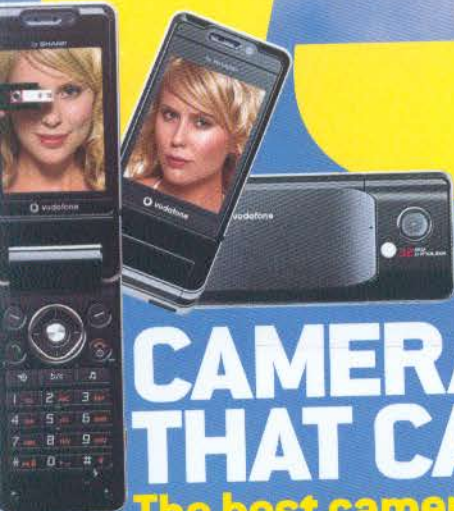


# TECH

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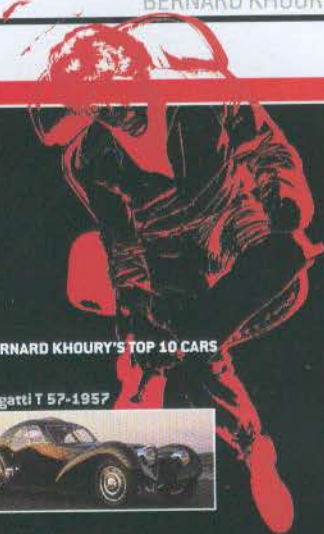
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NOVEMBER 2005  
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“NOW, WE  
HAVE JUST  
ENTERED  
THE ERA  
OF LIGHT...”



Name: **BERNARD KHOURY**

Occupation: ARCHITECT

Age: 37 years old

Projects: The award-winning BO18 nightclub, Centrale restaurant and bar, Yabani restaurant.

Favorite band(s): Most music from the 1960s and 1970s but this morning I was listening to The Rolling Stones.



**T3ME:** What was the first gadget you ever owned?

**Bernard Khoury:** My first big toy was a 50cc motorcycle. I was 11 years old and I knew how to ride a bike because my older brothers owned some. I grew up with motorbikes around. When I was in the US I had an antique of sorts, it was a 1959 BMW R60 bike.

**T3ME:** You seem to like collector items, how do you go about selecting them?

**BK:** I am attracted by objects that mark their period. And I am fascinated by objects that are of great cultural value. I look at their relevance. I see myself more as a gadget lover than a so-called gadget freak. In my opinion, technology automatically translates into enjoying a gadget not for the status symbol it presumably represents, but rather for the qualities it possesses and the richness it can bring to my life.

**T3ME:** Do you have a collector's eye for cars too?

**BK:** Yes absolutely. I would get more satisfaction out of spending let's say \$200,000 on a collector car from the 1960s or 1970s, like a Lamborghini or a Maserati. But for everyday use I would probably go out and buy a car that is the least noticeable.

**T3ME:** What are your top 10 cars?

**BK:** My top 10 list of cars generally are landmarks in the history of technology and design. They really need to be masterpieces. (\*)

**T3ME:** How do you define your relationship with technology?

**BK:** I have a great love and fascination for it. We live in an extraordinarily inventive world. There are objects coming into our lives that are really affecting our sensitivities, the way we perceive things and our sense of aesthetics. I have a lot of interest in integrating all these new technologies literally into the design of my buildings.

**T3ME:** How do you do that?

**BK:** Well, it's definitely not by mimicking them. What I try to do is understand them and to make these technologies a natural byproduct of my designs.

**T3ME:** When you want to buy a gadget what do you base your choice on?

**BK:** Performance. It's really the only attribute that makes a gadget relevant to you or to me. The physical appearance should be a result of the substance and not the other way round. In this respect, I have gadgets that I simply couldn't do without.

**T3ME:** And those would be?

**BK:** First, it's my black Nokia 5140 mobile phone. I am particularly fond of it because it looks like a Batmobile, it has good features and you can throw it to the ground without breaking it. My IBM ThinkPad T41 laptop is a tank in that it is sturdy and very functional. At home, I think that my Harman/Kardon AR series stereo system is one of my most prized possessions.

**T3ME:** What decade(s) was the most technologically innovative?

**BK:** Without a doubt, it's the 1960s and 1970s. There was such an explosion of ideas in every field from music and architecture to politics and exploration. It was in that period of time that Man managed to land on the moon. And I think that whatever we have today in terms of mobile phones, speakers, the advent of the CD and DVD can be traced specifically to those two decades.

**T3ME:** Where do you see technology going in the next few years or decades?

**BK:** There is an unbreakable link between technology and the way we live because technology defines our ability to move and to discover. As I see it there are three phases in technological and thus human progress. The first is the Stage of the Animal where our means were limited by our use of legs as the only way to move around. Then comes the Mechanical Stage when following the invention of the wheel, the car, the train and so on, we are able to move at a faster rate to further distances. Now, we have just entered the Era of Light [speed of light] where thanks to the microchip, wireless technology, laptops, 3G, videoconferencing and so on, we can project ourselves to the other side of the world without moving a muscle.

**T3ME:** One word to describe you or your work?

**BK:** Turbulent.

(\*) **BERNARD KHOURY'S TOP 10 CARS**

1. Bugatti T 57-1957



2. Batmobile-2005



3. Ariel Atom-2005



4. Voisin C5-1925



5. Ferrari 250 SWB-1955



6. Citroën SM Maserati-1971



7. Lamborghini Countach-1971 [first prototype]



8. Lancia Stratos-1973



9. Lamborghini Miura SV-1969



10. Maserati Bora-1975

