# **SMITHSONIAN**

### CONTENIDO

## VOLUMEN 43, No. 5, SEPTEMBER 2012

#### CONTENTS

#### 42 Keep it Simple.

Passionate to the point of obsessive about design, Steve Jobs insisted that his computers look perfect inside and out. *Walter Issacson*.

#### 50 Better Living Through Imitation.

Creative minds are increasingly turning to nature —banyan tree leaves, butterfly wings, a bird's beak— for fresh design solutions. *Tom Vanderbilt*.

#### 54 China's Most Dangerous Man.

Recently named the world's most powerful artist, Ai Weiwei is best-know for daring works that are highly critical of the government. *Mark Stevens*.

#### 62 Overnight Sensation.

Once a rarely used key on the typewriter, the graceful @ character has become the very symbol of modern electronic communication. *William F. Allman.* 

#### 64 Extreme Pogo.

How three lone inventors took a classic toy that had changed little since it was invented 80 years ago and transformed it into a gnarly, big air machine. *Ariel Sabar*.

#### 72 Koolhaas Country.

Age has not tempered the Dutch architect, who at 67 continues to shake up the cultural landscape with his provocative designs. *Nicolai Ouroussoff.* 

#### **DEPARTMENTS**

- 4 **Contributors.**
- 9 From the Editor.
- **IO** From the Castle.
- 12 Discussion.

14	<b>Phenomenon.</b> This month's theme is invisibility, from hidden codes to covert gorillas.
25	How She Overcame. Aung San Suu Kyi reveals how she survived decades of house arrest.
32	<b>Planet Fever.</b> Hundreds of exoplanets and counting.
37	The Martin Chronicles. Martin Amis contemplates Evil.
49	<b>"Pattern and Snarl".</b> A new poem. <i>Amit Majmudar</i> .
70	<b>National Treasure.</b> The pink flamingo lawn ornament roosts in the iconography of American pop culture.
80	Books.
84	Smithsonian. What's new around the Mall.
104	Fast Forward.