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Wings

THE INFLIGHT MAGAZINE OF ARIK AIR

ECCENTRIC LONDON

EXPLORE THE WEIRD
& WONDERFUL IN THE
INIMITABLE CITY

KEEPING IT REEL
A revolution in
African cinema

PLUS!
12 FOR 2012
Life-changing tips
for the New Year

IN WITH THE NEW

The Complete Optimist's Guide to 2012.

Forget for a minute everything silly you've been led to accept about 2012 - Mayan calendars, Zombie guides, and the like. Forget even for one moment that the human population hit the seven billionth mark in 2011 in less time than it took to hit the three billionth in 1960. Forget grim news reports, worrying statistics, and depressing online forums. Feel lighter already? Good, because there's so much more that's good about the future than some prognosticators would have us believe. Here's our take on exciting future-forward ideas for 2012. Happy New Year!

MIND READING

MIND OVER WIRE

It used to be that 'mind over matter' was something we said to try to get ourselves out of bed on Monday mornings, after an especially crazy weekend that always ends the same way: selective memory loss and, if you're lucky, a post-it note with your name and out-of-town phone number glued to your head. Well, not any more - not the fun weekend but the feeble 'must. walk. to. bathroom.' part. Thanks in part to nerdy gaming headset technologies like Emotiv and the folks over at IBM, very soon you too may become a real-life Jedi master by sheer force of brainpower alone.

What reads like science fiction is actually science fact. How mind control technology works is essentially by turning your intentions (detected and harnessed through brain-signal sensors) into programmable physical actions. Take BrainGate for example, a technology currently in development by US scientists at The Brown Institute For Brain Science. Chips embedded right into the human brain send mental commands into a computer system enabling all sorts of routine virtual control - from moving a cursor, to working an onscreen keyboard, and even robotic limbs.

So far such biotech breakthroughs have been restricted to the field of



Design Of The Times
Ifeanyi Oganwu's brand Expand Design Limited showcases some innovative forward-looking furniture ideas.

medical science, like helping sufferers of locked-in syndrome and disabled persons function. But then given the times we're living in where there is practically an app for everything you can think of, we are mere seconds away from some genius figuring out a way to turn your brain into a hot button for just about everything - or maybe just turning Mondays permanently off.

FUTURISTIC FURNITURE

FRESHLY FURNISHED

Nigerian Ifeanyi Oganwu runs London-based design shop Expand Design Limited, which creates some of the more conceptually sophisticated furniture designs today. The biggest reveal of the year has been the Double Agent Suite - a



combination all-black aerodynamic executive desk and chair that looks and feels like a prop from Batman's private den, complete with burnished surface and wings.

Oganwu's statement pieces have been featured in architecture and design shows and editorials from the Milan Furniture Fair to British Vogue to Nigerian Vanguard Newspaper's Allure Magazine. The good news for the future is that Oganwu's creations seem built to satisfy a desire for transcendence in décor your average IKEA fare never will.

Expand-design.com

SPACE TRAVEL

INTERGALACTIC MINIBREAK

Sir Richard Branson has been pulling the Howard Hughes millionaire-



adventurer shtick since at least the mid-'80s: Virgin Challenger II, Virgin Atlantic Flyer, Virgin Money, even a shot at a golf record in 2010 where he dared to putt a round of golf in the dark at the Black Light Mini Golf in The Docklands, Melbourne, Australia. Somehow in the midst of running the multibillion-dollar Virgin empire, Branson has managed to pull off one feat of daredevilry after the other – with varying degrees of success.

So it was only inevitable that his most significant aviator-themed enterprise in recent years would involve commercial space travel stuffed with the same spirit of adventure that set the tone for his private record-setting breakthroughs. Virgin Galactic provides sub-orbital spaceflights (cruising at 70,000 feet) to a paying public (430 bookings as of October, 2011), eventually to be expanded to full orbital human spaceflights. So far, at fares up to \$200,000, the market is pretty niche; and although the flagship two crew/six passenger SpaceShipTwo has seen repeated flight delays, indications are that in less than two years, full operations will launch from New Mexico's Spaceport America. Virinalgalactic.com

ONLINE CAMPAIGNING

AVAAZ

Advocacy in the 21st century has morphed from small self-contained groups of activists to formless viral movements driven by social media and a 24-hour news cycle. Think Anonymous, #Occupy, the Arab Spring – people power is in, reinvigorating existing democracies, toppling repressive governments. When the message is at risk of being lost in the madness, it's a boon to have mature systematic networks like Digital

Democracy (digital-democracy.org) or, more recently, Avaaz in the mix. The over 10 million-member Avaaz community is possibly the largest of its kind in the world today and its impact is growing and measurable – from campaigning to put an end to the ravages famine and war in Somalia, to sponsoring anti-corruption forces in India and Spain to blocking an Amazon-destroying mega-dam in Brazil. The website even has a live tracker monitoring such events and actions occurring around the world.

We foresee this sort of global web movement being more relevant to the concerns of real people and upstaging traditional structures in pushing reform the old-fashioned way: using the voice.

Avaaz.org

ONLINE SHOPPING IN 3D

VIRTUAL SHOPPER

With the unfolding of the tablet market in 2011, the killer app came into its own – in a near-death race for bit space in every mobile device known to man. Suddenly, it seemed users were talking about them with the sort of intimate knowledge usually reserved for one's favourite hangout. New location-based web apps like Near™ take full advantage of that captive audience with a service that “isn't a map, (but) a place”. At the moment Near™ is honing in on London's iconic West End, allowing users to explore and experience the famous theatre district – every street, every building, every shop, bar, restaurant and office – as if you were really there in real-time or in a video game. In the coming months, expect a rollout of other cities and hotspots. What's great about the Near™ concept? You don't have to leave the sofa for a complete virtual shopping experience.

Nearglobal.com

AFRICAN ECONOMIES

GREAT EXPECTATIONS: A TALE OF GDPs

Remember that line from Dickens, “It was the best of times, it was the worst of times...” Well, it so happens – as you're no doubt aware of a tailspinning world economy – that times have been less Dickensian for some countries than others. Amid bailout crises in Europe and declining employment in the US, sub-Saharan Africa seems to be doing rather well from a GDP standpoint.

While global real GDP is projected to improve marginally by 3 decimal

GAINING ALTITUDE

SANTA CAUSE

Tis' the season of good cheer; the season to dump the scrooge-ness and share some love or support a cause. Learn how to donate, raise money or volunteer for local and international charities.

Onecause.com

HARD FEELINGS

Hiding emotions (anger, not included) is a common human trait, but why do most romance-themed movies do so well at the box office? Perhaps deep down, we all need a little love and to learn how to express it.

Psychologytoday.com

ARMCHAIR TRAVEL

Explore before you go with a new website that employs google street view to take you on a virtual street tour of a city's best areas including in Johannesburg, Manhattan and London.

Robotflaneur.com

WINGSPANS

TRENDS TAKING OFF AND FADS READY FOR LANDING

STAYING PUT

It's been a long year and you need a break. Apart from another financial crisis that could leave you without a job, work-related stress is one more reason many people embrace self-employment. Too scared to take the plunge? Study start-up tips at Savingadvice.com

WRITER'S BLOCK

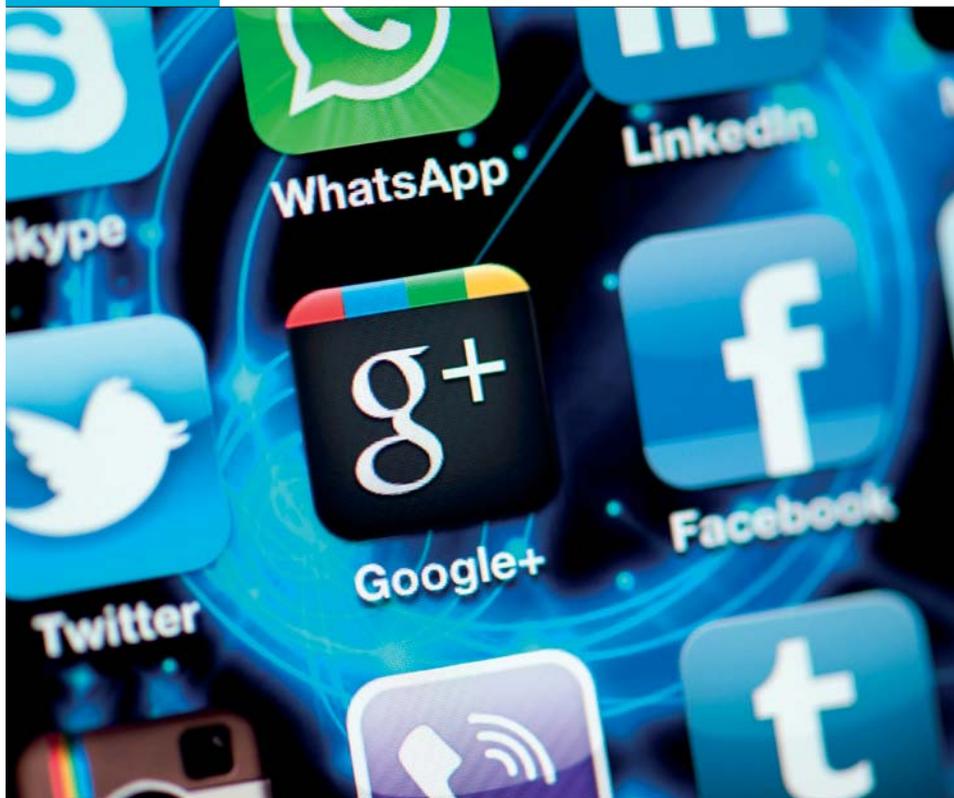
At first there was the short story, then came flash fiction. If you're on a long flight with some renegade words at your disposal, try your hands at one-minute fiction. The only criteria: Pick a topic or get someone to ask you a question and write for 60 seconds non-stop. Get ideas at oneminutewriter.blogspot.com

MUM'S THE WORD

Why did you think a long-haul flight with the kid was a good idea again? It can be. We found a blog with brilliant tips on traveling with small children plus air travel tips, ideas, games, articles and family-friendly city guides to New York, London and more. Mylittlenomads.com

WORDS Derin Ajao
LOSING ALTITUDE





Google+. A little under a year old, it is still fresh enough to attract the innovation crowd with the sort of uncluttered, intuitive features (Circles, Hangouts) that make Facebook look like a broken-down 1950s Oldsmobile. So as the blue-and-white struggles for relevance in 2012, Google+ will strut its stuff and take in the former's discontents. And Twitter? "Life, youth, beautiful."
plus.google.com

points (3.3 to 3.6) in 2012 over 2011, the extent of that growth becomes clearer when broken down into economic regions. As it stands High Income countries (Euro area, Japan, US, OECD nations) will do worse on average (2.7) than developing countries (6.1), with the three best-performing results predicted for South Asia (8.1) East Asia/Pacific (7.8) and sub-Saharan Africa (5.5). Within sub-Saharan Africa, the overall picture is relatively peachy, with Ghana (7.3), Nigeria (6.6), and Angola (10.5) among the better earners - all these statistics, to quote Dickens again, "in the superlative degree of comparison only."

Plus Size Google+ is poised to take over from Facebook as the new place to be seen in the realm of social media.

The New News Al Jazeera's news coverage has built a global audience of over 100 million.

Let's face it: Facebook has long lost a huge degree of its cultural cool. Sure, it attained super-elitist status with 2010's release of The Social Network - mostly due to an over-characterised Mark Zuckerberg, and while no modern website on earth exists without a Facebook share button, influential guerilla environments like Twitter all but took the wind permanently out of its sails.

Coming in to fill the large empty house on the social-media block is

NEWS

AL JAZEERA ENGLISH

How do you solve a 'problem' like Al Jazeera? When a widely cited news source becomes The News They Don't Want You To Hear, when US Secretary Of State Hilary Clinton makes remarks like: "You may not agree with it, but you feel like you're getting real news around the clock instead of a million commercials," when winning over 100 million viewers worldwide from the Middle East to the Far East by sheer dint of hard-nosed, politically independent journalism brings current affairs front and centre in a media landscape often high on fluff and low on credibility, when the centre of broadcast gravity of the Arab Spring and the other democratic protest movements it continues to inspire is located not in New York, London, or Washington, but in Doha; you don't. You just stay tuned in and carry on watching.
English.aljazeera.net

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

IPHONE 5: THE SECOND COMING

The fact that the iPhone 5 prototype was stolen just a few months shy of its original unveiling might have brought about what most tech observers judge as a damage-control product: the iPhone 4S. But then the gambit paid off in millions of sales since its October release.

And yet so much mystery and speculation continues to surround the smart phone to end all smart phones that we're willing to bet that by the time it launches sometime probably in early 2012, it will sell out at record speed.

Apple.com

SOCIAL MEDIA

GOOGLE +, FACEBOOK, TWITTER

