



TRAVELLING LIGHT

PHOTO // COURTESY DESIGNFREI

The traditional backpack has been reborn in Flink, a prototype for a new backpack that aims to give snowboarders the full freeride experience. Flink draws its quirky name from the flexible link between the top of the backpack and the shoulder straps. Rather than gripping your back, the pack is suspended off your shoulders, which also creates an air pocket for ventilation. Creating mobility and flexibility are the pack's key aims—there's no direct connection between the straps and the hip belt, so adventure-sports types can twist and turn their torsos with greater freedom while tackling the slopes. The brainchild of Swiss designer and snowboarder Remo Frei, Flink recently won the BrandNew Accessories Award at ispo 2005, a major international sports trade fair held in Munich, Germany. The pack was initially conceived during Frei's diploma in industrial design at the University of Art and Design, Zurich, as a solution to the restraints he found using conventional equipment for more extreme sports. The pack's 'exoskeleton' is a hard shell, which protects the wearer's back and can also have additional equipment attached to it. Flink can be adapted to many outdoor sports, including mountain biking, ice-climbing and mountaineering. www.designfrei.ch

def Press Release
pap Poloxygen
titel Traveling light

dat Jun. 2005

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