<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>APD1</td>
<td>Project 2: Strategic Design</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>APD2</td>
<td>Degree project in Product Design</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BA1</td>
<td>Design, New and Traditional Technology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BA2</td>
<td>Design Project 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BA3</td>
<td>Design Project Degree Work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IDI</td>
<td>Design Communication</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>lxD1</td>
<td>Project 2: General Product</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>lxD2</td>
<td>Degree project in Interaction Design</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TD1</td>
<td>Project 2: Strategic Design</td>
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<tr>
<td>TD2</td>
<td>Degree project in Transportation Design</td>
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Thanks for your contributions. Future articles & photos can be sent to: wozzop@gmail.com by Friday evenings. We love hearing from you!
Stefan Sagmeister’s Quest To Design His Own Happiness

In his new feature film, Sagmeister puts himself through a series of self-guided experiments to see if he can “manufacture a happy moment.” By Meg Miller

“I’m doing fine,” Stefan Sagmeister tells me on Thursday when I inquire about his current happiness level. “I’m at the very, very end of this process, and I’m at about a 7.6.”

He is referring to his weekly rating system, where he tallies up points for a list of things that contribute to his overall happiness—everything from “no alcohol” to “being social”—and ranks himself on a scale of 1 to 10. He’s been doing it every Monday morning for the past seven years. That’s the duration of time he has been filming The Happy Film, an ambitious new documentary that traces his studied quest for self-improvement.

And a 7.6 is really not bad when you consider where he was when he started the project (a 3). In 2008, the designer had just come out of a long-term relationship. He felt anxious and dejected even living in Indonesia on a yearlong sabbatical from his prominent New York-based design firm, Sagmeister & Walsh. To top it off, a close friend, after seeing the furniture he was making at the time, suggested that there must be something better he could dedicate his time to.

So he turned his attention to a subject he had explored before: happiness. Those projects—among them, his book Things I Have Learned In My Life and a TED talk on design and happiness—were the ones that he had always gotten the best feedback on anyway. “Oh this will be a nice challenge. Why not do it as a film?” he says. “I thought if it’s going to be a challenge, why not just go for a film?”

Predictably, the road to happiness is not as formulaic as he’d hoped, and some of the most poignant moments of the film are when major life events—from love to death to work—derail it. “From a scientific point of view, I messed up my own experiment by falling in love in all three of those phases,” he says. “The scientist within the film calls it fishing for sardines while being on a whale. Basically that failing in love is so much stronger than meditation, cognitive therapy, or drugs.”

These days, Sagmeister says he isn’t actively meditating, going to therapy, or taking psychotropic drugs, but he thinks the best route is to take “a little bit of all three.”

The Happy Film is showing at the premiering at the Tribeca Film Festival 4/16-4/22.

A new material design innovation has made wood practically invisible. Just watch for splinters.

Written by John Brownlee

You don’t have to shop at IKEA to see that Sweden is obsessed with wood. Over 57% of the country is covered in upwards of 51 billion trees, and lumber and paper products are one of the country’s biggest exports.

So leave it to Swedish researchers to figure out a whole new use for all that wood: they’ve made it transparent. In the future, this emerging material could be used as a stronger, more environmentally sustainable replacement for plastic or glass—in everything from wooden windows to wooden Coca-Cola bottles.

Lars Berglund is a researcher at Sweden’s KTH Royal Institute of Technology. With a background in creating strong, lightweight carbon fiber composites for the aerospace industry, Berglund has a history of tweaking materials to exhibit new properties. A few years ago, though, he set his mind to the task of trying to do the same thing for Swedish lumber as he had for the aerospace industry, by figuring out how to give wood totally new properties. Ultimately, he created what he calls a transparent wood composite.

More specifically, Berglund created a technique that begins with thin strips of wood veneer. Using a process similar to chemical pulping, he strips the lignin—which gives wood its brownish color—from the veneer pieces. Once the lignin has been stripped from the wood and replaced with a polymer, a one-millimeter strip of Berglund’s composite is 85% transparent—a number that Berglund thinks he will be able to increase over time.

The advantage of transparent wood over something like glass is that it has all the strength of opaque lumber—but still lets in light. Berglund’s process, then, could be used to create everything from transparent wood structures to load-bearing windows that never crack or shatter. “We’re getting a lot of interest from architects, who want to bring more light into their buildings,” says Berglund. It’s also as biodegradable and environmentally friendly as regular wood. Berglund even imagines that his composite could be used to create entirely new types of sustainable solar panels, made out of wood instead of chemically treated glass.

Right now, Berglund admits he has a lot of work to do before his composite shows up in, say, a new transparent IKEA line. Although suitable for mass-production, he’s unsure how affordable it will be to scale his technique. Still, wood is one of the strongest, toughest, hardest materials there is, and Berglund just figured out how to make it practically invisible. Just imagine what architects and designers will do with transparent wood when they finally get their hands on it.
It all started with a humble question submitted to the university by e-mail:

- Hey, it's okay that I come up to Umeå to look at the mural painting in Lindellhallen? Kind regards, Per Thornberg.

The answer to Per’s humble question was obviously yes, but when it became clear who Per really was, an idea started to take shape. The questioner is a renowned jazz saxophonist who also happen to be a Lindell enthusiast who has written music to Lindell’s art. We decided to capture the moment in flight, to unite the story of Lindell’s art work with beautiful and for the occasion composed jazz. We asked art historian Ann-Catrine Eriksson if she could open the event by telling us a little something about Lindell’s work and suddenly we had a great combo - Lindell Jazz!

Don’t miss this!

**Culture on Campus: Lindell Jazz**

**Thursday 21 April**
12:10-12:50
Lindell Hall

**The New Black in BOOKS/MAGAZINES**
I really love the World Cup and the European Championship bibles. They smell amazing.

**The New Black in Slang**
Dundrat! = fast, loud, strong

**The New Black on TV/Movies**
Gomorra la serie S1 & S2

**Nominated for the next issue:**
Martin Westfält, BA1

**Events**

**Charles and Ray Eames Exhibit**

**Bildmuseet**
Until 4 Sept 2016

**Program:**
Tuesday April 19

Screening of Eames: The Architect and the Painter by Jason Chon and Bill Jersey, 2011 (85min)

Sunday April 24 at 14:00
Lecture on 1940s and 1950s ideas of furniture and modernity by Maria Göransdotter
BIBIMBAP
+ CHAI BUBBLE TEA

Korean rice bowl with beef and vegetables
+ a tasty drink

WEDNESDAY 20, April
Designhögskolan at the FRONT ENTRANCE
50 KRONER