



## AQUAVISTA 500

[www.aquavistainc.com](http://www.aquavistainc.com)

Fish don't make good pets – they don't learn tricks and they rarely come when called. Since all they're really good for is looking at, why not put them in an aquarium that makes them look their best? The AquaVista 500, from Menlo Park-based AVI Corporation, features a tank that is a mere 4.5 inches thick yet still contains all of the equipment necessary to maintain healthy and clean tank conditions. The pump, filtration, heating and lighting systems are already built in and controlled by an LCD monitor that even a novice could use. When you add an underwater photograph background (included) and one of the classic wood or modern-design frames, suddenly your fish aren't just swimming in a work of art... they are the work of art.

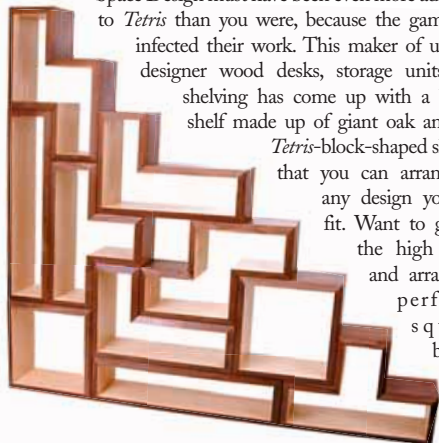
## TETRIS SHELVES

[www.bravespacedesign.com](http://www.bravespacedesign.com)

Remember the videogame *Tetris*? Of course you do; you wasted hours of your life lining up the falling shapes to form perfect rows. The folks at Brave



Space Design must have been even more addicted to *Tetris* than you were, because the game has infected their work. This maker of upscale designer wood desks, storage units and shelving has come up with a bookshelf made up of giant oak and ash *Tetris*-block-shaped shelves that you can arrange in any design you see fit. Want to go for the high score and arrange a perfectly square book-



shelf? It might be easier than some of the more unique possibilities (a number of suggested arrangements are available on the website), including patterns for a big-screen entertainment center or matching end tables. Kits with varying numbers of blocks are available from \$1,440 up to the \$7,000 range.



## NIKE OVOLO

[www.nike.com](http://www.nike.com)

Nike has been the dominant market leader in athletic footwear for years. But they aren't sitting on their laurels. This month, the company is set to release the Nike Ovolos, a new shoe designed for women. Here's the concept: Let's make a shoe that looks so bizarre that you simply *have* to buy it. Just kidding. In fact, the bizarre heel appendage you see in the photo is suspended from the shoe like a hammock from a continuous S-shaped curve that stretches from mid-foot, around the back of the heel to stabilize the foot without compromising freedom of movement. And, yes, we took that straight out of the Nike press release. Busted! The point is that there is some serious science behind these nerdy-cool shoes that allows the wearer to get better balance without harming their arches. Whatever. They still look cool.



## THE STRUDEL FACTORY

[www.strudelfactory.com](http://www.strudelfactory.com)

There's nothing better than biting into a warm, flaky, gooey slice of apple strudel after dinner. Or after lunch. Or after breakfast. We know a good dessert when we taste it. In fact, we know a good dessert when we see it, smell it, touch it or hear of it. That's why we were overjoyed to discover a little piece of Austrian heaven that fulfills all our senses' fantasies – Old Vienna Apple Strudel. It's paradise on a plate, especially if you add a little ice cream or vanilla sauce. If you don't like apples or just want a change, try the Old Bavaria Blueberry Strudel, the Black Forrest Cherry Strudel or the Mainau Island Peach Strudel. Made right here in San Jose by a true German gourmet cook, this strudel is sure to become one of your favorite ways to pamper your palate.

## 101 THINGS TO DO WITH OLIVE OIL

[www.thepassionateolive.com](http://www.thepassionateolive.com)

Los Gatos resident Carol Firenze loves olive oil. Her website, *The Passionate Olive*, is dedicated to all things olive oil, from olive oil recipes to olive oil education to listings of olive oil museums. Consider this line from the website: "Olive oil is an amazing substance; as a global community, it is the one thing that truly binds us together." Before you start laughing, Firenze has released a book to back up her claims. *101 Things To Do with Olive Oil*, released just last week by Random House, is much more than just a cookbook. It's a guide to making olive oil a part of your daily ritual. Olive oil, it turns out, can be used for far more than dipping focaccia. Did you know it can relieve tick bites, polish brass, remove paint, condition hair, ease the pain of arthritis and treat head lice? Those and 95 other unique and proven uses are all detailed in Firenze's tome, available at Amazon.com and fine bookstores. **EW**



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