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POSTRmagazine Free Counter-Culture Chronicle

and every country. Then multiply by ev-On July 10, 2000, around 200 people died in the Philippines when a garerv week, vear and month. How many bage slide buried the landfill they oottles of vitamin water and shampoo with natural hair nutrients? How many ad been living on with about 80,000 thers. That casualty count is a careful estimate; a rough guess based on lings and one-coin-toys that come he number of bodies that were re out of supermarket machines? Where

vered from under the thousand are we hiding all this crap? tons of muck-filled plastic bags, CLOACA MAXIMA stripped baby strollers, broken re rigerators and torn clothing. Nobody kept track of how many people were A long time ago, the Romans built a

iving in Lupang Pangako (the Prom sewer system that was so massive sed Land) because the people there that entire stagecoaches could pass that even the poor could sit down and one except each other. They were read the newspaper while taking a ot the Western brand of poor where you have trouble paying your phon nice, long dump. But that was only i oills at the end of the month. They the city of Rome and even then it was rere that other kind of poor; the one where you spend the majority of your ind'. The sewer system was built belife up to your knees in a red-brow cause Rome was turning into a giant uddy swamp filled with oxidized latrine. In fact, the Roman legislators oat hangers, broken glass and muhad to pass a law called the Dejecti ated viruses rummaging around for omething that might help you make mptied your household bucket by into next week. What happened in tossing its contents out your window upang Pangako was a tragedy, but into the street and onto someone's t's not the same kind of tragedy as an brand new toga, you could be held lithquake or a tsunami. The people n the Promised Land weren't hit with says something about popular culture oods or hurricanes. We can't blame and civil standards: if lawmakers have this one on that vile bitch Mothe to declare that as of today, throwing Nature. These people were buried unshit out of a window can be punishable bage that was stacked so high and so band of barbaric poop-flinging postbrutally careless that there can neve be any pretenses about any kind of primates who have barely even g-term perspective. It's unfair to

made their feelings painfully clea <mark>row a b</mark>unch of sand over it. Out of <mark>nen they expressed</mark> their regre<mark>t over</mark> what had happened only to add that thes<mark>e people - who b</mark>een burie<mark>d alive</mark> Now crap is crap regardless of where ınd<mark>er other people's t</mark>rash - ha<mark>d been</mark> you dump it. In our defense: up until too <mark>stubborn to reco</mark>gnize th<mark>e dan-</mark> the Industrial Revolution the whole ger they were putting themselves in. trash issue wasn't really that big of problem. Whatever got dropped on Yes, <mark>you dumb poor b</mark>astards. <mark>Is it that</mark> much <mark>fun living on a </mark>mountai<mark>n of gar</mark> the ground or into waterways just rotbage t<mark>hat you would </mark>risk bein<mark>g buried</mark> ted and fermented into a heap of slim alive un<mark>der a flood o</mark>f trash ju<mark>st so you</mark> goo that seeped into the soil as food can spend your best years scavenging for earthworms and plants to feast o hrough society's rotting an<mark>d rejected</mark> The process went full circle because we crap? Why not go dumpste<mark>r-diving in</mark> hadn't vet figured out how to make shit

a nice suburban area wher<mark>e only the</mark> that could really do some serious dambest food gets tossed and where you age. But then we invented the steam an find a brand new pair <mark>of worn-out</mark> engine and metallurgy and fossil fuels and radioactivity and when that reactor in Tchernobyl had a meltdown, it This story is no longer a<mark>n exceptio</mark>r dawned on us that maybe, just maybe here are garbage cities <mark>like Lupang</mark> we were toeing the line. Through the power of intellect, we have developed angako all over the wo<mark>rld: Mansh</mark> at Naser in Egypt is ho<mark>me to 60.000</mark> trash that can instantly eradicate orople who live off the trash that gets ganic life and contaminate the entire Nigeria have grow<mark>n into dumpin</mark> with our trash, at least no more than ped in from Europe and the US be we did when we tossed our raw excrement out the window. We're doing ead of 1,000\$. Let's face it: v

ace to another, set it on fire a

a bridge taking a shit. At least at first sight. We ship it to countries like Ghana and Pakistan where it gets burnt by 12-year-old boys and girls who have never even seen any of those snazzy nning inside the scorched plastic that for about half a century, nobody again. But this is 2011 and the big stinky mountain of accumulated crap that we have exported and dumped

bit differently so it looks well-planned

and sophisticated when compared

to hanging ass-first over the side of

ple in Lupang Pangako. A DUMP IN AFRICA:

onto other countries is now so big that

it is looming over the entire world and

when it keels over, we're all going to

get buried under an obese century of

offshore littering. Just like those peo-

THE NEW COLONIALISM waste every year and that number is only estimated to climb higher as time progresses. This number refers exclusively to e-waste which is a relatively new type of garbage. That means it comes with new problems and new consequences. We feel those consecentralized workshop where these obsolete machines get taken apart by Oompa Loompa's, Let's reality check

that: go to your computer and look

ahead, put down this magazine and

by law, you can deduct that your popu- 🚾 take a peek. Did you see? Those aren't 🤍 witnesses. Then when internal Trafiglation consists of nothing but a rancid Oompa Loompa's at all, are they? ura emails revealed that the company No, those are 10-year old kids sifting had known full well what had been on through burnt hard-drives and flame-board and what that meant for the peorasped the concept of basic sanita- a retardants chemicals looking for chips a ple in Ivory Coast, they started to sue cle is that it's not really a cycle -w haul tons of garbage from one The e-waste problem is only just start-

> ecent years and already it has turned countries like Nigeria and Lagos into screenshots from beyond the Apocalypse. This new trash is deadly and dangerous and we're cranking it out by the tonnes with every new smartphone, laptop and flatscreen that gets sold. To make matters worse, the laws that have been passed in regard to this million tonne cancerbomb are hard to uphold and easy to bypass because they lose their power at the border. So what do we do? "Hey Africa, you're poor because we brutally molested your entire continent for a few centuries, would you like to receive these worhtless piece of shit comput ers under the thin guise of humanitarian aid? You might as well sign the

ing to manifest itself. This is a thing of

whole boatload onto your shores if you don't. Ok thanks, you're a great sport. " That's not helping, that's a rapist's kiss goodnight. The people who run since they're dealing with big clients which means they can buy big ships to ship big loads of crap to wherever they want. They recoup the overhead transport cost because the Third World has now - as a final, desperate - started to offer us the very ground under their feet at discount prices. And who can blame them? Somehow and someway. all that shit is going to get dumped anyway and somebody might as well

contract because we'll just dump the

Illustration: in 2006, the Probo Koala oil tanker dumped about 500 tons of toxic waste on 12 different sites in the world from Norway to Iraq. Long story cut short: Trafigura had decided 'fuck paying \$1,000/cubic metre in the

port of Amsterdam, there has to be an

shit' and told the Probo Koala's captain to set sail for Ivory Coast, When Ab<mark>idian's port officials turned dowr</mark> the ship, Trafigura outsourced the nat they'll never be invited to

entire framework that keeps our world

running. They mapped out a matrix of

organic and synthetic 'technical nu-

trients' - synthetic materials that can

be recycled or upcycled, which means

that they can be fully reintegrated into

the natural environment. They de-

the shit out of newspapers and media outlets throughout Europe in a frantic attempt to keep some sort of lid on things. The legal machine ground its ears for three years before Trafigura ases and chemicals and metals migh

finally paid a \$48 million settlement. 'Hey Ivorian mother of three whose husband died in horrible pain because we turned your village into Hell's Half Acre, sorry you have burnt skin and check for €300. Oh, and this might happen again.' Are you thinking 'Gee whiz, 48 million sounds like a lot of money?' Think again: Trafigura's annual turnover is somewhere around \$73 billion with a profit margin of roughly \$440 million. In the meanwhile, people in Ivory Coast have no skin and no

**OUT OF SIGHT, OUT OF OUR MIND** 

So the waste problem is taking on new unthinkable proportions but the formula has remained the same. Breakdown by factors involved: if the volfootprint of trash produced = Dooms someone has been consistently dropping the ball. This is not a minor error born out of naïve neglect: this is a funused up all our bricks on building a restaurant without a toilet so now we're just shitting all over ourselves hoping telligent life my foot, if any aliens ever decide to come looking for us, we

won't be too hard to find. If the galaxy cardboard boxes and plastic bags spillng over with crushed beer cans and thick swirl of 600,000 objects discarded rocket stages to screws. bolts, tiny metal needles and corrod ing paint chips - is soaring around quences of this ring of trash didn't re-<mark>ally occur – or matt</mark>er – to anyone until one of those rogue paint chips cracked NASA a bit queasy: launching a \$1,7 billion spacecraft to be piloted manually at 28,000 kilometers per hour through a semi-mapped minefield that s itself moving at 36,000 km/h would

he whole scenario smells of neglec and arrogance but what can you ex ct from an industry where the Stan

ssue appears to be a non-malicous lignorance and shortsightedness on a large social scale: we honestly never realized that our garbage might pose a roblem large enough to threaten ou very existence. When the Industria Revolution hit the ground running, we veren't thinking about how all thos

son - someone up to his neck in a bar-

rel of shit is not primarily concerned

with methane fumes, he's buried

important things on our mind, like with our survival as a species and you survival. It's not like history took a might be right to do so. This kind of debate is a wet dream for ecology stutime-out to let us get our facts straight dents with long hair and generic song-As we were still figuring out how to power steam engines and how to keep writing abilities. However, company spokesmen will tell you that in the infia plane in the air, Napoleon was sodnite complexity of Reality, setting your omizing the living daylights out of Europe's mainland; every country with course demands more nuance than a the exception of the United Kingdom simple weighing of what is right and lay in ruins, both logistically and ecowrong. They will tell you that the outnomically. The idea of an industrial come of mankind's survival as a spesociety caught on because the immecies is triangulated by right, wrong and diate advantages were right there for economically viable. And they're absoeveryone to see: food, clothing and a lutely right when they say such a thing. house with a stove. If you're living off The Course depends on the Captain. Of three beets and the freshest ratmeat Industry. Survival correlates with profitability. So if vou're in the market for you can find, asking questions about saving the world and all the people in the environment isn't the first thing that comes to mind. And for good reait, you'd better have a top notch busi-

Hungary declared a state of emergency in three counties on October 5, 2010

day after a torrent of toxic red sludge from an alumina plant tore through near

villages, killing four people and injuring 12

ou're either part of the elite or fucked

for life? This appears to be a simplis-

tically idealistic question and it is. It

onomic reality. It does not take into

ccount the individual preservation

of acquired standards of living. Now

ness model to do it with

pidly expanding and growing into So at first we just sort of thought that everything would sort itself out in the end somehow. But there's no more claiming ignorance in the 21st century. The future is now and yet we're of our windows even though science has made it clear that a 100,000 ton toxic shitbucket every day might not sit well with the ecosystem. But afwent global - there was no stopping the Machine. All of a sudden, every plebarian across the world was being company Ford 60 years to build 50 million cars (between 1903 and 1959) but in no less than 2 decades that number mated production lines all over the world started turning raw resources into serialized luxury for everyone to eniov. Then all those items started to come back new & improved the year after and we upgraded; only then did it begin to dawn on us that when you toss a lot of things on a pile, you might just end up with a bigger pile than ex pected. So then what was our reaction Let's worry about that when we run out of rocks to bury shit under.' Then we ran out of rocks and still the Great Conveyor Belt hasn't stopped for even perfectly aware of the consequences

verhaul of the entire production line

eryone in the world can enjoy our

## CRADLE TO CRADLE

dealing with the vast amounts of behind. The free market model has already made it perfectly clear that there won't be any downsizing on the so-called 'horizontal' plane. Apwith the ability to choose between twelve brands of tooth paste. It also means that the initiative is going to not from the ground up. Industry is pissing caustic acid into our drinking water, right where it springs from the ground. We won't fix the exhaust problem by carpooling, we won't fix the water problem by only flushing

We need to figure out a new way of

Number Two and we won't fix the landfill problem by turning old computer screens into fish tanks. You can't ask the public to take care of the mess, they don't know a goddamn thing about waste management apart from separate garbage bags. Disagree? Look up from this magazine. Look around at all that stuff and ask yourself: if somebody would ask you to reintegrate all this stuff into the Great

Circle Of Life without giving someone or something cancer in the process, would you even have a shred of a clue as to how to do it? Unless you're some kind of smartass, you don't. You have no freaking idea whatsoever. You pay for it so you don't have to deal with it once it breaks down. It's part of customer service. What we need to do is change our production line because the one we have now is hopelessly outdated; it's a barbaric relic from another timeframe and we're sacrificing

our own young to keep it satisfied. 'Shifting the paradigm' has easily become one of the most hollowed out terms of our generation, mostly thanks to marketeers and corporate team coaches. The phrase itself refers to a drastic and profound change in the fundamental approach to a subject. A new way of looking at things, if you will. Well, let's have a look: so far, we have treated our garbage as something that does not take part in real ity anymore: it gets exported, buried and forgotten. This approach is starting to clash with reality as we are running ou<mark>t of soil to poison a</mark>nd the Great Machine hasn't even stopped churn ing ou<mark>t fresh crap yet.</mark> The existi<mark>ng</mark> paradigm can be summarized as cr dle to grave. But, as architect Bill N Donough points out very succinctly the long run this approach will turn plane<mark>t into one big gra</mark>veyard. Tog<mark>e</mark> er w<mark>ith bio-engineer Michael Bra</mark>

gart, McDonough developed a new a

proach to the way we design our ent

society. They labeled it cradle to cra

on the idea that industry and econor

needs to enrich the environment th

also the main, if not the only reason principles. Braungart and McDonough that this new paradigm is becoming increasingly popular among our captains nature (cfr. POSTRmagazine #8: The Design Issue) which leads to the production of trash that is itself a nutri-McDonough knows this. He realized ent to the environment. Basically, they tion. One of the first cradle to cradle that the reasons for change would have turned our waste into something be strictly economical and together that you can drop anywhere and feel good about it. We're no longer dumpwith Braungart, he went to work. With their combined expertise, the Germaning, we're fertilizing. Their technical American duo has redesigned the innovations are being picked up by

pretty much every industry because

they reduce production costs and re-

lieve companies of their own waste

problems while increasing profit. It al-

Donough and Braungart have given us

ng n°1 superpower is backing your find their inspiration in the genius of great in theory. Just ask Marx, Ni-

a formula to a utopia that is both prof-gas instead of chopping his own wood.

Of course, every philosophy sounds etzsche and Jesus and they will tell you that there is a significant discrepancy between an idea and its implementaprojects in Huangbaiyu – a 42-house village - is receiving criticism because it seems to have been executed with no eye for context, leaving the village uninhabited. The self-sufficient farmer traders that make up the majority of the population have no use for a house that costs twice the price of an ordinary house, has no land or grass most sounds too good to be true. Mc- for farming animal or growing vegeta-

bles and where he has to pay for bio

osophy in its new mega cities, producion plants and village communities, a change can be made.

"Our Goal is a delightfully diverse, safe, healthy and iust world, with clean air, water, soil and power –economical ly, equitably, ecologically and elegantly enjoyed-Period!" -William McDonough

the meanwhile, William McDonough d Michael Braungart are digging per into the known table of eleits, looking for new and existing pinations that can replace the cargenic materials and toxic chemils we're using n<mark>ow. They hav</mark>e beme pretty good at it too: cradle to adle fibers and paints (a huge relief for the entire tex<mark>tile industry), bi</mark>odegradable cars, reusable ink and paper...the list grows longer every day. I don't say this every day, but these two men might be saving the planet and verything in it. Through the power of ned intellect they created a formula at might once again turn the human ce into an indigenous creature intead of a parasite that leaves only a il of toxic goo in its wake. One imtant advantage is the factor of profty; so far, most these noble inives only cost money which means t they have to be forced down from <mark>ove</mark>rnment level. Cradle to cradle <mark>ce</mark>s money which means that evbody doing business for the chips uld be perking their ears by de-<mark>ılt</mark>. The idea makes sense. Like all reat inventions, it has pointed out

mething that has been right in front

us all the time. POSTRmagazine sa-

es William 'Bill' McDonough and Mi-

ael Braungart for the zeal, grace and

lism with which thev have tackled a blem that seemed so daunting and

that nobody else was willing to





of these gigantic, dazzlingly smelling

landfills out there. Our excursion starts





WHICH CANCER WOULD YOU

und for legal and

containers arrive, often illegal

from the Uni

them with their bare hands. The waste

LIKE?

2012, we suddenly realized that this

iust might be our last summer vaca

new resorts than on let's say figur

out a proper infrastructure to solve

the waste problem. So if we can pol-

lute this world, then why not spend

our holidays floating on a discarded

truck tire while downing a radioac-

tive cocktail somewhere near one o

our ocean's garbage patches. It can

be worth the view and if not, it will be

palm trees anyway? It's a brave new

world out there and it's full of crap.

So while most people are trying to

get rid of their dirt, this travel guide

leads you to those places where trash

has manifested in such a way that it's

worth a visit. The destinations you ab-

SHITTY TRIPS - VISIT THE

WORLD'S MOST AWFUL

solutely must go to for a guaranteed

crappy vacation.

**DUMPSITES** 

ourb of Accra, Gh

TRASH TRIPPING

Municipal waste is one thing, alor with the technological revolution came unimaginable amounts of e-waste. Joir us on our trip to the Guiyu dumpsites

In the United States, the Puente Hills Landfill in W<mark>hittier, California t</mark>akes the leading position. Although it only accepts waste from the county and not from the city of Los Angeles, it still receives approx<mark>imately 10,300 ton</mark>s per in China where the US, Canada, Japan day. Puente Hills became the biggest and South Korea have been dumplandfill in the country after the Fresh ing e-waste since 1995. With an aver-Kills landfill closed on Staten Island age of almost 1.5 million tons of elec in New York City in 2001. Still there's tro<mark>nic waste per year</mark> (approximatel a solid competitor on the trashy Ameri-4,100 tons per day) and a surface of can scenery. In 2007, the Apex Region-52 square kilometer, Guiyu is the largest e-waste site on earth and therefore al Landfill in Las Vegas received almost nicknamed the "Electronic Graveyard" 4 million tons and this amount of garbage is growing with approximately Of course we have something special for the real health freaks amongst us. 10,500 tons per day. So what happens in Vegas, stays in Vegas... especially This summer's offer also includes a its trash. You still want it bigger? The couple of unforgettable tours to nu-

fastest growing dumpsite on this plan-



Cebu in the F

Site in Washington, It's the largest nuclear waste facility in the Wester of crap of a mountaineer who shit his lemisphere and covers 1,500 square l<mark>omete</mark>rs. It consists of 2,300 to <mark>oent nuclear fuel and 9 ton</mark>s ium. Yet for many years, Rus HISTORICAL JOURNEY been the ranking leader in nucle THE GREATEST TRICK ste. Submerge yourself in the THE DEVIL EVER PULLED <mark>us nuclear fount</mark>ains of Murm<mark>ans</mark> ere waste from Russia's agi<mark>ng</mark> <mark>ar submarines</mark> awaits perm posal around the arctic Kola Per sula: posing a Clear & Present env mental threat. Reports show that the area has a fifth of the world's reactors and nuclear fuel. For extra vigor, revi-

talize yourself in the Techa river nearby

Fasten your bootstraps a little bit

tighter and try to outlive what could

very well be the ultimate climbing ex-

pedition. Yes, Mount Everest might not

seem a place of frequent human ac-

the Mayak Nuclear Waste Site, whereir tons of nuclear waste were reportedly dumped more than 50 years ago. Mayak is now a nuclear reprocessing plant Join us in Berlin for a trip into the abandoned. Echelon-like Cold War listening for spent nuclear fuel. station - quite a nice piece of trash itself – that stands on top of a 55 meters high artificial hill. Ask yourself what happens with the gigantic amounts <mark>of</mark> debris – which remain after a city is completely bombed to bits and pieces – at the end of a war. Then realize you're standing on top of it. Teufelsberg (Devil's Mountain) is one of the many Schuttberg in Germany. The Allies built these artificial hills using the **ADVENTURE - DUMPING** city rubble that remained after the ex-ON TOP OF THE WORLD tensive damage from bombing during You're more a daredevil type of guy? World War II. Teufelsberg is about 12

rchitecture firm WHIM can realize its vague pla<mark>ns to transform the</mark> patch into a gi<mark>ant resort where 5</mark>00,000 people can reside, we might as well stay ther<mark>e for a while. Altho</mark>ugh the design and a profound mission statement of this Recycle Island project is already submitted and the company seems quite serious about finishing this project, it's highly questionable whether it's ever going to be created. By recycling the plastic waste on the spot into a construction material, Recycli<mark>ng Island would bec</mark>ome an island in th<mark>e North Pacific Gyre</mark> with a surface of 10,000 square kilometers, about the size of Hawaii. Good luck with that. In fac<mark>t, in late 2007 and 2</mark>008 the British artist Richart 'Rishi' Sowa built his Spiral Island II after the first one was destroyed by a hurricane. Spiral Island II is a floating, artificial island that is onstructed with about 100,000 discarded plastic bottles. The island is ergrown with plants and mangroves, has three beaches, a house, two ponds, solar-powered waterfall and river, wave-powered washing machine ınd solar panels. You can visit Spiral sland II somewhere in a beautiful agoon near Isla Mujeres in Mexico.

hat garbage can in the back of your

ouse. Think about every other one fo veryone in your street. Add every city

ter than to cover it with the rest of the

trash. Trust us when we say the view

CRUISE - RELAXING ON A

igh levels of fun guaranteed during

our fantastic cruise towards the Great

acific Garbage Patch, This gigantic

olorful soup of plastic bags, bottle

caps and other plastic things the size

of France and Spain together should

e the ultimate highlight of a well-

leserved h<mark>oliday. In fact, if</mark> the Dutch

PLASTIC ISLAND

dump on this planet. After the latest couldn't come up with anything bet-

clean up effort earlier this year, moun-

taineers removed the largest amount

of trash ever (8 tons) from Mount Ever-

50 tons of waste remaining on the

aries from oxygen cylinders, tents,

iountain sl<mark>opes. The type of ga</mark>rbage



**AMOTHER GRAPHIC** 

million cubic meters and consists of

the debris of approximately 400,000

buildings from the war-torn city of Ber-

lin. Creamy detail: buried underneath

is a complete Nazi military-technical



