July/August 1990

The Future of Design

26 Designers Take on Tomorrow

by Robert Sugar



The Art Directors Club of Metropolitan Washington is a non-profit organization of professionals in the field of visual communications. We are creators, supervisors, and producers of graphic design, photography or illustration. Or we belong to associated fields that support or enhance the efforts of these professionals.

Since its founding in 1949, the goals of the Club have been to advance the standards of quality, service, and integrity in the field.

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Art Directors Club 1420 K Street, N.W. Suite 500 Washington, D.C. 20005. Or call (202) 842-4177



Designer Dreams

rom tea leaves to the Weather, there are always people who profess to understand something certain about the future, and we are always willing to consider even the most unrealistic source of enlightenment. Our desire is not irrational; fear of the unknown is not unwarranted, and a desire to control our fate is bred into our nature. But the future is notoriously hard to pin down; choices are often made that lead to unforeseen results.

Maybe that's why some people find so much solace in the past. From the fascination with history to the melancholy obsession with nostalgia; the past is something that can be collected, categorized and made tangible, while the future exists as a fuzzy indeterminate shape awaiting the chisel of decision to carve it into recognizable form.

The future is *unformed*, not unknown. Trying to determine the future from the events of the present is a skill that designers are supposed to possess. When you are right in your guesses, you are "a trend-setter" or "a style maker", and when you are just a little behind that , you have "caught the wave," or are "state-of-the-art." People who are hopelessly unable to make decisions about events before they are played out to their most obvious conclusions are branded "also-rans," "imitative" or purveyors of "horse-and buggy thinking."

The issue is not whether designers can figure out the direction of events, but to what degree we will actually influence them. Read between the lines in this issue about the Future of Design and what you *really* see is everyone's future: a world where communication and information transmission will be critical to the growth and happiness of people around the globe. The real source of power in the coming millennium will be information, and "Third World" countries will be those not plugged-in to the worldwide network of data that is already streaming above the planet.

The role of the designer to help manage, control and exhibit this vast amount of data will be more and more crucial. The rise of design as fashion statement and class signifier is but the simplest manifestation of that power. The competition for people's attention continues to grow. Design that "cuts through the clutter" is already considered a valuable tool in the world of marketing and corporate communications. The designer's role is shifting from ornament and atmosphere to a broader role of encouraging accessibility. A receptive audience for things that are "designed" (as if nothing ever was in the past!) also increases the influence of designers. The need for a savvy public image has been inculcated in even the most reticent professional institutions.

If all of this seems a bit weighty as you struggle to get by a typical day of deadlines, production headaches and similar worries, perhaps that is exactly the point. It is easy to lose sight of the broader, more influential role that designers can take, if only they are willing to assume the mantle of responsibility for the undertaking. How many designers really have an articulate underlying philosophy about the way they design? Who could describe the way ethics and morality fit into their notion of their work? Is there too much reliance on dazzle and cleverness in evaluating the success of design solutions? It's not as if there are simple answers to these questions; it's more like, are they being asked at all?

It's easy to become isolated in the day-to-day, and to think that political and social events swirl around outside of the business concerns of a design studio. But real issues will have real consequences. In the areas of copyright and ownership, the coming decade will have profound effects on the way we view our work. And, it is hard to ignore the current attacks on our artistic institutions by members of the right as anything but an abridgement of our ability to create work that is valued on an individual and highly personal basis. While the denial of NEA funding to a few artists may seem far removed from our drawing tables, the more obscure threat of allowing a few people to limit and delineate the way we think about art, form, and intellectual content will eventually find its way to a level where we are constantly second-guessing our abilities to create work of pungency and heft.

Of course, the answer to these problems is not primarily political. The best recourse is to maintain a sense of direction and importance about the work that we do, and to keep pushing the limits of our roles in forming the way everyone sees the world. It happens one job at a time.

. . .

The production of this issue has been a mammoth undertaking that would have been impossible without the enthusiasm of everyone involved. The efforts of Octavian Cretu and Valerie Clark at Anaconda Press are especially noted, but the work of the individual designers should not go unmentioned. Most of the letters in this issue were produced entirely via electronic prepress; in most cases, the designers were asked to stretch their skills in this new medium.

The work was done primarily with established over-the-counter software like PageMaker, Adobe Illustrator, Freehand, Quark XPress, and most of the pages were output as process separation film on a Linotronic L-300 or a Compugraphic 9400PS. Some pages used more esoteric high-end photo illustration programs like Letraser's ColorStudio and Adobe Photoshop, but by and large, the bulk of the work demonstrates not what can be done on the cutting edge, but rather what is possible in the mainstream. After all the technical razzle-dazzle is out of the way, the work on these pages is best evaluated not by their production techniques, but by the level of their content. It was a pleasure working with all the designers, who—it should be obvious— are all supporters of the ADCMW.

-Robert Sugar, editor



RETOCLING the Art Directors Club

BURKEY BELSER
President, ADCMW

Effective communication with our members is what we do worst at the Art Directors Club. Working hard is what we do best. The irony is that if we worked half as hard and communicated twice as well, the volunteers would all be happier, healthier, and the you, the members, infinitely more appreciative.

What Focus Groups Had to Say

We finally realized this simple truth after Howard Smith organized two focus groups to discover what we are doing wrong, and what we could do better.

The focus groups were comprised of a cross-section of young and old, designers and non-designers, do-somethings and do-nothings, insiders and outsiders, new members and old members. Specifically, group one had 10 people (4 men, 6 women). Group two had nine participants (4 men, 5 women). They met in my office on two evenings.

Remember that a focus group represents the opinion of one person. It is not a scientific survey and does not represent quantitative research. Focus groups are a way of testing out an idea to see if its says what you think it says. Our basic question was, "

"What is your idea of the Art Directors Club."

The conversations took many turns and gave us the following results:

- 1. People join to learn things and to talk with other designers (for "continuing education" and "networking).
- 2. A consistent location for programs is good, but a nicer location would be better. Food and drink are nice, but cheaper programs would be nicer. Program announcements are late, late, late. Programs should be strictly social, strictly technical, strictly design superstars, strictly educational, and so on. Some time should be spent early in the program communicating Club business. The comraderie of the

earlier, smaller Club is hard to find; newcomers feel left out and alone.

- 3. Design '89 was a good idea.
- 4. The Annual Show is the most valuable thing we do and the catalogue is its most valuable result.
- 4. FullBleed is unpredictable—when is it published, how often? It's unclear whether it serves the communication needs of the Club—again, members really want to know more about what's happening in the Club.
- Design Classified gets high marks for reliability and high quality leads.
- 6. Volunteering is hard to do. Members check off a box on the membership form and they're never called. Committee needs are not adequately reported in FullBleed.
- 7. It is important to belong to a professional organization.

All of these observations and more have led Howard and I to make the following recommendations to the Board:

I. Reestablish tighter Board control.

Several years ago, it seemed like the Board was deciding the color of the napkins for the Annual Show, which is decidedly not a Board function. So we pushed away these housekeeping duties to their respective committees to focus on longer range objectives. . .like Boards are supposed to do. But we went too far and control slipped away to the

Other suggestions from the Focus Groups and the Annual Meeting

- ★ Have a weekend design conference with nationally known speakers.
- ★ Have a series of workshops on specific topics: annual reports, magazine design, running a business.
- ★ Build relationships between the ADCMW and other design organizations in other cities.
- ★ Change the name of the Club to drop the word Club.
- ★ Change the name of the Club in some other way.
- ★ Investigate group health insurance.
- ★ Buy a Clubhouse where we can sit and talk, hang out and mingle.
- ★ Have lunch programs instead of evening programs
- ★ Continue the mini-meetings based on technical expertise
- ★ Make the Christmas program less formal, less expensive
- ★ Hold more exhibits throughout the year (National Wildlife Federation has said they were interested)
- ★ Establish a speaker's bureau of members for businesses and organizations
- ★ Have speakers reveal the philosophy of their work, not just show their slides
- ★ Start the meetings at 7:30
- ★ Tell members how to get involved in committees
- ★ Set up studio tours for members, not just students

individual Chairs who, frequently as new Board members, had little sense of the broad goals of the Club. Thus, without guidance from the Board, their personal agenda became their *modus operandi*, resulting in programming—to take one large example—that simply did not fit the needs of our diverse membership.

This issue of Board control versus the Chairperson's freedom to follow their own path is a difficult problem. After all, a creative, motivated volunteer wants to leave their mark on their area of concern, not just follow orders.

But it is our recommendation that in several key areas, the wishes of the Board overrule the wishes of the individual Chair when they are in conflict. And we recommend that the three vice-presidents who

chair key functions—VP Programs, VP Annual Show, and VP Full Bleed—be significantly more responsive to Board direction, following fairly strict guidelines in their work in

order to achieve the goal I stated at the beginning—to communicate twice as well and work half as hard.

The Recommended Program Year

Month	Program	Local National
September	Designer Portfolio First Program of year Assign Theme	. *
October	Business Program	*
November	OPEN Feature local design studio	CGDA
December	Holiday party	*
January	Illustrators and Photographers Showcase	ASMP, I/C
February	Designer Portfolio Assign Theme	*
March	Computer Program	*
April	AIGA/ADCMW	
	Panel Program	*
May	OPEN	
June	Annual Meeting	*

2. Outline the Program Calendar

In the sidebar nearby, you'll see a matrix we have created which recommends a subject and speaker (local or national) for almost every month of the program year.

Two key dates are left open: November and May. June is accounted for because the by-laws of any organization require an Annual Meeting and that meeting should be the last one of the program year.

The other program

recommendations will ensure you will (1) see and hear famous designers, (2) improve your business skills, (3) keep up to date with computers, (4) recognize area resources—illustrators and photographers, (5) cozy up with the AIGA, and (6) party. The two other open programs will provide the tilt which gives the program year its unique personality. This tilt is still the responsibility and the challenge of the VP Programs.

Reading this may lead you to make recommendations for the program year yourself. If you write FullBleed, we'll publish your suggestions.

All of the programs should be approved by the Board by the August meeting and a calendar for the full year sent out in September to every member as a preview of the program year. Most importantly, the calendar will go far toward satisfying two persistent demands—better communication and distant early warning of the program schedule.

3. Make FullBleed a Reporter

There's another sidebar on this spread that details page by page our proposed reorganization of **FullBleed**.

Everyone in the focus groups and at the Annual Meeting had plenty of grand ideas for FullBleed, but the plain truth is that a monthly publication is hard for a paid staff to produce. And unless you are Pat Taylor, it is a miracle that the book is produced at all. That fact has encouraged us to reorganize FullBleed around a manageable goal—that of reporter.

Every key committee—the three vice presidential Chairs and the Education committee—needs a page to report their activities. Those pages will be designated **departments** and appear in the same place in each issue. So the **program report**, for example, will appear every issue on page 3; the **annual show update** on page 4, the **education report** on page 5. These pages will be the responsibility of the appropriate chairpersons. On the last page of each issue will be the full program year's calendar.

Given the climate of the times, we also recommend a computer department as well. Add in the ads, contents page, president's or editor's page with the minutes of the Board and most of the book is taken care of. This only leaves the features —no small task, but infinitely more manageable than the editor's current job.

There was talk at the Annual Meeting of a bimonthly since a monthly was so difficult to produce, but the by-laws require a monthly publication of the minutes. Furthermore, we do not want to lose sight of our single goal—to work half as hard and communicate twice as well.

There is plenty of freedom within this format for a designers to make their mark on **FullBleed**.

4. Settle in with the Annual Show

Every year we reinvent the dozens of wheels that make the Annual Show run when we should just oil them and only replace the few whose cogs are worn.

Of course, Show Chair with vision like Soliteir Jaeger will add new belts and cogs to make it a more grand machine, like the preview cocktail party hosted by Harbin-

The Recommended FullBleed

In order to provide consistent demands for clearer communication, we recommend the following organization for **FullBleed:**

Page	Subject
Cover I	Use existing banner and format. Assign local photographer or illustrator to cover.
Cover 2	AD
1	Contents/Masthead (Include Board Members, phone numbers and areas of responsibility)
2	Letter from Editor/President
3	Last program report
4	Annual Show update
5	Education Committee report
6	AD
7	AD
8-9	Feature (interview)
10-11	2nd Feature
12-13	3rd Feature (local artist/designer portfolio)
14	AD
15	Computer Age (column about electronic design)
16	Full Page calendar for year
Cover 3	AD
Cover 4	AD

6. Start a buddy system for new members

One of the biggest complaints we've always had is the lack of welcome to new members. I remember writing about this two years ago, saying one would never treat a guest the way we treat new members. A buddy system could cure that if we can work out the logistics of the assignments. Does anyone have any familiarity with similar systems which have worked for other organizations?

7. A summer picnic

If one of the goals of every member is to meet other like-minded individuals, then we need to develop formats where it would be downright impolite to be unfriendly. One suggestion out of the Annual Meeting was for a picnic in the slow summer months where food, drink, and games would promote the kind of relaxed interchange so many members seek. We heartily recommend it as a good antidote to the fuss and bother of the Annual Gala, and a pleasant, easy way to meet each other.

Who's on First?

No, Who's on second, What's on first . . . and so it goes. Where to begin? Put one foot in front of the other. We can get there.

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ger or the addition of **Best of Category** awards. Still, no where else in the yearly activities of the Club can there be said to be a tradition to uphold as in the Annual Show. Distinguished nationally recognized judges secure the validity of the Show's selection. An elegantly formal gala with as much pomp and ceremony as we can muster add inestimable value to the awards that even the most cynical of us cherish. We should not tinker with that tradition; we should match it year by year. Everyone wants a cheaper dinner and gala evening until you're there; then a wienie roast doesn't cut it.

We also recommend a list of at least 10 potential judges be submitted to the Board's August meeting so the Board may confirm the selection and the judges be notified early enough for us to get on their calendar.

5. Include the work of the Education committee on the calendar.

No matter how much the work of the Education committee is appreciated by students and teachers, it remains unappreciated by our members. Why? Poor communication, again.

We recommend that all the activities of the committee be included on our proposed main calendar mailed to members and on **FullBleed**'s calendar as well. Through this simple technique, we might be able to divert more attention from the mainstream of our professional activities to the strong tributary represented by the work of the Education committee.



uni-corn (u'ni-kôrn), n. [ME unicorne]: 1. a fabulous animal generally depicted with the body and head of a horse, the hind legs of a stag, the tail of a lion, and a single horn in the middle of the forehead. 2. an outstanding typesetting and graphics house best known for its quality, dependability, competitive pricing, and most recently as the best desktop publishing facility to emerge on the East Coast.

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Vinyl Final

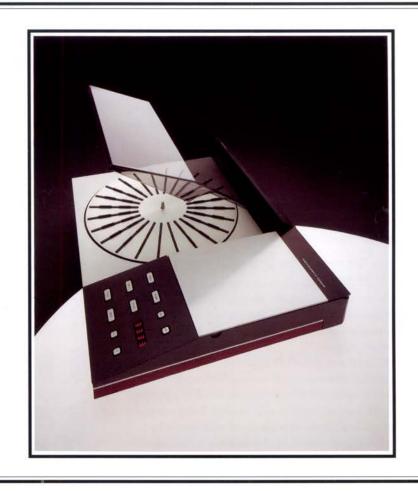
And as last call for some platter patter...

Jan Faul

photography:Stills that move!

202/526-1122

Represented by: Melinda Nichols 703/527-4649







Without this page description
language, the desktop publishing
revolution would not have occurred.
PostScript allows the resolution of
a created image to be maintained,
regardless of the output device used.
High-quality graphics can be produced as camera or plate-ready art,
slides or even video — dispelling
the myth that a computer aided
designer is a slave to the technology.
Instead, the "machine" has become a
creative ally, and the designer's only
limitation is his imagination.



IN THE OLD DAYS, EVEN THE IDEA OF

RESOLUTION

DERSUS IMAGE SIZE WAS

INCONCEIURBLE.

SURE, WE KNEW YOU COULD ONLY

BLOW UP A PHOTO SO FAR,

BUT WHO HAD TO CONSIDER

RUNNING INTO THE BEDROCK OF

DIGITAL GRAPHIC IMAGES-THE

INDIVIDUAL PICTURE ELEMENT

"PIXEL"?

NOW, THE TREATMENT OF

"RESOLUTION" AS A DESIGN

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JUST RINOTHER ELEMENT

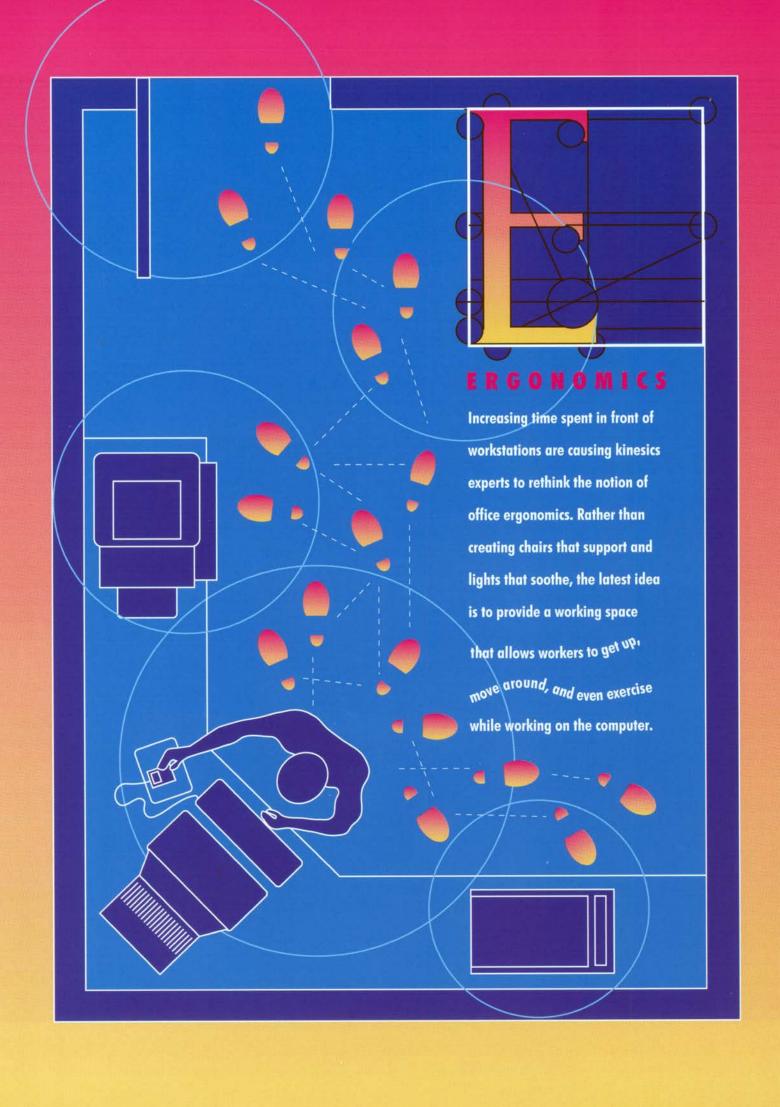
IN THE ARSENAL OF DESIGN

IDEAS.



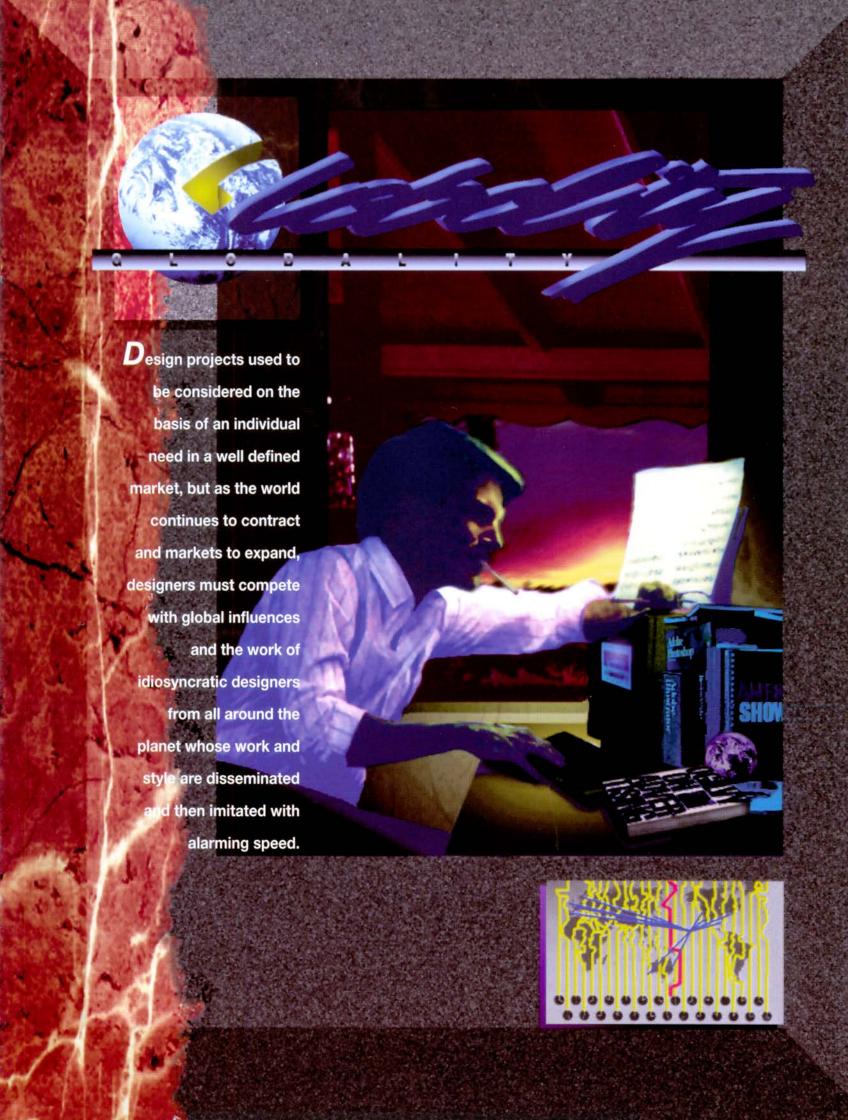


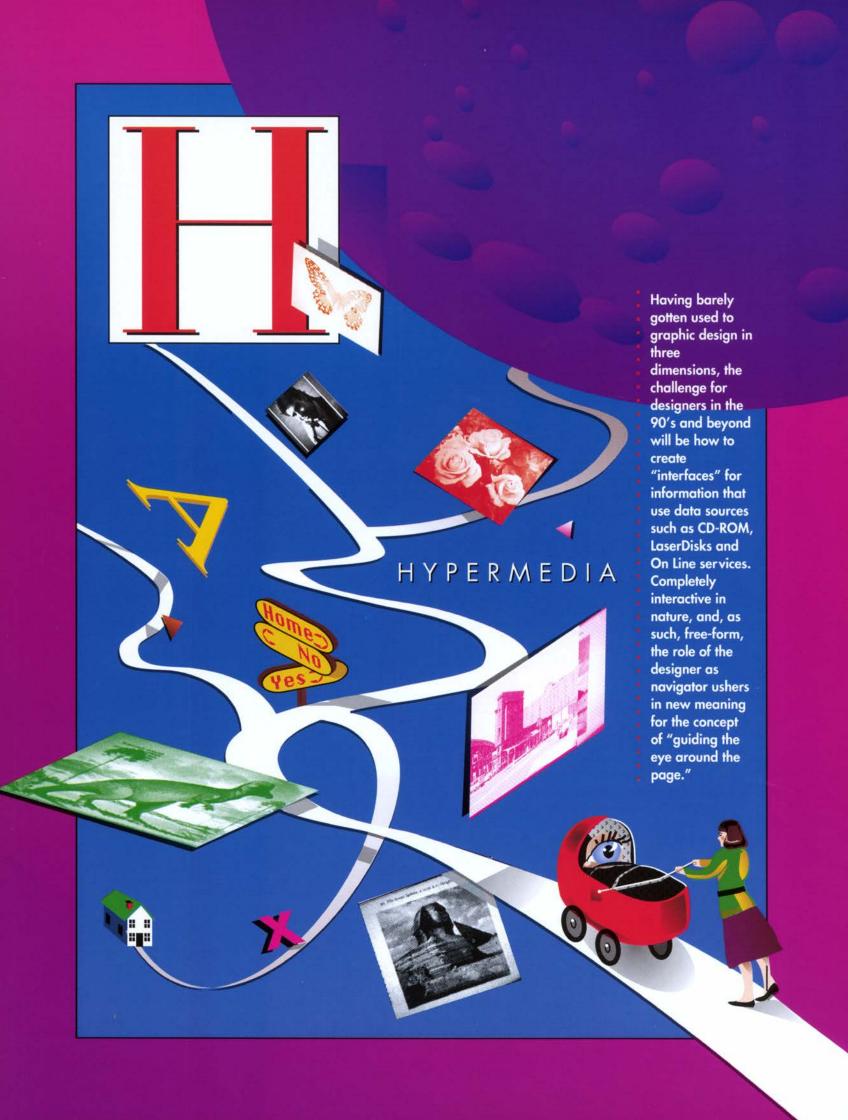


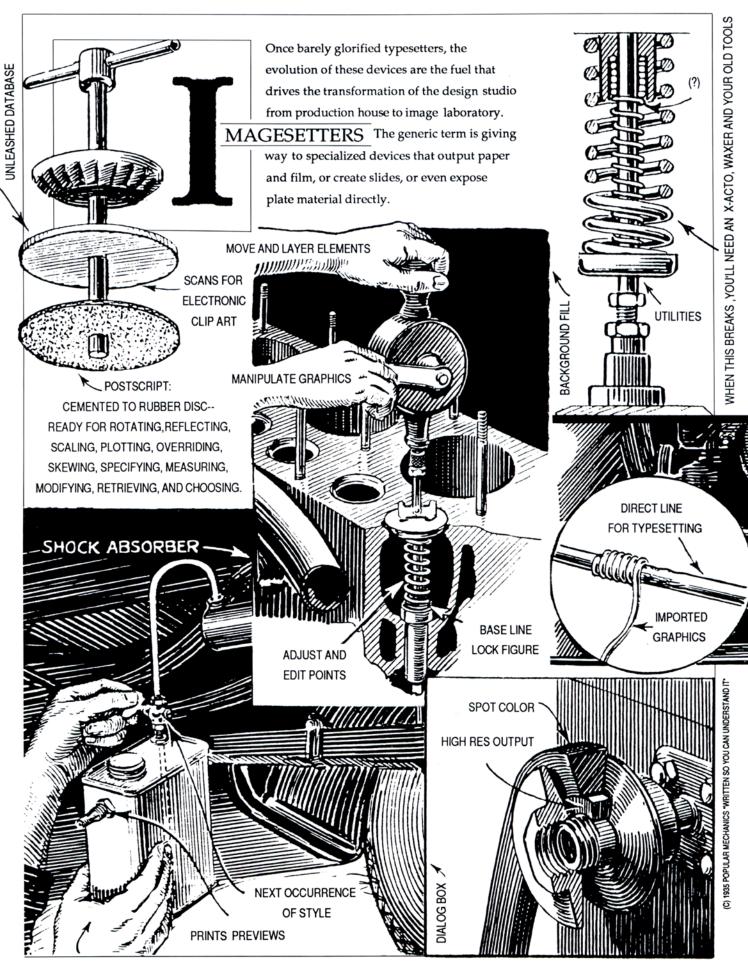




Once trendy, now ubiquitous, the evolution of the facsimile machine will continue with greater resolution—and yes, color all available at prices that will make the "faxphone" the answering machine of the nineties.—/m!







INTERACTIVE SYSTEMS DEVELOPER







作川井川霧拳井川霧柳

THE ABILITY OF COMPUTERS TO SAMPLE AND MANIPULATE IMAGES WILL CAUSE THE COPYRIGHT LAWS TO BE RE-EVALUATED IN THE COMING YEARS.

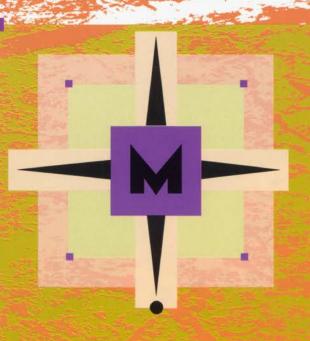
JUST AS IN THE MUSIC INDUSTRY, NOW STRUGGLING WITH THE NOTION OF WHEN AND HOW RECOMBINED SOUNDS MIGHT CONSTITUTE AN ORIGINAL WORK, DESIGNERS WILL HAVE TO DEAL WITH HOW MUCH AND HOW APPROPRIATE IS THE MANIPULATION OF OTHER PEOPLE'S IMAGES BEFORE THEY CONSTITUTE A NEW DESIGN.

WITH THE POSSIBILITY TO EXECUTE

"TEMPLATES" OF A DESIGN IT MAY EVEN

BECOME POSSIBLE TO ACTUALLY

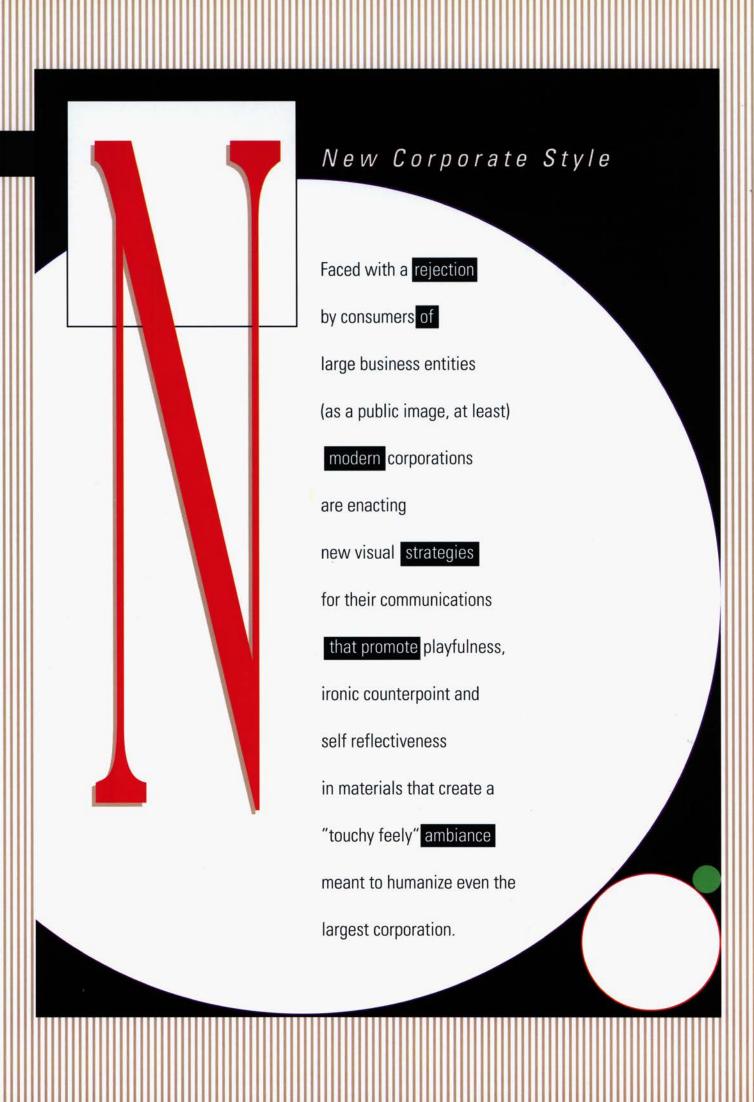
PROTECT THE WORK OF DESIGNERS.



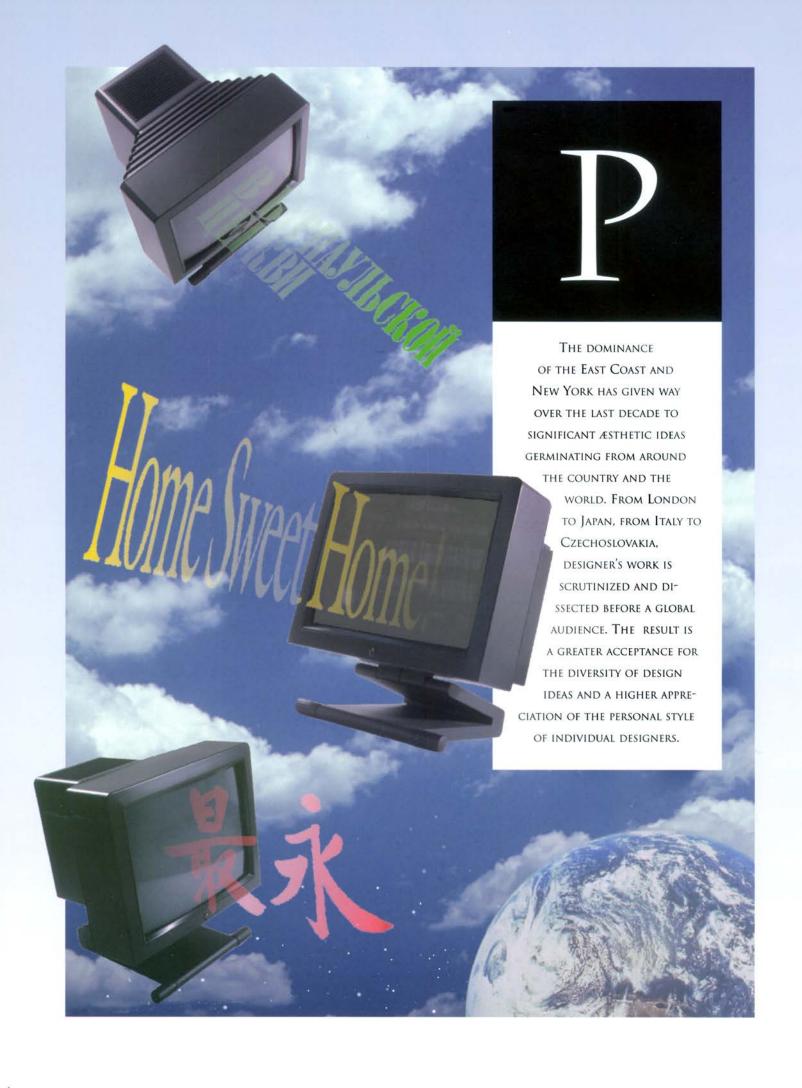


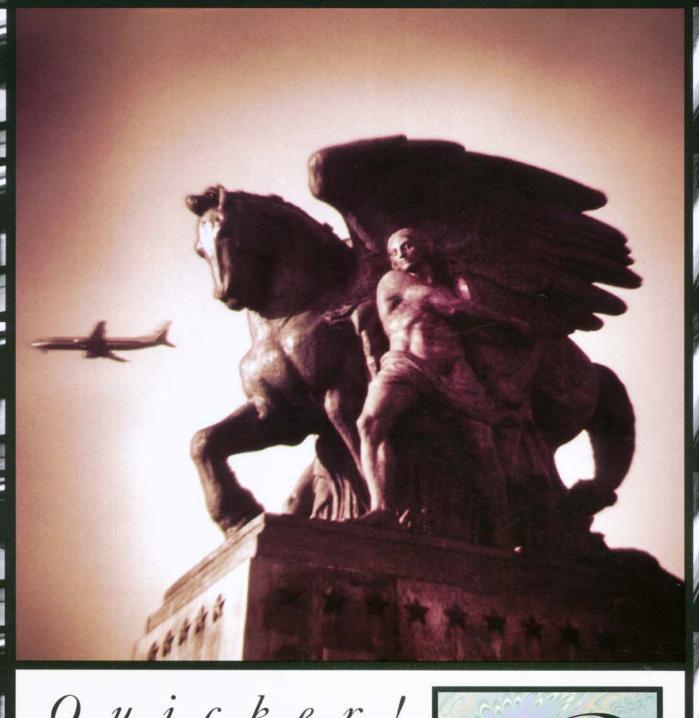












u i c k e r

The 80s were altered by the two "Fs"-Federal Express and Faxesand the pace for the 90s can only speed up. Driven by computers and client demand, the nineties will be the era of the "paperless presentation," allowing clients to make alterations and see them instantly. This will entail a new skill for the designer-collaborating with clients and making realtime alterations in a comprehensive. In this environment, who will champion reflection and reconsideration?





A DEEPENING APPRECIATION OF

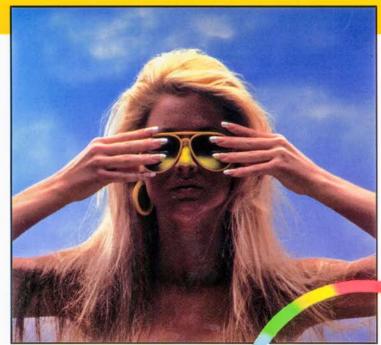
OUR DESIGN HERITAGE AND RE-



AWAKENED INTEREST IN HAND CRAFTSMANSHIP
IS SPURRING A RENEWED CONCENTRATION ON
THE WORK AND PHILOSOPHY OF PAST DESIGNERS. BESIDES THE REEMERGENCE OF ORIGINAL
TYPEFACES BY THE LIKES OF CASLON, GOUDY,
AND GARAMOND, THE APPROPRIATION OF
PERIOD* DESIGN AESTHETICS HAS ENCOURAGED WORK IN THE FIELDS OF EMBOSSING,
CUSTOM BOOKBINDING AND PAPERMAKING.

SEPARATIONS

THE EMERGENCE OF THE IN-HOUSE COLOR SEPARATION AS WELL AS THE PRACTICALITY OF PROCESS COLOR PAGE-MAKEUP ARE CHANGING THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN COLOR SEPARATORS, PRINTERS AND DESIGNERS. THE DESIGNER WILL HAVE GREATER AND GREATER CONTROL OVER HOW THE FINISHED PIECE WILL PRINT, BUT ALONG WITH THAT WILL GO THE RESPONSIBILITY TO MAINTAIN LEVELS OF QUALITY THAT HAVE BEEN ESTABLISHED BY EXPERT CRAFTSMEN OVER YEARS OF CONVENTIONAL PRODUCTION. DESPITE THAT CHALLENGE, WILL THE TRADITIONAL **COLOR SEPARATION HOUSE** GO THE WAY OF CONVENTIONAL



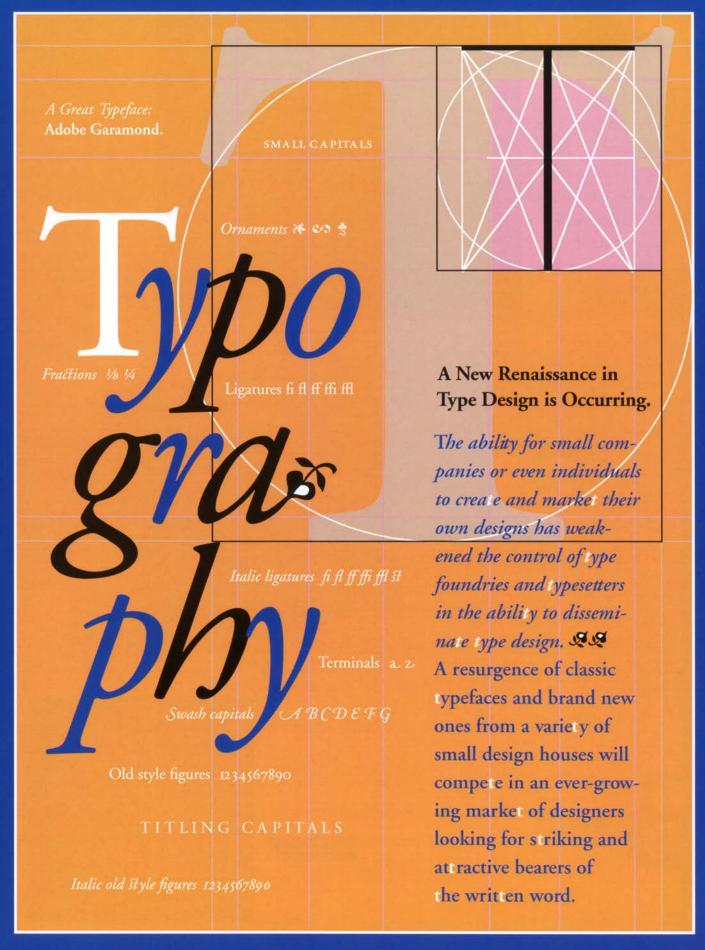




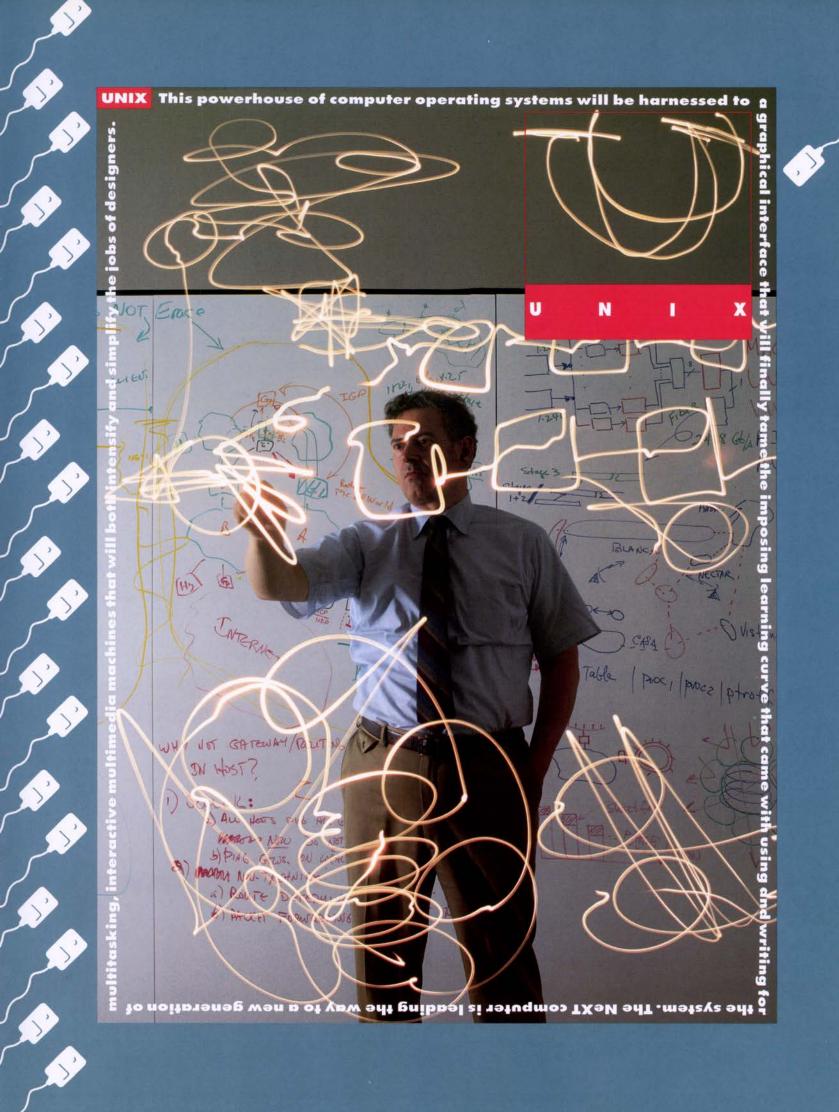
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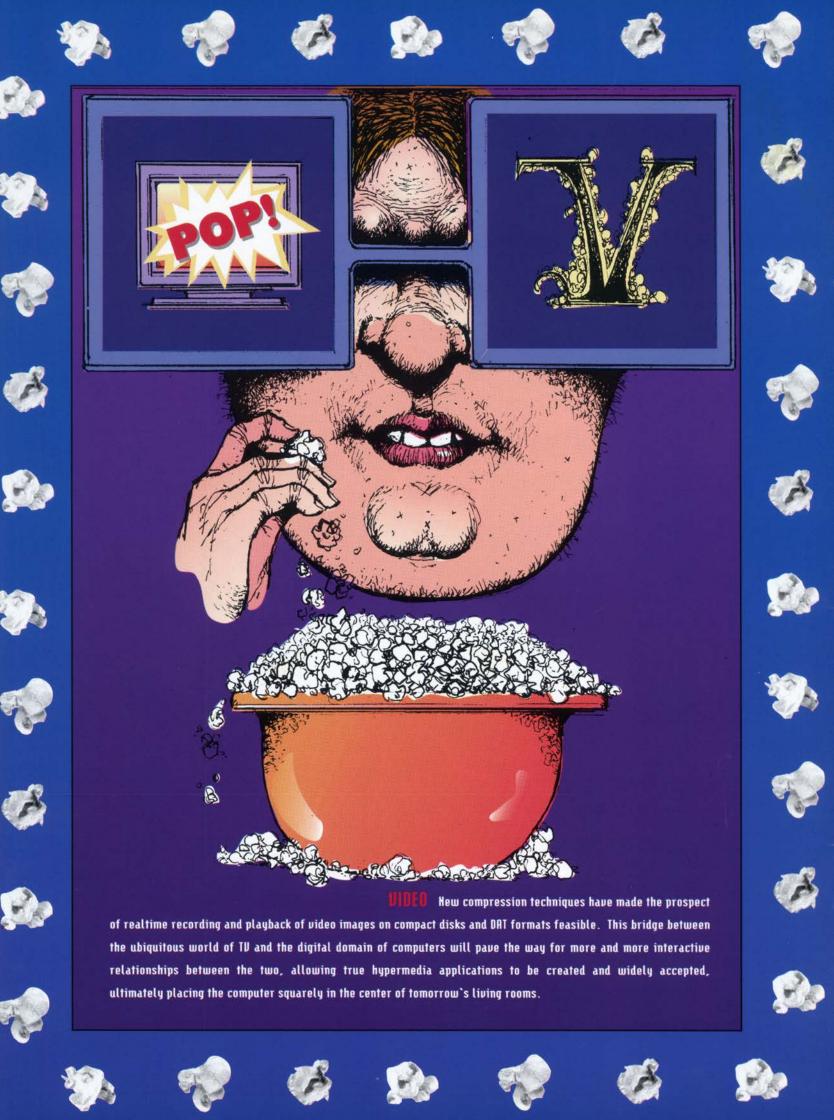


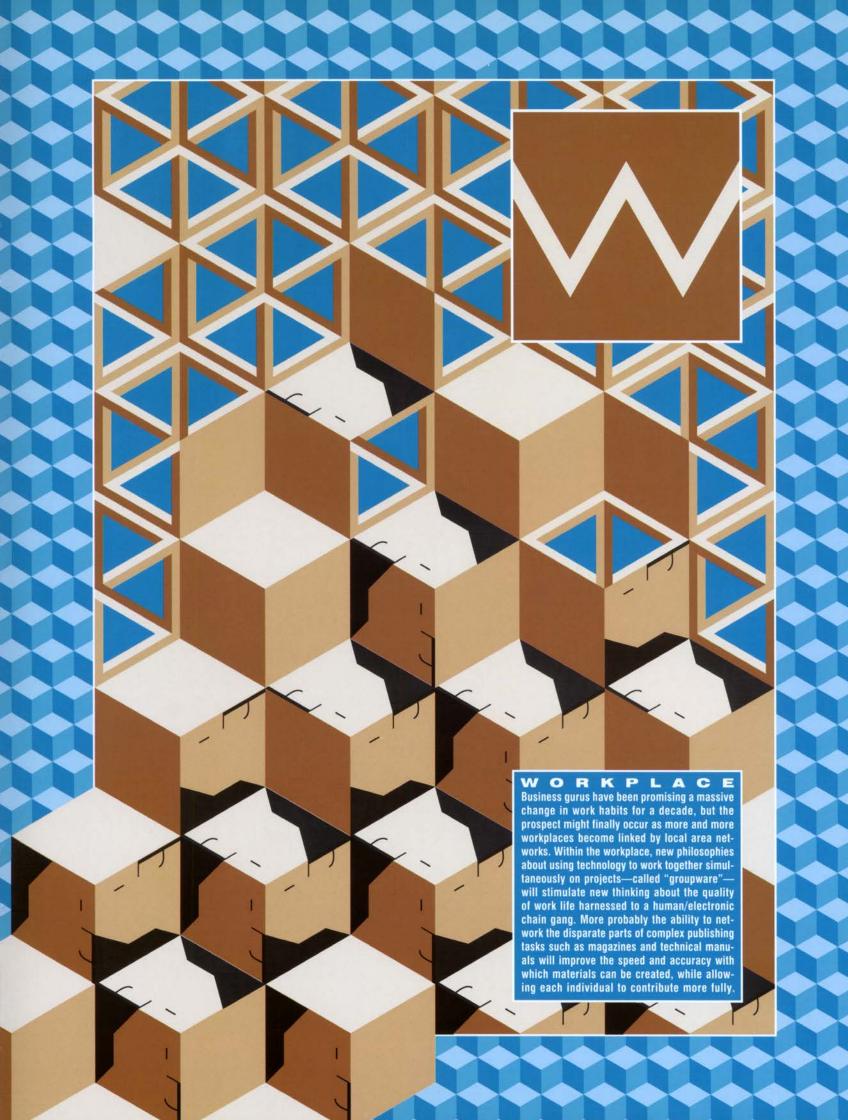


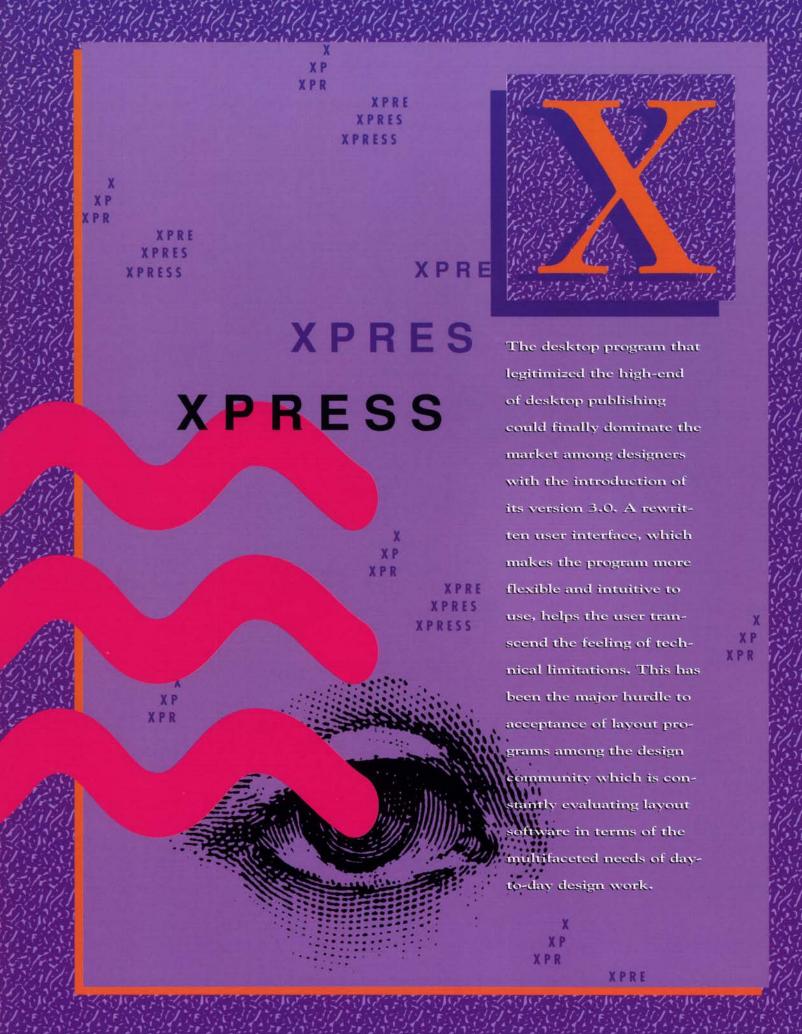


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Cover

Robert Sugar AURAS Design, Inc.

COLOPHON The work in this issue

was created (with the exception of letters U, and the seps of letter Z) electronically, with final film being generated as process-color separations through ColorStudio, Aldus PrePrint, or within the application. Programs used included Aldus PageMaker, Aldus Freehand, Adobe Illustrator 88, Adobe Photoshop, Letraset ColorStudio, Quark XPress 2.0, and a host of other utilities. The pages were output on a Linotronic 300 or a Compugraphic 9400 or 9600 at 2540 dpi or 2400 dpi respectively using line screens from 133 to 150 lpi. The paper is Mead 80 lb Signature Gloss donated by the Frank Parsons Paper Company, and the printing was supplied by Anaconda Press. (nice job, guys!)

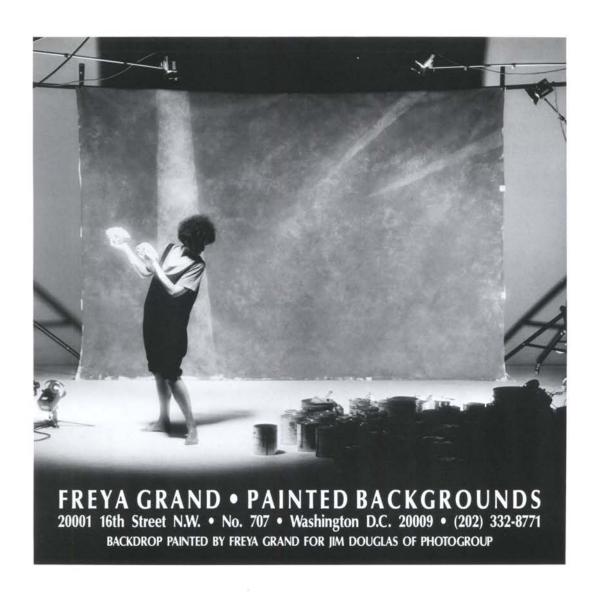
PilsDoes Ged.

Good Good Spacing. Spacing. Spacing. Good Spacing. Good Price

(Compared to other photo-lettering co's across this great nation of ours who we feel can be compared to us in

aword quality and service.) Or at least by tomorrow!

Street NW
Street NW Washington DC us, well send you a big howdy





CRAFTSMANSHIP.

STATE-OF-THE-ART EQUIPMENT.

CREATIVE COMMUNICATION.
DEDICATED TEAM EFFORT.

All have helped us produce high resolution electronic retouching and assembly. We count among our many customers: Bell Atlantic. Black and Decker. Ford New Holland. Giant Food, Hershey Foods, Knouse Foods. Noxell, Tyco Toys and Westvaco. Include us in your next project and join our growing list of satisfied clients.

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HOW DID YOU DO THAT?

This page is part of "The Future of Design From A to Z" featured in this issue. Most of the work was done in Adobe Photoshop® and this is how. . .

The guy, and the window behind him were the start. They were scanned using Colorset® scanning utility. The table was drawn in Photoshop and placed in position. The wall was a colorized marble finish from a black & white scan and has a transparent radial fill to give the effect of a glow. The marble border was from the same scan, colorized and flowed into a black mask. The granite is a special effect achieved using various filters. OGILVY ON ADVERTISING was distorted from a flatbed scan, the books behind it were video scanned, placed and rotated into perspective. The globe was a colorized black & white scan (it was also used as the initial "G").

The script type was a sketch, scanned, filled and blended, with a drop shadow added to give a dimensional look. The brightness and

give a dimensional look. The brightness and contrast con-

trols were used to achieve the mortising effects.
The piece was separated in Quark® XPress.
Fonts were Adobe Type One typefaces.

The film was imaged at **The Publishers Service Bureau** on a Linotronic L300® at 2540 lpi and proofed with their Dupont Cromacheck® color proofing system.

The rest was MAGICK. If you are interested in seeing more of this technology, give us a call at 824-8022.

Thanks to the folks at The Publishers Service Bureau for allowing me the time and equipment to produce this. Stephen Parrott, Creative Director

The Publishers Service Bureau

As of August 1,1990 our new address will be 4300 King Street, Suite 105 Alexandria Virginia 22302 703-824-8022

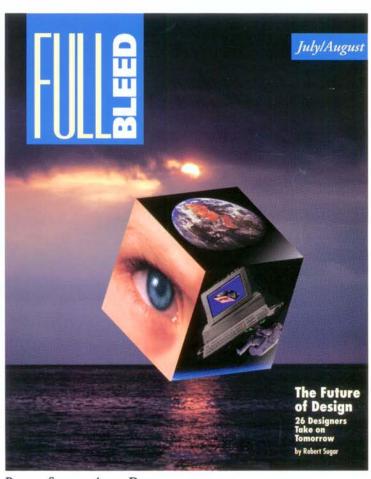


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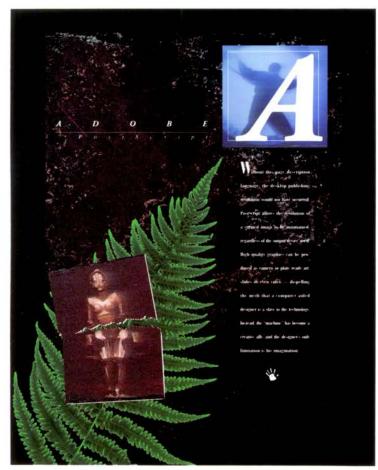
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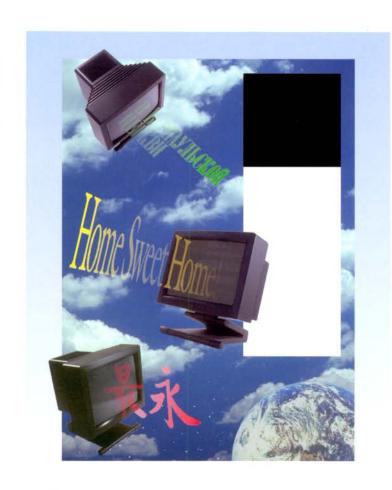
STEVE RHODES/GARY YAW—WICKHAM & ASSOCIATES



ROBERT SUGAR—AURAS DESIGN



FLETCHER MAFFETT—GRAPHIC WORKS



TIM KENNEY—TIM KENNEY DESIGN INC.

RESULTS LIKE THESE...

and Advanced Laser Graphic's state-ofthe-art color production services combined to provide these designers with the tools and support they needed to bring their artistic vision to life for this special issue of *Full Bleed*.

The images were all created in Letraset's ColorStudio, an advanced imaging program that combines sophisticated tools for retouching and color correction with the accessibility of a paint program. ColorStudio has been designed with the artist in mind, duplicating the familiar pencil, paintbrush and airbrush with convincing realism.

Handling elaborate color sensitive files like these requires a service bureau and Apple® dealer dedicated to color prepress and production, and Advanced Laser Graphics is just that sort of company. ALG specializes in Macintosh® computer equipment and services for the graphics community, and is proud to see their corporate commitment to producing color on the desktop become a reality.

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