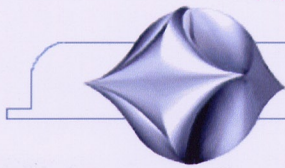


# The New York Times Magazine

THE LAST OF SIX SPECIAL MILLENNIUM ISSUES



## The Times Capsule

WILL THEY GET IT?

"Every time capsule is a kind of mirror. An attempt to speak to the future, it can't help reflecting the present - in the shape of its container, the choice of its site and, especially, the manifest of its contents." From "[Our Time](#)," by Michael Pollan

### The Sound Capsule

Listen to a sample of sounds from the last century from The New York Times on the Web.



# Form

### Letter From the Editor

On looking back two years, and 1,000.

By Jack Rosenthal

### Video

On Language

### Tmorras Nglsh

By William Safire

### Tomorrow's Ruins Today

By Vincent Scully  
Through its enduring architecture, each age says something to the next. What will our sturdiest creations tell the future about us?

### Slide Show

### To Whom It May Concern

By Jared Diamond

Who will open the Times Capsule? New

### Our Time

By Michael Pollan

An introduction.

### How to Make a Time Capsule

By Jack Hitt

Start with a rash idea. Add an architect. Mix in artifacts, argon gas and a dash of irony. Seal carefully and let sit for 1,000 years.

### Designs for the Next Millennium

By Herbert Mushchamp

The archival cockroach, and a dozen other ways to talk to the future.

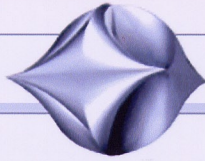
<a href="#">Santiago Calatrava</a>	<a href="#">Droog Design</a>	<a href="#">Jaron Lanier</a>	<a href="#">Pentagram</a>
<a href="#">Antenna Design</a>	<a href="#">GK Design Group</a>	<a href="#">Maya Lin</a>	<a href="#">Gaetano Pesce</a>
<a href="#">Thomas Balsley</a>	<a href="#">Zaha Hadid</a>	<a href="#">Lynn and Kipnis</a>	<a href="#">Dagmar Richter</a>
<a href="#">Caples Jefferson</a>	<a href="#">Ideo</a>	<a href="#">Morphosis</a>	<a href="#">Lindy Roy</a>
<a href="#">The Cooper Union</a>	<a href="#">Wes Jones</a>	<a href="#">Ocean Group</a>	<a href="#">Benjamin Strouse</a>
			<a href="#">Ezri Tarazi</a>

**AUDIO:** Listen to interviews with selected architects.

**DESIGNS AT A GLANCE:** Take a look at all of the capsule submissions.

Serious about finding  
the best prospects?

The New York Times Magazine



The Times Capsule

## DESIGNS FOR THE NEXT MILLENNIUM

### Lindy Roy

#### FORM

- [Our Time](#)
- [How to Make a Time Capsule](#)
- [Designs for the Next Millennium](#)
  - [Santiago Calatrava](#)
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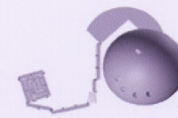
#### CONTENT

- [A Few of Our Favorite Things](#)
- [Other Favorite Things, From the World's Peorias](#)

#### Audio

- [Interview with Lindy Roy](#)

**T**his South African-born architect proposes creating 1,000 metal eggs, each a foot high and honeycombed with a series of interior compartments. Half of the eggs would be sold and the other half given away. These heirlooms would be reopened and augmented by each generation for the next 1,000 years.



An interview with Lindy Roy about her design for The New York Times Capsule.

- [How does the design work?](#)

"Our proposal for the time capsule project begins with a lottery, where five hundred capsules are given away and five hundred are sold to offset the cost of producing them. After the lottery The New York Times would fully entrust the maintenance of the capsules to the individuals that were selected through this lottery....The longterm success of the project then depends on a mutually beneficial relationship between the sponsoring institution which is The New York Times and the individuals who actually start investing their own value into the objects.....Every fifty years the people who would inherit the capsule would input data, information, objects into these little containers and then seal them. The idea is that the capsule would begin the millennium with identical histories and that's the information that which The New York Times would select, but by the end of the millennium there would be five hundred or possibly a thousand with completely divergent histories based on the people that actually looked after them.....Initially, the investment of value may be the novelty of having an incredibly public object in your possession, but over the millennium people and their descendants would invest their own value into the object. So, the incentive to maintain it would probably shift...It becomes a repository for The New York Times information, but also one for a kind of generational memory."

- [How did you come up with the design?](#)

"We spent a lot of time thinking about...how you could guarantee that something like this would survive for thousand years when institutions and organizations come and go....How would you actually maintain the knowledge that this capsule exists? So to circumvent that we decided that one way to deal with it very directly would be to basically hand it over to people who would invest their own value into it and that investment would be incentive hopefully to maintain it for a thousand years. And also using the HD Rosetta technology which we were thoroughly blown away by and that sort of allowed us to up the amount of information that might be kept in something that can fit in your hand or sit on a mantle piece somewhere."

From an interview with Colby Devitt of The New York Times on the Web on November 22, 1999.