"Save time, spend less on trash bags, and never again hit your thumb with a hammer."

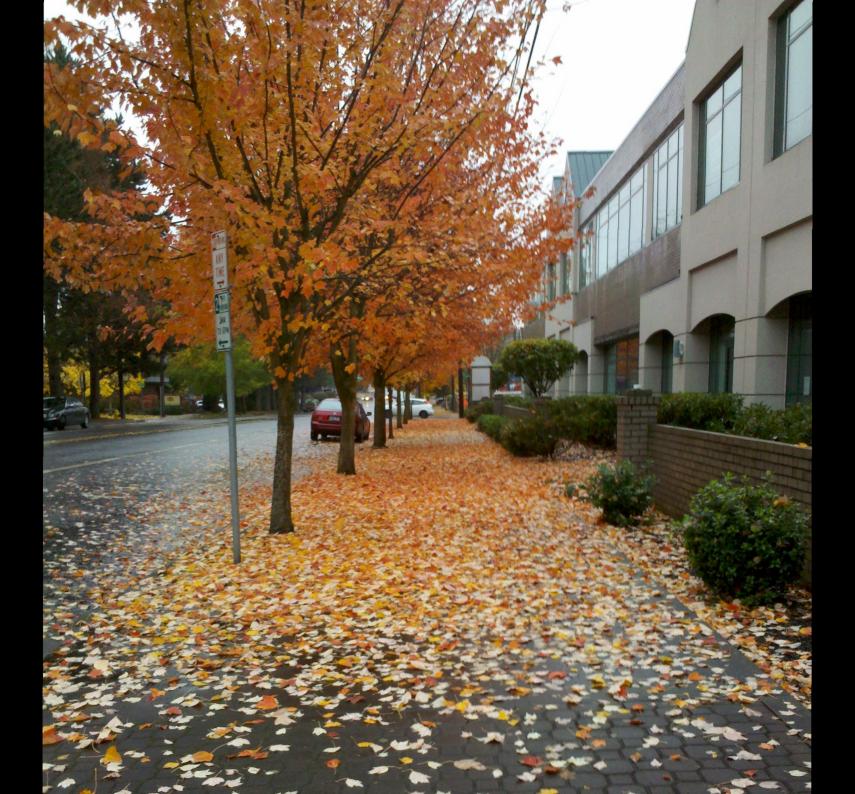
> Nicholas J. Macias 23 Nov 2011























From a system-level point of view, leaves aren't really a problem...























Remaking the Way We Make Things

oncept that goes hand in hand with the notion of a technical nutrient: the concept of a product of service. In: umers," products contair's tearlymble trobbeint is atrients--cars, televisions, carpeting, computers, and refriger ducts) would effected by parback hate the perfector calor alp. Into tifor a **defined user period**—say, ten thousand uct's current life. It finen they fi it it with the produce or are simply's any to upgrade to a newer version, the man), and usier it alomplex mat thats as food for net oproducts. The cle numers would receive the services they no ontinueavision e and devela laout would retain oam arship of the materizientsamselves. In order for such a scena of sen be upcycled rather than recycled—to retain high quality in a closed-loousnosed of by "consumers," serviolastic computer case, for example, will continually circulate as a sturdy plastic compof these produc televisher high-quality product, like a car part or a medical device—instead of being downcycleor a product back, riers and flowerpots. A technical nutrient is a material rario to be practive ahowever but woulcal cyn ownership orlustrial metabolism from which it In this scere vio. be paying for cor ing its complex r e materials them on use pur punc calities, friore prosperous, yogurt and ice-cream cartons, ju ative America<mark>rckagi</mark>ri a butta if can be tossed on the ground or compost heap to sately tter use-literally to make car meam) can be designed as biological nutrients, what we call products of consumption. The pressed, an unicroorganisms in the soil and by other animals. Most packaging (which makes up abtist mass can be ntrients. A **biological nutrient** is a material or product that is designed to net copper cable. A more pros eebs sud relied toged of with various otheoucrap steels and ma<mark>diolo</mark>s, compromising their high duality ar heckarathemobile iss scarded, its compte ent steel is recycli<mark>ron</mark>as an amalgam of all its steel parts, alor used a but, o carcass, areamizing every elentent, from tong nuto tail. Metals would be amelted only with lik KE CSL poglesioficustrustrus plabor turrescottsofus conid stato a general compound and lost to specific tec ressed, and processals and chimhulines betel from the body and stainless steels are smelted together wit

William McDonough & Michael Braungart

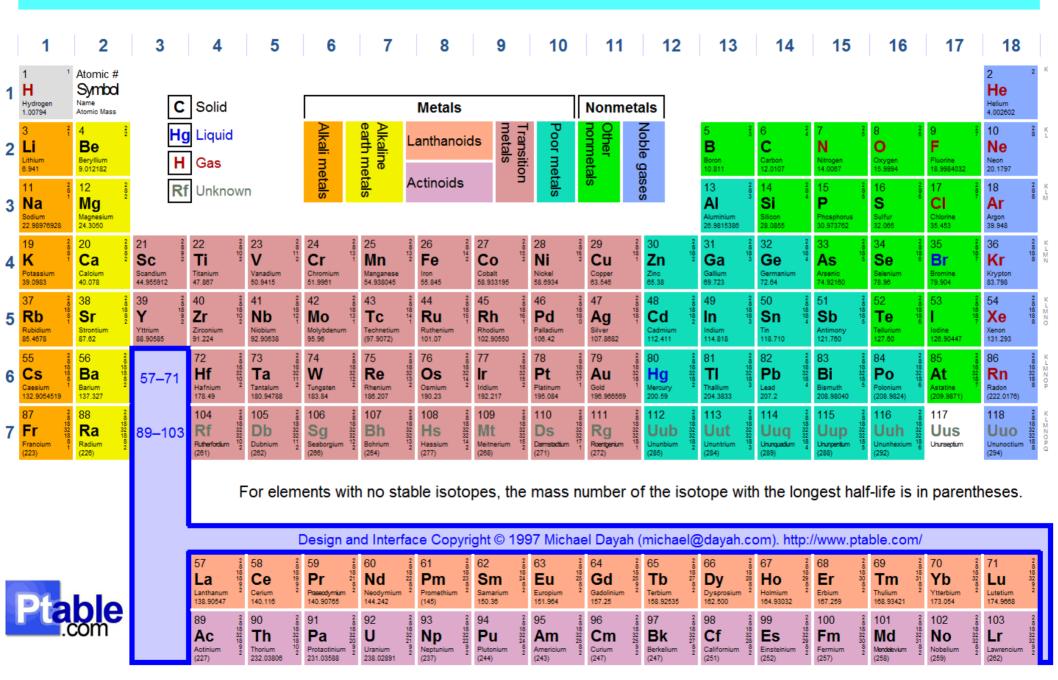








Periodic Table of Elements









Atoms are funny things...

things break down to an atomic scale fairly easily,

but with great resistance (and extreme consequences) beyond that.

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IDEA: Can we mimic this process, with our own version of small, versatile, reusable building blocks?

Lazy Approach: rather than trying to discover appropriate materials, let's design and manufacture them.

BASIC PLAN

- Simple, atomic node
- Linkage connecting nodes to each other (nearest neighbor): free-floating, fixed, or something in-between
- Ability to change angle of linkages (or adjust length)
- Sensors to detect position and forces
- Grappling/attachment system
- Distributed, scalable, local control system

RESULT: ARTIFICIAL MATTER

- Synthetic wood/rubber/steel: fully tunable
- Customized (programmable) shapes: easier; less waste; in-field options
- Joining/releasing of macro-scale objects
- True repair vs replacement
- Reusability
- Smart materials

APPLICATIONS

- Weather adaption: wind, temperature, rain
- Morphable furniture (how many rooms do you use at once?)
- Dynamic materials: properties can be changed to suit the application
- How do we realize these different characteristics?

SOME QUESTIONS

- What's the right granularity for these atomic nodes?
- Is a macro-scale node still useful?
- Energy supply: EM harvesting? Solar?
- Computing substrate: Cell Matrix?
- Passive or active? Can things be powered-down when structure is static?
- Safety: unplanned breakdown of critical structures etc.