



collaboration: the Island air purifier for Airmineral, which uses Quinton's patented process to create a sea air environment indoors.

"We've known for a very long time that people who live by the sea get many health benefits just from the sea air," Lehanneur says.

"Quinton's research paved the way, but we needed to develop a way to make the salt water molecules small enough to be breathable."

Mimicking the form and structure of a sponge, the transportable purifier houses a small engine that uses a cold sterilisation process to turn the salt water into mist. The apparatus regularly releases micro-particles into the atmosphere, allowing the respiratory system and mucous membranes to absorb essential minerals from the water.

The Island advances the potential of a formula that has been used in the same way for almost a century. After six years, Lehanneur still enjoys discussing Quinton's work and is pleased that he is making the biologist's discovery more widely known. "Everyone," Lehanneur says, "needs to breathe pure air – if you live in Tokyo, London or Paris."

Above
The apparatus releases micro-particles of the Quinton serum

Mathieu Lehanneur has long been interested in blurring the line between beautiful objects and scientific innovation. In 2006, the French designer came across the work of the biologist René Quinton, best known for developing the Quinton serum, a drinkable and injectable salt-water formula. Lehanneur wanted to "create the dream of a breathable Quinton serum", and designed an object exploring this idea.

Quinton Laboratories heard about his project and Lehanneur fell into dangerous territory because he had unintentionally incorporated the company's patented technology into his design. He decided to take a break from the project, but a phone call three years later changed everything. "The chief executive [of Quinton] called me and said he was interested in getting me involved in a project to create a design that would include [the company's] revolutionary technology," Lehanneur says.

Icon reported the concept when we profiled Lehanneur in 2010, but production is at last about to begin on the outcome of this

NEW

The Island Air Purifier

A collaboration between a designer and a science lab has resulted in a gadget that brings the benefits of seaside air into your home

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