

## Mobile Solar Battery

Studio del Sole Inc. exhibited its pocket-sized "solar power station," the Violetta Solar-gear, from 6 to 9 March 2005 at the Natural Products Expo West 2005. The exhibition, held in Anaheim in the US, is the world's largest exhibition of its kind.

The Violetta Solargear is compact and light (approximately 125 grams), and can generate power to recharge the nickel-hydrate "Violetta" batteries in the integral charger anywhere there is sun. If it is attached by a USB cable to mobile equipment such as

cell phones, PDA or portable AV equipment, it can also recharge their batteries. Just the thing for people on the move with battery-hungry electrical equipment.



## Home of the Future

The high-rise Tokyo Times Tower currently under construction in Tokyo's Akihabara district by Kajima Corporation is planned for completion in September 2004, and model rooms have already been opened to the public. Akihabara is known as "Electric City" for its proliferation of electrical goods stores, and along with Shiodome and Roppongi it is one of the

areas of the Tokyo undergoing redevelopment as part of a plan to revitalize the capital. Akihabara is set to become a global center for IT-related industries, and plans are in place for the redevelopment of 90,000 square meters in this area.

Tokyo Times Tower will be in keeping with this hi-tech environment. The photograph shows the model of the

S-Style apartment, jointly created by Kajima and Sony Corporation. Using four projectors it is possible to enjoy light, sound and projected images not only in the living room and bedrooms but also in the kitchen, bathroom or even in the toilet. The fusion of images and interior design has produced a modern living space with a fully adjustable décor.

## Black and White Japan

British photographer Michael Kenna is very popular in Japan, and exhibitions of his work are held every year here. He has released a collection of photographs of Japanese scenery as a joint publication by the Japanese art, architecture and interior design relat-

ed publishing company Editions Trolley, and the American art publishers Nazraeli Press. The collection is simply titled *Japan*, and there are 100 photographs of Japanese landscapes. The photographs are at once tranquil and mysterious. The sub-

jects include the sky, water, open spaces and the ubiquitous stone statues of Buddhist deities. They are all common scenes in Japan, but Kenna portrays them in black and white with a beauty akin to a traditional Japanese ink painting.



## Portable Scratching

Although you might not have guessed just by looking at it, Bandai's newly released One Hand Player is, in fact, a portable music player. It can be used to produce DJ-style scratching anywhere, and is proving very popular as a rhythm toy among hip-hop

fans and wannabe DJs. Like the handy-karaoke microphone it is held in one hand, and by shaking the player up and down while pressing the scratch pad users can produce their own scratching from the built-in speaker. The unit has a number of preset

scratch patterns and rhythm tracks, and can be used in record mode with the built-in microphone as a sampler. It can also be hooked up to a separate sound source.

The One Hand Player is on sale in toy shops, variety shops and music stores.