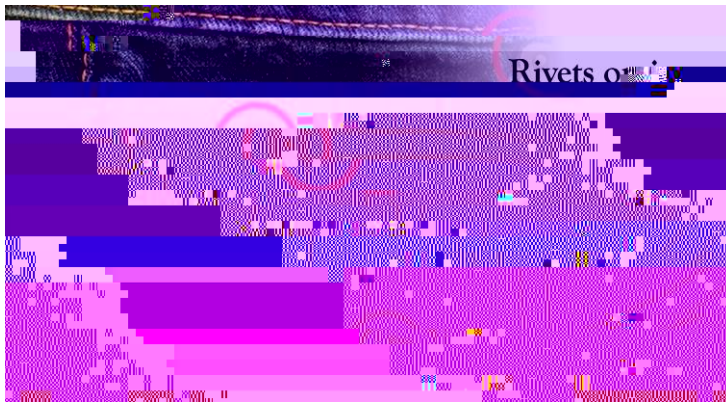






Where else are skeuomorphs? You probably wore a skeuomorph over the weekend. The r they are a hang-over from when denim was too thick to be held together just by stitching and needed metal links to hold them together. Now they are there for reassurance and because you expect to see them.



All my examples have been from modern times, but the idea of skeuomorphs has been around for a while. As with the iPhone icons, any new technology will often be interpreted or presented in terms of the more familiar technology that preceded it. Take the first cars. Their referencing back to the technology that preceded them.



The likeness went further than the name. Their design was clearly influenced by horse-drawn

Going further back in time, the decorations on Greek temples show that the idea of the skeuomorph was familiar to the Ancient Greeks. In the Doric style, certain features of stone temples, such as the guttai and triglyphs, look like the design of earlier wooden temples. They can be found on the most famous temple of them all, the Parthenon at Athens.



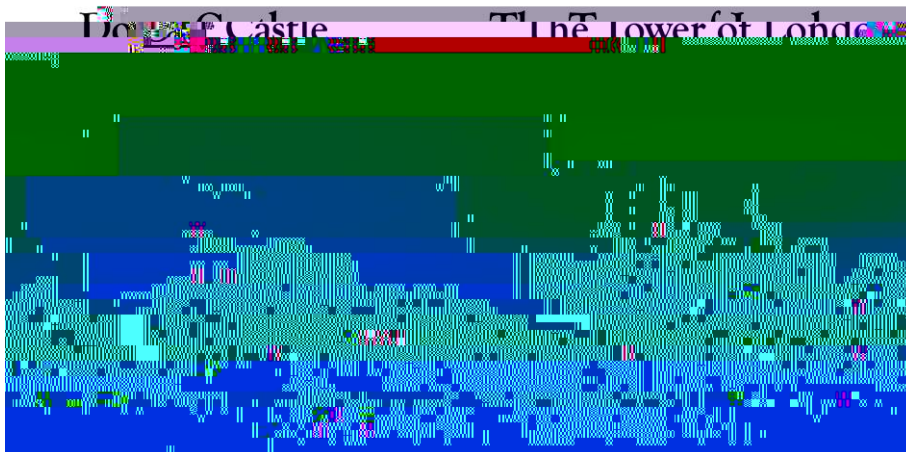


We can go even further back. The very first clay pots are called linear groove wear pottery. The style dates back to 5500-4500 BC. The distinctive design that gives it its name is striking—it resembles the intricate pattern of woven cords that make up wicker baskets, which would have been the earlier means of carrying things around.



Skeuomorphs are one of the very first things humans invented.

So far we have considered skeuomorphs in terms of offering familiarity and comfort, when we have to come to terms with something new or revolutionary. However, they can work in other ways too. Take the central tower of Dover Castle.



Built between 1179 and 1

backwards. Although you had never heard the