

# THE BEST OF 2010... Esquire

102  
THINGS  
THAT MADE  
US PROUD  
THIS  
YEAR

MAN AT HIS BEST

DECEMBER 2010

LOTS OF OTHER  
STUFF, INCLUDING:

...AND THE  
BRIGHTEST

15

GENIUSES  
WHO GIVE US HOPE

AND

CHRISTIAN  
BALE

WHO RELUCTANTLY  
TALKS WITH US  
TO PROMOTE HIS

A SPECIAL  
XMAS ELF  
NAMED ERIKA

A

FUN  
HOLIDAY  
QUIZ

A

CHAT WITH  
OWYANE  
WADE

A

THE SEVEN STAR OF

## INNOVATION

### LIQUID GLASS

**IF YOU'VE EVER HAD ANYTHING** you didn't want to ruin (or didn't want to have to clean), this will come as good news. Early next year, German company Nanopool GmbH will release an ultrathin liquid-glass coating that repels stains from clothing, dirt from cars, even bacteria from countertops.

Nanopool's scientists found a way to control the formation of very thin layers of glass—from just a hundred nanometers thick. Applied via spray or wipe, its Quantum LiquiGlas acts like an invisible shield on just about any surface, repelling liquid and stains as a raincoat does rain, while remaining flexible and breathable. And because it stops bacteria just as well as red wine, it's big news for hospitals: Some have already tested the coating on sterile surfaces like bandages, where they've found it to reduce bacteria growth by 25 to 50 percent. Liquid glass has also been used to treat walls and monuments (graffiti can be washed clean in a matter of seconds) and as a defense against UV rays. Not bad for something that goes on in minutes and costs about as much as a bottle of Pine-Sol.

—ELI ROSENBERG

