



Current Issue
December 2010
[Table of Contents »](#)

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

ngm.com

Big Ideas: Little Packages



Can good design save the world? It just might, one novel idea at a time. Sparked by programs like the Entrepreneurial Design for Extreme Affordability course at Stanford University's Institute of Design, designers are creating products to meet the needs of communities in developing countries. It turns out that even the most pressing problems, from health care to potable water, can have affordable—and beautifully designed—solutions. —Margaret G. Zackowitz



Solar Roof Tiles

Solé Power Tiles may look like blue versions of the clay roof tiles traditionally used in sunny climes, but they're made of a durable polymer—and they're actually curved photovoltaic solar panels, creating enough energy daily to cut a typical American home's electric bill by 70 percent or more.

Developed by: SRS Energy

Website: srsenergy.com

Launch country: U.S.

Photograph by Mark Thiessen, NGM Staff