# Wallpape **APRIL 2012**

SGP \$ 18.20 E € 8.50 SEK 75.00 CHF 16.00 AED 45.00

\*DESIGNINTERIORSFASHIONARTLIFESTYLE

Your guided tour to new global design and tomorrow's national treasures

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BELGIUM

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#### **COVER IMAGE**

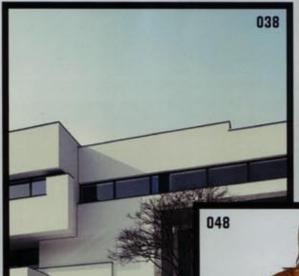
Photography: Benedict Redgrove Fashion: Stephanie Canisius

Hair & make-up: Manuela Kopp at Nina Klein using Chanel Model: Alexandra Tretter at M4 Models

Jumper (worn as dress), €799, by Odeeh. Jacket, €645, by Kaviar Gauche. Cut-out shoes €150, by Adidas SLVR

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## FOREWORD

What is it about Germany? While its neighbours struggle to arrest an alarming fiscal freefall, it remains Europe's largest economy. Unemployment is low and productivity is buoyant. Consumer spending is up 1.5 per cent on 2011, the fasted growth for five years. Oh and the German football team is strongly tipped to win the Euro 2012 Championships.

But it is in the field of manufacture that Germany truly excels. It's easy to cite the well-worn clichés about build quality, reliability and efficiency, but during financially straitened times, in the luxury goods arena of well-engineered kitchens, bombproof bathrooms and premium autos, the qualities long upheld by

German manufacture, and its dogged refusal to compromise, are helping the country's wider economy to flourish.

And so our annual Germany supplement discovers a country not just financially buoyant but also blooming creatively. We focus on Berlin's fashion design community, talk to Adidas CEO Herbert Hainer about his plans to take on Nike and put three stripes on the London Olympics, sample caveman cuisine and preview Volkswagen's brand new Up! city car - a German runaround with a playful exclamation mark as part of its logo. Now if that's not proof Germany is changing, we don't know what is... Simon Mills, Editor









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