

THE BEST OF 2010... Esquire

102
THINGS
THAT MADE
US PROUD
THIS
YEAR

MAN AT HIS BEST

DECEMBER 2010

...AND THE
BRIGHTEST

15

GENIUSES
WHO GIVE US HOPE

AND

CHRISTIAN
BALE

WHO RELUCTANTLY
TALKS WITH US
TO PROMOTE HIS

LOTS OF OTHER
STUFF, INCLUDING:

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

