

The New York Times Magazine

DECEMBER 5, 1999

SECTION 6

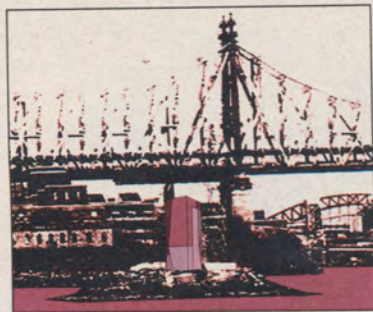
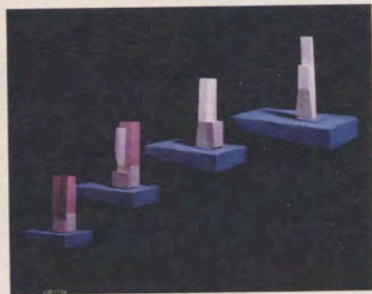


The Times Capsule

At the end of the 20th century, the magazine created a time capsule filled with artifacts to give people living in the year 3000 some idea of who we were and how we lived.

Will They Get It?

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Caples Jefferson's "molting" design would reside in the East River (above); gradually divest itself of its component panels as it decayed (top); and ultimately reveal a glass core containing the time capsule (left).

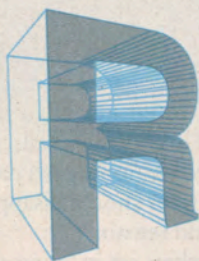
CAPLES JEFFERSON

The beauty of decay can be more haunting than the glamour of the new. This proposal from two young New York architects captures a distinctly New York spirit: the falling cornice, the wrecking ball, the collapsing building crane. Sarah Caples and Everardo Jefferson have cast their homage in the form of an obelisk designed to fall apart, gradually, over the next 1,000 years.

The obelisk would be built on U Thant Island, a small, rocky outcropping in the East River near the United Nations. It would consist of nine slabs of granite and metal, fastened together by metal wires. The wires would extend down into the river. Over the centuries, the salt water would gradually corrode the wires, at a predetermined rate. That would cause the panels to molt — to fall away, one at a time. By the year 3000, when the last of the granite panels falls away, the glass core, containing the time capsule and its data, would stand revealed.

It's pleasing to contemplate the maintenance that might be required to keep this decay-dependent alarm clock on the steady road to ruin.

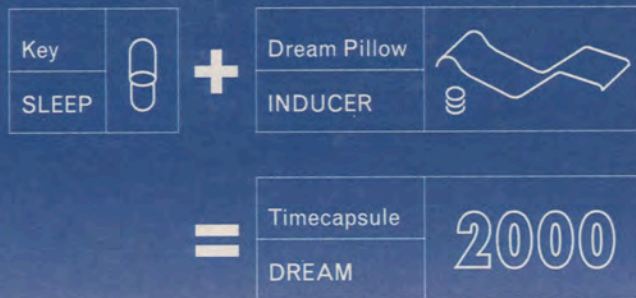
ANTENNA DESIGN



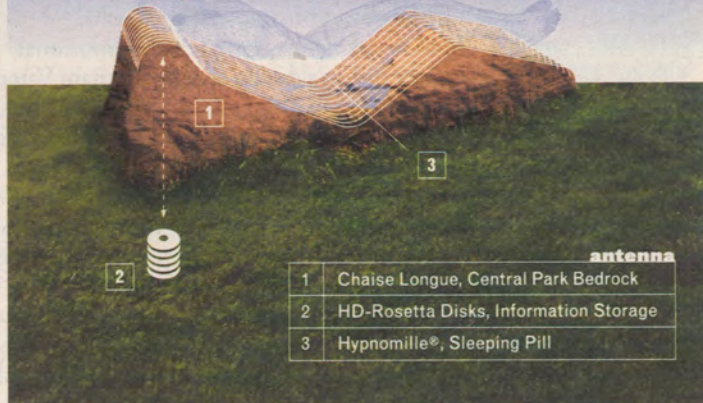
Reflecting both Eastern and Western traditions, the entry proposed by this design firm transcends the rational. It turns to the ancient Japanese idea of a "dream pillow" to explore the mysteries of cultural receptivity. In an era that is increasingly driven by the exchange of information, much

depends on the ability to distinguish meaning from noise.

The designers propose carving a chaise longue, with pillow, from a granite outcropping in Central Park. HD-Rosetta disks, safely microengraved with data, would be buried inside. The mystical premise is that when people in the future rest their heads on the stone pillow, they will absorb the wisdom of the ages. If, perchance, extrasensory perception should fail, rationality, in the form of the disks, would still be available.



TIMECAPSULE = DREAM



- | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| 1 | Chaise Longue, Central Park Bedrock |
| 2 | HD-Rosetta Disks, Information Storage |
| 3 | Hypnomille®, Sleeping Pill |

antenna

Below: A diagram from Ocean Group's "Adrift" entry, denoting interior and exterior dimensions. Bottom: A view of a capsule. Left: An embryonic capsule within its titanium casing.



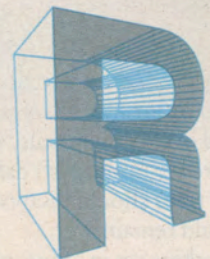
Caples Jefferson's "molting East River (above); gradually component panels as it dec reveal a glass core containi

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track the drifting movement of the capsules, which would contain radio transmitters powered by special seawater batteries.

Italo Calvino devotes the fifth of his "Six Memos for the Next Millennium" to what he calls multiplicity — the idea that literature should encompass the variety, breadth and emotional richness of the modern self. The Ocean project embodies something close to this idea. Using computer software, the designers have molded a series of three-dimensional shapes that would result from wrapping a thin skin of titanium around ceramic capsule containers. The shapes would be different because the contents would be different, but all would be smooth, tactile things embodying doves, porpoises, whipped cream, fine sand, powder snow, the curve of a woman's torso as painted by Ingres.

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