

# everyday life-cycles patterns of energy use in everyday products

In objects typical of the domestic or personal sphere, such as lamps or mobile phones, energy is often left either to the user's own devices, or as an invisible aspect of ongoing product experience that shows up in periodic electricity bills or when power runs out. Electricity is easily reduced to an abstract, invisible phenomenon whose only concrete representations are 'two holes in the wall'. In a series of design examples, we explore how everyday products might be designed to better express - and stimulate reflection on - daily or long-term patterns of energy use.

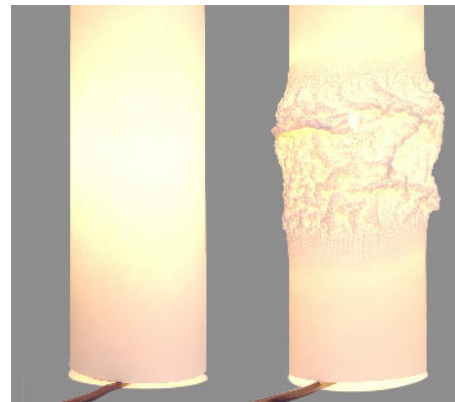
## STATIC! [www.tii.se/static](http://www.tii.se/static)

STATIC! is a research project funded by the Swedish Energy Agency (Energimyndigheten or STEM). It is a collaboration between the POWER and RE:FORM studios of the Interactive Institute. Partners include Front, Ludvig Svensson AB, Mälardalen University, Region Västra Götaland, School of Design and Crafts (HDK) at Göteborg University, Swedish Industrial Design Foundation (SVID) and Swedish School of Textiles at the University College of Borås.



### patterns of hot-water use

Heat is a form of energy that is often taken for granted, invisibly escaping from appliances, boiling water, lamps and radiators. Energy lost through heat may be visualized if artifacts and communicate leakage in various ways. In the example 'Disappearing-Pattern Tiles', bathroom tiles are decorated with patterns in a thermochromic ink that reacts to heat, fading away to reflect splashes and intensities of hot-water use. The longer the shower, the less decoration on the wall! The architectural surface acts as a subtle reminder of personal energy use over time, reflecting the duration and waste of water during a shower.



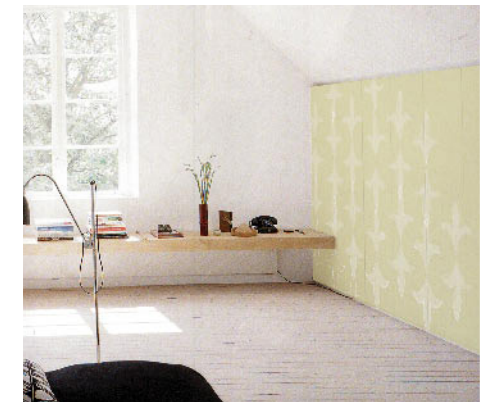
### capturing energy as form

In objects typical of the domestic or personal sphere, such as lamps, refrigerators or mobile phones, energy is often left either to the user's own devices (in the choice, for instance, of a light bulb or brand) or it is an invisible aspect of ongoing product experience that shows up in periodic electricity bills or when power runs out or is shut off. Electricity, as a product, is easily reduced to an abstract, invisible phenomenon whose only concrete representations are 'two holes in the wall'. In a series of design examples, we explore how everyday products might be designed to better express - and thus stimulate reflection on - daily or long-term patterns of energy use.



### exposing sunlight patterns

Not all forms of energy are as instant and apparent as home electricity or lighting. Ongoing natural cycles such as sunlight represent forms of energy that that have a significant but slow change in behavior over time. 'Appearing-Pattern Wallpaper' amplifies such slow behaviors - it comes in a solid color when purchased, but a pattern emerges over time as sunlight exposes textures printed with UV-sensitive ink. This is a poetic example of how the life-span of ordinary things and everyday life may be transformed in relation to existant energy conditions.



### project team

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