Google Glass

The Future is Now!
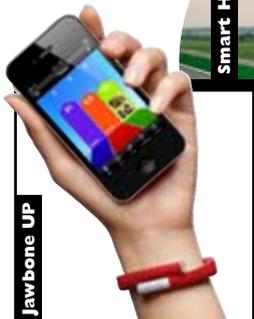
Emerging designs and trends that are going to rock 2014

Absent presence

Okay. This is *really* cool. Your BFF who's off making big bucks in Dubai can still make your dinner party tomorrow night. We're not talking about teleportation but 3D scanners that reproduce lifelike digital forms. Masashi Kawamura, founder of creative lab PARTY, says the essence of a networked society is liberation from time and space. Advances in technology mean not having to be present to experience something – whether it's a game that simulates extreme sports, Google Hangouts (which lets you host meetings with colleagues around the globe) or 3D scanners that reproduce lifelike digital forms.
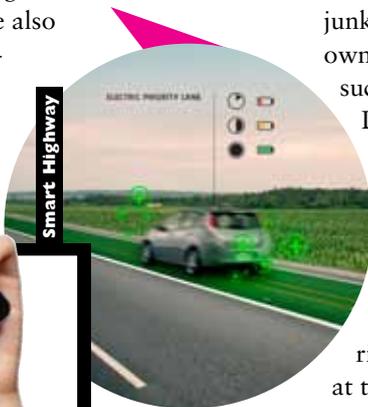
Device dialogue

Using technology such as RFID (radio-frequency identification) and Bluetooth, more of our electronic devices will be talking to each other in 2014. Your phone can already connect via Bluetooth to portable speakers such as **Jawbone Jambox**, and Smart Refrigerators can sync with your shopping-list app to tell you which groceries have run low. The next step is technology that allows your devices and appliances to talk together, rather than being managed independently. Eventually your radio could read your Twitter feed to you while you flatiron your hair on the highway, as your car navigates rush-hour traffic using sensors and live traffic feeds. It's not as far away as you think. Google Daan Roosegaarde's award-winning Smart Highway. (We also love his glow-in-the-dark street lines.)

Jawbone Jambox

It's wearable

Imagine being able to adjust the colour of your dress to suit your mood. How cool would that be? Well, wearable technology is already here. Next year will see a proliferation of 'smartwatches' and a consumer version of **Google Glass** (the glasses-mounted computer that allows you to connect to the Web, take photos and make phone calls using voice commands and a touch screen on the side of the headset). Health-conscious wristbands like the Nike+ FuelBand and Jawbone UP make it easier to monitor behaviour such as sleep patterns and movement. And yes, hi-tech will meet *haute couture*. Daan Roosegaarde's Intimacy 2.0 Dress varies in degrees of transparency in response to the wearer's heartbeat as she gets turned on!

Jawbone UP

Smart Highway

Make your own berry pie

Raspberry Pi is a low-cost, credit-card-sized computer that enables tech junkies to build and customise their own PCs. With software extensions such as *Coder* by Google Creative Lab, you can turn Raspberry Pi into a basic Web server with a web-development environment. Another score for DIY enthusiasts is 3D printing that takes your designs and turns them into your product right in front of your eyes. But, at the risk of starting to sound like spoiled brats, we still want a teleporter. Beam us up! �