

# BLUEPRINT

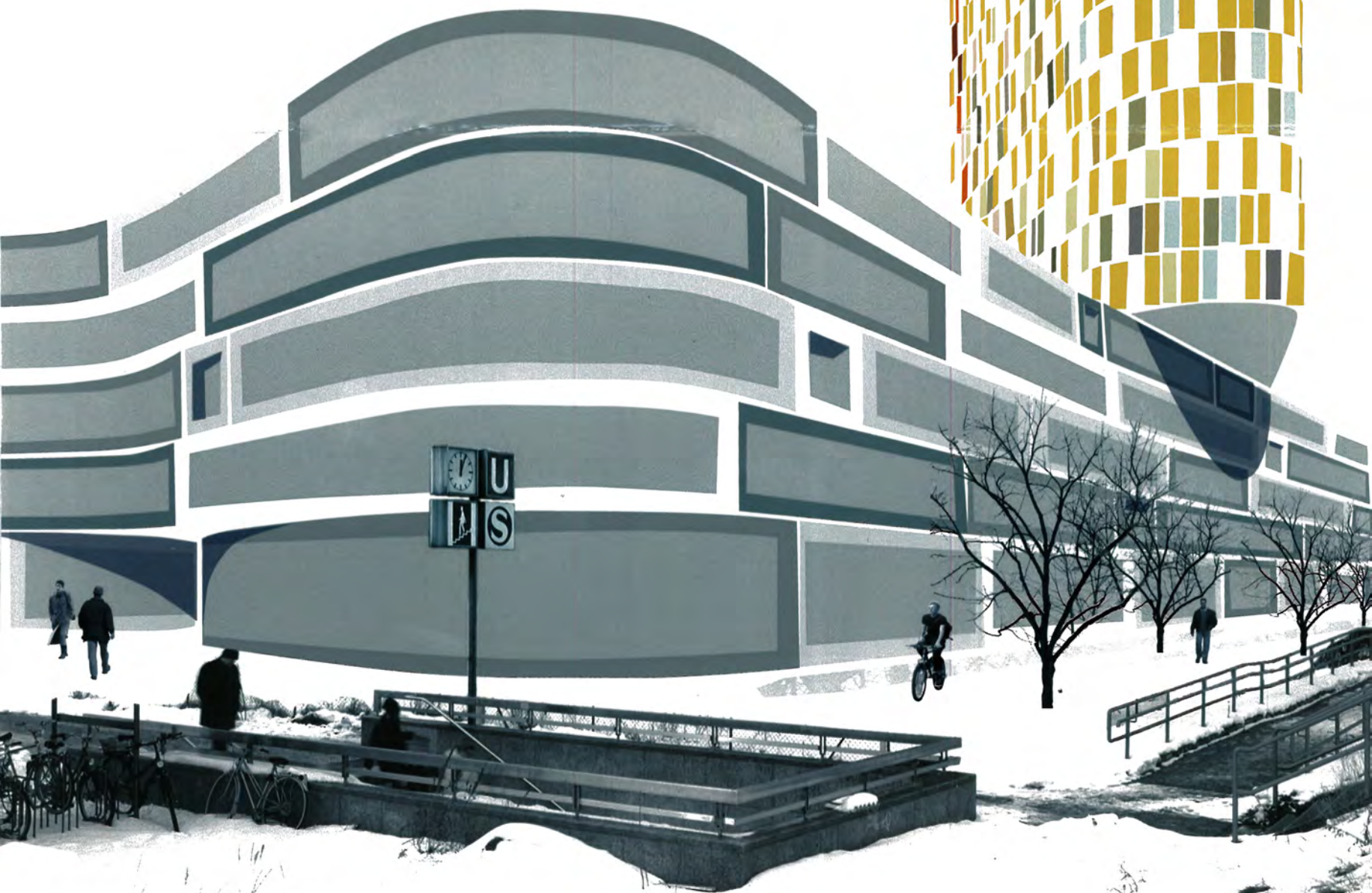
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CHIPPERFIELD  
IN MARGATE  
V&A: MUSEUM  
OF THE FUTURE  
WIM WENDERS  
GETS LOST

SAUERBRUCH HUTTON  
TO BERLIN AND BACK



Following on from the success of the DS console, the recently-launched **Nintendo 3DS** purports to take portable gaming to a brand new level. *Ajmir Kandola* reports on whether it really is a giant leap in technology

'Real 3D Graphics. No Glasses Needed' is the tagline for the much vaunted – well much advertised – launch of the Nintendo 3DS hand-held games console. Blueprint handed over this piece of cutting-edge technology to Cinemod Studio, a London-based architecture and interactive design company, to offer an insight into the potential of this increasingly prominent technology:

'As soon as we popped open the box, the Nintendo 3DS moved from desk to desk, here at our studio, and was the major distraction for a week. It is a definite concept

### THE 3DS IS A PORTABLE CONSOLE THAT CAN SUCCESSFULLY MIX VIRTUAL AND PHYSICAL ELEMENTS WITH STARTLING ACCURACY

progression from the original Nintendo DS, with ever-increasing possibilities for the games and application designer. Its unique range of available control methods, a touch screen, stylus, and 3D camera offers more possibilities for games and applications to interface with the user.

'In our opinion, the real technological leap for the unit is not solely the inclusion of a 3D screen or camera – although it is impressive to have these features on a consumer unit, they are certainly do not create an instant holodeck – the real potential we see is using the 3D camera as an augmented reality device to create the long-promised breed of alternate reality games and applications that have been so far a science fiction to the consumer.

'What the 3DS delivers, as so many technological artefacts have promised in the last decade, is a portable console that can



successfully mix virtual and physical elements with startling accuracy. Using the image depth from its stereoscopic camera, 3D objects can be dropped into view, panned around and interacted with. In an urban context, the 3DS has the potential to offer unprecedented possibilities.

'Sadly, the drawbacks are evident as soon as you begin to

*Above: the 3D camera allows users to enter a world of augmented reality*

tinker. Nintendo's software development kits are notoriously difficult to obtain, and require a significant financial commitment to the company. Whereas Microsoft offered the open source community the opportunity to get to grips with its revolutionary motion detection Xbox 360 peripheral Kinect, Nintendo retain an incredibly proprietary stance.'

*Kacper Hamilton's shortlisted tap design from last year's competition*



### Calling all students – a chance to create a working prototype and win £2,000 with Triflow Concepts

Have you got it in you to design a future classic? If you think you have, Triflow Concepts' Future Talent Competition for students who are currently studying could win you £2,000 and give you the invaluable experience of presenting your designs to a panel of top industry professionals.

The winner will also get the chance to work with Triflow's design team to see their creation being turned into a working prototype. And finally, you'll have the kudos of your winning design being featured in these very pages and exhibited at this year's London Design Festival. Blueprint editor, Johnny Tucker, is on the competition judging panel

which, as we go to press, also includes architect Richard Found (Found Associates) and product designer Paul Priestman (Priestmangoode).

The brief for the competition is based around the idea of 'Back To Tap', and involves designing a kitchen tap, which 'incorporates new and innovative sustainable technology'. The judges will be looking for a considered aesthetic married to an innovative use of water-saving technology. You will also need to work in either ceramic or stainless steel. Obviously there's more to the brief, so for more details, visit: [www.triflowconcepts.com](http://www.triflowconcepts.com)