



3 EASY-GLIDER ECO

DESIGNED BY EASY-GLIDER

In essence, Easy-Glider is a motorized wheel that pulls a chariot. Combining an electric motor with batteries, it stores the energy generated on downhill descents. For the sports inclined, the wheel and handle detach to pull the rider along on rollerblades or a skateboard, facilitating uphill and jumps at a range of 10 to 20 kilometres per hour. ECO, the newest model, is designed with fewer parts, for a more economical and eco-friendly production, and its galvanized steel motor casing comes in plastic in a variety of punchy colours.

4 DOT

DESIGNED BY MATTHIAS KAEDING

Dot isn't a vehicle, per se: it's a car shell that can hold any model of engine, making it reusable. While the shapes of most car motors vary – be they hybrid, electric or hydrogen – Dot's size is uniform, so the owner can upgrade the engine as technology advances. Its figure – a sparse, open cylinder made of metal and glass, with interiors in corn plastic, Kaeding imagines – is meant to be low-tech, yet it reaches 90 to 100 kilometres per hour, the maximum speed for U.S. highways. "It has no features – it just drives," he says. Its radical form is intentionally unadorned, which Kaeding says should keep it modern looking for years to come while delivering an anti-consumerist message. Hence he wants Dot produced in classic colours: black, silver, grey and white.



5 ROBOSCOOTER

DESIGNED BY WILLIAM J. MITCHELL OF MIT SMART CITIES GROUP AND TAIWAN SCOOTER COMPANY SYM

Mitchell's elegant electric scooter is technologically simple. Emphasizing structure over styling – the exposed aluminum frame eschews plastic covers, and the motors are inside the wheels – its designers cut the part count to 150, versus the 1,000-plus for a typical gas scooter. When not zipping along the street at 30 kilometres an hour, the prototype folds down to the size of a suitcase. Slated for a 2009 rollout, the scooters could one day be publicly accessible at stations set up in city centres, if Mitchell's vision wins out. (See "Wheel Share," page 136.) **AZ**

