

## Pick and Mix

If you ask me, the most interesting thing about today is the lack of any single dominant issue or movement. Instead, there seems to be something more diverse, messy and human going on. Ideas across so many of my personal areas of interest such as architecture, sustainable design and display technologies are in flux. Things are on the move.

It seems that until the very recent past our lives were simplified to a large extent by mighty media and fashion editors. Today with the explosion of excellent web resources, blogging, RSS and on-demand media, growing numbers of people are gorging themselves on an all-day menu of must-have information. Such feeding frenzies, like all binges, can leave you feeling full, inactive, overwhelmed and unsatisfied. I often find myself swept away on a stream of virtual consciousness. By spending so much time absorbing, filtering and sharing my findings my surfing habit has started to affect my productivity levels and erode some of my most basic communication skills, which lately have taken a turn for the worse.

I hear myself offering endless information on a wide and diverse range of interesting things, (so far so good) stop when my memory runs out (usually 10 seconds later - not so good) and end with me saying - for more information just Google x, x and x. There are huge benefits to spreading around the good stuff though, even if it tends to make you feel more aggregator than creator.

There is a welcome trend that has been gathering strength since the birth of the internet by knitting its way into the hearts of technology users worldwide. It has been a slow burn but the democratic technology revolution fuelled by falling technology prices and access to the internet has resulted in a massive human-centred online caring community with a keen DIY ethic. With thanks largely due to the mighty Linux group, anyone who wants to can now do it for themselves and best of all, for free. Now if we need support we can find it in friends and no longer only after we have emptied every last penny into pockets of corporate strangers. The internet has helped renew my faith in human nature.

So as a way of seeing where I fit into this bigger picture I started to put together a comprehensive A-Z of things that have inspired me. The list of people and things that came together in just a few weeks grew large enough to fill my own Sgt. Pepper album cover ten times over.

It reflects many of the things that have resonated with me, affected my development and informed my choices. Some are ideas that I feel have never been matched and some are simply reasons to be cheerful. Most of the people on the list stood up for what they believed in but some remain pure and unique characters. I think there are obvious connections but you may find your own while you dip in and out of my list, Google and Wiki away and afterwards maybe have a go at putting together your own list. You might just find the result as revealing for you as it was for me.

(As you can't yet embed urls into printed page I thought I'd offer to save you some time by publishing a dynamic list on the Melt site and on my blog [welovetechnology.wordpress.com](http://welovetechnology.wordpress.com).)

Enjoy.

A

[Autonomous Light Air Vehicles](#) by Jed Berks, [analogue](#), [American diners](#), [allotments](#)

B

[Bluetooth](#), [Bitfall](#) (water droplet array by Julius Popp), [Bloomframe Window Ledge](#) (Hofman Dujardin's dynamically window frame-balcony), [breakdancing](#), [Boudica](#), [Brazilia](#) (new city designed in the 1950's by Lúcio Costa and Oscar Niemeyer), [Muran](#), [Buchstansangur](#) (moody purple cartoon character), [Tim Berners-Lee](#) (World Wide Web), [Blender](#), Kathy Burke's [Waynetta Slob](#), [Richard Beckinsale](#), John Berger's [Way's of Seeing](#), [BASE](#)

C

[Hussein Chalayan](#) (Mechanical Dress), [Capadoccia](#) underground cave cities, Albert Camus' [The Fall](#) (the little-ease), [Robert Crumb's](#) Amazonian women, [Creative Commons](#), [Arthur C Clark](#), [Cuba](#) the ultimate DIY community, Video Sniffing by [Mongrel](#), Tom Courtenay in [Billy Liar](#), [citizen journalism](#), [Raymond Carver](#), [Martin Creed's](#) neon message Everything's Going To Be Alright, connectivity, [Marcus Coates](#) Dawn Chorus and Out of Seasons, Steve Coogan's [Pauline Calf](#), [Chronos Chromos Concrete](#), [Cordyceps](#) (parasitic fungi), Nick Crowe's [Discrete Packets](#), [Harry H Corbett](#), [codes](#)

D

[digital](#), [Digiwall](#), [Charles Darwin \(The Gluttons Club\)](#), [DIY](#), [drive-in cinemas](#), [The Doge](#) Leonardo Loredan by Giovanni Bellini, [Day of Defeat](#) (multiplayer online game SAS Hide and Seek mod), [Marcel Duchamp](#) (R. Mutt and chess), [del.icio.us](#), [dreaming](#), deadpan, [David and Goliath](#), [Difference Engine](#) (Charles Babbage computer), [Richard Dawkins](#), [desire paths](#), [Dogma 95 Collective](#) and their gimmick-free film making, dens

E

[Everland rooftop hotels](#), [Jan Edler's](#) balcony unit, [Olafur Eliasson's](#) The Weather Project at Tate Modern

F

[Foghorn Leghorn](#) plank spanking chicken, [ferro fluid](#), [flickr](#), [The Festival of Britain 1951](#), domestic fantasy worlds (Narnia in The Lion The Witch and The Wardrobe), [face roll](#), [Bob](#) [FossilFlaneurism](#)

G

[Frank Gehry's Guggenheim Art Gallery in Bilbao](#), [Rube Goldberg](#), [guerrilla gardening](#), [Arthur Ganson](#), [Michel Gondry's](#) music videos - Star Guitar by the Chemical Brothers, [Galileo Galilei's](#) work with the glass lens, the telescope, the universe and singing to mark time as he measured the pull of gravity, [Google](#), [Ghostbusters](#), [geeks](#), [Glow Positioning System](#)

H

[Debby Harry](#), [Philip Seymour Hoffman](#), [Harry Hill's TV Burp](#), [Harmonica](#) cheap but influential instrument, [Roger Hargreaves'](#) voice, [Bill Hicks](#), have-a-go-heroes, [The Hittites](#), [Tim Hunkin](#), [Morton Heilig](#)

I

internet, [igloo](#), John Isaac's [I can't help the way I feel](#), [Eddie Izzard](#), [innuendo](#), [interactivearchitecture](#), [inflatables](#)

J

[Tove Janesson](#) (Moomins and Hattifatteners), [Spike Jonze's](#) film Being John Malkovich

K

[James Howard Kunstler](#), [Krakow's Wieliczka Salt Mine](#), [Gilberto Kassab](#)  
- Clean City mayor of Sao Paulo who rid the city of visual pollution, [Aaron Koblin](#), [Chris Kamara's](#) punditry, [Stanley Kubrick](#) films except Eyes Wide Shut and Barry Lyndon, [Charlie Kaufman](#), [Andy Kaufman](#) for Latka and reading the whole of The Great Gatsby to a crowd shouting for Latka

L

[Lyre bird](#), [Light Emitting Polymer Displays](#) (e-ink),  
'[Less is More](#)', Lager Kvist's [Sketch Furniture](#), [Graham Linehan's](#) TV comedy writing, [LOLcats](#), [LEET](#), '[Less qq more pew pew](#)', [John Lautner Henry's Coffee Shop](#)

M

[memory sticks](#) (USB), [The Mechanical Turk](#), [Bill Murray](#), [Jasper Maskelyne](#) (stage magician), [Vic Muniz](#) for his clouds and clown skull, [Michel de Montaigne](#) for his love of sleep, Maurizio Cattelan's [La Nona Ora](#), made-for-media, miniatures, [Mariana trench](#), [Chris Morris's](#) Brass Eye, Blue Jam and The Day Today, [Jonathan Meades](#), [Matriarchies](#), [Mitchell and Kenyon](#) documentary film pioneers, [magnets](#)

N

[Bruce Nauman](#), [nests](#), the North, [new wave](#)

O

[The Onion](#) (Amazon 1-click Check Out Bankrupts Parkinson's Sufferer and World of World of Warcraft), [optical illusions](#), [Karen O](#)

P

[Parasitic Architecture](#), [priest holes](#), [Portaledge](#), [peer-to-peer](#), [Emmeline Pankhurst](#), portability, puns, [podcasts](#), [Poème électronique](#), [punk](#)

Q

[Quantum computer](#) (Qubits)

R

robots hi and low tec - [Mr Woo](#), [rapid prototyping](#), [Richard Rogers](#), [Salman Rushdie](#), [Ken Robinson](#), [Rita, Sue and Bob Too](#), [Rear Window](#)

S

[Silent Disco](#), [Mimar](#)  
[Sinan](#) and his [Süleymaniye Mosque](#), [Mark E Smith](#), [Shazam](#), [Solar power](#), [Cindy Sherman](#), [sleep](#), [Sky Ear](#) by Usman Haque, [Shakey the Robot](#), [Santogold](#), [Spektrum](#), [symbiosis](#), [Sunfish](#), [Sketch Swap](#), [Smartmobs](#), [Scrollbars](#) by Jan Robert Leegte and Edo Paulus, [Street Performer Protocol](#), [sound mirrors](#)

T

[Telesymphony](#), Theo Jansen's [Strandbeest](#), [TED Talks](#), tree houses, [Lars Von Trier](#) (Dogville), Jaques Tati's [Mon Oncle](#), [Taschen](#)

U

[Ubuntu](#), undiscovered places

V

[Louis Vuitton's Bed in a Box](#), [vadding](#), [Viz](#), [Velasquez](#), [Vorticism](#)

W

[Water Walk](#) by John Cage, [Bill Woodrow](#)'s sculptures such as Car Door, Ironing Board And Twintub with North American Indian Headdress, [Joseph Weizenbaum](#), [Garry Winogrand](#)'s photography particularly Central Park Zoo, New York City series and European Brown Bear, [Wikipedia](#), [White Glove Tracking](#), [Val Williams](#), South Park [World of Warcraft](#) episode, [Joseph Williamson](#)  
[Mary Wollstonecraft](#), [Erwin Wurm](#)'s One Minute Sculptures, [John Waters](#), [Woodstock](#) (Peanuts)

X

[x-ray fish](#), [X-Ray Spex](#), [X-Men](#)

Y

[YouTube](#), [Yoffi](#) (Fingerbobs)

Z

[Zooniverse](#), [Z Beds](#), [Zandia's Z machine](#), [Carl Zeiss](#), [Zorro](#), [zombies](#), zzz

Lisa Roberts  
Blink  
lisa@blinkmedia.org