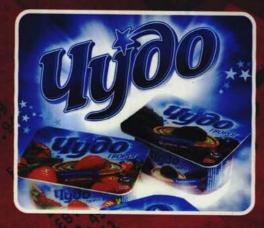
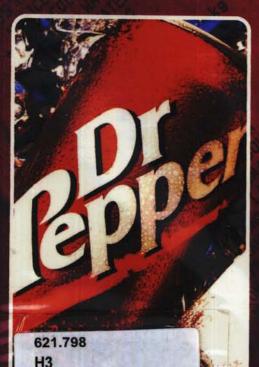
Successful Food Packaging Design









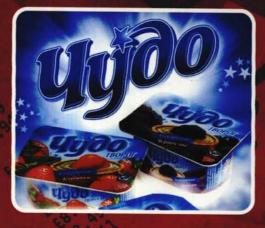






Successful Food Packaging Design















featured designers include:

Bluedoor

Blue Marlin

Coley Porter Bell

Colored Horse

Design Bridge

FutureBrand

Hornall Anderson Design Works

Lewis Moberly

Lippa Pearce

Lipson Alport Glass & Associates

Parker Williams

Pecos Design

Pentagram

Roundel

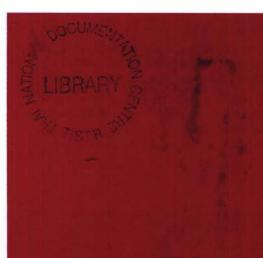
Sandstrom Design

Smart Design USA

Source Design

Successful Food Packaging Design

Ben Hargreaves



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Successful Food Packaging Design

Ben Hargreaves







eat me (please!)

"Food packaging has always been divided into two parts in the US: name brands (boring, unimaginative, unchanging) and niche brands (innovative, conceptual, engaging). We prefer the latter, as do most designers. For design firms, niche brands are where the awards are, and name brands are where the profits are." Rick Braithwaite, president, Sandstrom Design, Portland, Oregon

Motivated by awards, or motivated by profits? If you're a designer, inevitably the answer is both. The gongs are great, but you've got to pay the bills. And the desire to produce something stunning, distinguished, that will last, is necessarily tempered by the commercial pressure to produce something that will sell to the largest possible audience in the greatest possible quantities—the best of all possible consumer worlds. Nowhere is this truer than in a fast-moving consumer goods sector such as food packaging: an area where it's perhaps harder than others to produce distinctive work, and commercial considerations are everything.

Domenic Lippa, a director at London design agency Lippa Pearce, likens working on food packaging to being at the coal face of design—by which he means there's just so much of it out there. Most of which isn't that good. It's a fact that the majority of the designers I interviewed for this book don't particularly rate food packaging design.

Ask Kit Hinrichs, say, head of graphics at Pentagram in San Francisco: his comments on the quality of the food and drink packaging designs for the products under which our supermarket and grocery store shelves are groaning is typical: "I'll be candid, there's a tremendous amount of mediocrity in the business. There are so many layers of people and marketing experts within the food companies concerned about market share and quarter percents of market share, and they don't want to try anything out of the ordinary. By the time the companies, researchers, and marketeers are through with a design, it looks like everyone else's. The deal stickers are on it, the product names are bigger, and the images have been retouched so much that they don't look real any more. It's just endemic-as if they're determined to kill whatever spirit was there."

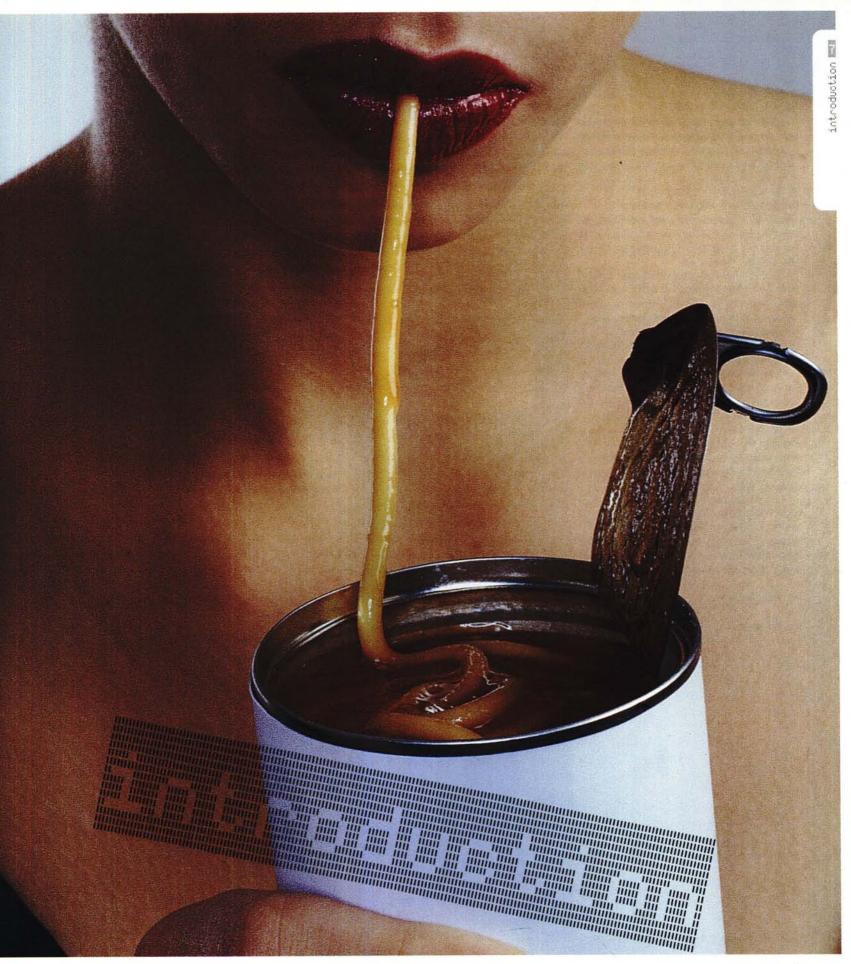
Lippa has similarly strong views on the subject: "The products have to sell and things have really been dumbed down—there's more and more bad packaging design by bad packaging designers. It's hard to find good examples because there's so much dire stuff out there." Oh dear. For a book purporting to be a showcase of the best in food packaging design, it looked like we might have fallen short of material.

Fortunately, there's great stuff out there, too. This book showcases some excellent design work in the field from across the world, from a broad range of agencies and designers. Some of the work featured is by people who specialize in food packaging: expert design by the foodie experts, such as Parker Williams' work for Sainsbury's Supermarkets in the UK. For others, food is a first foray, but one that proves that an outsider's perspective is no barrier to designing great food packaging—it may even be of benefit (see Smart Design USA's award-winning work for Oxo Grind II, page 148).

While they may have misgivings about its quality, none of the designers I spoke to doubted the importance of—to reemploy one of the section titles in this book—desirable packets. If packaging is the manifestation of the brand in the hand, then in our acutely brand-conscious times, it performs a critical function. In many cases, "It is the brand, or rather the embodiment and expression of the brand meaning," says Michael Coleman, vice president of Chicago's Source Design. Companies attempting to develop brands as well as mere products (and who isn't?) can ill afford, then, to ignore the packaging.

Indeed, the signs suggest that companies are paying more attention to this than ever before. Sandstrom Design's Rick Braithwaite makes the point that, "There is a growing desire by food companies to maximize the effectiveness of their packaging. This has resulted in an increasing willingness to change. Firms are looking to upgrade their look every two years, rather than every ten years, as in the past. They are no longer afraid that new packaging will confuse the consumer and disrupt their fragile

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relationship with the brand. They have come to see packaging as an integral part of their marketing program, and are more willing to spend money to freshen it on a regular basis."

Food packaging can be seen as part of the larger branding project that companies of all kinds are keen to engage in. Selling product in itself is all well and good, but what these businesses really want to push at consumers is their brands. In food, a product as simple as a packet of crisps can—with the right packaging—become something essentially aspirational in character. Presented well enough, the wine you drink becomes as important as the trainers you wear and the car you drive. Companies are selling lifestyle, not peanuts.

There are, therefore, great opportunities out there for designers willing to bring their skills to the (dinner) table. The quality—in general—of food packaging is improving. As consumers' tastes in food and drink have become more sophisticated, so has their awareness of packaging design. Potential clients in the food and drink industry are on the lookout for new ideas. Ironically, the very factor that undermines the design values of food packaging—its ubiquity also makes it an enormously exciting area to work in. It's nothing if not a democratic medium, after all: everybody has to eat. Kit Hinrichs adds: "I love the challenge of doing food packaging, because it reaches so many people. Even more, I love the challenge of doing something well that also becomes highly successful."

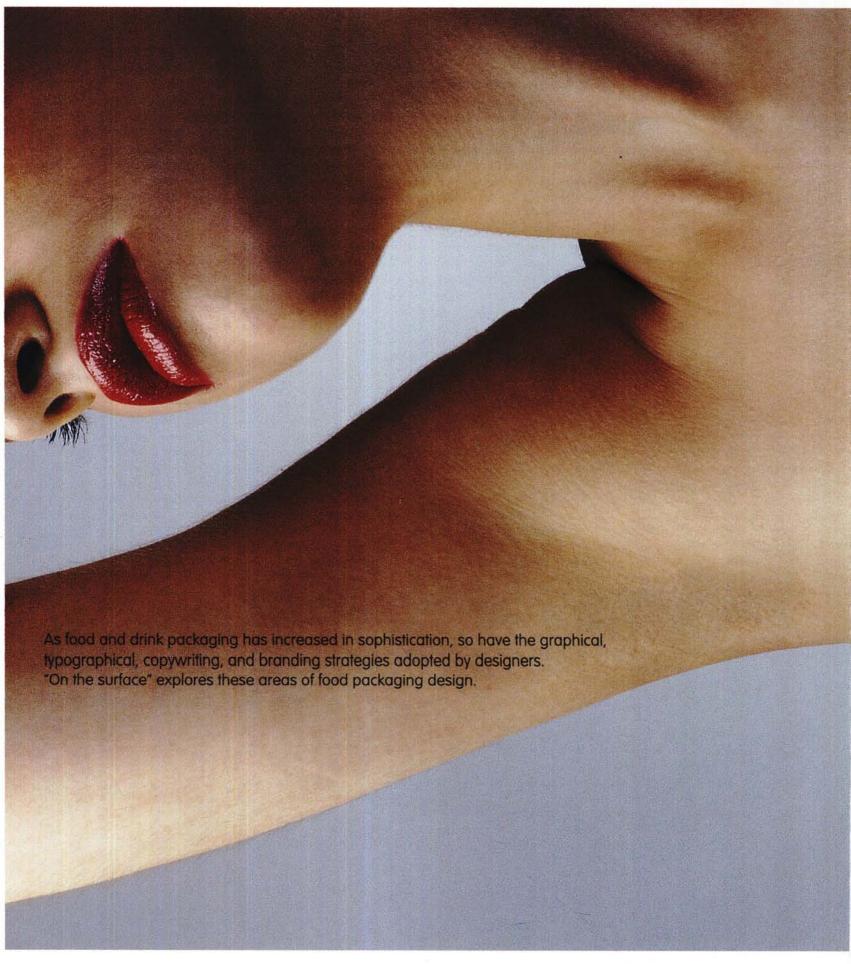
Perhaps you could make an analogy with another business dominated by dross: the music industry. The designer behind an outstanding food packaging design that also does tremendously well commercially must feel a bit like the musician behind a great album that unexpectedly goes multi-platinum.

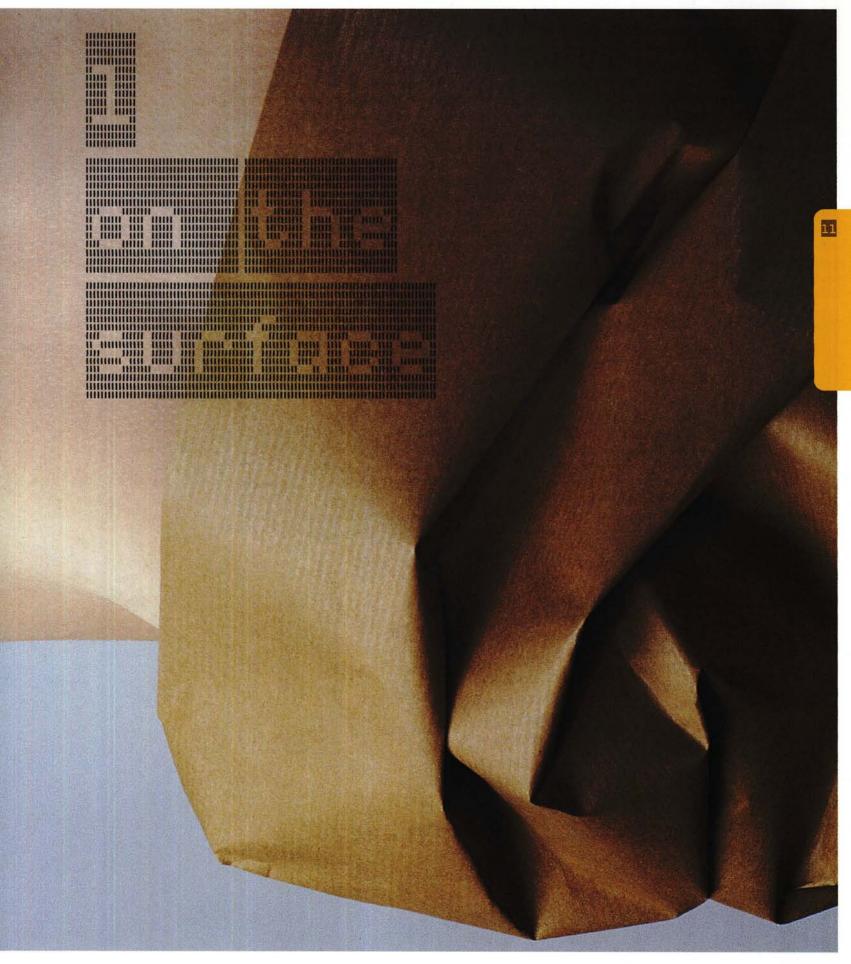
Now feast your eyes...

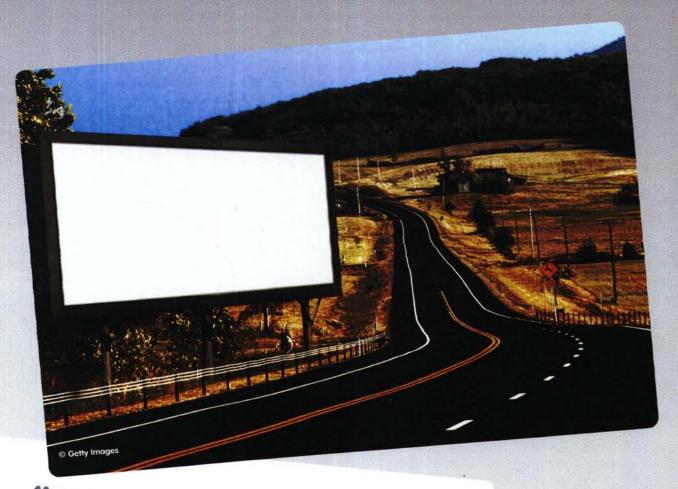
Ben Hargreaves



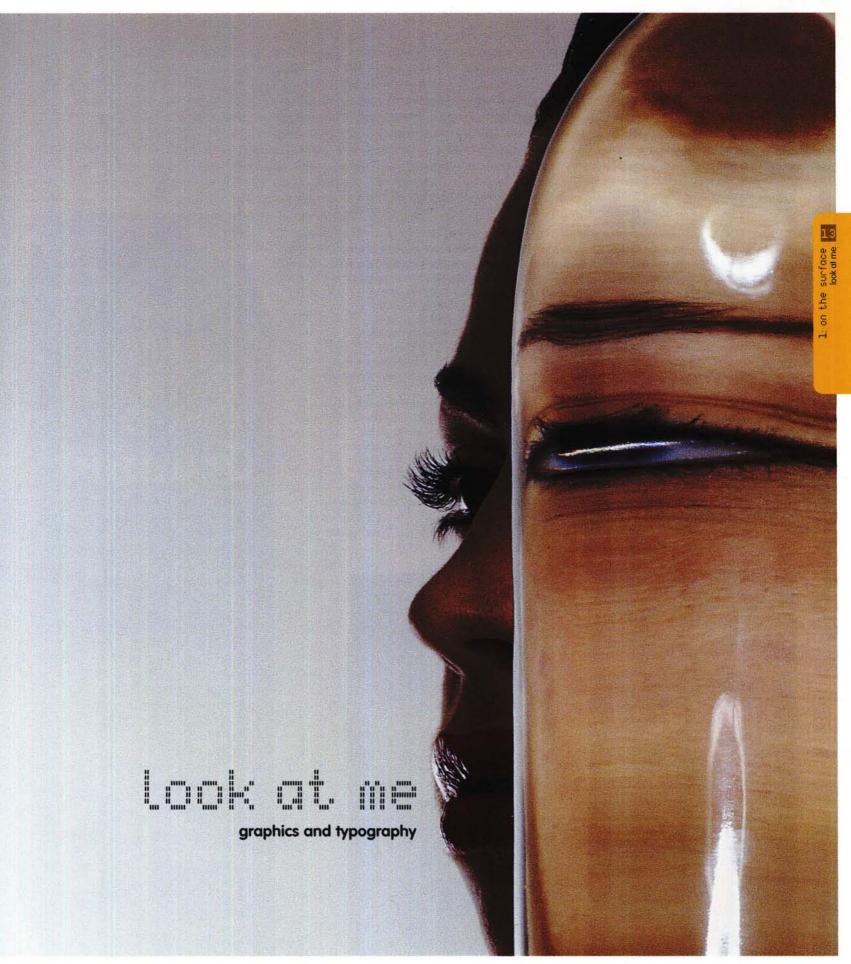








I have what's called the 'billboard by the freeway' theory that I give to my clients. Whatever you do with your packaging—it has to be pretty, there's no doubt about that—it must also be absolutely clear: the customer going down the aisle in the grocery store is the same as the person driving down the freeway and passing a billboard. They're going to look at the billboard for maybe three seconds; if there's any confusion, any lack of clarity, they're gone. The key issue with food packaging is to communicate the value and benefit of the product instantaneously. The other big challenge is making it look fun, interesting, and giving it a sense of style.



photographic realism

Photography is obviously a key element in desirable packaging, but the style of photography for food and drink packaging has altered dramatically in recent years, becoming (somewhat paradoxically) both more and less honest. In the past, companies would go to great lengths to create a perfectly staged portrayal of a food product on the packaging. Modelmakers were drafted in to create immaculate facsimiles of food that bore little resemblance to the actual product (no surprise, then, that this approach didn't go down too well with consumers).

So, in a certain sense, photography has become more realistic. There is no longer any need, says Tamara Williams, creative director at Parker Williams, to "vacuum up all the crumbs" when shooting biscuits, and designers are happy to let the ice cream melt a bit while the photos are being taken. But that doesn't mean that the new photographic mode is any more honest than before—it's just got smarter as consumers have become more sophisticated.

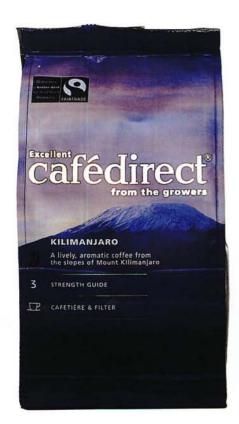
Rather than manipulating the food (or models of the food), photography is now being used in a clever fashion to highlight the product's qualities and create the necessary foodie ambience. Williams suggests: "Photography is being used as illustration: we're seeing a lot of tricks and effects being employed to make the food look really special: there's an awful lot of atmosphere in food shots. It's not manipulating the food itself, it's changing the focus and the depth of field. You can put the foreground and background in soft and the mid-ground in focus—it really draws your eye to the part of the food you're meant to be

looking at. Texture' is the big word here: you really focus in on the product, whereas before you might have had a million things in the background. Photography has got cleverer."

Jacqui Sinnat, creative director at Butcher and Gunderson, describes this more recent approach as "editorial" in style: photography with a strong lifestyle element. "It's the kind of thing you'd find in a magazine—more relaxed than some of the traditional formalized, staged photographs."

Sinnat adds: "People are much more into a naturalized presentation of food, in a natural environment. As a style this has been around for five years and if you look at most modern food packaging it fits that description."

But designers need to be wary of thinking that a luscious, mouth-watering product shot is enough in itself. Michael Coleman, vice president, Source Design, Chicago, says: "There's a definite tendency to use visual trickery to attract attention, with all the gradations and vignettes you can pull off in Photoshop. It's fine if they are in service of an idea, but very often they are in exchange for, or in lieu of, an idea."







left to right

Café Direct

Beautiful, scenic shots of the coffee's place of origin clearly demarcate each roast, while strengthening the message that this brand comes direct from the growers, supporting Fair Trade. Designer unknown

Grove Fresh

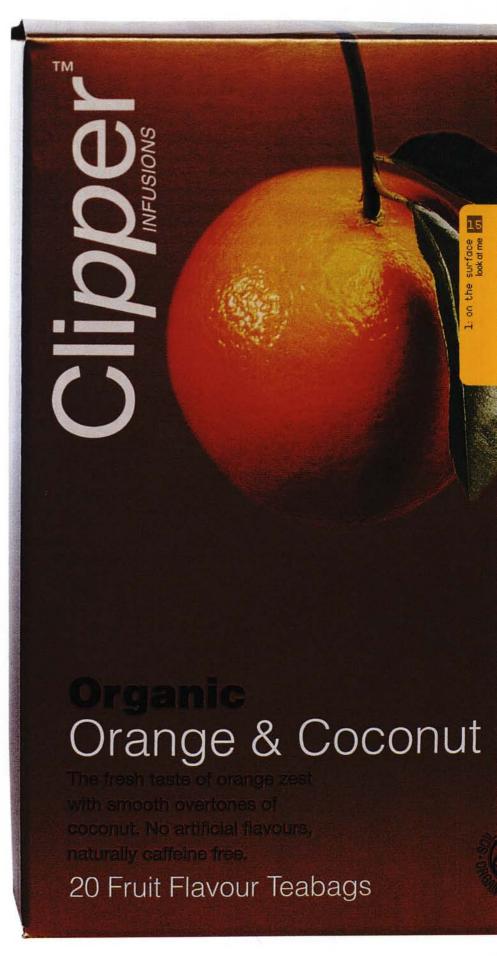
Mouthwatering shots of the organic fruit and vegetable ingredients simply convey the brand's emphasis on 100 percent organic juice. Design by Campbell Aylin Design

Clipper™

Stylish photography offers a clear visual key to the flavors of tea in the range. Designer unknown







left to right

Imported Schnapps Shots

These Schnapps-filled chocolates playfully mimic drinks packaging with elements such as the cylindrical foil tin, and language such as "best served chilled."

Designer unknown

Nestlé Rowntree

Each sub-brand of Nestlé
Rowntree employs a
specially designed typeface
which, combined with fun
colors, creates strong,
appealing, instantly
recognizable identities that
are rolled out over all
product packaging and
marketing. Designed by
Nestlé Rowntree



treating type

In the search for distinctiveness, brands often go down the route of creating their own logotypes and typefaces in the quest for ownability, even if the consumer doesn't notice the subtle changes that make a font a brand's own. For niche products, individualistic type treatments can also play an important part in creating distinctive packaging. Kit Hinrichs, of Pentagram in San Francisco, says: "There's more and more individual hand-lettered type, on smaller brands. It separates them from the slicker supermarket stuff and makes it a bit more personal."

There is also a frend toward more active type treatments, as Mark Greene of Pecos explains: "Type treatments are becoming more visually active; they're becoming skewed and distorted and there's an implied motion there. If you compare them with packaging from ten years ago, there's definitely a new vibrancy to the type treatments. Pick up any major product from a national brand and you're going to see evidence of this trend toward more active, playful type."







The Really Interesting Food Co.

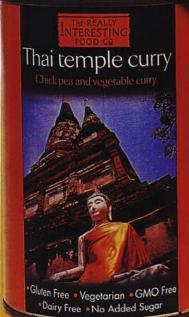
Green & Black's Organic

Shippam's Finest Designers unknown

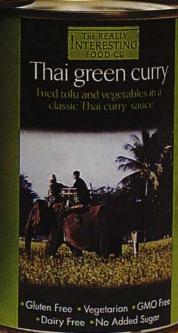
All these ranges use color coding to represent different flavors across their ranges.











ORGANIC ARKER SHADE OF LK CHOCOLATE

100g e

DARK CHOCOLATE WITH 70% COCOA SOLIDS 100g e

100g e





ORGANIC

ALMOND

MILK

ORGANIC



WHOLE ALMONDS

A SOFT CARAMEL CENTRE 100g €



MAYA GOLD

visual language and categories

In the supermarket where colors stand for market codes, it takes a brave brand to break from the norm, but if a certain type of product uses a certain color, there's a strong argument for using opposing colors to make a product leap out from the supermarket shelves. It's also important to achieve consistency in the use of color across a brand or retailer's ranges. The color coding is vitally important, and retailers have some way to go," says Mary Lewis of Lewis Moberly. There will be reasons why a retailer chooses a certain color that don't really relate to the way consumers see things. They need to put themselves in the shoes of the consumer. As a consultant for UK retailer Marks & Spencer, it's often my job to say: 'I don't understand this. Would your shoppers?"



DARK CHOCOLATE WI ORANGE AND SPICE 100g e



ORGANIC

simple standout

A positive trend—although it's by no means universal—is that marketers are beginning to recognize the value of clarity and simplicity of expression in food packaging graphics. Take breakfast cereals, for example, where historically there's always been a lot of visual disorder: some of the brands have responded by beginning to clarify and simplify their package presentation: basic ideas married to engaging graphics.

"You don't need five-color printing to achieve a great design: you can do really good things with two colors," says Domenic Lippa, co-founder of Lippa Pearce. But perhaps the motto here should be: keep it simple, but not stupid. Lippa adds: "The packaging for value ranges often treats the consumer like an idiot. It says: 'You can't afford anything better than this basic monochrome design that screams: "You are poor!" To me, that's quite offensive."

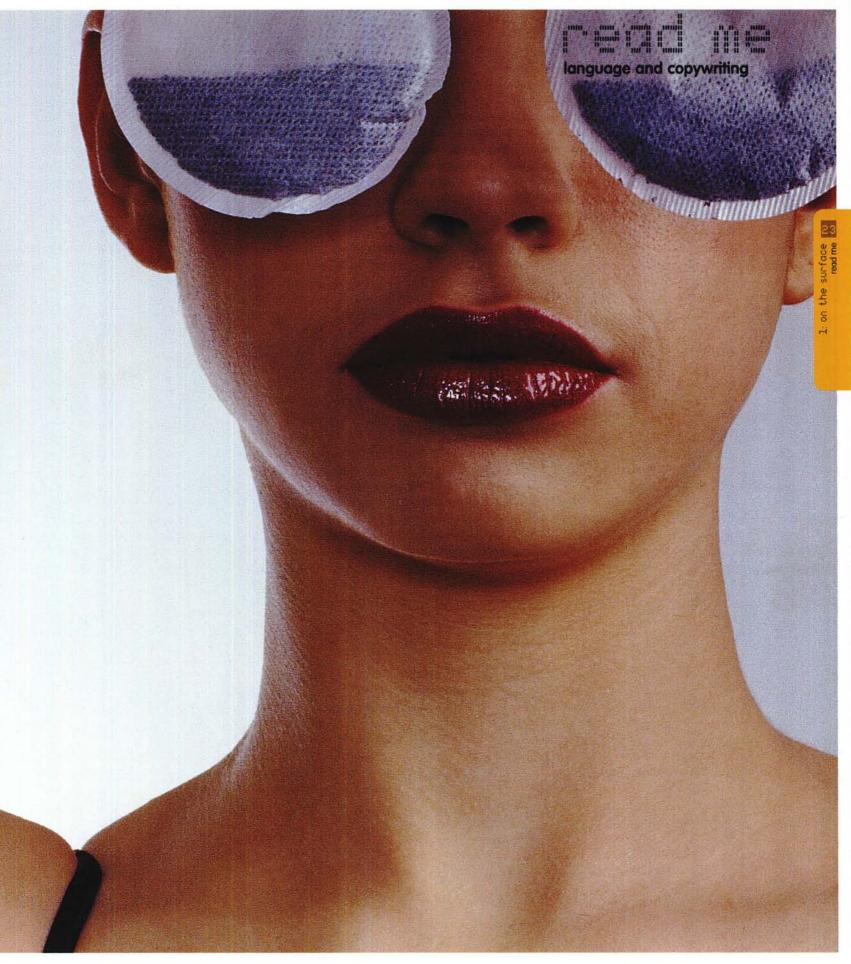


Heinz

Clear, simple branding, which has changed only incrementally over the years, makes this soup packaging highly memorable with a strong brand identity. Designer unknown



Perhaps the most noticeable trend in packaging is the humanization of the product. Graphics, type, colors, and copy all are seeking to engage the consumer in dialog rather than acting as brand billboards. Simplicity and honesty are refreshing and effective. Cute and fancy will always work in niche markets like preserves and novelty soap, but timeline type and non-boastful copy has become the norm and is more effective. Rick Braithwaite, Sandstrom Design



enamed this flavour in 1937 for the egendary American guitarist Jerry Garcia after one of our fans sent us the idea on a postcard. been one of our top hits ever since. We e cream from lush farmlands to make therry flavoured ice cream smooth and comptious. Then we lace the ice cream with plump eet cherries and dark chocolatey chunks. Enjoy

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NGPEDIENTS CREAM 31.5%, SKIMMED MILK, WATER, GHERRY PREPARATION 11.52 (CHERRIES 88%, SUGAR), SUGAR, CHUNKS 52 (SUGAR, COCONUT OIL, NATURAL FLAVOURS), EGG YOLKS, CHERRY SYRUP 1.5% ceat, emulsifier soya lecithin, CHERRY JUICE 88.5%, SUGAR), STABILISERS: GUAR GUM ID GARRAGEENAN, NATURAL PLAVOURS.

Conste Instructions: Keep frozen below -18" C. For Best Before late see hottom of container, imported by Ben & Jerry's Flomemade, Lid. O Charter Place, High Street, Egisam, Surrey TW20 9EA UK. www.benjerry.co.uk

therry Gardia is a registered trademark of the Estate of Jerry Garda and is used under license.

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Crème Glacée avec

INGREDIENTS: CRE A BASE DE CERIS PEPITES DE CHOCOLA CACAO 20,5%, MATTERE GRA DE SOJA, AROMES NATUREL (JUS DE CERISE 88,5%, SUCR CARRAGHENANES, AROME Conservation: Conserver à préférence avant la date inc Consommateur Ben & Jerry 92 842 Ruell-Malmaison Ced

Körsbärsglass och bitar



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Although obviously integral to advertising and other media, copywriting is something that has been broadly overlooked in packaging design—until relatively recently. Designers are cottoning on to the fact that language, when used in an innovative way, can add genuine value and depth to a brand.

Brands like Ben & Jerry's ice cream are notable for employing a distinctive tone of voice on their packaging. The whimsical babyboomer patter of Ben & Jerry's language—e.g.: "Just us two stoned hippies against the big bad world of business, lackadaisically slinging handfuls of pecan nuts into the tub"—is, perhaps, a little hackneyed, but there are some great examples of this device being used.

The packaging for Innocent fruit smoothies, for example, is witty and personalized, with copy designed to charm the consumer, presenting the brand not as the work of another anonymous corporation, but as something with real people behind it. Puns (TM on an Innocent bottle might also stand for "tasty mixtures"), references to popular culture ("Christina Aguilera rocked our world"), humorous additions to ingredients lists ("a few small pebbles," "1 small church"), and invitations

Ben & Jerry's

This convivial company uses familiar, whimsical language on its packaging to create a distinctive tone for the brand that communicates on a personal level with the consumer.

Designer unknown

BENEJERRYS

Chocolate Fudge Brownie

ICE CREAM

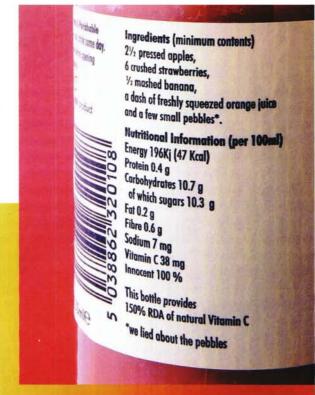
Chocolate Ice Cream with Chocolate Brownie Pieces BENEJERRY'S

Charry
Garcia.

ICE CREAM

Cherry Flavoured Ice Cream with
Cherries & Dark Chocolatey Chunks





We usually write funny things on this bit of the obel, but it's 2000. Our New Year's resolution is to give you, the consumer, straight information. He gags, no jokes, no clever word-play. Just some writing on the side of a bottle.

call us boring, but we'd like the contents to speak in themselves. All of pure fruit, which translates as your daily fruit intake, giving you 1/1 days' worth of vitamin C, with no concentrates or addrives of any kind. We'd like to apologies for any jokes you may find elsewhere on our lebels—we are working on this problem.

Why not say hello? Doop a line or pop around to Fruit Towers, 6 The Buspace, Conlan Street, London W10 5AP

Call the banana phone on 020 8969 7000 or Visit our online gym at www.belnnocoms.co.sk

TM = Throat Massage

We want you. No, honestly, we really do. Things are going better than we ever could have hoped for with innocent smoothies so we need some nice people to come and help us up at Fruit Towers.

If you're reading this then you've passed the first test as we want people who love fruit. We also need people to be able to help with either the selling or the marketing. What do you think? If it sounds like your cup of tea then email us at itsoundslikemycupoftea@freshtrading.co.uk.

Why not say hello?

Orop a line or pop around to Fruit Towers, 6 The Buspace, Conlan Street, London W10 5AP

Call the banana phone on **020 8969 7080** or visit our online gym at www.beinnocent.co.uk

© = Career-opportunity

to consumers to "pop round and say hello," or call the "banana phone," are all heady parts of a linguistic brew that is succeeding in its mission to engage the consumer with the brand. Thankfully, Innocent has recognized that the copy is unlikely to have the same impact the second or third time around—therefore it changes constantly.

Dan Germain, Innocent's brand guardian (a job title that is surely also a sign of the company's fresh approach), says: "With our packaging, the whole name suggests purity anyway, and a bit of honesty about our product. We're not trying to slip any nasty ingredients in there, just what it says on the panel: fruit, fruit, and more fruit. When you talk to people about packaging they all say, "You've got to have something that stands out on the shelves." A lot of the packaging out there is just bright, garish stuff. We felt the way to stand out was to do something simple and uncluttered."

Innocent's innovative use of language extends to the creation of a small book on healthy eating and smoothie recipes, although Germain is aware that the copy is by no means the most important factor. "We haven't written a book on Innocent's philosophy or history as such, although publishers have approached us. We give plenty of good advice on the bottles and in the books, but we don't want to seem as if we're showing off or being arrogant. The important thing is really that we carry on making great drinks: the funny labels and books—that's fine, but we don't want it to take over."



Taylor's of Harrogate

Coffee flavors across the range have quirky names such as "Hot Lava Java," "Lazy Sunday," and "Feel Good," playfully categorizing the roast of the beans or the "mood" of the coffee.

Designer unknown

Brianna's Home Style

Simple, friendly language is used to convey the taste of the products and their ingredients. The Poppy Seed Dressing, for example, is illustrated by a peach, with the label "Delicious On Fresh Peaches. Does Not Contain Peaches."

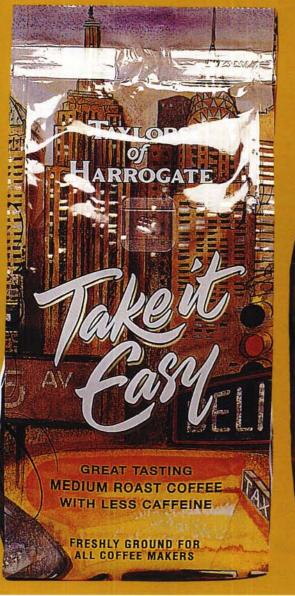












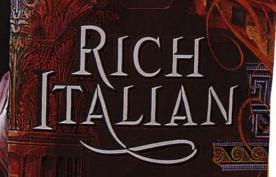


Theresa Whitehill, founder of San Francisco agency Colored Horse, says that her writing skills are an invaluable part of the package she offers clients. "I'm also a poet—having skills in writing really comes in handy for the business. A lot of graphic designers don't really have composition skills, and when people find out I can write copy too, they get really excited. Coming up with a compelling, catchy tagline for a company helps so much in positioning it. Along with my design work, I often play with different copylines for different packaging: I find it's like giving clients their mission statement—or vision statement."

Whitehill sees the use of copy as part of a trend toward greater humanization of the packaging for food and drink products, a point on which Rick Braithwaite of Sandstrom Design concurs: "Perhaps the most noticeable trend in packaging is the humanization of the product. Graphics, type, colors, and copy all are seeking to engage the consumer in dialog rather than acting as brand billboards. Simplicity and honesty are refreshing and effective. Cute and fancy will always work in niche markets like preserves and novelty soap, but timeline type and non-boastful copy has become the norm and is more effective. We've always tried to use copy to engage consumers in the purchase decision Isee Sandstrom's work on Miller Lite, page 148, and Hollywood Video, page 391, and think it will continue to be a powerful marketing tool."

Copy can also be used to give products that allimportant sense of provenance (a key recent trend in food packaging, see page 41), or an idea of the food or drink in question's origin. Tamara Williams, creative director at Parker Williams, suggests: "I'm obsessive about the words on packs: the trend in

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LUXURIOUSLY FULL-BODIED DARK ROAST COFFEE

> FRESHLY GROUND FOR ALL COFFEE MAKERS

AN AUTHENTIC JAMAICAN BLEND OF HERBS AND SPICES
TO CREATE A 'HOT' MARINADE. THE TRADITION OF
'JERKING' MEAT IS UNIQUE TO JAMAICA. ORIGINALLY
APPLIED TO WILD BOAR IN THE 17TH CENTURY, IT IS
NOW AN INTEGRAL PART OF JAMAICAN LIFE. STREETSIDE
VENDORS COOK JERKED PORK AND CHICKEN OVER HOT
CHARCOAL AND BRANCHES OF PIMENTO. THE AROMA
IS IRRESISTIBLE AND THE TASTE DELICIOUS.

TO JERK MEAT, CHICKEN OR FISH: USE 1 TO 2 TEASPOONS OF JERK SEASONING PER 1LB OF MEAT OR FISH.
RUB THE SEASONING WELL IN WITH OIL AND ALLOW TO
STAND AND MARINADE FOR AT LEAST ONE HOUR.
GRILL OR BARBECUE UNTIL GOLDEN BROWN.

JERK PORK IS UNIQUE TO JAMAICA. IN THE SEVENTEENTH CENTURY FUGITIVE 'MAROONS' DEPENDED ON THIS ORIGINAL PRACTICE OF COOKING.



TRADITIONALLY, **JERKED** MEAT COATED WITH SEASONINGS AND COOKED ON A LATTICE OF SMOKING BRANCHES **PIMENTO** OVER HOT THE CHARCOAL. MOUTH-WATERING AROMA FROM STREETSIDE BARBECUES ENTICES HUNGRY MANY TRAVELLER.

SEE BASE

Busha Browne's

The copy on the packaging for these Jamaican condiments for Jerk dishes summarizes the history of the dishes, building a "brand story" that strengthens the consumer's perception of its authenticity. Designer unknown



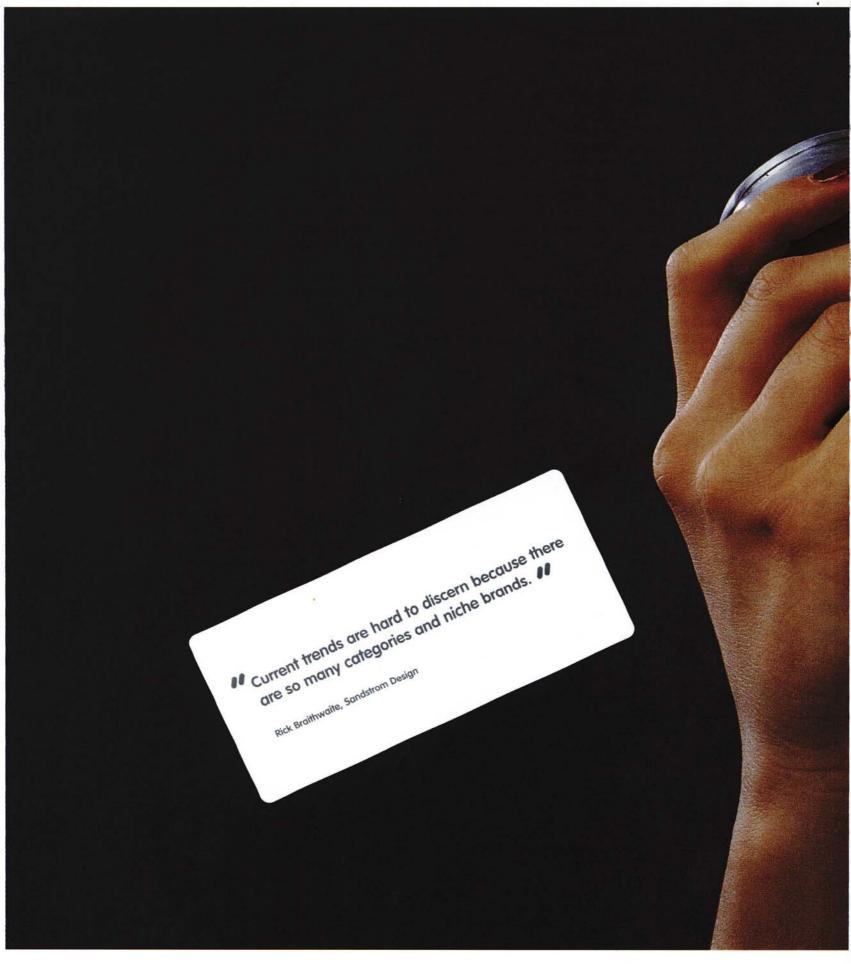
packaging language is now really to explain the taste of things: where the tomatoes were grown, for example. Things are being broken down to a much more conversational level now, and that's because consumers are wiser about these things. They can't be conned anymore."

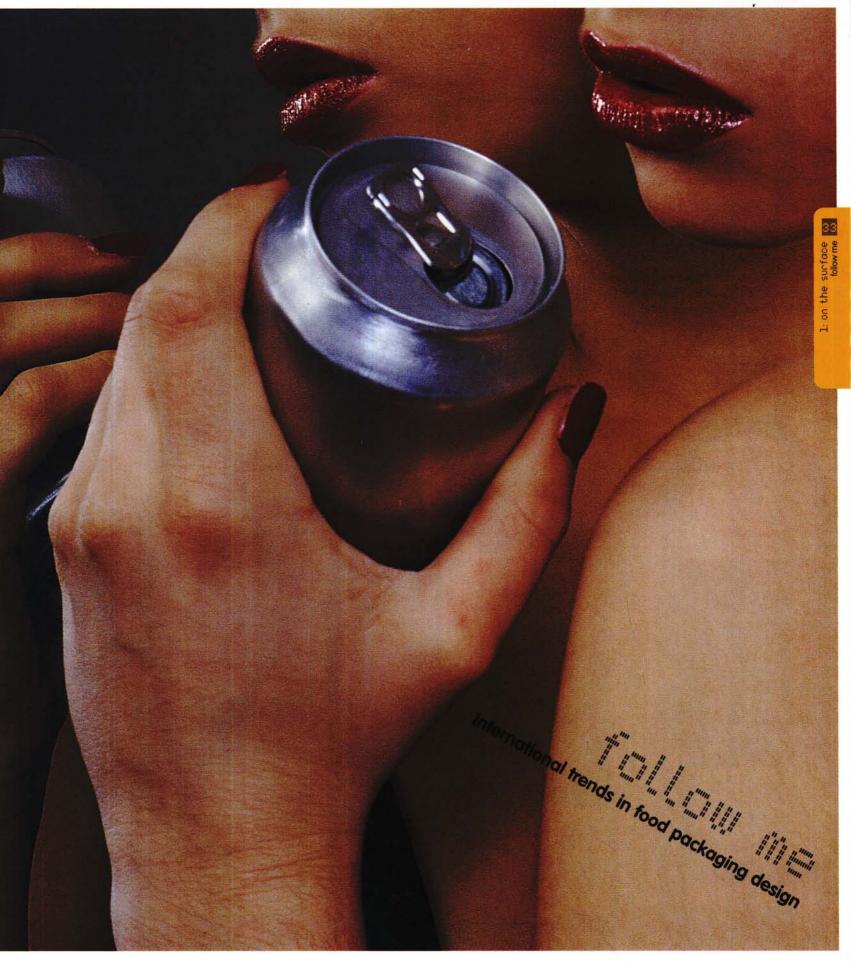
But whether smart, sassy, warm, or provocative, copy also has a very important functional role to play in relaying information to the consumer. In our health-conscious times, consumers need to be able to weigh up the nutritional information of packaging quickly, and that information needs to be presented concisely and clearly.

Williams adds: "Communication is so important. The labeling on products is a lot cleaner and clearer than it used to be, and that's entirely necessary. There's a demand from consumers to have that information on the front of the pack to enable them to make decisions quicker."

Martin Grimer, at Coley Porter Bell, adds: "We now prefer to look on packaging as another form of media: you read it. That's why the way language is employed on packaging is becoming so important."







It is not always easy to go trend-spotting—particularly in the area of packaging design, as it encompasses so much variety and contains such a broad range of product. On both sides of the Atlantic, however, food packaging designers have seen their craft develop and mutate in response to commercial changes. As consumers have

become more sophisticated, so have the designs adorning the packaging of the giant brands, premium lines, and own-label products. Even if commercial considerations reign supreme at the "coal face" of food packaging design (making innovation scarce, and good design rarer still), achieving that all-important shelf standout

has seen the more progressive brands and retailers and the designers they rely on—adopt some common strategies for advancement. Here are six of the most visible trends in international food and drink packaging:



THEFT WICHOLS

OLIVE OIL

750ml e 25.3floz





These designs embody the increasing sophistication—and confidence—of own-label packaging





the irresistible rise of own-label packaging

A decade ago, own-label packaging was inestimably poorer in quality than its contemporary counterpart. Often involving little more than a "me too" rip-off of more established products, it lacked confidence, class, and credibility. Retailers were content to produce copycat versions of the big brands' designs—until the legal challenge of the brands under threat curtailed this practice.

Things have changed to such an extent that it's hard nowadays to say whether it's the big brands or the retailers that lead the way in packaging design. Facing up to some serious competition from ownlabel ranges, the brands in turn have had to innovate to make an impact.

"In the US, private-label packaging used to be just throwaway; the retailers would just get some kind of half-assed design template and bang out product labels," says Mark Greene, founder of New York's Pecos Design. "In the past ten years, private-label has come to directly challenge national brands in terms of the sophistication of the packaging design and the degree of quality of the products."









all the world is staged

Theater and ritual have become increasingly important for food and drinks brands attempting to distinguish themselves in a crowded marketplace. For global beer brand Guinness, the concept of "waiting for the perfect pint" has become as intrinsic to the meaning of the product as the qualities of the drink itself. It has become a brand with an ingeniousand, in today's high-speed, fast-food, on-the-move world, pleasingly contrary—selling point: the ritual of waiting. Fundamentally unnecessary, this element of theater in the way the drink is presented sets Guinness apart from other beverages. Many food and drinks companies are now exploring the potential of using such devices and rituals to add personality and distinction to their products. The experiential side of a product's delivery can be used to good effect to strengthen a brand with consumers, introducing an element of interactivity that reaches beyond cash transaction followed by consumption.







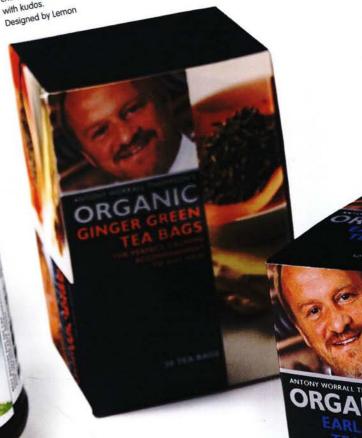
the fame game

Andy Warhol commented that in the future everybody would be famous for 15 minutes. Actually, in the future, marketers have realized—and consumers have been persuaded—that buying into someone else's 15 minutes is the perfect strategy for shifting a lot of product. Consequently we have the foodie equivalent of the gargantuan sports marketing mechanism that is Tiger Woods and Nike, or David Beckham and Adidas: the line of products endorsed by TV celebrity chefs and actors (such as Paul Newmanl. Similarly, many prestigious restaurants now market their own lines of products for the home.

Antony Worrall Thompson's

A range of items bearing the image of the celebrity chef imbues the product with kudos.





5 playful pillage

In this trend, brands—in food and drink particularly—cheerfully borrow from other types of product or experience, appropriating structures, graphics, and linguistic devices from different areas. For example: US video rental chain Hollywood Video wanted to create a line of private-label snack items to be sold in its 2,000 stores. With the archetypal film industry association already in its name, Hollywood Video wanted to reinforce its close connection to the movie business. Designers at Sandstrom in Portland, Oregon, recommended adopting movie poster-like graphics and product names closely aligned with well-known movies.

The result? Hollywood Video's Bucket and the Butter popcorn packaging includes the slogan "All the movie fun without the sticky floors." A full line of nut products was also developed for the client as part of its snacks range. Each product features a poster-style graphic that is similar to a well-known movie, and includes "reviews" from experts. "You may not be able to handle the truth. But you're going to love these mixed nuts... Mixed Nut Review."

Hollywood Video

The brand plays on the synergy between their name and the way the product is consumed. Designed by Sandstrom

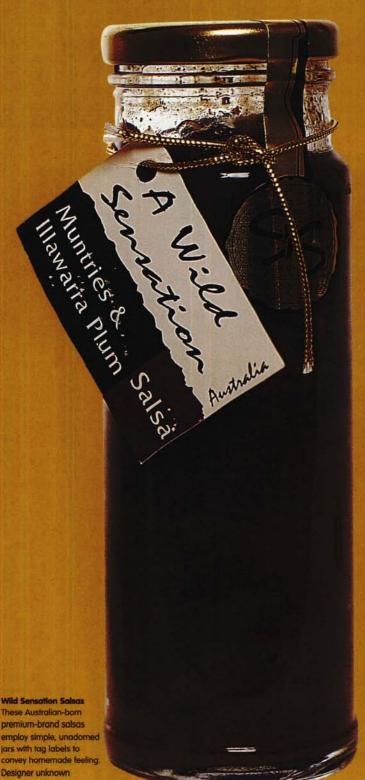








a structural
element from the
cinema—a popcorn
bucket-style container.
Designed by Coley
Porter Bell



Cobra

The icons that appear on the Cobra bottles tell the story of the beer's heritage and brand story:

The elephant icon represents "youth acquiring enlightenment from seniority". The elephants also symbolize the two different bottle sizes— "330ml and 660ml—in which Cobra is available.

The icon of the snake charmer portrays the "magic" behind Cobra.

The scales, initially, were weighed against Cobra. The beer was exported from India to the UK in the middle of a recession, in a market that was dominated by long-established brands.

The "B" on the building stands for Bangalore, the city in which Cobra was first brewed. However, it also stands for the (rather less exotic) location of Bedford in the UK, where the brand is now produced.

Designer unknown

6 provenance = premium

People nowadays are interested in where their food comes from. This is partly due to the impact of serious food scares such as the BSE crisis and outbreaks of hoof and mouth disease in British livestock herds. It's also a trend driven by the greater levels of international travel that modern consumers engage in, and their growing first-hand knowledge of other cultures and cuisines.

If justifying a premium, it's particularly crucial to give buyers some sense of a product's origin and authenticity. It's not just knowing the name of the farm where those free-range eggs come from, for instance—more knowing the name of the farmer, the kind of boots he wears, and the name of the individual chicken that laid them. "Provenance is especially critical on premium lines—you've got to have a good reason to buy," says Tamara Williams, creative director at Parker Williams, London.

A sense of origin can obviously be achieved through copywriting, but pictures, as they say, speak a thousand words. Cobra Beer, an Indian brand of premium lager that has reached an international audience (the beer is now exported to over 30 countries ground the world), demonstrates the power of provenance in the most recent design of its packaging. Intended to communicate the brand's "style and quality" as well as its Indian heritage, the story of Cobra's development is told through a series of six icons embossed in relief on the bottle. "The product integrates its story visually, directly into packaging," explains Cobra chief executive Karan Bilimoria. "Having always offered consumers a genuine difference in taste and quality, the brand now bears an exclusive look.*





Packaging is the manifestation of the brand in the hand.

Martin Grimer, Coley Porter Bell, London





Packaging is a unique form of media. It is something that consumers carry around with them, study intently, bring into their homes, and store on a regular basis. It is still there long after the TV channel has been changed or the radio station switched. Packaging is where the consumer finally comes into tangible contact with a food and drink brand, and the relationship between a product's brand values and the packaging is thus of tremendous importance. For some products—and particularly for products from smaller companies with smaller marketing

budgets—the package can be the advertisement, the marketing campaign, and the packaging rolled into one. For larger brands, the packaging supports media and promotional campaigns in a crucial way.

"Packaging is one of the only forms of branding that interacts directly with the consumer in their home," says Ambur Rector, a designer at FutureBrand in New York. "Ideal packaging appeals not only to vision but to all of the senses. A well-designed package appeals to touch—through convenience and ergonomics—promises

and delivers good taste and aroma, and often has a sound attached to it that indicates quality or freshness, such as the pop a Snapple cap makes when you first twist it off. Package quality is often seen as a sign of product quality and can go a long way to enhancing the image of a brand. Successful brands can often find themselves in the home for years, and sometimes generations. This can create significant relationships with the consumer who, in turn, will continue to exhibit strong brand loyalty."

PURE Packaging is people's perception of the brand; it's that core. It is your single most expensive form of advertising; and if you're a small company it's your only advertising. When people think of your product—whatever kind of food it 29p may be—they picture the package it comes in *** Mark Greene, Pecas Design, New York

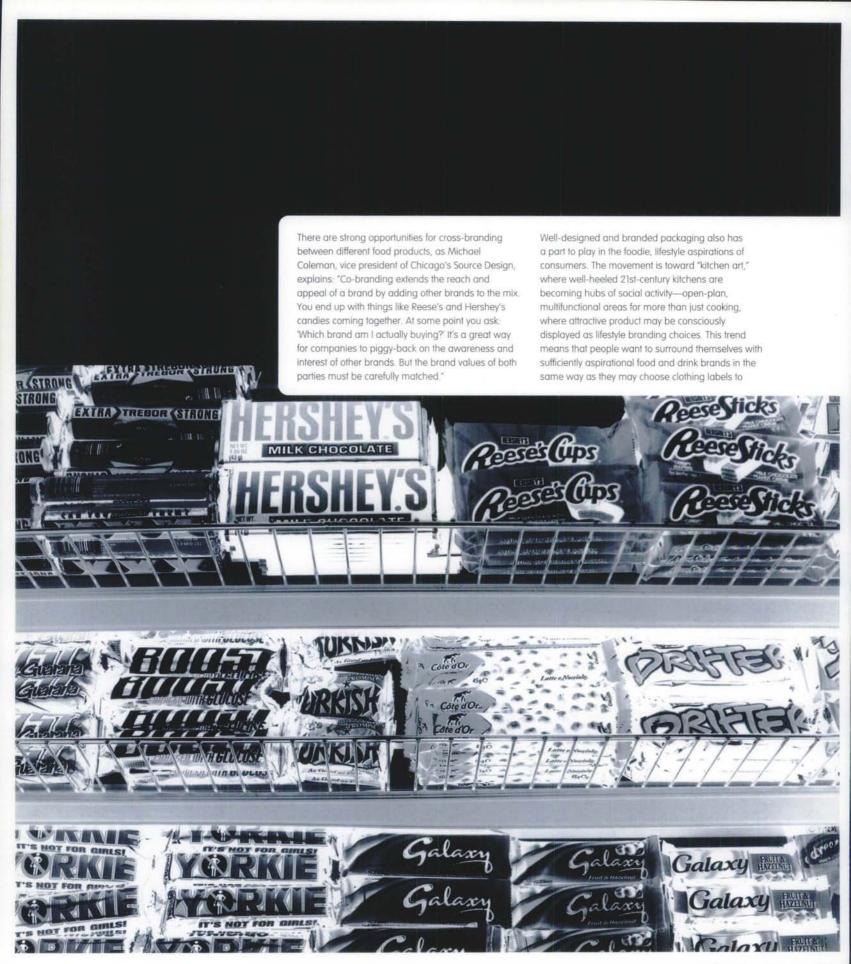




One of the often-cited business objectives for companies' brands—extension into other markets—can be achieved by taking the branded packaging for one set of food products and moving it into new areas. Parker Williams' work on the Blue Parrot Café children's range (see page 1131) for UK supermarket giant Sainsbury's is typical of this, having been taken further into general in-store collateral and new products including shampoos and, more logically, a lunch box.

>>>>>







reflect their social status. As Nita Rollins, vice president of marketing intelligence at Fitch: Worldwide in Ohio, puts it: "Under some spell cast by Nigella Lawson, Martha Stewart, and Emeril Lagasse, the upper-middle classes are busy staging great gustatory theater. They've turned their kitchens into—bar none—the sexiest rooms in their ever-expanding abodes. It's not that the formal dining room has been scratched, more that the kitchen becomes the focus of the most ritualistic social behavior."

If the kitchen itself is becoming sexier, both as a functional place and a social space, and features expensive appliances and implements from leading manufacturers, then there is a concomitant need for food products that live up to those high standards. Here, food packaging designers have their part to play in creating packaging that matches up to the lofty, aspirational ideals of the 21st-century kitchen.

Belazu

Where kitchens are increasingly social hubs, theaters of gastronomy, attractive labels are put on show as lifestyle labels. Designed by Turner Duckworth

>>>>>>



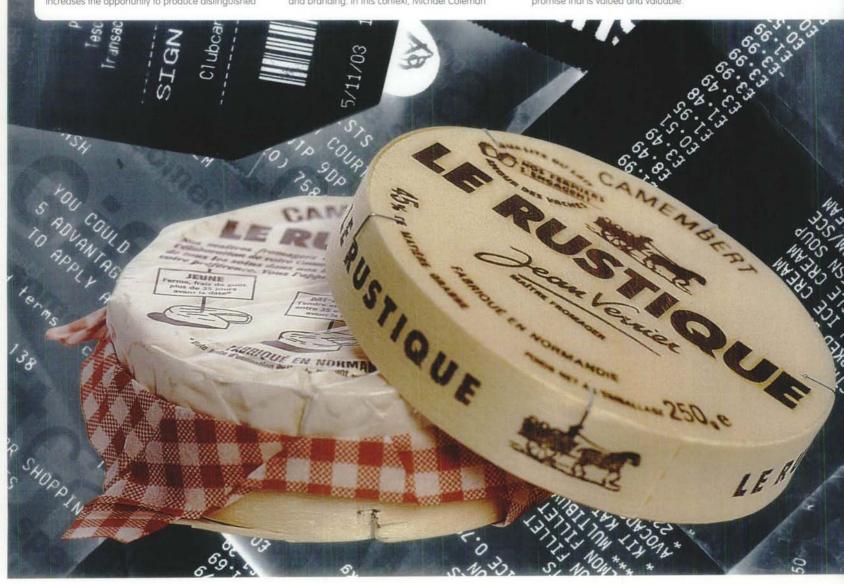


It seems that for designers, then, the opportunities for the best branding work often lie in the sort of premium products that fit the new lifestyle aesthetics of the post-millennial kitchen and home, because branding here is simply required to be visually outstanding. It's also probably fair to say that agencies that don't deal solely in packaging are perhaps best placed to create distinctive branding. Domenic Lippa of London's Lippa Pearce argues that the fact that his firm is not a packaging specialist increases the opportunity to produce distinguished

packaging designs and branding for food products. "As a company, we come at a brief from a broader range of social or cultural disciplines. Because we're not reliant on doing loads of packaging, the clients that come to us tend to have very good product."

This, it seems, is the key: good design and distinctive branding follow naturally from a good product. And whether new, old, relaunched, rebranded, or redesigned, if the product isn't up to scratch, it doesn't matter what you do with the design and branding. In this context, Michael Coleman

mentions advertising legend William Bernbach's maxim that "the fastest way to kill a bad product is with good advertising," explaining: "The idea is the same and the contention holds true for packaging. Great packaging can arrest, inform, and engage, but ultimately it is the brand that relates and persuades. And a brand is much more than the package, the product, or the logo. A great package for a mediocre product can drive initial trial, but loyalty only follows if the product delivers on a clearly defined brand promise that is valued and valuable."

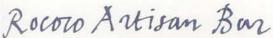




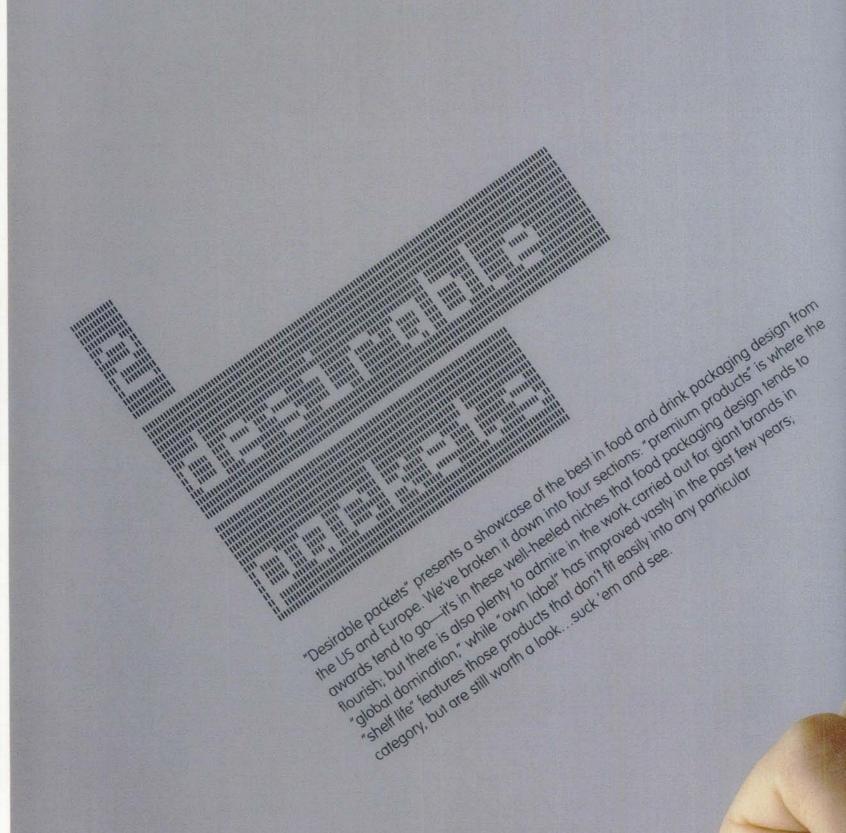
Domenic Lippa concludes: "No matter how good a packaging designer you are, if you haven't got a good product, you're basically just covering over the cracks. That's the most important thing."

left to right

Le Rustique Rococo Artisan Bar Consumers pay premium prices for luxury goods packaged to cater to aspirations as much as to functional requirements. Designers unknown



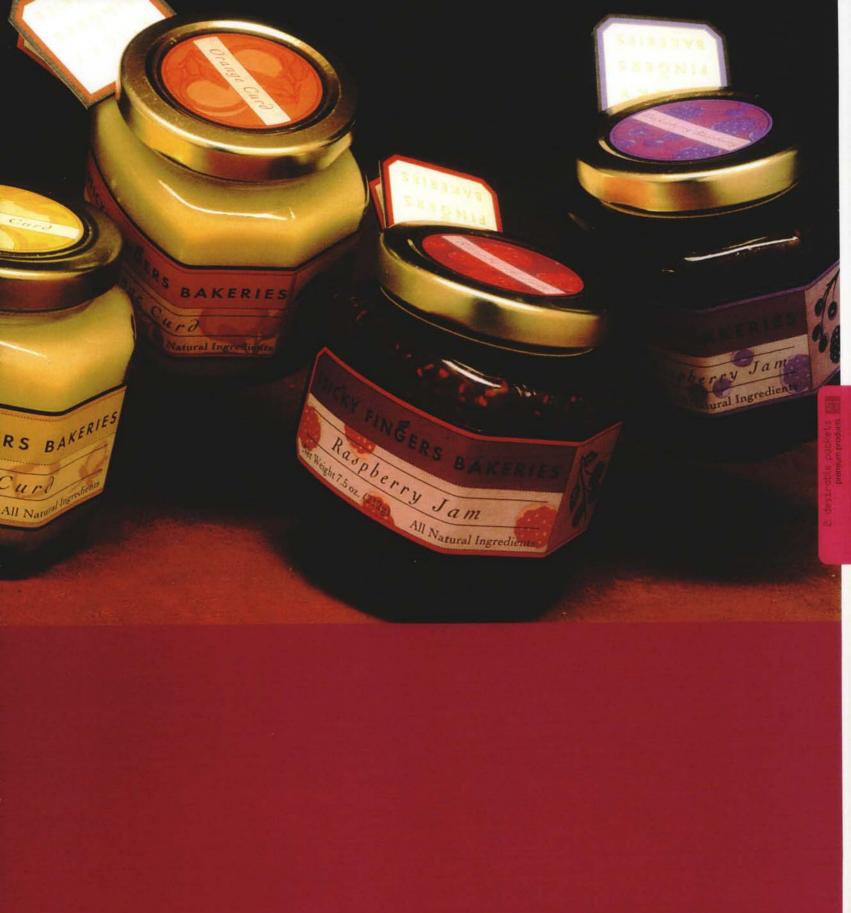


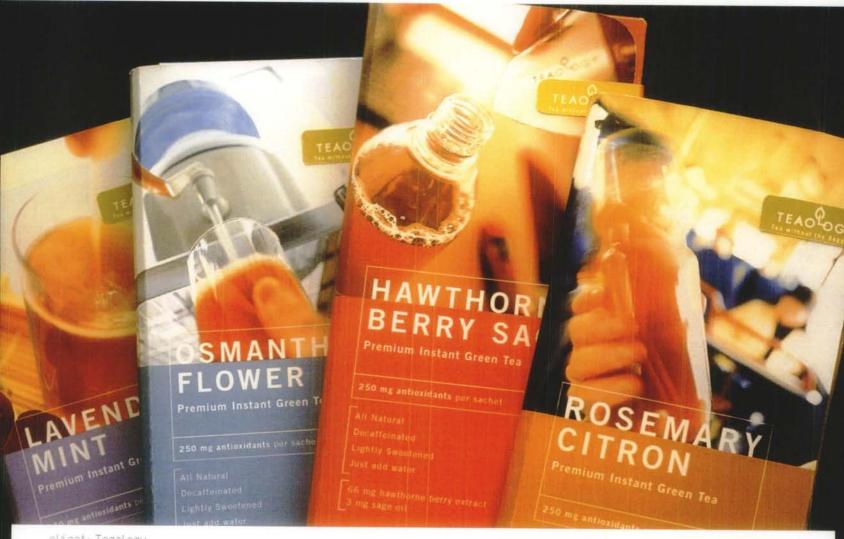










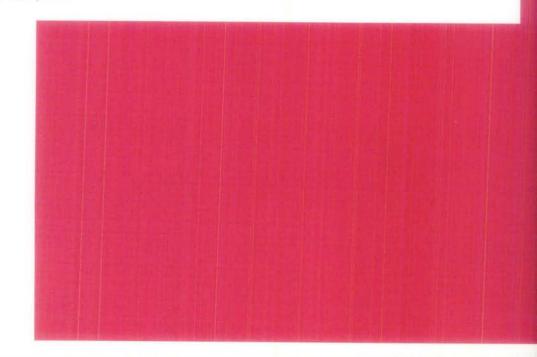


client: Teaclogy project: Teaclogy

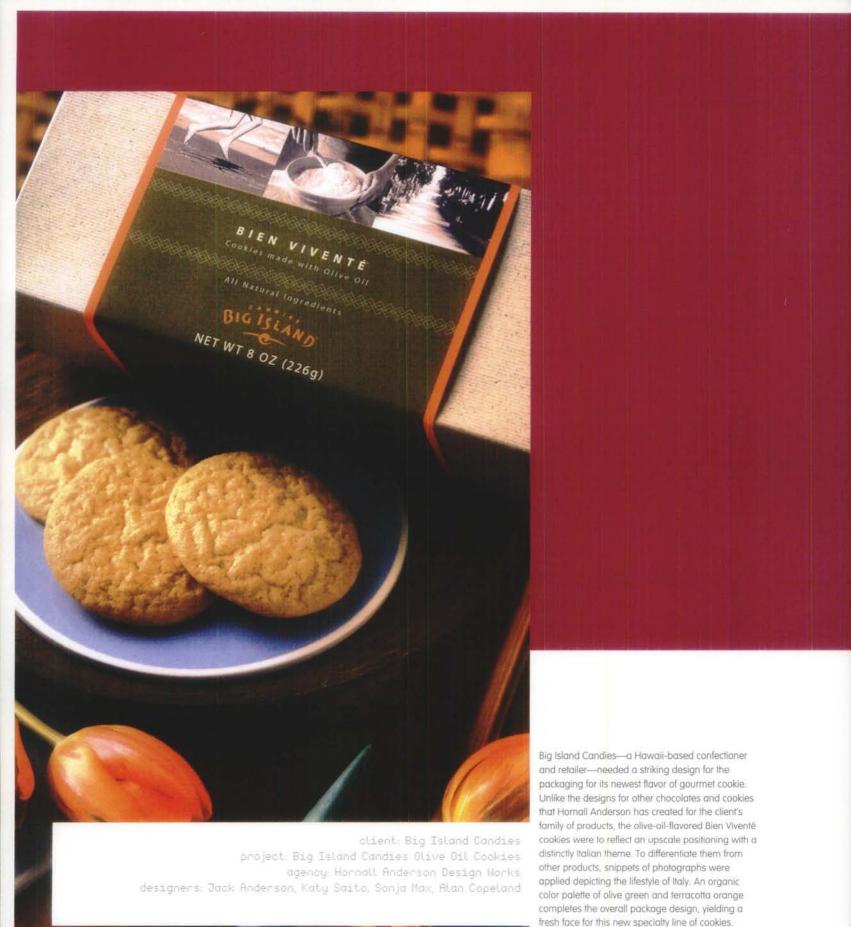
agency: Hornall Anderson Design Works

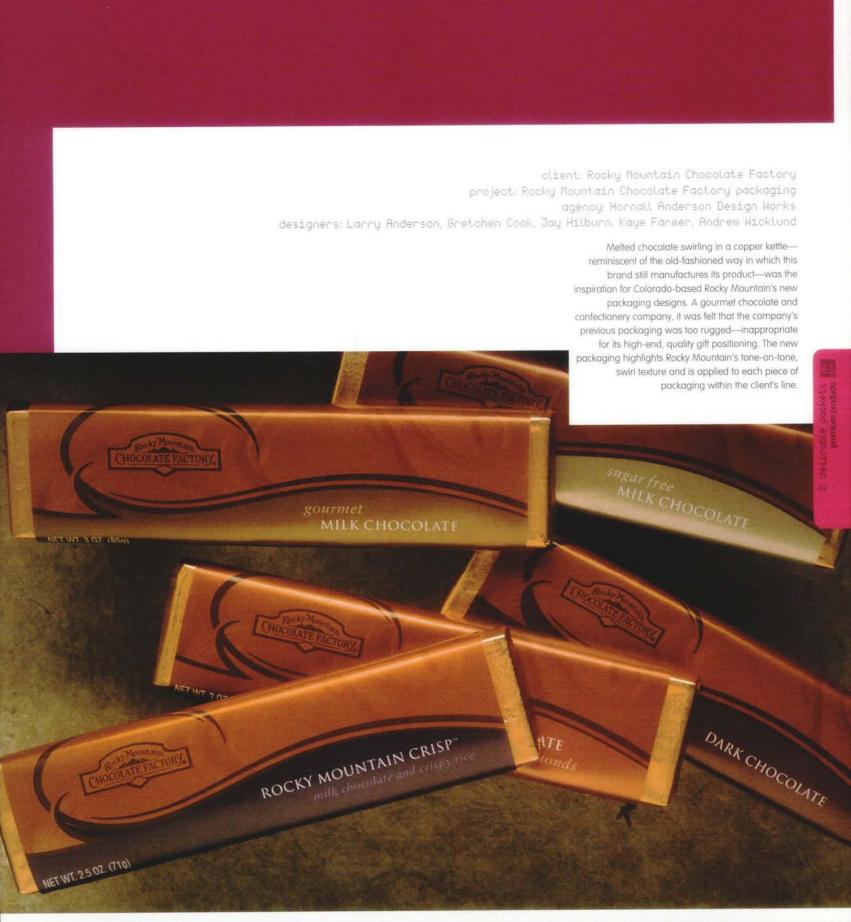
designers: Jana Nishi, Mary Chin Hutchinson, Sonja Max

When Teaology—a US producer of healthy, antioxidant-rich, premium instant tea—coined the strapline "Tea without the baggage," it needed distinctive packaging to match the product's promise in an overcrowded market. Hornall Anderson incorporated photographic still-life images. "As opposed to the whimsical illustrations seen on other brands," Christina Arbini comments, "it helps set the mood and create an ambience around the tea flavors." The photography is also intended to demonstrate the ease of use of the product.









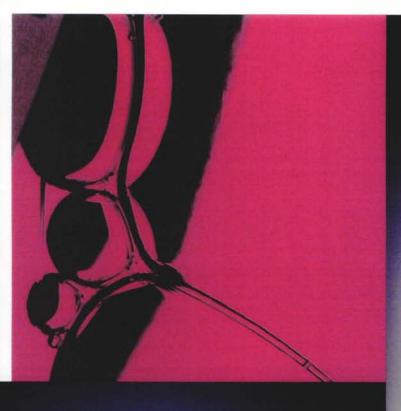


client: Sara Lee Coffee and Tea project: Chock full o'Nuts New York Classics agency: Lipson Alport Glass & Associates designers: Rob Swan, Walter Perlowski

Lipson Alport Glass & Associates was charged with creating packaging for a premium-tier, bagged ground and whole-bean coffee line that would make the most of Chock full o'Nuts' New York positioning. Metallic bags were used to create a very rich illustration that is "idealized New York," says creative director Rob Swan. The gold-on-gold effect is a premium cue, while the use of Big Apple imagery complements the name. The flavor names were also enhanced to give them "a distinctly New York spin." Core equities from the previous packaging were used to avoid alienating existing users, while also extending the franchise.

When Seagram Americas purchased a small distillery in Kentucky, they acquired more than five generations of Bulleit family history, Bulleit Bourbon is marketed as a "Frontier whiskey" with an ad slogan that reads, "When men were men and whiskey was bourbon:" Targeting a wide swathe of the sophisticated whiskey market, but not wanting to become a "preciously perfect or Jim Beam knock-off brand," Bulleit Bourbon was created for Seagram as authentic, traditional bourbon. Sandstrom's design reflects the frontier positioning of the advertising, and features a unique shape and raised letters similar to 19th-century whiskeys. The packaging was modeled on a liquor bottle found in a Portland antique shop, and the label is intentionally applied misaligned to hint at the handcrafted quality of the product. The neck label contains a personal message from Torn Bulleit, the fifth-generation owner of Bulleit Distilling Company.

client: Seagram Americas project: Bulleit Bourbon agency: Sandstrom Design designers: Steve Sandstrom, Kathy Middleton









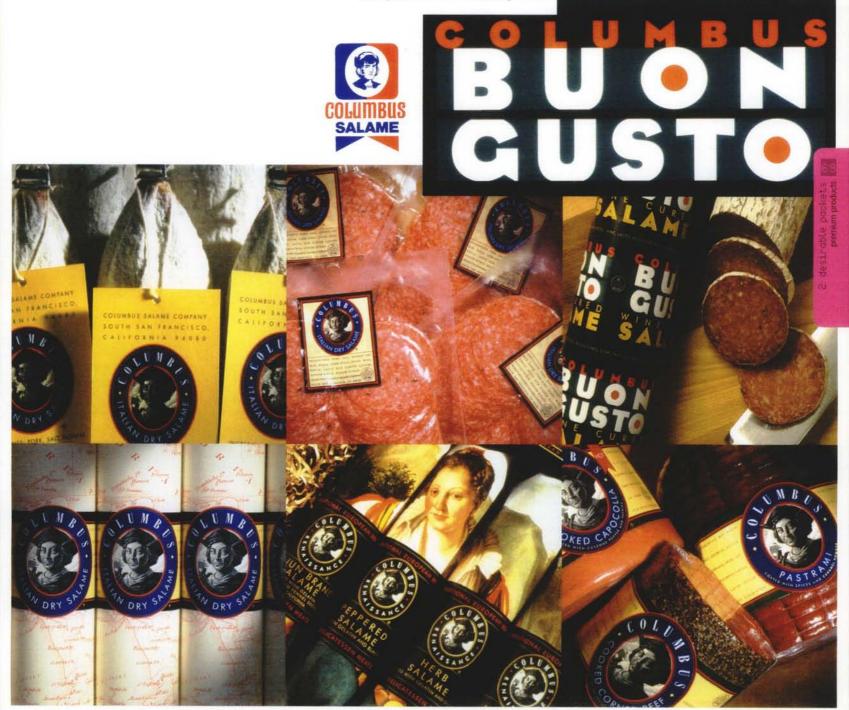






Pentagram was given the brief to design a new identity based on an existing logotype that would revitalize the Columbus brand identity and broaden its appeal. Designer Jackie Foshaug-Astle responded by giving the Columbus illustration more personality, using engraving to refer to Columbus' historical context. She also worked with a family of classical-traditional typefaces to create the logotype and its applications. "All in all, we were going for a quality look reflecting Italian American heritage—something based on the roots and spirit of the existing company," she says:

client: Columbus Salame Company project: Columbus Salame packaging agency: Pentagram, San Francisco designer: Jackie Foshaug-Astle



client: North Coast Brewing Company project. Red Seal Ale redesign agency: Colored Horse designer: Theresa Whitehill

North Coast Brewing Company, a micro-brewery in northern California, wanted to revamp its designs as It began to grow. Its award-winning Red Seal Ale was the first of a number of a projects that Theresa Whitehill has worked on for the company. Whitehill initially art-directed a redesign of the company's logo, coming up with the whale-tail design that the company has stuck with ever since. She also made better use of the pen-and-ink seal illustration from the original packaging, positioning it with an intense red stripe above and a deep, four-color black as the background. Whitehill recalls: "I drove five hours each way to the print checks to make sure they had captured the color. The seal is a great motif because the client is on the north coast of California, where there is a lot of wildlife and ocean life."





HAVE JUST ON

1100 000 000 01010 DOMESTO 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 1 0 1

THE BELLERS COOPERATIVE SALT LAKE CITY CITY

client: Wasatch Brewing Company project: Polygamy Porter Beers

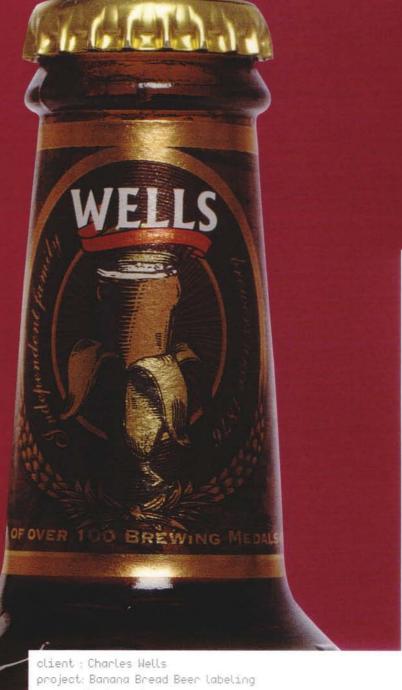
Bud, Coors, and Michelob may have a stranglehold on the beer market in the US, but micro-brewer Wasatch tends to challenge more than just the hegemony of these über-brands. Designing beer packaging for the formerly dry state of Utah was always going to be an interesting challenge for Ajax; Wasatch takes pride in a certain subversive slant for its packaging in this most conservative of US states, where obtaining and drinking beer still involves a fairly Kafkaesque process. Preaching to a small (but very much converted) audience, Ajax's irreverent, Mormon-baiting design includes the strapline "Why have just one?"





WELLS

BANANA BREAD BEER



agency: Santamaria

designers: Laura Santamaria, Damian Santamaria

"This was a very tricky project for a traditionalist market," says Laura Santamaria, design principal. The Santamarias came up with the combination pint and banana—or "Pintana"—concept that adorns the Banana Bread Beer bottle, commissioning it as an illustration. They also decided to include a recipe for banana bread on a label attached to the bottle's

neck—a ploy intended to widen the beer's appeal to women in a traditionally male marketplace. The etching and labeling on the bottle are intended to give a premium feel. Provenance is heightened by the inclusion of a story about the product and its maker, Charles Wells.

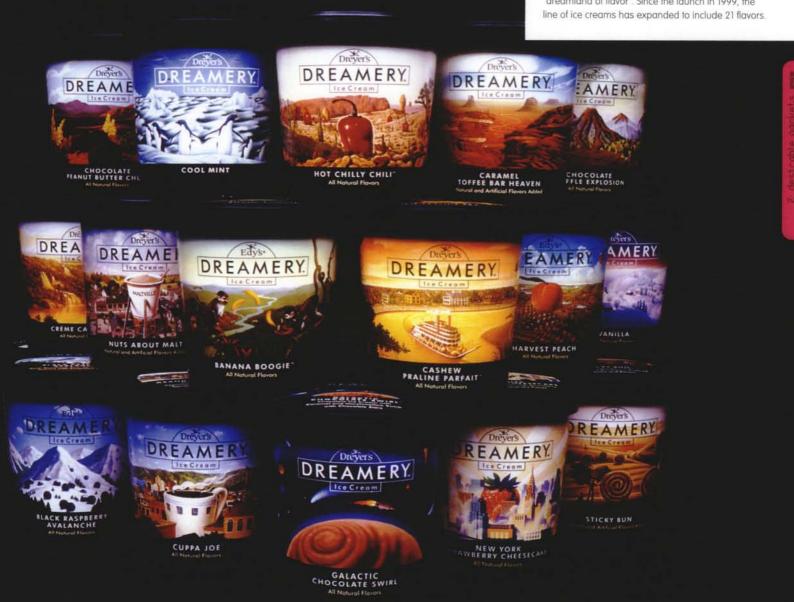




client: Castleberry/Snow project: Cattle Drive agency: Berni Design and Marketing designer: Stuart Berni

Castleberry/Snow's launch of a new premium chill required a new brand communication and packaging program. Berni devised both the brand name and a memorable labeling concept that highlights hot colors and quality ingredients, while tapping into an archetypal element of US mythology—the cowboy.

client: Dreyer's project: Dreamery Ice Cream agency: Pentagram, San Francisco designers: Kit Hinrichs, Brian Jacobs Dreyer's commissioned Pentagram to design the packaging for this ice cream product. The new line was created to establish Dreyer's in the crowded super-premium ice cream market, competing with established brands such as Häagen-Dazs and Ben & Jerry's. Traditionally, the company's products had been in the low-cost bulk market. The name "Dreamery" is intended to give a "mystical quality" to the product as an indulgent adult ice cream. Each flavor features an illustration by different artists using landscapes and incorporating the ingredients as a "dreamland of flavor". Since the launch in 1999, the line of ice creams has expanded to include 21 flavors.





olient: Karen's Fabulous project: Karen's Fabulous

agency: Berni Design and Marketing

designer: Stuart Berni

Karen's Fabulous, a premium biscotti line, required updated packaging and more competitive market positioning. Berni developed an emotive packaging system designed to whet the consumer's appetite and appeal to the eye, while also highlighting quality ingredients. "The visuals perfectly portray our product," says Jerry O'Donnell, Karen's Fabulous general manager, "and the package jumps off the shelf."



California Arborio Vinaignette Cramberry Dressing Steak Sauce

NapaStyle commissioned Pentagram to design the identity and packaging for its specialty food products, which reflect the simple, soul-satisfying flavors of California's Napa Valley. NapaStyle needed to launch its products as a unique brand, in a highly competitive field. The goal was to establish a simple, emotional tie between these products and the customer, emphasizing the celebration of food and good cooking with family and friends. Pentagram created a simple and elegant graphic system that ties together different product categories into a cohesive presentation. The system is fresh and contemporary, yet evokes a natural and organic quality. The system is flexible enough to expand into packaging, web, and collateral, and it gives flexibility to expand the product line. NapaStyle opened in fall 2000. Its products are sold primarily online and through catalogs. Since opening, sales have greatly exceeded initial projections.

client: Germain-Robin

project: Liqueur de Poète brandy labeling

agency: Colored Horse designer: Theresa Whitehill

GERMAIN - ROBIN LIQUEUR DE POÈTE

Il vient à l'odorat des effluves
Savors awaken
qui réveillent la langue engourdie,
the sluggish tongue
parfums mûrs
fragrances ripe as a woman's flesh
comme des chairs de femmes
revealing in each fold
révélant dans chaque repli
a secret...

un goût secret...

Fireworks erupting

Papilles réveillées réfutent

along the palate

les limites corporelles,

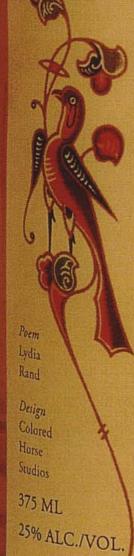
foretaste of blood's divinity,

un avant-goût de divinité

a delicate human flowering.

éclot la fleur inespérée de l'humain.

Brandies from California hand-distiller Germain-Robin have been consumed in the White House since the administration of Jimmy Carter in the 1970s, but, for this new product, the company wanted to move away from the traditionalist, masculine image of the drink to attract a female market. Whitehill used a public-domain image of a bird—cribbed from a medieval manuscript—and a lighter color scheme than is typical in the market. The labeling also features a specially commissioned poem in French, reflecting co-founder Hubert Germain-Robin's Cognac family heritage. The product is intended to be advertised on the Internet and supplied by mail order, meaning that the designer was freed from some of the constraints imposed by making the labeling grocery store- and bar-friendly.



client: Innocent Drinks project: Juicy Water launch agency: Coley Porter Bell designers: Stephen Bell, Bronwen Edwards, Roberta Elliot





As part of a total design review for Innocent (see page 26), Coley Porter Bell created an identity for the brand's new drink, Juicy Water. The brief encompassed the design of the glass bottle, bottle lid, and packaging.

"Every element on the packaging, including the bottle lid, use of icon, and back of pack has been designed to support Innocent's equities and to maximize the Innocent identity," says Stephen Bell, creative director. The copy on the back of the bottle—displayed upside down—explains that by turning the bottle on its head to read the label, the consumer is actually mixing the drink within, ready for serving. This design solution not only draws attention to the use of natural ingredients (the fruit separates from the water because no stabilizers, gums, or concentrates are used), but also allows the consumer to interact with the product. The front-of-bottle label design is fresh, uncluttered, and designed to be consistent with the whole range.





client: Wistbray Limited

project: Dragonfly Teas identity and packaging

agency: Pentagram

designers: David Hillman, Liza Enebeis

photographer: Teresa Hayhurst

Pentagram was invited to create a name, brand identity, and packaging for this range of organic teas. The packaging for the entire range was designed to create a strong impact on the shelf, while differentiating the product from other organic offerings and reflecting Wistbray's quality and heritage. Using clean, clear typography, color-coded to each tea, and the photographic device of wrapping an image around the packaging, the design is intended to give the new teas a powerful

presence at point-of-sale. Pentagram's design work for Dragonfly Teas was recognized at the 2001 FAB (Food and Beverage) Awards, where it received a number of awards, including the Best of Show prize for Packaging and Design. Pentagram has since adapted the brand for the US market, using the same packaging, but changing the name to Dragoncloud Teas for regulatory reasons.



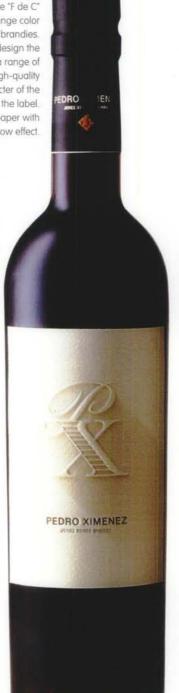






client: Jan and Tomas Pettersen project: Fernando de Castilla brandy rebrand and sherry launch agency Design Bridge designers: Graham Shearsby, Antonia Hayward

> When Jan and Tomas Pettersen acquired Fernando de Castilla, a Spanish brandy, in 2000, Design Bridge was challenged to take from the brand traditional category cues and create a contemporary brand marque that could be used on- or off-pack. The designers achieved this via the "F de C" diamond and an unusual gray and orange color palette, not normally associated with brandies. Design Bridge was also invited to design the packaging for a new Fernando de Castilla range of ultra-premium, small-batch, very high-quality sherries. The idea was to reflect the character of the sherry through a distinctive letterform on the label. The letterforms are printed on high-quality paper with embossed lettering and a slight shadow effect.







client: Arcus

project: Amundsen vodka launch

agency: Design Bridge designer: Graham Shearsby

This Norwegian vodka was inspired by Norway's polar explorer Amundsen, giving the product a good sense of provenance, adventure, and national pride. Arcus had actually copyrighted the name "Admundsen" decades ago, but only recently got around to exploiting its potential. Design Bridge came up with a very contemporary, stylish design, with bold, confident graphics. The Norwegian flag—symbol of Amundsen's achievements is screen-printed on the back of the bottle, while the copy tells the story of the moment when the explorer and his team planted their flag at the South Pole, beating Scott.

"It's very bold and simple, and aimed at a younger market," says Design Bridge creative director Graham Shearsby. "We avoided doing something too nostalgic, because the company wanted this to look good in a contemporary Norwegian style bar."





client: Bombay Brasserie project: Bombay Brasserie takeaway meals range for Sainsbury's agency: Parker Williams photographer: Gus Filgate

The Bombay Brasserie—one of the world's most acclaimed Indian restaurants-drafted in Parker Williams to design the packaging for a new range of 14 products, exclusive to UK supermarket giant Sainsbury's. The Bombay Brasserie and Noon Products created an authentic Indian restaurant-style menu that embraces a variety of different regions and cooking techniques. Building on the equities of the original Bombay Brasserie meal for two, the new design displays authentic Indian cues steeped in tradition, with a contemporary twist. The premium positioning of the range is communicated through the black and gold oval of the Bombay Brasserie branding device. Evocative, rich food photography (by D&AD award-winning Gus Filgate) reflects the quality and tastiness of the food, while the deep red background is intended to display the intensity of the flavors.

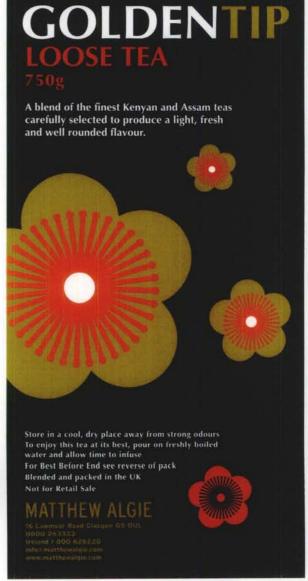
When Matthew Algie decided to rationalize its range of teas into one consolidated brand, Golden Tip, it took on Glasgow-based Graven Images. Golden Tip was the best-known of the existing tea products in its range, and the distinctive black, red, and gold color combination was to be retained. Two designs were required—Golden Tip and Golden Tip Earl Grey; both incorporate the new Matthew Algie identity, also designed by Graven. "We decided to go back to the inspiration for the original packaging design, which was oriental decorative ceramics and lacquered boxes," says Mandy Nolan, head of graphics. "We wanted to create a distinctive graphic pattern inspired by cherry, plum, and pomegranate blossom. The graphic had to work on extremes of scale—from the tag that attaches to the teabag to packing cartons and point-of-sale."

client: Matthew Algie project: Golden Tip Tea agency: Graven Images designer: Graven Images design team







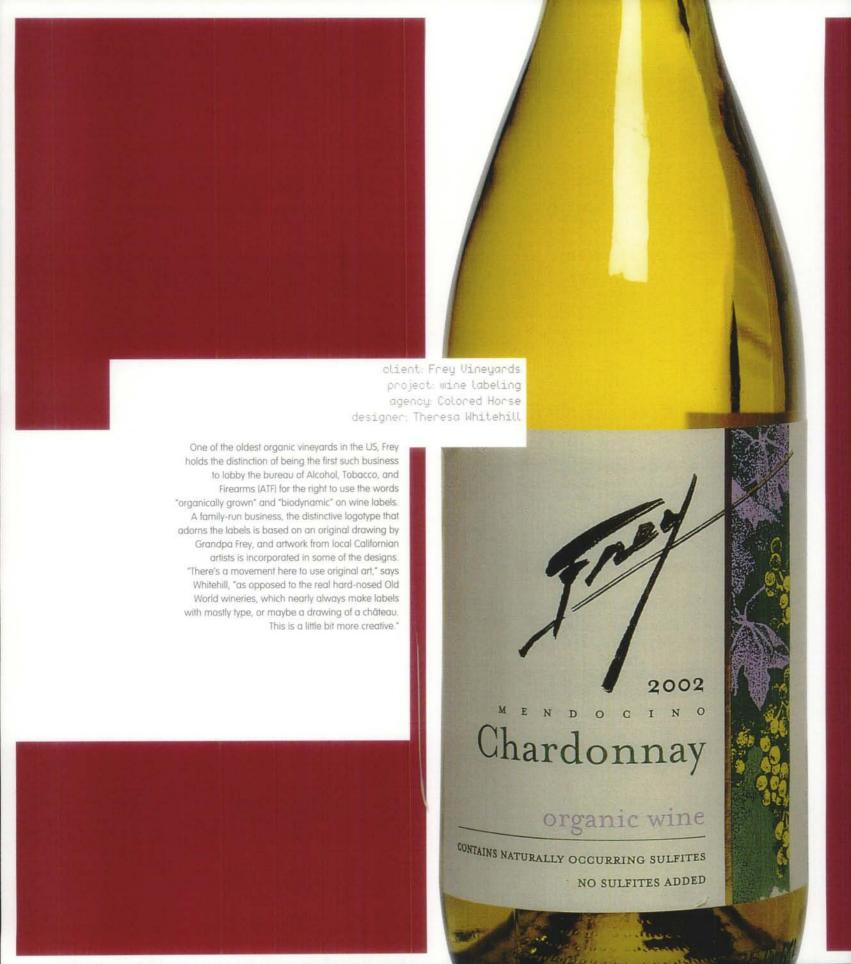


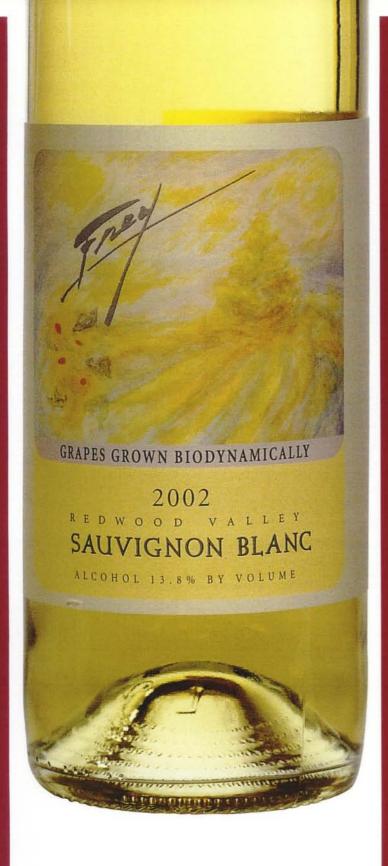
client: Grand Hyatt Hotel, Dubai project: Panini Italian bakery packaging agency: Lewis Moberly designer: Hideo Akiba illustrator: Fiona Verdon-Smith

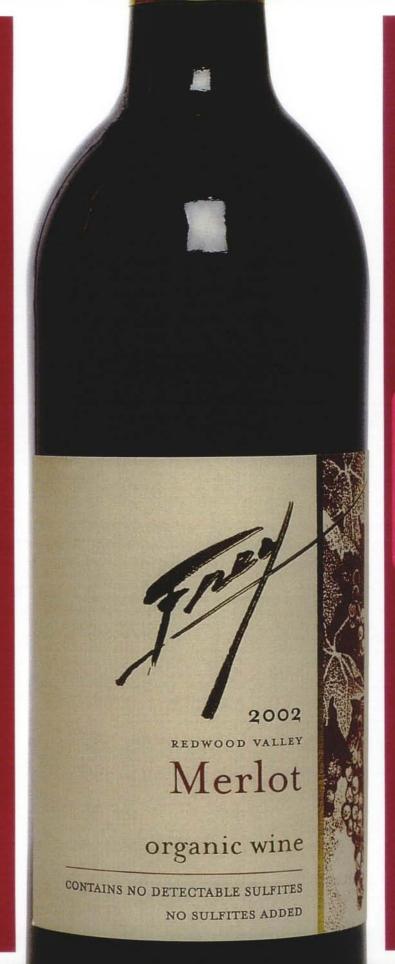
Panini was one of a number of packaging designs and restaurant identities completed by Lewis Moberly for the new Grand Hyatt in Dubai. All these projects were part of the same complex, but the aim was to make each one completely distinct, as though run by an individual proprietor. "We had to really think about what each restaurant was offering, and its culture," explains Nicola Cooper, project director. "Panini is an Italian bakery, so it was much more about serving coffees and take-aways than eating in. It was more relaxed."

"The illustration style reflects the spontaneous, casual, exciting Italian," adds Mary Lewis, creative director. "It makes me smile: it's joyful. A lot of our identities were quite minimal for this project—because the hotel is anything but minimal, it's very Arabic-opulent. To have any kind of impact, simplicity was the key."











client Lipton

project: Lipton Specialty Teas

date: 2002

agency: Lipson Alport Glass

& Associates designer: Rob Swan

The core objectives of this redesign of the Lipton Specialty Teas range were to fold the products into a strong masterbrand architecture, create unique and proprietary graphic personalities for each product, reinforce the brand's new confident and contemporary positioning, and reach a younger demographic.

A combination of several illustration techniques (digital composition with painting, for instance) was used to create the desired impression. Emphasis was placed on a strategic approach that would provide a complete brand promise. The resulting designs presented new promotional opportunities, such as creating complementary tea cups.

The new packaging has helped fuel growth in this expanding category. In addition to achieving significant consumer shelf impact, Lipson Alport Glass & Associates' work for Lipton Teas received numerous awards. The Lipton Tea Line received a finalist award from the 17th annual London International Advertising Award, the Green Teas received American Graphic Design and American received a Finalist Certificate from the New York Corporate Identity 19 awards.

Corporate Identity 19 awards, while the Herbal Teas Festival's Print Advertising competition and American client: The Pillsbury Company project: Häagen-Dazs Gelato date: 2000 agency: FutureBrand designer Laura Fang

The Pillsbury Company took on FutureBrand to help it launch a new Häagen-Dazs sub-brand, Gelato. While the name Gelato was not in itself felt to be especially ownable, designer Fang created a handwritten logo that captured the concept of old-world, intense flavors, reflecting the product's proposition. Tower of Pisa graphics and a copy line in Italian reinforce Gelato's heritage, and provide a meaningful visual device for the brand to use in applications beyond packaging. The graphics, meanwhile, convey the client's message of premium quality, distinctiveness, and taste indulgence.

client: The Pillsbury Company product: Häagen-Dazs

date: 1999

agency: FutureBrand designer Laura Fang

Häagen-Dazs, a leader in premium ice cream, was facing increasing competition in global markets. The product is obviously highly regarded, but its packaging was thought to be a hindrance to achieving the company's aggressive sales growth targets. Using worldwide consumer research in Europe, Japan, and the US, FutureBrand developed a design that captures the smooth, rich quality associated with the product, while keeping just enough traditional visuals so that loyal customers would easily find their favorite brand. The winning design was implemented across all product segments and includes single and multipack solutions for tubs, stick bars, and individual servings. It was then rolled out to signage and collateral in 54 countries.











client: Kraft Foods project: Dream Whip

date: 2002

agency: Lipson Alport Glass

& Associates

designers: Rob Swan, Mark Krukonis

Revitalizing an aging product (original design inset) to make it more relevant to contemporary consumers, the new packaging is a complete redesign that maintains the core equities of the brand. A dynamic and proprietary logotype brings a more contemporary flair to the identity, while the photography has been enhanced and restaged to maximize appetite appeal.

client: The Kellogg Company project: Cracklin' Dat Bran date: 2003 agency: Source Design designers: Mike Nicholson, Scott Burns

In the US, Cracklin' Oat Bran is a well-established adult cereal that, according to Source Design vice president Michael Coleman, was saddled with a "sterile and uninviting look, a name that emphasized its 'so-healthy-it-couldn't-possibly-taste-good' heritage, and food imagery that failed to overcome the challenges of the product's appearance."

Designer Nicholson adds: "This is a product whose time has come. As consumers begin to understand that food health profiles should be measured on a range of metrics—not just one or two ingredients—and increasingly look for a small reward in their stressful lives, Cracklin' Oat Bran stands squarely at the intersection of these cultural trends."

The new design reinvents Cracklin' Oat Bran's packaging, investing it with a more indulgent, treat-like sensibility through significantly improved food imagery. The hierarchy in the name has been managed to emphasize "Cracklin" over "Bran", while the brand is contained and staged in a banner surrounded by a burst of rich gold rays.







Since the first outlet opened in London in 1996, the EAT brand has grown considerably, with 25 cafes now in the city. Pentagram partner Angus Hyland was appointed to evolve the existing identity and to redefine the EAT brand. A core proposition was developed to guide all ongoing work. The proposition highlighted the honesty at the heart of EAT's business—a business that is owned by real people (rather than a corporation) who have a genuine passion for food and drink. Communication of the proposition was achieved by developing a new logotype and design language. A new strapline—"The Real Food Company"—was also developed to further suggest the brand's values.

Hyland and his team developed all areas of the new brand identity. The new logotype employs a bold sans serif typeface (Akzidenz Grotesk), to communicate the warmth and quality of the brand with a distinct, contemporary tone. The typographical language has been combined with a color palette of warm, natural, brown hues, with a range of more vibrant minor colors for typography and detailing across food packaging and other collateral.

client: EAT project: EAT identity

date: 2002

agency: Pentagram

designer: Angus Hyland











client: HP Bulmer

project: Strongbow relaunch

date: 2002

agency: Coley Porter Bell designers: Martin Grimer,

Stewart Humm

Historically, cider has suffered from something of an image problem, meaning that design agency Coley Porter Bell had an interesting challenge on its hands when awarded the brief to redesign the packaging for Strongbow. "It was a difficult one," says creative director Martin Grimer. "It's a first entry drink, a last exit drink, and it has some negative connotationseither of teenagers getting wasted or of guys sleeping on park benches."

The brief was to give Strongbow's packaging more quality cues and to reflect the product's immediacy and refreshing taste. Strongbow's previous packaging, says Grimer, was: "Blunt and bold, doing nothing to reflect those quality credentials." The designers decided to remove those elements of the old pack that weren't relevant any more-including one of the icons of the brand, its archer (Grimer: "He was ready to shoot his arrows and looked like he might blow your brains outthe kind of cider association that we were trying to get away from!"). The designers kept the arrow itself, however, running it vertically up the bottle with the logo.





Straight







client: Cadbury's project: Buttons relaunch date: 2002

agency: Coley Porter Bell

designers: Martin Grimer, Adam Ellis

The task was to redesign Cadbury's chocolate Buttons for an audience beyond the children's market. When looking for an idea for the new packaging, they began by thinking about activities that people do as children and adults. Eventually, they settled on doodling. "From the classroom to the boardroom, people make doodles," says Martin Grimer, creative director.

The designers decided to use the chocolate button itself as the brand icon, centrally displayed as the hero of the pack, and placed doodles on top of it to "add personality." Punning copy lines and jokes on the back of the packs ensure that the language of the packaging adds to the brand character. The color purple was chosen for the packaging, as it is synonymous with Cadbury's.

client: McVitie's project: McV Launch date: 2002 agency: Design Bridge designer: Lee Cook

"The brief here was very straightforward," says Design Bridge's Graham Shearsby: "24-7 irresistibility." McVitie's the brand-similar to some of the agency's other recent projects-needed modernizing to move into younger markets. "The view was that their products should be a whole experience," Shearsby adds. "They wanted to make their biscuits more snacky, more crisp-like." The packaging was simplified and the angle of the logo changed, but the most radical overhaul concerned the name of the brand itself: from McVitie's to McV. As it turns out, this abbreviation had its roots in Design Bridge's own internal communications. "We'd been working with the brand for a number of years and we would always call the client McV, or McVits," Shearsby explains. "It was the obvious choice when we were asked to make things more snappy."

"It was an extremely bold move," he adds, "but it's been very successful for them. It's moved them out of Auntie's biscuit barrel and into that younger world where they wanted to be."























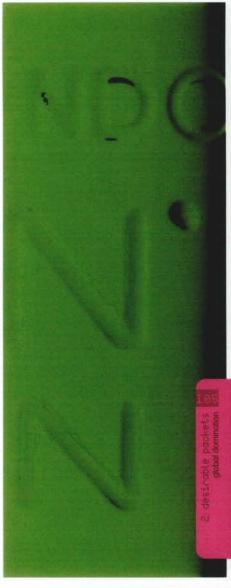




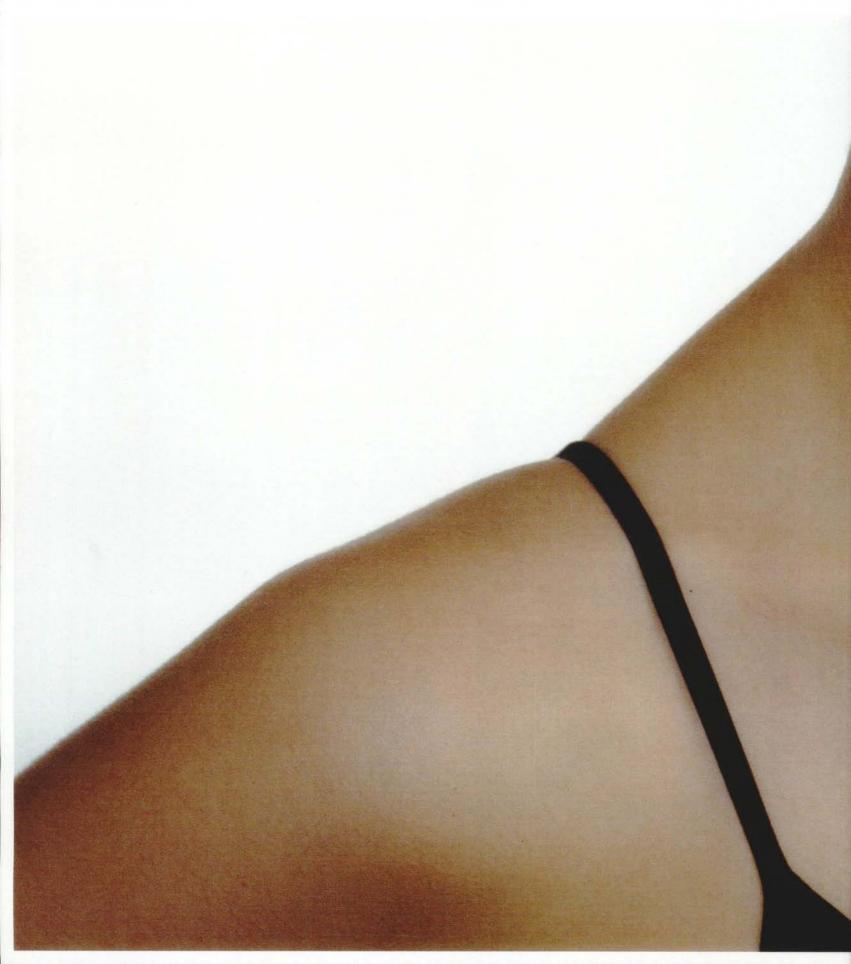


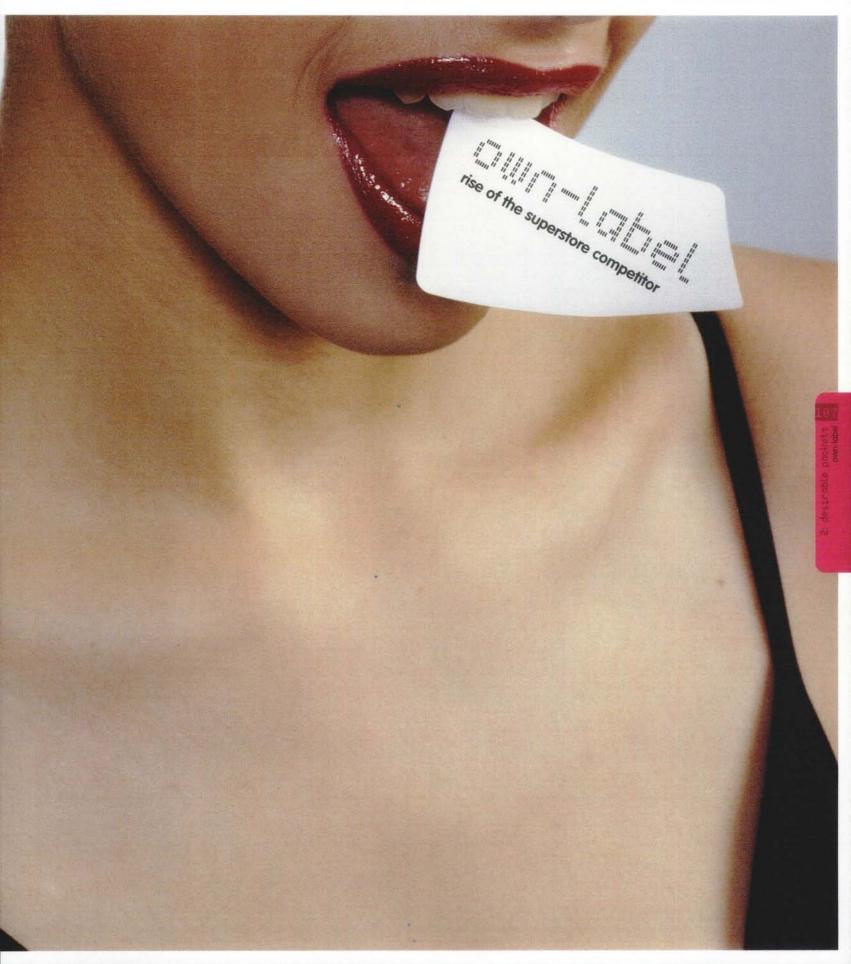
client: Diageo project: Gordon's Gin redesign date: 2002 agency: Design Bridge designers: Graham Shearsby, Neil Hurst

Long seen as the favorite tipple of middle-aged drinkers, gin has struggled in recent years to maintain market share against other, more fashionable spirits such as vodka. Market-leading Gordon's, unchanged for 60 years and with an iconic presentation, needed to change. Bedevilled by "me-too" packaging from a legion of competitors, Design Bridge was drafted in to make improvements. "To sit comfortably in the new era of bar culture that we're in now, things needed to develop," says designer Graham Shearsby. "We kept the essence of the original pack, which was curved at the back, and just accentuated that to make this D-shaped pack that feels really comfortable in the hand." Design Bridge reduced the size of the label to increase the impact of light shining through the distinctive green bottle. The scripted lettering of the old pack—"almost like a wedding invitation"—was simplified so that the focus is on the word "Gordon's".









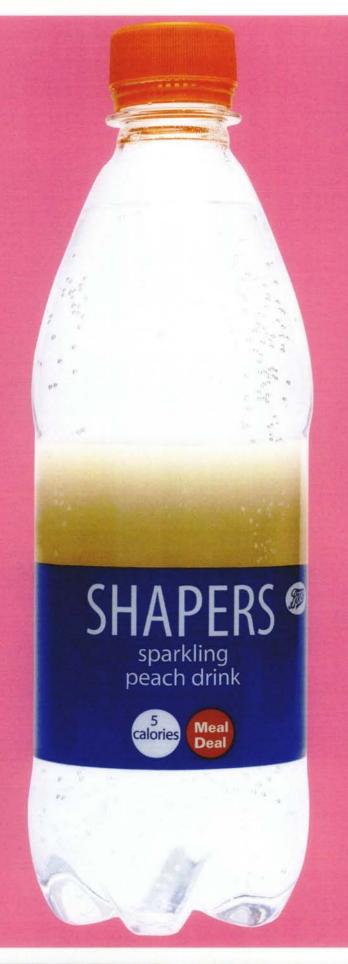
In a recent rebranding of all its food products, Boots chose to reinvent its popular Shapers health food. Reflecting shifts in consumers' attitudes toward healthy eating, Boots wanted the new packaging to focus more on the healthy ingredients of its products rather than on dieting—previous packaging had prominently featured a tape measure. Roundel's brief was to replace this design with a subtler alternative.

"We took a message and information-led approach," says Roundel's Tanya Davies, "which makes it easy for customers to choose the right product. This is reflected in the honesty and clarity of the packaging; the design is stripped bare of any unnecessary information without detracting from its intended personality." Roundel's decision to ditch the tape measure also reflects the increasing cross-gender appeal of the range. Davies adds: "This helps to attract a wider customer base, both male and female, who may have previously been put off by the associations of the tape measure but enjoy eating healthily."

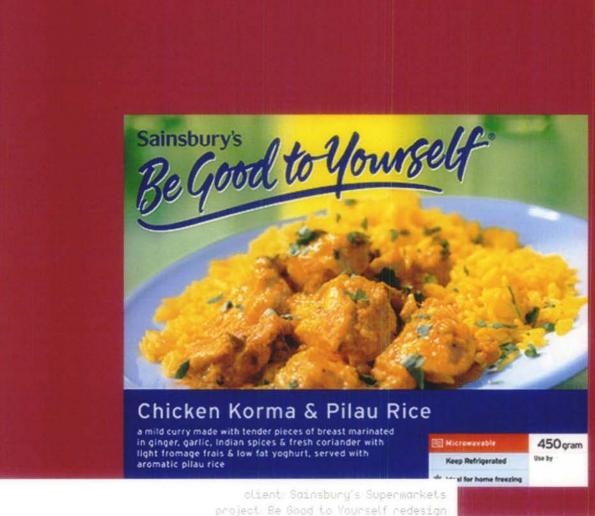
client: Boots project: Shapers relaunch agency: Roundel designers: John Bateson, Tanya Davies







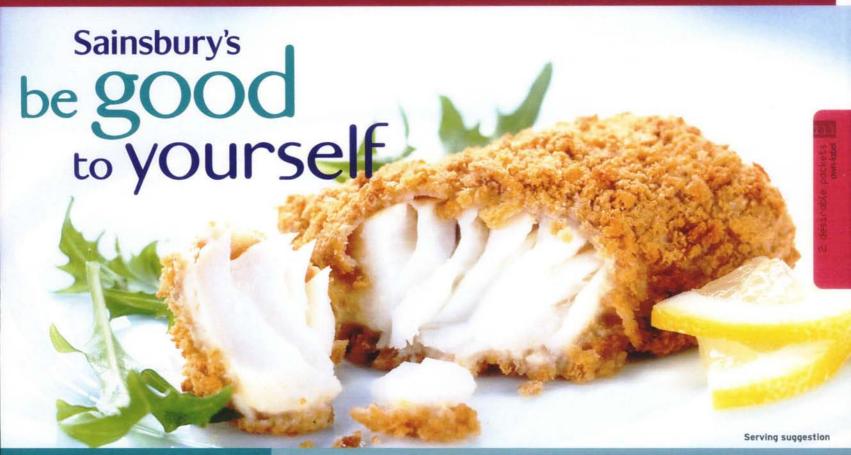




Parker Williams was briefed to refresh and contemporize Sainsbury's Be Good to Yourself range in line with the new lifestyle positioning of the brand. The packaging also had to give the range strong shelf impact, while clearly communicating tighter nutritional criteria. The fronts of the redesigned Be Good to Yourself packs now show the fat, calorie, and saturated fat content using a clear labeling system, the colors of which relate directly to the new logo. In addition, there is now a band highlighting whether saturated fat, salt, sugar, or calorieswhichever is most relevant to the product—has been controlled. The redesigned logo moves away from scripted lettering I'll actually looked too blobby, too high in fat, and too overprocessed," says creative director Tamara Williams) to a lower-case typeface. "It is leaner, cleaner, and more fresh-more now."







less than 3% fat

controlled saturated fat & salt

skinless & boneless chunky cod fillets in breadcrumbs







Frozen
Keep frozen
Storage instructions: see back of

Best before end

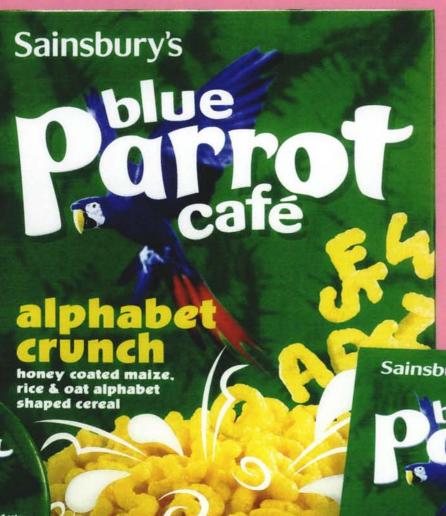
Safeway in the UK decided to expand its range of own-label American products, so that it would become cross-category, appearing in different sections throughout the stores, and including items such as US cola and Tex-Mex sauces.

"It had to be easily recognizable for the consumer as being part of the American range, so it was about presenting what's essentially a cliché, but in a more sophisticated way," says creative director Jacqui Sinnatt. "One of our starting points—which you can see from the packaging—is that the food is very much upfront. We had to make sure the food sold itself, and make that the hero, and then find ways of creating this American-style message to support it."

client: Safeway project: launch of own-label US range agency: Butcher and Gundersen







Fortified with Vitamins and Iron

A low fat food

client: Sainsbury's Supermarkets project: Blue Parrot Café relaunch year: 2003

agency: Parker Williams

This redesign is the second iteration of Parker Williams' work on Sainsbury's Blue Parrot Café children's range. The original challenge was to create a kids' food brand that would make Sainsbury's the destination for kids' food, Parker Williams came up with the original Blue Parrot concept, which has proved a hit with consumers (it's interesting to note that a blue pelican was briefly touted—it was rejected as too fishy).

"Blue Parrot Café is seen as cool and aspirational," says creative director Tamara Williams, "and therefore it fits well with the target age group. It gives Sainsbury's a real point of difference, because it isn't just another 'me-too' cartoon character." She adds: "If you haven't got a licensed character to use that means something to people, just don't bother—it's not worth it. Also, there is a negative association with cartoons that is artificial, suggesting a lot of food additives."

The new design features an improved "traffic lights" labeling system for nutritional information (the previous design just had a tick box) and enhanced photography.





client: Nordstrom project: Nordstrom salad dressings agency: Hornall Anderson Design Works designers: Debra McCloskey, Steffanie Lorig, Andrew Wicklund, Beckon Wyld

Looking for a takeaway product that would be sold in its cafes and bistros, high-end US department store Nordstrom approached Hornall Anderson to design the packaging for a range of gourmet salad dressings. Blending a hand-crafted font reflecting an Old World look and feel with descriptive illustrations and a rich color palette, the design team created a packaging family that was appropriate for both everyday use and gift-giving.





client: Jack in the Box project: Jack in the Box

date: 2002

agency: Hornall Anderson Design Works

designers: Jack Anderson, James Tee, Gretchen Cook, Elmer de la Cruz, Andrew Wicklund

After years of focusing its marketing efforts on a character, Jack in the Box wanted to upgrade the in-store and product experience for its range of sandwiches in the US. "Not only did we redesign the packaging for functionality," explains principal Jack Anderson, "but also as a vehicle to give the food higher visual appeal."

Distinct colors represent the different products, providing restaurant workers with quicker recognition for matching specific wraps with specific sandwiches. Hornall Anderson added to the equity of the Jack in the Box logo by developing a colorful, rich, ingredient-based illustrative style. ultimate cheese burger





client: Rieber & Son project: Mr Lee date: 2002 agency: Design Bridge designers: Ian Burren

Design Bridge created this look for a range of noodles for the Norwegian market, basing its work on the image of Korean founder Mr Choi Ho Lee. The design is intended to mark out a distinct personality for the brand—something playful and engaging in the market—that takes its inventor as the starting point but moves away to form a strong image in its own right.

client: KAZI Beverage Company

project: KAZI date: 2002

agency: Hornall Anderson Design Works

designers: Jack Anderson, Larry Anderson, Jay Hilburn, Kaye Farmer, Henry Yiu,

Bruce Stigler, Mary Chin Hutchinson, Sonya Max, Dorothee Soechting

Oregon-based KAZI recognized an opportunity to introduce something other than typical hard lemonade and tea drinks to the flavored alcoholic beverage market, creating a new position for this product which the company describes as a "cocktail in a glass".

"It was important that the product wasn't labelled as a lady's beverage," explains project manager Larry Anderson. "The KAZI packaging exudes honesty. A guy would feel comfortable taking it to a party, as opposed to a wine cooler." The strategy behind the brand identity and graphics was to create a masculine and contemporary look, with a slightly edgy feel. The filtered photography treatment is intended to add to the product's classic, cool positioning—suggesting J. Crew meets Saturday Night Live. Introducing a touch of humor to the packaging, the inside of each bottle contains a pick-up line located on the reverse of the label, such as "I'm not the best-looking person here, but I'm the only one talking to you." In this case, the joke leans toward the 20-something male, KAZI's target market.



Widmer Brothers wanted to revive the packaging for its Spring Fest beer to give it greater standout. The designers renamed the product Spring Run, but kept a similar architecture and theme to the original packaging. The other big change was in terms of graphics, which the client felt were too soft. Bolder, more graphically active images relating to outdoor adventure replaced the original, subdued artwork.

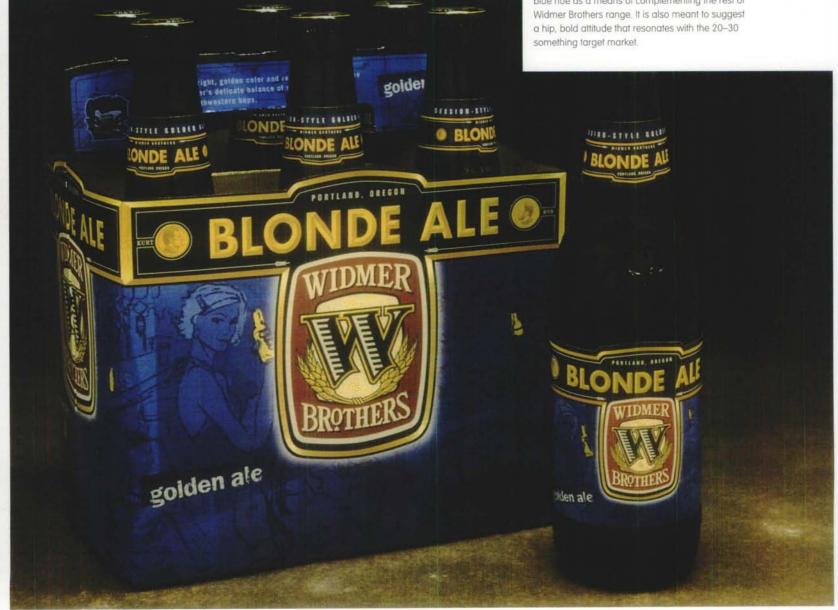


client: Widmer Brothers project: Widmer Brothers Blonde Ale date: 2002

agency Hornall Anderson Design Works designers: Jack Anderson, Larry Anderson, Bruce Stigler, Henry Yiu, Jay Hilburn, Kaye Farmer, Don Stayner Widmer Brothers, an Oregon-based brewery and distributor, wanted to reposition one of its more popular pale ale brands. Originally named "Sweet" Betty", this golden ale was struggling in the marketplace due to consumers mistakenly equating its name with a sweet-tasting beer.

Reintroducing the brand as "Blonde Ale", the design team created a fresher, more contemporary illustrative style that still had a place within the overall Widmer Brothers graphic architecture. The new Blonde Ale personality is a svelte, savvy woman, intended to appeal to a female and male audience in a more youthful demographic; Sweet Betty had been portrayed as a 1940-era woman.

The color palette ditches the old-fashioned sepia tone of the previous packaging to embrace a rich blue hue as a means of complementing the rest of



client: Widmer Brothers

project: Widmer Brothers Drop Top

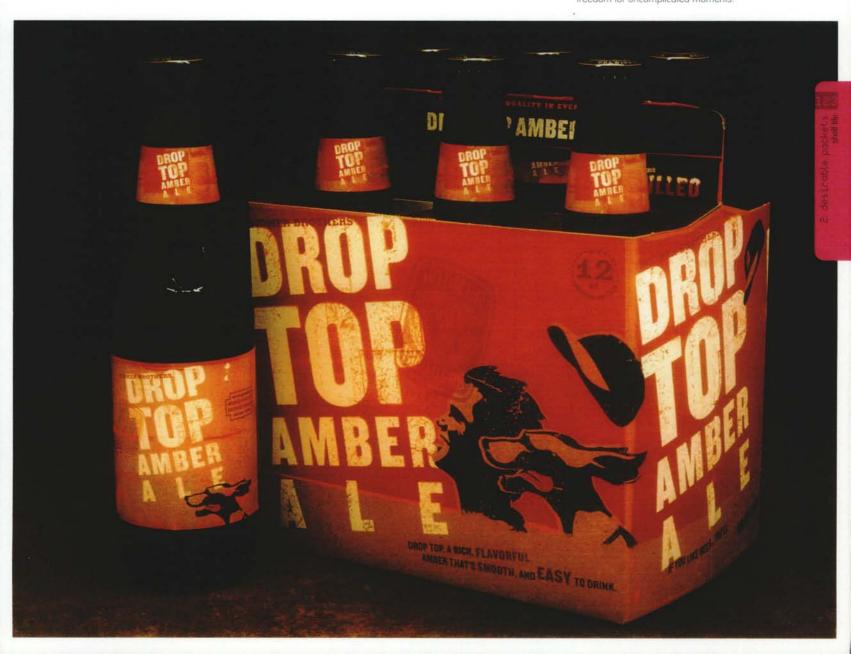
date: 2003

agency: Hornall Anderson Design Works

designers: Jack Anderson, Larry Anderson, Jay Hilburn,

Bruce Stigler, Elmer de la Cruz, Dorothee Soechting

Carving out a new niche within the amber beer market for this product, the designers focused on the tradition of slow-paced, easy drinking in an effort to attract younger, independent-minded consumers. Christina Arbini of Hornall Anderson Design Works says: "The design reflects the simple, authentic personality of unintentionally stylish consumers. They are skeptics at heart, neither mainstream nor trendy. The result is a solid, confident personality that's honest and original, incorporating a feeling of freedom for uncomplicated moments."



client: Paul Suzman project: ZipSticks

date: 2002

agency: Hornall Anderson Design Works

designers: Mary Hermes, Andrew Smith, Sarah Kitchen, John Anderle

The objective was to create a brand name and packaging for a healthy, pure beef snack, cured in handcrafted small batches. As ZipSticks are natural, high-protein, low fat, and include no chemicals or artificial preservatives, the goal was to create a method of presentation that would distinguish the brand from oily, jerk products. Accordingly, the strapline became: "Your different breed of snack."

It was also important to get across how the product is made on the packaging, which is achieved through a message about its handcrafted quality. The price tag, flavor names, and the addition of real batch numbers are also key contributors to the brand's message.



olient: Sokol Blosser Winery project: Evolution No 9 date: 1999

agency: Sandstrom Design designers: Steve Sandstrom, Sally Morrow, David

Brooks, Kathy Middleton

Sokol Blosser, a strong regional brand in Oregon, wanted to create a white wine blend product that would serve as a distinct brand perfect for casual occasions. Says creative director Steve Sandstrom: "We named the product 'Evolution No 9', reflecting the fact that it contains nine varieties of grapes, harvested during the ninth month of the year. The result was a new wine product that had the guts to convey a unique yet confident personality."

Each bottle of Evolution No 9 includes a neck tag that helps to explain the name of the product. It lists some of the varieties of grapes that go into the wine, but also compares this "evolution" to the process, according to Sandstrom, that created "humans out of ooze, and bomber jackets out of leisure suits."









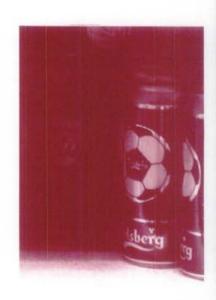
olient: Kombucha project: Kombucha Wonder Drink date: 2001

agency: Sandstrom Design designers: Steve Sandstrom, Michele Melandri, Craig Simpson, Ann Reidl

For more than 5,000 years, people have drunk fermented tea as a natural elixir. Still popular on several continents, it has been mostly a homebrewed drink in the US.

Brand and name development, packaging, and collateral for Kombuchas Wonder Drink were all created to reflect the drink's "mysterious and legendary properties." Based upon the design aesthetic for the drink, all marketing materials were created to appear old and new, modern and ancient.

Creative director Steve Sandstrom says: "Using elements and type that are both timeless and dated, they all combine to develop a look that is hard to nail down, freshly tasty, and distinct from any other beverage. The bottle is always depicted floating slightly above the ground, and on the website it hovers and sways slightly."







olient: Dreher Breweries project: Tuborg Beer date: 2003 agency: Rexam Glass

Rexam Glass, one of the largest packaging producers in Europe, won the commission to produce this new bottle for Hungarian brewer Dreher's Tuborg Gold brand beer. The 33cl glass beer bottle—produced in olive green, with a twist crown cork—appears normal, but actually incorporates a clever design innovation: a twist-off opener.

The base of the Tuborg Gold bottle is designed with a star-shaped recess that allows the consumer to open a bottle by inserting the twist crown cork of one bottle into the bottom recess of another—handy for those moments when everyone's forgotten their bottle opener and you don't fancy losing your teeth—also a good gimmick to encourage multiple purchases. A counter-clockwise turn opens the beer. Since introducing this bottle in January 2003, Dreher has reported a 50 percent growth in sales.







client: Benevia Inc. (now Merisant)
project: Equal Sweetener
date: 1998
agency: Source Design
designers: Mike Nicholson, David Lind, Jim Pietruszynski













brand: Tamarind

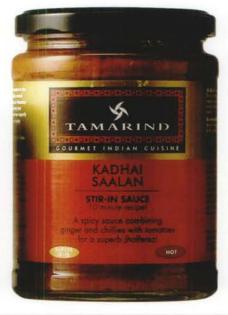
product: Chutneys and sauces

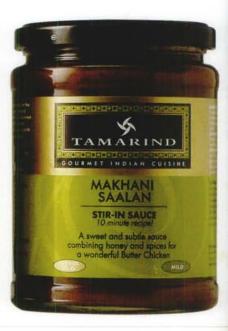
market: UK·

agency: Lewis Moberly designer: Mary Lewis









background

The Tamarind Indian restaurant in Mayfair, London, is one of the most prestigious in the world, being the first Indian to attain a Michelin star. Its range of spinoff products, however, has failed in the marketplace, and been delisted from major UK supermarkets. Tamarind calls in design agency Lewis Moberly to redesign the packaging for its chutney and cooking sauce products to radically address this problem.

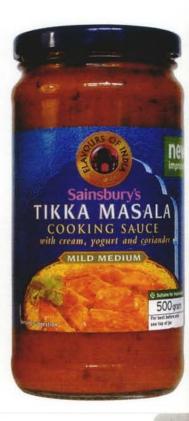
stage 1 preliminary analysis

- Lewis Moberly creative director Mary Lewis analyzes the brand's previous packaging (above left). It is felt to be "too ordinary," lacking in shelf stand-out, branding, and generally "falling between two stools."
- ** Lewis looks at Tamarind's competitor products on the supermarket shelves (above right). There are brands such as Patak ("authentic and old fashioned") and Sharwood's ("institutionalized and Anglicized"), plus a host of own-label products, (notable for "tall, lumpy jars", bright colors, "noise," and a lack of subtlety). There are also more specialist offerings, such as Shere Khan (like Tamarind, proffering restaurant expertize), and Loyd Grossman (sauces endorsed by celebrity chef). Even here, though there is not satisfactory differentiation between these more premium lines.
- Conclusion: the market is "cliched, tired, and overcrowded."









stage 2 exploring Tamarind as a brand

- Lewis Moberly looks at the ways in which Tamarind can find its own place in the market. Mary Lewis explains: "Our feeling on Tamarind was that there are more curries sold in the UK nowadays than fish and chips. So you don't need to be screaming, 'This is Indian': people know about that now. We didn't need to go down the route of cliché."
- What makes Tamarind stand out? The high-quality restaurant background lends the brand "excellent start-up credentials", leading to a possible positioning as a "modern day spice trader". The relatively unknown nature of the brand is plus: there is no need to be overprotective when carrying out the redesign.
- * Tamarind's tonalities are decided: special, creating a sense of anticipation; surprising, eye-catching, and different; convenient—packaging and product delivery; contemporary, relaxed, stylish, and simple.

stage 3 Tamarind's opportunity

- * To differentiate through an idea of "New India" modern and stylish.
- * The bottom line for the redesign: "No room for more of the same." A small brand must earn its space.

TAMARIND TAMARIND TAMARIND TAMARIND Tamarind tamarind





stage 4 Logotype design

Various typefaces are explored for Tamarind, both serif and sans serif. The sans serif versions are tweaked slightly to make them more distinctive. The decision is made to adopt lowercase lettering. Lewis says: "We thought that the Indian category is characterized by over-excited typography. There was a real opportunity here to do something a bit simpler Lowercase was chosen because it's perceived as being younger and more stylish."

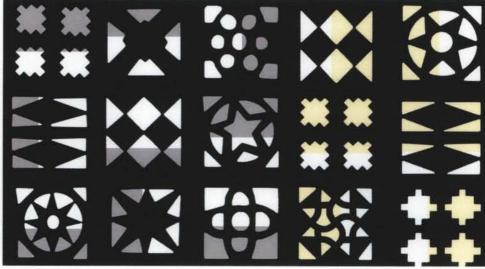
tamarind

stage 5 logo development

- In search of a graphical device to adorn the logo, Lewis explores the concept of using the "bindi", an auspicious make-up worn by young Hindu girls and women on their foreheads. The term is derived from "bindu", the Sanskrit word for a "dot" or "point". Usually a red dot made from vermilion, a bindi signifies female energy. Lewis adopts the red dot and places it over the "i" in the Tamarind typeface.
- * Exploration of reversing the logo to white on black
- * Decision made to put the logo on the jar tops. Lewis: "Whichever way you turn the jar, the red dot remains central. We thought that was interesting, and it became the lid."







stage 6 jar development

- Given that competitor jars are tall, the Tamarind jars are designed to be short, squat, and rotund, as an extra point of differentiation.
- Lewis also feels that the jars would benefit from being tinted (as yet, Tamarind has not adopted this device, but it may feature on new products).

stage 7 label development

- The tamarind itself (a large tropical tree, originally native to eastern Africa, and now found in all tropical regions) is obviously considered as one possible route for the labeling, but it is rejected.
- ** Jali screens lornate, carved sandstone screens)
 provide a source of inspiration. Lewis says: "These
 are used throughout India to shade windows and are
 built into lots of the architecture. They're just
 wonderful designs, very abstract, very rich. We felt
 they could be translated in a very contemporary way,
 so that became the starting point." Lewis picks out
 various abstract shapes from the screens and
 experiments by adding color. She develops two
 separate sets of graphics based on the screens—one
 for the sauces and one for the chutneys."I decided
 that each group of products would have a series of
 individual shapes," she says. "There would be a
 certain tension between them, so each row would
 stand out on the shelf."

a fresh approach to indian cuisine Prasad, our head chef at the Tamarind Restaurant in Mayfair, has added a dash of wine vinegar and a hint of fresh coriander to make this more aromatic than traditional Jalfrezi. We hope you enjoy our fresh approach and would welcome your comments.

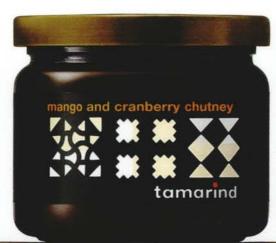
Cooking instructions: saute chicken, diced lamb, prawns or vegetables in a little oil or butter until cooked through. Stir in Classic Jalfrezi Sauce and bring to a simmer for 2-3 minutes. Serve with your favourite rice and accompaniments.

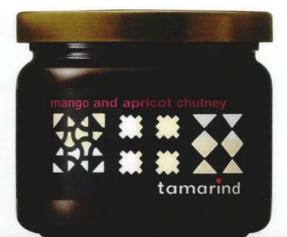
● mild ● ● medium ● ● ● hot

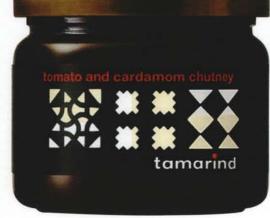


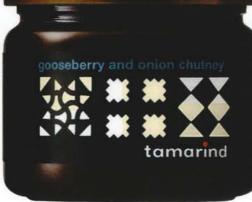
stage 8 back of pack development

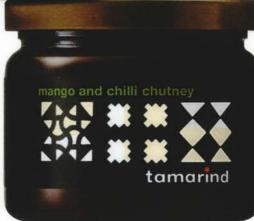
- The red dot is used again—this time as a device to indicate the spiciness of the products. "Rather less naïve than using a chilli for this purpose, as is common," says Lewis.
- * A story is incorporated to exploit the heritage of the restaurant.









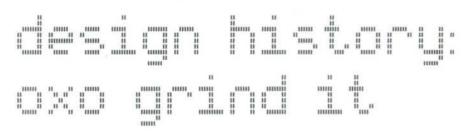


results

Tamarind has been relisted at Sainsbury's and other UK retailers and is so far proving a success. Other products may be introduced in the near future: if so, Lewis Moberly will design their packaging. There is plenty more mileage in the Jali screen-inspired graphics, according to Lewis—"they are a real lifeblood for the brand."

"We did a lot of strategic work on this project," she adds, "because we wanted to think about the Tamarind opportunity and what a small brand can do that a large brand can't. A small brand has got to be different—but that difference has to be the right difference, and not just for the sake of it. I think we've achieved something that is not Indian cliché—it is absolutely Indian."





brand: Oxo Grind It

product: New spice-grinding system

market: US

agency: Smart Design USA

designers: Nao Tamura, Paul Hamburger



background

Kitchen tool maker OXO International decides to diversify into food products with the launch of a spice-grinding system, a rarity in the US market at the time. Long-standing partner Smart Design is brought in to develop the packaging, grinding system, and graphics. This commission is a departure for Smart, too: most of its work involves product design for companies such as Hewlett-Packard, for which the agency has designed scanners and printers. This was its first food packaging project.

stage 1 grinder development

- ** The industrial design element of this project is of high importance. In other spice systems, there is a separate grinder for each spice. Smart Design wants to keep the cost of Oxo's product down by developing one grinder head that can be used for all the different spices in the range. Usually, there is a separate grinder for every herb and spice, or one grinder you must empty and then refill to change the herb. Purchasing separate grinders for each herb or spice is unnecessary, and costly. To refill just one grinder with different herbs or spices can be time consuming, messy, and impractical, as the various flavors and odors left in the grinder may clash.
- An iterative process of rapid prototyping and user observation is used over a variety of threedimensional models to arrive at the best form, from an ergonomic and functional standpoint. The spice grinder head, which features a tough ceramic grinding surface, is designed for quick-release at the touch of a button. The final design has an ergonomic



"bullet" shape, so both the grinding mechanism and spice jar nestle comfortably in the hand.

Designer Paul Hamburger notes: "It's actually a very well-engineered product, and the overall shape is easy to hold and use. The way the grinder head snaps off and can be moved from one jar to the next is clever and nicely engineered. The engineers on the project had to work hard to pull that off."



oxo Grind it

- Press the easy-release button & tip back the soft-grip grinder to remove the grinder from the spice jar.
- Remove the tamper-evident freshness seal by pulling the plastic ring, & snap the grinder back on the jar.
- To adjust the ceramic grinder, turn the gray wheel clockwise for fine and counter-clockwise for coarse.
 - To grind herbs & spices, hold the grinder in one hand & turn the jar back and forth with the other hand. Grind directly into your dish, or into the cap for measuring.



stage 2 spice "family" grouping

Herb and Spice Refills Suggested retail \$4.99

Chili Peppe

Cumin

Onion

Garlic

LemongrassThymeBasil

OreganaDill

Clove

Tarragon
White Peppercorns

Ginger
Allspice
Citrus Blend
(Lemon Peel & Orange Pe

Peppercorn Bland (Block, White, Fink & Green Pappercorns)

European Blend

Latin Kick Blend

Asion Blend

B (1)

Coarse Sea Salt # Black Pepperco

Herb and Spices Grind

Suggested retail \$19.99

Empty Jan

Block Peppe # Chili Pepper

Garlic

■ Onion

Rosemary

Cinnamor

Herb and Spices Grinder Sets

BASIC SET

STINKY SET

III Garlic

■ Onion

Coarse Sea Salt

Suggested retail \$34.99

Coarse Sea Salt

Suggested retail \$29.99

CLASSIC SET

Oregono

Rosemary

BAKER SET

Clave · Ginger

Allspice

III Cinnamon

LIGHT SET

Torragon

White Peppe

Citrus Blend

BLENDS SET

European Blend

Asian Blend

I Latin Blend

Dill

Thyme

91

200

dillo

201

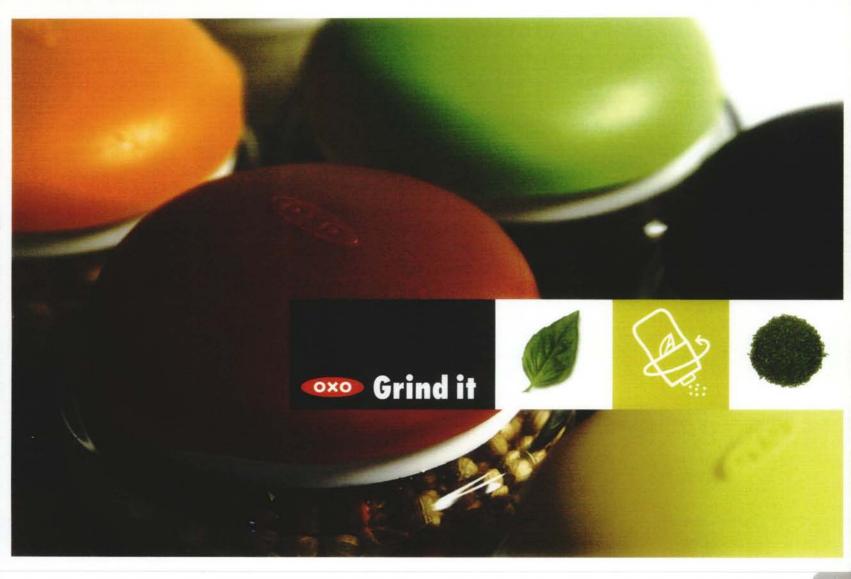
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The desire to have just one grinding head for the spices causes some problems, and the design team realizes that using the same head on "incompatible" spices could lead to unpleasant mixtures of odors and flavors. The Oxo and Smart Design team decides to group all the spices in the range into distinct "families". The spices in each family will be complementary and so can share a grinding head. This categorization process requires the input of food specialists, who group appropriate herbs and spices. Based on their findings, Smart Design comes up with five or six separate categorizations for Oxo's product.

stage 3 color assignation and spice family naming

- * Smart Design has to decide on an appropriate color scheme for each of the three spice families. The scheme needs to differentiate effectively between the families, but also suggest the cohesive nature of the complete range. Each family also needs a name.
- * Each bottle in the "Classic" set-basil, oregano, thyme, and rosemary—uses a green cap. The "Baking" set-cloves, ginger, allspice, and cinnamon—uses a red cap. The final set, called (appropriately enough) "Stinky"—garlic and onion uses a yellow cap. The simple and, in the case of "Stinky", somewhat irreverent choice of names is deliberate, and intended to make Grind It accessible to consumers, with a friendly, unpretentious feel. The use of bright colors adds to the notion of accessibility.



stage 4 logo and pictogram development

- ** The concept of fresh-grinding anything other than pepper or coffee is unfamiliar to the average US consumer, so Grind It's packaging has to quickly introduce, explain, and demystify the system of grinding herbs and spices. Hamburger says: "If you're in a retail environment, people are not going to consider things for very long—we needed to create something that would distinguish this product from a normal spice set, and get the concept across."
- ** Along with the logo, Smart Design creates a very simple pictogram featuring a picture of the whole spice, an icon of the grinder, and a pile of ground spice, to tell the story of fresh spice grinding in a quick and immediate way. Hamburger adds: "We needed to make a clean and simple statement that people would be able to assimilate in a crowded retail environment, and as a result, the design is quite minimalist. We were happy that it wasn't typical garish food packaging, but the important thing was to make sure it would be effective."





results

Although Grind II has had difficulty opening up new channels of distribution, the product is beginning to make significant inroads into the US market. Smart Design's work on the system, meanwhile, has won the approval of the agency's peers in the design industry, being recognized as one of the most outstanding examples of food packaging design in the US in recent years. The packaging won an Industrial Design Excellence Award (IDEA) gold in 2002, and a Good Design Award 2002 from the Chicago Athenaeum. It also won best of category in How magazine's Design Competition.

Ironically, Hamburger believes that the success of Smart's design was partly due to its lack of experience in the food packaging area: "This product was very new to us," he says, "and that's one of the reasons we did a good job—we were thinking outside the industry and looking for a solution that was fresher. Working from a more naive standpoint allowed us to educate everybody else a little bit better about the product, because we ourselves needed educating. We didn't know anything about cooking or

spices and we were all fascinated. Learning about the whole thing was interesting for us, and we wanted to create the same experience for people using the product."

Designer Nao Tamura adds: We had fun during the design exploration, and I think our energy and curiosity is reflected in the design."



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brand: Miller Lite product: Miller Lite been market: US

agency: Sandstrom Design

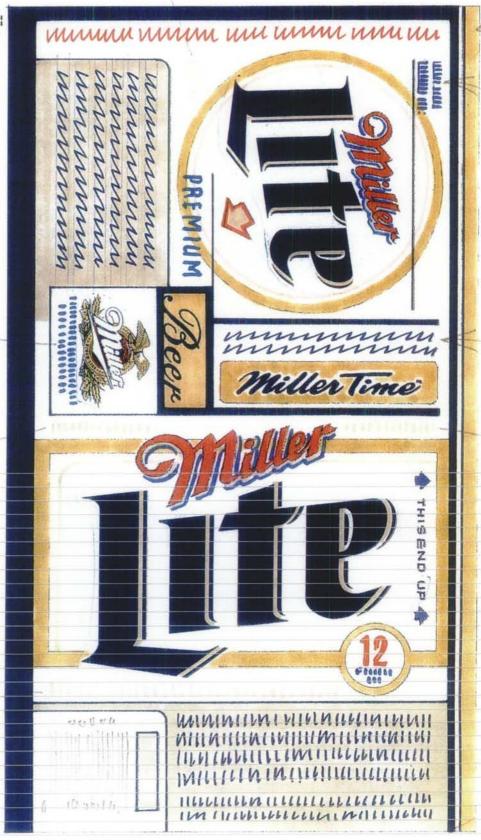
designers: Steve Sandstrom, Starlee Matz copuwriters: Jim Haven, Austin Howe project manager: Kathy Middleton

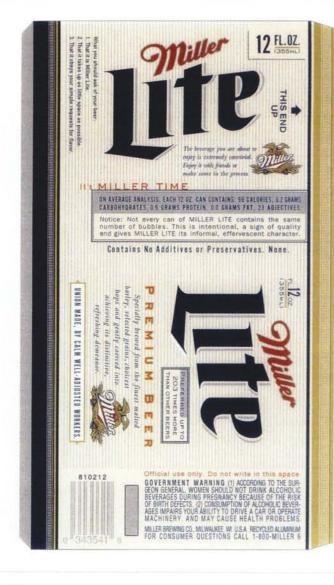
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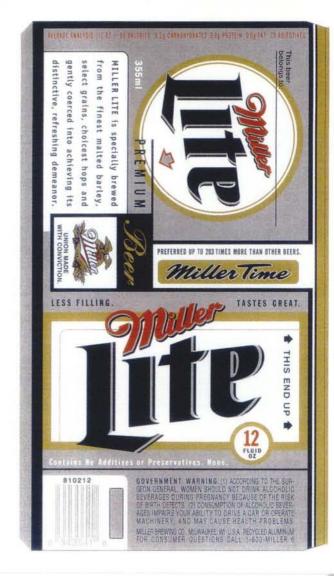
background

Lite beer was introduced by Miller Brewing in 1974, and changed the whole industry. In the US, light beers dominate the market, but Miller had been losing ground to its major competitors because Lite was considered to be a generic beer. By renaming the product Miller Lite, the group felt it could solve this problem and compete more effectively.

Sandstrom Design had already been working on the redesign of Miller High Life for Miller Brewing, and was asked to participate in a preliminary design round on the development of a new Miller Lite logo. Miller had been working with the design department of its advertising agency and required some additional input from the outside. Sandstrom's concepts were successful, and the designers were taken on to work on the packaging for the product.







stage 1 brief and initial concepts

- * Miller Lite, previously known as Lite from Miller or just "Lite", is suffering losses of market share to both Bud and Coors' versions of the beer. Miller is losing ground partially because it has never tied the product to the brewery name. This becomes the primary focus of Sandstrom's brief.
- ** The secondary element is to design packaging that appeals to a younger audience. The light beer market is growing in this younger segment. Miller needs to change its image to match the lifestyles and attitudes of younger people.
- * Sandstrom produces two initial concept directions that feature slight variations on the same color palette, plus the revamped logo. Gold is added to both as a premium cue.

stage 2 phase two concepts

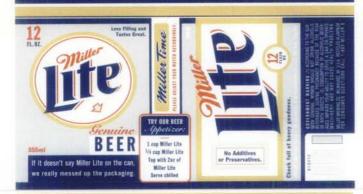
The first set of variations is chosen, and Sandstrom provides a range of further concepts for the packaging design, some of which are related to the current version, and other ideas that are far removed from the original packaging. There is some unity, however, as Rick Braithwaite explains: "The common thread to all of our designs was the new logo and a "360 degree" approach. We didn't want to have any dead zones on the can, where all the legal information is normally placed—and ignored."

50

3 case studies miler lie







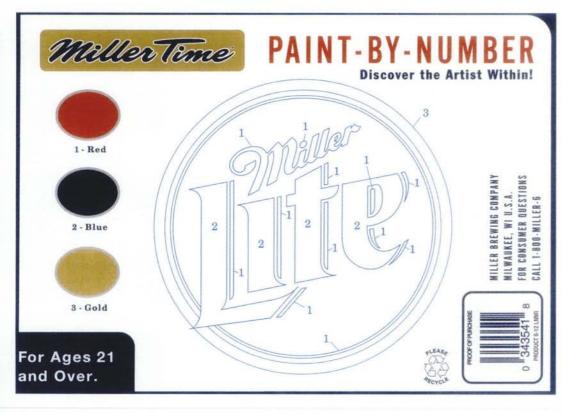






stage 3 collateral development

Sandstrom also produces a range of designs and concepts for collateral materials, including advertising, branding for Miller trucks, a paint-by-numbers system, and wallet photos.









stage 4 final design development

A more contemporary, graphically interesting style is developed for the final concept, intended to appeal to a younger demographic and move away from traditional beer imagery—motorsport for example. Designing in 360 degrees means that the graphics are interlinked and overlap, rather than "a typical can with a front, a back, and some dead zones"—typical packaging has a graphic on front which is then repeated on the back.

stage 5 final design and market testing

Braithwaite says: "Eventually, we reached a solution that was distant from Miller Lite's brand past—in fact where any beer packaging had been in the past." The can and bottle packaging is designed to be interactive through its use of copy and information, creating a "lighter, fresher, and more engaging" image for the product ("We wanted to create an experience for the consumer")

Filling up the space on the cans are brand icons, legal information, and a wide assortment of witty, sarcastic, and unexpected phrases. For example, "Miller Time is unaffected by daylight savings", "As seen on TV beer", and "Union made with cheerful enthusiasm".

* Blind market testing of the packaging designs meets with a positive response from consumers



stage 6 design roll out

"We knew that the jokes would get old quickly. Our other big idea was to do multiple versions of each package every fime it was released," says
Braithwaite. Sandstrom recommends that Miller Lite's packaging is produced in several different versions, all to be rolled out at the same time, with new versions appearing every six months. Braithwaite adds: "It's a huge risk and change for a typical brewery, which doesn't normally want to change its packaging anyway, but we felt that this would give the brand more life and 'discoverability'."

Miller releases eight different 12-ounce cans for the launch. Each design features the new Miller Lite logo, as well as the same color combination and basic template. As a result, the beer packaging shares a look, but on closer inspection the differences between each design are revealed. Each design is numbered in anticipation of collection, since Sandstrom is also working on another release of eight new cans to follow up the initial launch. Braithwaite explains: "For the first time in beer

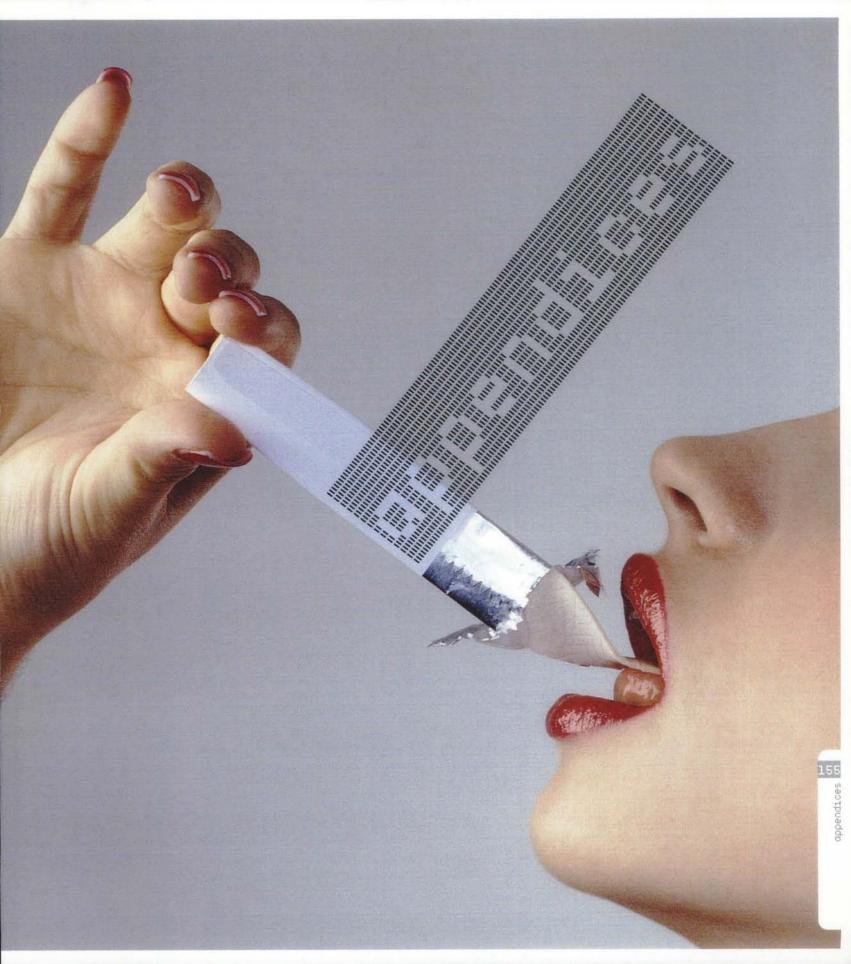
packaging, several different versions of artwork were released at the same time. They were sequentially numbered for those who like to collect beers, and the first run had eight cans and four bottles in circulation."



response

- ** Miller Lite's new look gets a good reception from consumers. "The response was very positive among the target audience," Braithwaite says. "They quickly adopted the brand energy we created, and sales were very positive. The advertising agency even began to create advertising that featured the packaging because of the response."
- * Miller Brewing has a freefone number for consumers to call, which normally only receives a modest number of calls, 90 percent of these being complaints. Within one month of the packaging's launch, Miller receives 1,000 calls from Lite drinkers praising the new design.





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₩ Ben Hargreaves₩

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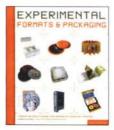


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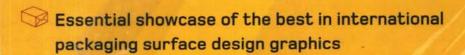
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