

# MOBILITY SOLUTIONS FOR DOMESTIC APPLIANCES

By Carol Lamkins, CID, CMKBD

Imagination and creativity knows no boundaries. Technology has opened the door to fast-paced change which in turn has stimulated inventive thinking. Electrolux has recognized an opportunity to support innovative products that inspire lateral thinking and creativity. Interior designers on the cutting edge will be incorporating many of these products as they become available into their client's living spaces and lifestyles.

Below are 12 entries out of 1,300 concepts submitted to the Electrolux Global Design Center that offered the most interesting solutions for future living. The contest entries came from 15 countries across the world. Not all of the inventive products shown below made the last cut to the final 8 products, but these entries best consider the application of "intelligent mobility" solutions for domestic appliances using existing technology. The projects were judged on intuitive design, innovation and consumer insight.



## 1. ECOWASH DINNER SET

COUNTRY: NEW ZEALAND • DESIGNER: DAVID STOCKTON

SCHOOL: MASSEY UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF DESIGN

The EcoWash is the ideal dishwasher for countryside vacations, boating, camping or anywhere else where you don't have electricity. After eating, one places cutlery and plates into the round small washing machine, add some washing-up liquid and water, close the latch and start turning the handle on the side. The interior rotates to wash the

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plates efficiently and effortlessly. After use, open the small hatch below to release the water. If you want to dry the plates, just turn the handle a few more times to create a centrifugal force. It's ecofriendly, handy and easy to carry.



### 2. HEAT GRENADE

COUNTRY: NEW ZEALAND • DESIGNER: SAM EVANS

SCHOOL: MASSEY UNIVERSITY

The Heat Grenade is a great looking portable cooking device, conceived for emergency use and powered by paper-thin batteries. These batteries can produce power and recharge from water absorbed from the air. When closed, the concept resembles an oval aluminum egg. However, when the top button is pressed it folds out like a flower to turn into an induction hob with a black glass surface and a control panel that slides out from under it. This is the most stylish emergency kit you can find!

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### 3. HONEYCOMB MODULAR INDUCTION TILES

COUNTRY: AUSTRALIA • DESIGNER: ALFRED CHING

SCHOOL: UNIVERSITY OF NEW SOUTH WALES

The Honeycomb is a modular induction cooker system ideal for compact homes – although it can work equally as well in a larger family house as a heating plate. The hexagonal modules can connect to each other in different variations. Click them together and create a cooking area wherever you like. A remote control wirelessly controls the heat via Bluetooth. The top of each module is finished in high gloss white to look good anywhere in the home. Their stackability makes them easy to put away when not in use.

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## 4. MOBILE INDUCTION HEAT PLATE

COUNTRY: FINLAND • DESIGNER: TOMMI MOILANEN,  
SCHOOL: AALTO UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF ART AND DESIGN

This smart induction hot plate is a compact solution for those on the go. Place the heat plate wherever you want and pair it with your smartphone to gain a child safe remote control. The smartphone app is designed to be used with intelligent food packaging where NFC-tags provide instructions on how to heat the food properly. The smartphone app also comes with a memory that intuitively remembers how you previously cooked. The induction plate is a glossy black and white design with a wooden handle that makes it easy to carry and store and can be hung on a wall when charging the battery. This heating plate is hot in every sense!

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### 5. MOBILE KITCHEN KIT

COUNTRY: USA • DESIGNER: ELIZABETH REUTER

SCHOOL: PURDUE UNIVERSITY

This mobile kitchen kit is designed to contain everything you need to cook skillet meals, still taking up almost no space at all. The top lid is a cutting board and inside the container—that even be used as a make shift sink—is fitted a flexible induction cooking pad, strainer, spatula, wooden spoon, cutting knife, peeling knife, sauce pan and skillet. Just about everything you need to make dinner is fitted into one neat kit that can be carried along or easily stowed away in small spaces.



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## 6. MYWASH

COUNTRY: AUSTRALIA • DESIGNER: SABA ZARE

SCHOOL: UNIVERSITY OF NEW SOUTH WALES

'Mywash' is a communal washing machine designed for use with personalized laundry baskets that double up as washing drums. Operation is performed by simply loading the baskets with your laundry and then you're able to control the process via a smartphone, connected via 3G, anytime and from anywhere you wish. The phone application let's you decide on the timing when you want to wash your clothes as well as what washing programs you prefer, including specific preferences such as a longer soaking time.

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### 7. ONDA PORTABLE MICROWAVE

COUNTRY: USA • DESIGNER: MATTHEW SCHWARTZ

SCHOOL: CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY LONG BEACH

The Onda portable microwave oven is a very clever twist on an appliance that was first introduced to homes in 1955. Just as with the traditional use of this device, pre-prepared meals are placed in compatible food packages and warmed with microwaves. Specifically, the Onda is slid on to the packaging and the aluminum contained within the interior of the handheld device, creates a circuit connection when the seal of the packaging is broken. Paper batteries are used to produce energy, making the Onda simple, smart, portable, and eco-friendly. The Onda also comes in a range of different colors for personal preference.

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### 8. PING PONG

COUNTRY: FRANCE • DESIGNER: ARTHUR KENZO

SCHOOL: ÉCOLE DE DESIGN NANTES ATLANTIQUE (SHANGHAI)

Ping Pong is a wireless cooking assistant that allows you to optimize your time while food is being heated. Sensors (the 'Pings') are attached to the cooking utensils in use. For instance, if you're cooking a soup, place the Ping transmitter on the pan's rim and take the Pong receiver with you to the next room where you can sit down and enjoy reading. The Ping transmitter will send information on the cooking status to the Pong receiver close to you and so keeping you informed. The design is inspired by a vase full of flowers ensuring your new kitchen assistant looks good and puts a smile on your face.



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### 9. PORTABLE WASHING MACHINE

COUNTRY: SLOVAKIA • DESIGNER: ADRIAN MANKOVECKY

SCHOOL: ACADEMY OF FINE ARTS AND DESIGN BRATISLAVA

An innovation welcomed by every traveler – whether you're a back packer or a business traveler you will love this small portable washing machine. Four pre-installed cleaning programs are available for quick and easy use. Pull the two components apart, place on either side of the garment with a stain or odor and choose the suitable cleaning program. The machine does all the work using negative ions and steam. Powered with a sugar crystal battery, you can use it practically anywhere in the world.

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## 10. RIBBON

COUNTRY: AUSTRALIA • DESIGNER: ENZO KOCAK  
SCHOOL: MONASH UNIVERSITY

The Ribbon is an all-in-one hotplate, warming device and cooler for portable use. Its unique shape and flexibility allows for wrapping around a vessel containing food or drink for heating or chilling. The black side provides heat, whereas the white cools. You can curl it up, take it with you, fold it out and even puzzle together to use as a hotplate. Controls placed on the side facilitate easy use. The chargeable thermoelectric cell battery can also reverse the charging process— whilst not in use the cells convert excess heat back into electricity.

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## 11. BREEZ PORTABLE DISH DRYER

COUNTRY: CANADA • DESIGNER: ANDREW PARSONS

SCHOOL: HUMBER COLLEGE

Breez is a portable and easy to stow away dish dryer that helps you quickly dry your hand washed plates, ensuring you avoid bacteria and germs that can spread when drying many plates with the same cloth. A digital pulse motor concentrates air to a thin stream that blows the plate dry when once moved through the machine. The air travels at a speed of 400 MPH (644 km/h) and leaves the plate completely dry and ready to place directly into the cupboard.

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### 12. WAVE

COUNTRY: SOUTH KOREA • DESIGNER: KIM MIN SEOK  
SCHOOL: SEOUL NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY & SCIENCE

The Wave washing assistant helps you to identify the severity of a stain, to pre-wash and also communicate with your washing machine in order to get the best results with the minimum use of water and detergents. The contamination sensor will determine what needs to be done; the Wave then applies ultrasound and water to stains and uses hot air to dry as required. When the Wave is placed in its dock for charging, it can also communicate with your washing machine so that you can operate it remotely.

At this point in time 8 finalists have been selected. To see a video of the finalist's products go to: <http://www.electroluxdesignlab.com/category/electrolux-design-lab-2011-competition>. Stay tuned as the winners will be announced in September.

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