

Rooted Design for Routed Living. Alternative Design Strategies.

Designers: Maja Ganszyniec, Amy Hunting, Paweł Jasiewicz, Ola Mirecka, Oscar Narud, Trond Nicholas Perry, Tomek Rygalik, StokkeAustad (Jonas Ravlo Stokke & Øystein Austad), Jakub Szczyński

Curators: Marianna Dobkowska, Ula Siemion, Ika Sienkiewicz-Nowacka
Exhibition Design: Markus Degerman

Laboratorium Building, CCA Ujazdowski Castle, Warsaw
Opening: 1 October 2010, 19.00
Exhibition runs through 31 October
Admission free

The opening will be preceded by a meeting with the designers at the CCA's cinema (Kino.lab), 5 p.m.

The exhibition at the Laboratorium Building is the first public presentation of objects created by 10 young designers from Poland and Norway as part of the project *Rooted Design for Routed Living. alternative Design Strategies*. The presented objects were created in the course of a two-year process and were created specifically for two artist residence centres: a-i-r laboratory in Warsaw and NKD in Dale, Norway. Both institutions run artist-in-residence programs, albeit in different conditions. NKD is based in a village on the west coast of Norway, whereas a-i-r functions in the centre of a European metropolis. Artists live and work in both, and it is with them in mind that the design group has created objects that, based on an analysis of the two countries' material culture, are meant to respond, in a universal albeit tradition-rooted fashion, to the resident artists' needs.

During the project, the designers visited both institutions, becoming their residents for some time in order to experience their specificity 'on their own skin'. Today's artists travel a lot between exhibitions, projects and commissioned jobs. Over the last decade, the model of the artist travelling between residences has also become popular. The life of the contemporary artist, always on the move, is characterised by a lack of rootedness, which can also be said of the often too pragmatic spaces in which they stay. The fact of the two institutions' running similar residence projects in extremely different conditions became the common platform for their exchange. Both places became, for themselves and for young designers, a source of inspiration, knowledge and experience with regard to the possible and impossible ways in which interior spaces can significantly refer to their immediate, local environment. The project itself was so formulated as to allow both Polish and Norwegian designers to do research in the other country.

Is the production of durable objects rooted in specific realities and tradition possible in the contemporary world? Do the present-day living and economy models allow for the conscious creation of design that will stand the test of time? Can the objects surrounding us age, like people, but without ceasing to fulfil their intended functions? How is it possible to defend the presence of long-lived, durable objects on the market? Is global design at odds with that rooted in specific cultural realities? Is an alternative approach possible in design and production? These are only some of the questions that the project's participants tried to answer by travelling and studying the material culture of the two countries. The exhibition presents objects created in response to the above questions. Following its close, they will find a place in residence spaces, serving the resident artists' needs.

More on the Rooted Design for Routed Living project at www.design-in-residence.org and www.csw.art.pl/air.

Supported by a grant from Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway through the EEA Financial Mechanism and the Norwegian Financial Mechanism