives to expand our understanding of the universe.

**ABOUT SMITHSONIAN NETWORKS**

Smithsonian Networks (SNI/SI Networks L.L.C.) is a joint venture between Showtime Networks Inc. and the Smithsonian Institution, formed to create channels featuring programs largely inspired by the assets of the

Smithsonian Institution, the world's largest museum complex. Smithsonian Channel features award-winning original documentaries, series, and groundbreaking programs highlighting America's historical, cultural and scientific heritage. Smithsonian Channel brings the American experience home in high definition and Dolby Digital 5.1 and is available to customers of DirecTV, Comcast, Time Warner Cable, Charter Communications, Cablevision, Verizon, AT&T, and more. Learn more at [www.smithsonianchannel.com](http://www.smithsonianchannel.com).

**About the Smithsonian's Cooper-Hewitt, National Design Museum**

Cooper-Hewitt, National Design Museum is the only museum in the nation devoted exclusively to historic and contemporary design. Founded in 1897, the museum has been a branch of the Smithsonian since 1967. The museum presents compelling perspectives on the impact of design on daily life through active educational programs, exhibitions and publications. For further information, call (212) 849-8400 or visit <http://www.cooperhewitt.org>.

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