



Grand designs

Students show off some bright ideas

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TYNESIDE student Will Toogood was intent on making camping easier after living under canvas at a rock festival.

Will, 23, studying product design technology at Northumbria University, was taken aback at the number of tents left behind after the Glastonbury Festival.

"They were left because after a five-day festival, people couldn't be bothered to carry a tent home with them. There were thousands," said Will. "It's an age old

problem at outdoor events. Everyone needs somewhere to shelter but taking your own tent with you is both expensive and inconvenient."

So Will came up with the concept of the Roost-r tent made from material which is weatherproof but fully recyclable.

It is long enough to take a full-sized airbed and uses a system of zips and Velcro fastenings.

Will said: "It's really practical. You can sleep comfortably in the tent and it has been designed so that other Roost-r tents can be attached to make a double or multiple occupancy tent."

People could buy the tent for £20 at events and keep it, or trade it in at the end of the proceedings and get £10 back.

"This system would really save money for festival-goers, who could reserve their tent online when they book and pay for their festival tickets.

"It also offers an ideal opportunity for generating revenue through advertising

and sponsorship," said Will. Northumbria's product design technology degree course combines engineering and design skills and students' work is now on display at the university campus in the Graduate Show for the School of Computing, Engineering and Information Sciences.

Dr Bill Fleming, course leader for product design technology at Northumbria, said: "Will's Roost-r has the potential to fill a real gap in the market."

And backpackers worldwide could benefit from a new multifunctional rucksack designed by Northumbria student Andrew Baird, 21, which also features in the show.

He developed the design following his own experience of travelling regularly with a rucksack and always struggling to keep his clothes and belongings tidy.

"Everything was always just rammed into my bag and was a total crumpled mess," he said.

Andrew's multifunctional backpack features a separate rear compartment for

laptop storage, while the main section has a fully compartmentalised "wardrobe" storage system to keep clothes and belongings organised and easily at hand.

It features removable side pockets which can be unzipped quickly to provide a handy small bag.

Andrew said: "It means you can leave the backpack behind while sightseeing and use the small bag for carrying valuables such as passport, wallet and camera."

Another of the show's students Siu

Ngai Wang, 27, was inspired to design an expandable luggage system.

Siu said: "My designs means that the small compact case which is the right size for hand luggage, can expand so you can carry a much larger load of luggage."



DAVID HAS A CHAIN REACTION

A PEDAL power scheme which could be the answer to irrigation problems in developing countries has been devised by Northumbria University student David Brightman.

David's design for a bicycle-powered water pump is part of the Graduate Show at the university.

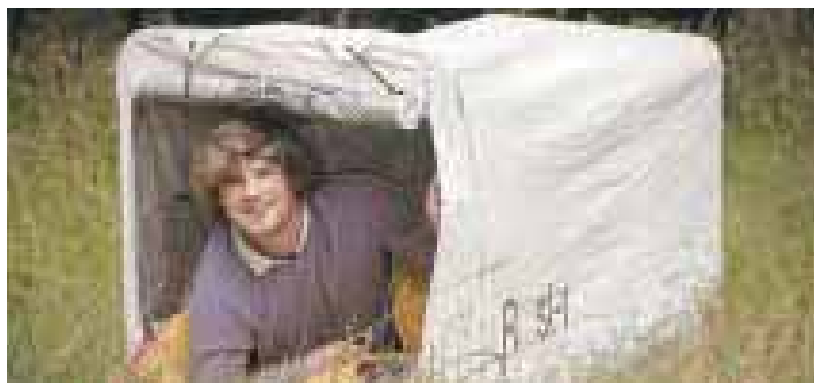
He has designed a system where a bike is attached to a pump which is powered by pedaling.

David, 22, said: "This would be

ideal for small scale farms which are lacking in reliable equipment, and can be used to irrigate large areas.

"It is low maintenance, low cost and doesn't need any extensive machinery. I was also aware of the large number of bikes which are sent to landfill in this country.

"My idea is a very practical mode of transport, which can help make a real difference to the lives of people in the developing world."





PRODUCTS OF THE FUTURE? Northumbria student David Brightman, foreground, with his pedal power irrigation design. Above, Will Toogood with his Roost-r Tent.