

I N S P I R A T I O N

**W**hat inspires me most are encounters, experiences, and exchanges with other creative people I meet around the world. When I travel, I collect meaningful mementos, visual artifacts, and small mnemonic objects – steeped in memories, rich in semiotics and ready to trigger recall in an instant. Back in the studio, these tactile little collectibles act as icons for experiences and invite the Muse. Here are some items from my cork-board and the corners of my office...

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Travel forces us to see everyday things in a new light. Australian money is great – richly illustrated, tear-proof and printed on a clear waterproof substrate – perfect for playing in the surf.

An old, but elegantly functional fisherman's knife from the South China Sea. Wherever I go, I visit a hardware store or market to buy an artifact that is locally unique. We learn about a culture by observing the tools that it uses.

I came across this sugar packet in a cafe in Portugal. It has the best illustrated "safe sex" message I've seen anywhere.

This officer's hat-badge triggers mixed emotions. For my Russian-born father the hammer and sickle means totalitarian control. It reminds me of the wonderful designer comrades I met in Moscow while on a visit as a design juror in 1994.

This badge promotes the 2001 Continental Shift design congress in South Africa in September. An elegant solution in contrasts – natural wood cut by laser – it delivers an engaging message in any language.

I love postcards. Highly visual, they allow thoughts and memories to be exchanged directly and economically.

Stasys Eidrigevicius is an inspirational illustrator of Lithuanian/Polish origin who I met in the Orient. His paintings are worth a thousand words.

This one's a courageous trademark parody by a designer colleague at TRIO in Bosnia, designed and printed in Sarajevo while under siege in 1993.

From the Royal Mail, showing one of the UK's millennium stamps designed by Lisa Milroy. Receiving postcards from around the globe is helpful reference when one is designing stamps as well.

When not immersed in design, I enjoy rock climbing and mountaineering. This is Devil's Tower in Wyoming - a 900 foot oddity I've battled and ascended a number of times. Balance of mind, spirit and body helps maintain inspiration.

These delightful (and successful) Japanese gum wrappers designed by Taku Satoh really stand out on the shelf. Sometimes the best souvenirs are the least expensive.

Oullim, Icograda's Millennium Congress in Seoul, brought together 1500 designers from over 40 countries. With the theme of "the Great Harmony" it presented a new paradigm for design in an age of globalization. Now that's inspiring!

