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[Energy]

ECO-POWER DOUBLES AS MODERN ART

This backyard sculpture can also power your house. BY BOB PARKS

WANT TO TURN your backyard into a wind farm? The QR5, from Britain's Quietrevolution, is a residential-scale wind turbine that generates enough electricity to power a standard U.S. home or a small office. It also looks like a piece of wind-powered sculpture, which may prove to be one of its most important selling points. Quietrevolution's Richard Cochrane designed the QR5 to masquerade as an objet d'art to mollify critics who might grumble about ugly, noisy propellers.

But does it make economic sense? Well, yes and no. Beneath the skin is what Quietrevolution calls the world's most efficient turbine for capturing air currents near buildings and other structures, with carbon-fiber blades shaped to grab gusty city winds without making much noise. It pumps out 800 kilowatt-hours a month in 13-mph winds, which makes it suitable for about a quarter of the potential locations around the U.S. But make sure your checkbook is fully charged: At \$48,000, the QR5 costs twice as much as a traditional propeller-style unit that generates the same output. "Right now we're targeting urban commercial and civic projects," Cochrane explains. "We'll get the price down with volume." If he's right, prepare to be blown away. **E**

PRODUCT
QR5

MANUFACTURER
Quietrevolution

DESIGNER
Richard Cochrane

BOTTOM LINE
Two units have been installed in commercial development projects around London, with 70 to 80 planned for the coming year.

