

# World Peace Through Design

**K**azuo Kawasaki, 60, is a leading Japanese industrial designer who has worked on a variety of products, ranging from eyewear to artificial hearts. Today Kawasaki, a professor at Osaka University's graduate school, represents "cool Japan" in the field of design.

"It is a major mistake to look on design as art. The essence of design is that it is an interdisciplinary line of work that involves science and technology, the economy and art," expounds Kawasaki. He has so far designed about 580 items, such as audio equipment, kitchen knives, stationery products, watches, glasses, wheelchairs, computers, medical equipment, artificial hearts, vaccination syringes and isotope batteries.

What do these products have in common? They share the high-level functionality and performance that are the hallmark of Kawasaki's design prowess—not to mention something that has landed him numerous prizes both at home and abroad. He has also designed several products that are housed permanently around the world at various facilities, such as the Museum of Modern Art in New York.

Kawasaki, who suffered from heart disease, has acquired a Ph.D. in medical science. In partnership with the University of Tokyo, he is currently developing a new type of total artificial

heart, code-named KAWASAKI G5-MODEL.

"Japan needs to help solve various global problems through design," says Kawasaki, a man who believes in and has put forth the idea of working to establish world peace through design. One specific example of his peace-keeping design (PKD) is a comprehensive vaccine system. The system uses a folding needle to extract the vaccine. The needle locks after use to prevent contaminated needles from being reused.

Moving ahead, he plans to focus on the design of artificial organs, robots and nuclear power equipment.

On the Internet  
[http://www.design.frc.eng.osaka-u.ac.jp/kazuokawasaki\\_e.html](http://www.design.frc.eng.osaka-u.ac.jp/kazuokawasaki_e.html)



Photo: FUJITSUKA MITSUMASA

Since being involved in a traffic accident, Professor Kazuo Kawasaki has been confined to a wheelchair. Unable to find a wheelchair that satisfied him, he designed one himself. Today this work of his, which boasts function and a sleek design, is housed in the New York Museum of Modern Art.



Sitting in his office, Professor Kazuo Kawasaki talks about the total artificial heart that he has designed. The device has been implanted in goats for clinical trials, with experiments taking place at the University of Tokyo.