

People, places,
and things that
put, and keep,
the Twin Cities
on the map.

By Jayne Haugen Olson
with Jean Marie Hamilton

Deep Six Icons of Cool Innovation

PHOTOGRAPHY BY CRAIG BARES, BOB FIRTH, AND PAUL NAJIS

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We celebrate our lakes, arts, shopping, sports, and dining. But we don't often pause to take note of our standouts from the world of design. Our community has proven to be a hotbed of creativity and innovation in the areas of architecture, fashion, furniture making, and product and graphic design. Though we took this celebration of design seriously, *Architectural Digest* we are not, so we had some fun. The Cheerio and the Nerf ball join the works of architectural legends

Ralph Rapson and Frank Gehry. We also introduce you to a new generation making its mark in the design world. Plus, we present a special salute to one of the major companies that calls the Twin Cities home. As our cities brace for a new Guthrie Theater, Walker Art Center, Minneapolis Public Library, and perhaps a stadium or two, we give you our 2003 Design Issue.

Unless

you're in the design biz, most folks don't spend much time thinking about typefaces. So the name **Chank Diesel** might not mean much. But it will now (that's his font above, and on the previous page). A Macalester fine arts major, Chank (as he is most well known) started *Cake*, a local alternative music magazine. As the art director, he created his own typefaces, which he started selling in 1995 via the innovative World Wide Web. The next year, his fonts were featured in the Smithsonian's Cooper-Hewitt National Design Museum as a notable example of contemporary typography. He still runs The Chank Company in Northeast Minneapolis, where he also churns out quirky alphabetic illustrations and paintings in hopes of beating Picasso's record of creating more than a million works in a lifetime. When we called him in August, he had just completed #11,411.



Bill Stumpf's **Aeron chair** is a unique symbol of ergonomic excellence and a status mark of the dot.com boom. A Minneapolis resident, Stumpf has been an industrial designer associated with Herman Miller, makers of the chair, for more than twenty-five years. The Aeron, his 1984 collaboration with LA designer Don Chadwick, brought New Age style and comfort to offices around the world. The chair is in the permanent collection of the Museum of Modern Art in New York City.