Open source / Open design: working together, or widening the gaps between professions, residents and areas ?

Plaine Commune, Terre de communs !

Design was born with the industrial revolution. As is the case with a lot of professions, digital economy now drives the market; often the production process of goods or services is less valuable than the digital data produced during their manufacture and through their use. The relationship between client/supplier is transformed as a result.

To mark the closing seminar of the European project « CHIC »[1], (Cultural Hybridisation In Common), the different partners involved invite you to come and debate the development of production of « common goods» in the context of the profound transformation of capitalism.

Closing seminar on the project Europe Créative.
« CHIC »
23rd November 2017

Archives Nationales
59 rue Guynemer, 93383 Pierrefitte-sur-Seine (métro St Denis Université, line 13)

As for the rest of the working and trades world, design is now affected by this profound transformation of capitalism, witnessing, in less than 10 years, Apple inc., Alphabet inc. (Google), Microsoft and Amazon becoming the first 4 multinational companies globally, through their stock value (followed closely by Facebook, in 8th position), getting ahead of the oil leaders. The appropriation and the mass treatment of digital data (big data) that are at the root of their wealth, have as consequence the erection of new « *enclosures* »[2].

Responding to these new barriers (ban on access to source code of software), free software and open source appeared in the eighties, contributing to the emerging movement of the commons. This in turn gave way to Creative Commons, leading the new creative practices to the digital era, facilitating the diffusion and division of a substantial amount of productions. The development of 3D technologies also opens new prospects and challenges the design industry over what the notion of « open design » could entail.

With the increasing performance of 3D printers, by fundamentally modifying the modes of conceiving and producing, the foundations of industry and design are being challenged. These transformations can either widen the « mur d'orgueil » (1919 Bauhaus manifesto by Walter Gropius) by entirely dissociating the design trade from the manufacturing one, in order to encourage working co-operations between manual and intellectual labour; between conception and fabrication; between the artist and the craftsperson; by feeding the reflection on what "producing commons in common".

Through a European Co-operation, the CHIC project is part of that reflection.

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[1] *CHIC*, Cultural Hybridisation in Common is a transnational project of co-operation co-funded by the European project Europe Créative.

[2] *enclosure* is an English term which describes the action of enclosing a field or a wood. The term refers to an act established by the English aristocracy, which had closed down the farmers' access to the fields by using hedges and low walls in the XVIth century, to assert their right of land, which had before then been managed collectively. Enclosures impoverished an army of peasants who had to become a sort of working class condemned to sell its labour in the spinning mills in order to survive the start of the industrial era. The establishment of criminal laws against poverty alongside the enclosures structured a work market which is at the origin of modern capitalism.

It is focussed around 3 areas:
- The fabrication of objects, mainly of stamps designed for different purposes, in collaboration with designers.
- The conditions of reproduction of an object, by working on how high-tech and low-tech work together.
- The question of remuneration for craftsmanship, for research and for creation, when confronted to the market, when it targets and relies on the production of common goods.

To mark the closing seminar of the European project, the different partners involved invite you to come and discuss the questions at stake in this process.

- 9am – Welcoming the participants
- 9.30am – Europe and big data: is the European culture of Human rights _solvable through_ algorithms? - Relais Culture Europe
- 10am – The DNA of Plaine Commune : a region made from co-operations - Patrick Vassallo, Conseiller régional in charge of local development in Plaine Commune (F)
- 10.15am - Presentation of the CHIC project - Véronique Poupard, Local Development Manager in Plaine Commune (F) / Fiona Meadows, Programmes Manager at la Cité de l'architecture et du Patrimoine (F) / Nicolas de Barquin, Founder of the Openfab (B)

- 10.45am – Q&A

- 11.15am – The resurging movement of the commons : Logiciel libre, Créative commons, Open design - IRI (F)
- 11.30am - The construction of an economic model through trade-union engagement: the example of the Trade Union Editeurs de Logiciels Libres, SYNPELL (F)
- 11.45am - Confronted with the financialisation of the economy, what are the commons bringing to the table? Co-operative work as a productive investment; Emmanuel Antoine, Directeur de Minga (F)

- 12pm - Q&A

- 12.45 – 2.30pm : Lunch / discovering the educational boxes and the pantolino, Point Carré and Artefact93 (F) / Anna Codazzi, museo Explora (I)

The afternoon will be organised around two different workshops.

- 2.30 – 4.30pm : Brainstorming « What next ? »
Imagining future collaborations together.

- 2.30 – 4.30pm : What are the obvious angles of discussion emerging from the CHIC project ? (royalties, wages, democratic crisis and role of communities), Idéelles (F)
Idéelles offers a constructive, gratifying and enthusiastic space for dialogue, enabling for expression and boldness to find a place. All opinions are welcome, everyone's point of view is acknowledged and different options to move forward are explored.

- 4.30 – 5pm : Exchanges and perspectives

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