DESIS NETWORK
Design for Social Innovation and Sustainability

In a small, densely populated, highly connected Planet, people's intelligence, sensitivity and creativity are the most abundant resources. These social resources, if and when catalysed, become powerful drivers for sustainable changes. And design can (and must) help the process.

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DESIS, network of schools of design and other institutions, companies and non-profit organizations interested in promoting and supporting design for social innovation and sustainability. You all are welcome to join us!.

EDITORIAL

Eastern Express

Ancient cultures, their ways to understand relationships, their particular ways to assume the everyday and to think about the future, their sense of silence and respect, their skills and creativity, all this has made them last along centuries, but not only, in so doing, they have also inspired the whole world. And now they can be, and as a matter of fact they already are, re-vitalized by the on-going wave of social innovation and, there, become the building material for a sustainable future.
India and China are both millenary old and, at the same time, leading powers on the contemporary global scene. Now, what could design for social innovation and sustainability learn from them?

This issue, officially number 1, is way concentrated, like a good expresso; it is almost all- foused on two of our peers in the East: China and India, and two conferences happening there: Cumulus conference in Shangai and LeNS (the Learning Network on education for Sustainability conference) in Bangalore.
Our aim then is to grasp some of the wisdom embed by these cultures for the sake of Design, Social Innovation and Sustainability.

We hope you enjoy it.

KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGES

News regarding information exchanges and horizontal connections among DESIS members

DESIS CHINA & Cumulus
Originally a fish and textile town, Shanghai is now China's largest city, comparable to New York or Tokyo and in recent decades, it has experienced a building roar at a flabbergasted scale. Still, it keeps on being a city of tradition and ancient wisdom combined with the highest facilities regarding knowledge and communication, a city with strong character, creative people and great cultural life. It is not unintended indeed, that the Universal Exhibition EXPO2010 is taken place there.

In this framework Cumulus, The International Association of Universities and Colleges of Art, Design and Media will celebrate its 20th anniversary hosting also its Shangai Cumulus Conference.

Cumulus 20th Anniversary Exhibition in Shanghai the conference: Young Creators for Better City & Better Life,
7 - 10 September 2010 will have place in Shanghai, China 2010 .
The registration is OPEN!

cumulus Young Creators for Better City & Better Life
Cumulus Shanghai Conference 2010

The conference is being produced in combination with Shanghai World EXPO2010 and Shanghai Biennale and it will explore where and how young generation of designers can, through their talents and responsibility, improve our environment and life in a creative way.

The missions and visions of design education, design research and practice for young creators, together with the economic, political and social impact will also be discussed during the conference.
In short, the conference will:

* Focus on young generation and its impact on city and human life
* Explore the responsibilities and opportunities for the change
* Content: Conference/Keynote Speech/ working groups/Exhibition/ISE Shanghai Biennale/Summer School/Cumulus Award
* Cumulus will celebrate its 20th anniversary of existence
* A large International Students' Exhibition on design will be held
* Combine with International Students' Exhibition of Shanghai Biennale
* A special Cumulus prize will be announced
* An International summer school will be organized 2 weeks before the conference

And great news: on Sept. the 10th, at the UN Pavilion, Expo Sitethere will be an EXPO Session - DESIS Forum!, followed by a "Pecha Kucha" with the presentation of Projects on Social Innovation and Sustainability!.

For more information, please visit Desis website at www.desis-network.org or visit: www.cumulus2010tongji.org

The LeNS INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE in Bangalore, an invitation to "explore" Design: NOW.

SUSTAINABILITY IN DESIGN: NOW!
Challenges and Opportunities for Design Research, Education and Practice in the XXI Century

LeNS the Learning Network on Sustainability

Located on the Mysore Plateau in southwestern Karnataka, "Bengaluru", Bangalore is the hosting city to the coming LeNS conference. As a worldwide network, LeNS has looked for innovative methodological ways to approach/work/analyze/spread out the issue of "Sustainability" targeting, basically, the academia. The conference will take place from 29th September to 1st October 2010.
Lots of "adventures" are to be lived during these days, among which the official kick-off meeting of Desis-India.

The conference is a platform for sharing the latest knowledge and experiences in product, service and system design, to promote sustainable systems thinking in design education, research and practice communities. The conference approach is to look at various stakeholders in this arena - designers, design educators and design researchers - as a unique learning community. The objective is the creation of a new ethos, within such a community, enabling all possible synergies and fruitful processes of knowledge and know-how osmosis and cross-fertilization.

This conference is promoted and organized as the conclusive event of the LeNS project, funded by EU under the Asia-Link program, that aims at the development and diffusion of design for sustainability in design institutions.

The conference is for free and proceedings will be published (with ISBN); best paper will be published in the International Journal of Sustainability in Higher Education (IJSHE)."

Conference Themes

The conference will structure the contributions to the conference in relation to three areas:
1. Design Research for Sustainability (DRfS)
2. Design Education for Sustainability (DEfS)
3. Design Practice for Sustainability (DPfS)

For more information, visit: www.lensconference.polimi.it

EVENTS

Activities to socialize

Cumulus Shanghai Conference 2010: Young Creators for Better City and Better Life

SIX Summer School

Sustainability in Design: NOW!

July	17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30
August	17 6 27 28 29 30 31
September	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30
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November	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30
December	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31

SINGAPORE
SIX Summer School 15 – 17 September

'SIX and the City'
2010 Summer School
Hosted by the Lien Centre for Social Innovation, Singapore
15 – 17 September 2010

What makes a city buzz?

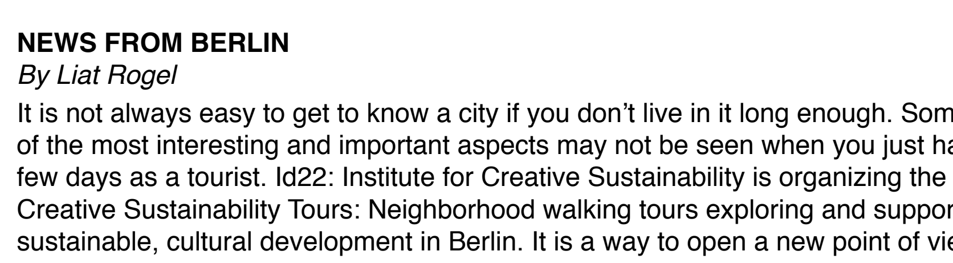
The most dynamic cities in the world have always been immersed in the critical innovations of their time, but why do some do it better than others? What inhibits a city's ability to innovate? How can cities around the world capitalise on and mobilise the wealth, creativity and knowledge within them to speed up our ability to tackle social challenges?

The summer school is the landmark event in the SIX calendar. This gathering is into its 3rd year and this is the first time its being held in Asia. Hosted by the Lien Centre for Social Innovation, the Summer School will bring together many of the leading practitioners of social innovation from all parts of the world, whether from business, government or the non-profit sector. This summer's theme will be SIX and the City, looking in particular at how cities can harness the energy, knowledge and creativity of its inhabitants to speed up their ability to respond to the climate change, chronic disease and ageing populations.

Cities all over the world have long been finding imaginative ways of dealing with the new social and environmental challenges, but for radical innovations to spread, we need to speed up the process of learning and exchange between countries. So, as well as focusing on cities, the event will also draw on new research surveying how different methods – of finance, design, commissioning and scaling – can used in fields such as this.

This is a closed-door event with selected social innovation players, thinkers as well as practitioners, industry specialists and policy makers. If you would like to attend , please contact

To find out more click on top or go to:
www.socialinnovationexchange.org/summer-school
louise.pulford@socialinnovationexchange.org



Neighborhood walking tours exploring and supporting sustainable, cultural initiatives
CREATIVE SUSTAINABILITY
TOURS : BERLIN
Um eine Tour zu vereinbaren kontaktieren Sie bitte:
To arrange a tour please contact:
Dr. Michael LaFond | Ulrich Nowikow
id22: Institute for Creative Sustainability
Marienburger Straße 40
10405 Berlin, Germany
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NEWS FROM BERLIN
By Liat Rogel
It is not always easy to get to know a city if you don't live in it long enough. Some of the most interesting and important aspects may not be seen when you just have few days as a tourist. Id22: Institute for Creative Sustainability is organizing the Creative Sustainability Tours: Neighborhood walking tours exploring and supporting sustainable, cultural development in Berlin. It is a way to open a new point of view for people visiting Berlin and give them inspiration to take home with. The tours can be tailored especially to fit the group interest. Themes approached are cooperative housing, cultural gardens, public markets, sustainable transport, open source urban planning, neighborhood activism, community development, political history, people's parks, collective-organic food, eco-systems and more. Our aim is to give people a chance to experience first hand Berlin's emerging identity: creative sustainability!

If you are interested in a tour or other information contact id22: institute@id22.net

DESIS DOTS (in the net)

Short presentation of projects

DESIS Middle East

Public library for non-public in Tel Aviv
By Aditai Ela, Nissan Graisel

In the past ten year, Israel has been experiencing a surge in the population of migrant workers, affecting the urban fabric of major cities. Nowhere in Israel is this phenomenon more evident than in the neighborhood of Neve Sha'anan, right next to the Tel Aviv central bus station. For many Israelis, the only interaction with this neighborhood and its inhabitants is diminished to the view seen through the windows of a moving bus, avoiding any human contact.

That missing contact was the aim of a small group of interdisciplinary artists, its membership includes artists Hadas Efrat, Romi Achituv and Marit Ben Israel, curator Tali Tamir and the architect Yoav Meiri.
Since there is no public library in the neighborhood, the group decided to create one. With the help and support of various institutional partners (the municipal aid organization Mesila, the Tel Aviv centennial administration and the Mifal Hapais national lottery), the group erected a small, unconventional structure in the local heart of Neve Sha'anan and of immigrant workers in Israel, in Levinsky park. The library was created out of two wooden and metal bookcases, one for adults and one for children, made to be closed when not in use. A list of desired books was produced with the help of members of the local community, and today the library contains more than 2,500 books in Nepalese, Thai, Hindi, Mandarin Chinese, Tagalog, Arabic, French, Romanian, Spanish and Hebrew. The library's open configuration and its setting, grants the library an unconcealed presence and provides unmediated access. "It was important", says Meiri, "there would be no door and no guard, no one examining anyone at the entrance and no one asking questions".
A public library for "non-public" is born in Tel Aviv.

Sustainability in the Urban Context – Exhibition

In September 2010 a unique exhibition will open at the Tel Aviv City Museum (Israel) that will touch upon incorporating sustainable habits and actions in the urban context.
The exhibition will feature a wide-scope glimpse into a global search towards a possible future of vibrant, condensed, participatory and collaborative cities that feature new possibilities for residents on the personal, communal and urban scales. The exhibition will present conceptual and realized projects from around the world, traditional and contemporary projects in various fields: design, architecture, Urban planning, social innovation art etc.

The exhibition will revolve around the following 5 themes:
Elemental Dialogue – Projects and objects that illustrate a sustainable dialogue with the natural elements.
Every-day Activism – Projects and initiatives that promote active participation of people in the private and public context.
Closing Loops – Projects that promote the re-design of products, services and processes into self-nourishing cyclical flows of organic or technical materials.
Preventive Consumerism – Projects and concepts that reform responsible consumption.
Open-Code Community – projects that present platforms for people to collaborate for a common goal or promote the ability of a community to address its own needs.

The exhibition is curated and designed by Aditai Ela (DESIS ME) and will count with pieces from DESIS Europe and DESIS Colombia.

DESIS INDIA

A dawning Dot in our Net. Under the national coordination of Prof. Shashank Metha (NID Ahmedabad), Desis-India is in their first period of foundation; different interested design schools/institutions/persons are finding the most pertinent way to start working together.
One of this designers/organizations is Aditya Dev Sood from CKS - the center for knowledge societies-.

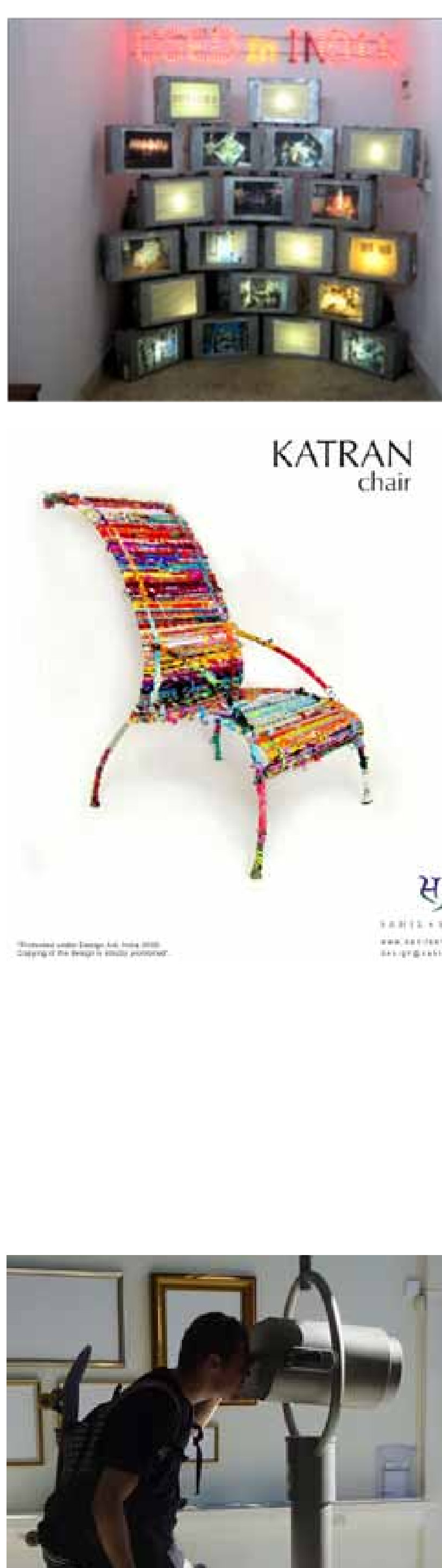
Aditya Dev Sood runs CKS, a private innovation-consulting firm. Since 2002 they have worked with Indian and international clients from profit and nonprofit sectors in an array of industries: telecom, aviation, appliances, healthcare, financial inclusion, to name a few. Throughout, they have had a thoroughgoing commitment to underserved, lower income and rural users of technology and media. CKS personnel include designers of every discipline and stripe, along with sociologists, anthropologists, cultural studies and media studies people, as well as business, engineering and human factors specialists, all of whom work together to try to find ways of making things -- products and services and systems -- easier and more beneficial for people.

CKS has hosted the Doors of Perception Conferences in Bangalore and Delhi in 2003, 2005 and 2007. Their 'used in India' installation on street media technology from 2005 has been showcased at various locations in India and Europe. These days CKS regularly hosts Pecha-Kucha on various topics in Bangalore and New Delhi along with other local partners. This year, CKS will be a key stakeholder in the UNIDR conference on strategic design and public policy being held in New York.

CKS has recently completed a major study on immunization and vaccination services for the gates foundation. This long-term study addressed the work practices of frontline health care providers in rural Bihar, as well as the families receiving or refusing their services. The study has resulted in multiple innovative technology and design solutions appropriate to the local cultural and infrastructural conditions of Bihar, which are further being developed through on-going design and intellectual property creation activities.

As a new member of the dawning DESIS INDIA dot (in the net) Aditya very much looks forward to learning more about members of the group and to contributing towards the proposed activities in September at the LENS Bangalore meeting.

On Rajasthan
By Sahil Bagga & Sarthak Sengupta



Social Innovation and Design from the Indian Outback

Our story begins in Ahmedabad, one of India?s largest cloths manufacturing cities catering to both the domestic and the export market. This bulk production results to bulk by-products from the mills, comprising of numerous pieces of cut waste cloth which are then sold in kilos to village locals who have found an innovative use for them.

Sold at a much less price than the regular jute ropes, or cotton ropes, these colourful ropes cater to people with a limited budget. As these ropes are no less in strength and longevity, it is quiet popular amongst the village masses for making day beds (charpoys), an essential piece of furniture in Indian village houses. In fact it is also referred to as the poor man?s rope or simply the Katran rope, Katran meaning the numerous pieces of coloured cloth that makes up the rope.

As designers, we were greatly inspired by the story behind the making of the Katran rope. Apart from its unique characteristics and vibrant colours, we see this rope as a metaphor for innovation, invention and community building at a grass root level. This led us to design the Katran Chair, using the similar material in a contemporary style.

design@sahilsarthak.com

[a Parenthesis on our Eastern Journey, some news on other latitudes] :

DESIS EUROPE
OPM Cities _ Malmö Design Exercise
By François Jégou

DESIS Europe is already active with projects, research and workshops but had not been effectively launched: this was one of the many activities scheduled between the 1st and the 4th of June in Malmö, Sweden. Two events were organised back-to-back at MEDEA Lab settled in the University of Malmö: (Re)designing the Regions was a 3 day tour organised by La 27e Région a French public innovation lab; SEE that stand for Sustainable Everyday Exploration is a workshop organised by Strategic Design Scenarios and Politecnico di Milano within the PERL (Partnership for Research and Education for Responsible Living) European project. Both overlap in time and share the same concerns: how can we innovate in local transformative processes towards sustainability; how to renovate the way public actions and policies are made and foster local social innovation-based bottom-up processes towards new sustainable ways of living. The seminar will focus on local projects such as Living Labs in Malmö and Copenhagen, the MindLab of the Danish Ministry of Finance but also on many invited participants representing original projects and institutions such as Social Entrepreneurship in Residence from the Young Foundation, WWF One Planet Mobility, UK Building Schools of the Future programme, the MidtLab from central Danmark region or Inciativa Joven from Extremadura region in Spain. The core topic was to explore the hypothesis of 'planning by projects' experienced by DESIS partners as Politecnico di Milano South Agricultural Park project 'Feeding Milano'; Tonji University Chong Ming Island near Shanghai; Lower East Side Urban Dynamization developed by Parsons School.

-Can an 'acupuncture' of micro-projects achieve systemic change in a city or a region?
-Which tools to activate local projects?
-How design-based approaches can enable such planning by projects?
These will be some of the main questions for the participants and in particular the civil servants and politicians from various French regions and the City of Malmö.

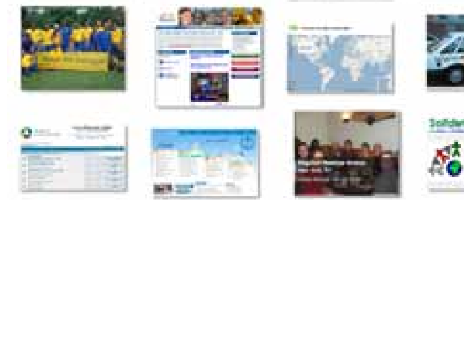
DESIS COLOMBIA
DESIS- RAD WORKSHOP – Outcomes.
By Andrea Mendoza

Urban Dynamization

During the first semester of 2010 the first DESIS workshop had place producing very motivating results. The core of the activity was developed by the Jorge Tadeo Lozano and Los Andes Universities. At the "Tadeo" two departments played a very committed role: Industrial Design, thanks to whom now we have new cases (among which one called Frutos de Utopía –fruits from utopia- a project working on saving traditional food from the Andean plateau. Curiously, this case is the first in tune with another cluster that we at Desis Colombia have decided to start: TK Traditional Knowledge). The cases were developed thanks to the leading role of Professors Cesar Sierra, Nicolás Rojas, Mauricio Hoyos and Andrea Mendoza.

BUILDING UP KNOWLEDGE

New air in Design
Reports on recently published works from students



By Joon Sang Baek
Korean national, Joon Sang Baek is a Ph.D. student at Milan Polytechnic (Research Unit of Design and Innovation for Sustainability), his research focuses on identifying the role of information communication technologies (ICT) in service design process to improve the quality of services and to maximize their impact on sustainability of our society.
Followed by the understanding of ICT-supported collaborative services in various contexts, his research focuses on the use of the Internet technologies to promote sustainable food production and consumption in Milan. In Nutrire Milano Project where DIS at Politecnico di Milano is designing services to support sustainable food production and consumption, a digital platform will be launched to support the services. The goal of this research is to provide guidelines for developers to use ICT effectively to meet user needs.
The guidelines will elaborate on the following roles of ICT: ICT as a tool to improve the functionality of the services to be designed; ICT as media to create and reinforce social networks among farmers and consumers; ICT as a channel to diffuse the initiative and outcome of the project.

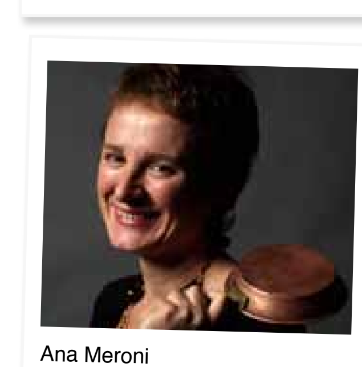
You can contact Joon at: joonsbaek@gmail.com

DESIS ALBUM – work in progress

A "behind the scenes" space to periodically introduce Desis members and partners

Jogi Panghaal

Jogi Panghaal
Jogi Panghaal graduated in Product Design from the National Institute of Design (NID) in Ahmedabad, India in 1977. He has been a visiting teacher at NID, at Les Ateliers Paris and at the School of Planning and Architecture, Delhi, and has delivered lectures and workshops the world over.



Aditya Dev Sood

Aditya Dev Sood
Former Fulbright Scholar; has received two doctorates in from the University of Chicago in 2006. He is the author of the CKS Guide to ICTs for Development (2002), and the Mobile Development Report (2006)

Ana Meroni

Ana Meroni.
Architect and designer, she has a PhD in Industrial Design. Her filed of research is the innovation in the area of product and service systems, with a special focus on the food system.

DESIS VOICES

A space for members/guest to "have a say"

Jogi Panghaal

"In my recent trip to Milan, I met Prof Manzini and we talked about Desis Project. I feel very inspired by the potential that this thinking brings to our own cultures and I really feel that it has the power to give birth to new cultures of practices, activities and services that use the promise of new technologies, (particularly digital) new access, new organisations and new education that is transforming our societies in India.

I feel Desis peers would give me the space and tools to reflect back on my work and help me in co-discovering new opportunities for our own people or identifying practices that are already qualifying to be fitting in Desis parameters."

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