

INTERNATIONALER DESIGN WORKSHOP HK 2: Co-design Politics of Nature in Hong Kong – To Bring Nature Back to Our Cities

International Design Workshop 2017

Master of Arts in Design in collaboration with Connecting Spaces Hong Kong and local designers, entrepreneurs, artists, scientists.

Angebot für

Bisheriges Studienmodell > Design > Master Design > Design interdisziplinär > 2. Semester

Nummer und Typ	MDE-MDE-Workshop-2000.17H.002 / Moduldurchführung
Modul	Minor Internationaler Workshop 2.Semester
Veranstalter	Departement Design
Leitung	Prof. Michael Krohn, Karin Zindel - Yanki Lee - Albert Tsang Siu Yin
Zeit	Mo 11. September 2017 bis Fr 22. September 2017
Anzahl Teilnehmende	maximal 14
ECTS	2 Credits
Voraussetzungen	keine
Lehrform	Three different workshops with Hong Kong based designers, entrepreneurs, artists, scientists.
Zielgruppen	2. Semester Studierende Master of Arts in Design
Lernziele / Kompetenzen	-Experience how city and nature interact -Learn to design objects, services, events or systems that use the potential of city and nature -Explore creative strategies and new technologies that enables or transmit the experience of city and nature -Use methods how the obtained knowledge and results can be presented
Inhalte	Dr. Yanki Lee, social designer and design researcher, since 2017, she founded Enable Foundation, a non-profit social design agency in Hong Kong focused on design research for social inclusion and innovation. www.yankilee.com/ www.facebook.com/enablefoundation/ Albert Tsang Siu Yin, design researcher and educator with focus on social design, particularly concentrating on participation through design, co-design, as well as action research as a way of gaining knowledge.

It was a real tour de force of how western civilization understand nature. Because of the religious influence, nature was viewed as evil in the Middle Ages, and then the criteria of judging shifted from morality to aesthetics. At the time right before renaissance, unproductive land was seen as ugly, and domesticated land, was seen as beautiful. It was till romanticism that most beautiful nature was that without human intervention. Nature nowadays has a new shift towards a mix of pragmatism and surviving ethics — environmentalism related to climate change. The fact is that human have never seen nature as it IS. Nature, no matter of its meanings, or even its physical presence, are always culturally or politically

produced.

Compared to many European cities, Hong Kong is a very young city where earliest massive human infrastructures were only implemented less than 100 years ago. Since then, the elements of the city invaded the nature in a rapid mode. As a super-dense city, Hong Kong is also a city of possibilities where different things happen in co-existed situations. While urban elements appear in the middle of the nature, the elements of the natures are fighting back subtly in different scales of usages (Emerson, 1836):

1. Commodity for our basic needs
2. Beauty for our desire for delight
3. Language for our communication with one another
4. Discipline for our understanding of the world

Based on these propositions, we invite ZHdK students to investigate their own politics of nature from Zurich to Hong Kong and from personal encounters to three specific questions/steps/levels that Latour (2004:2) provoked to all of us about nature and our urban lives:

1. How to modify public life to take nature into account?
2. How to adapt our systems of production to nature's demand?
3. How to preserve nature from human degradation through a sustainable politics?

Participants will experience 3 steps and 4 visits with the goal to co-design tools/situations/systems for new politics of natures in cities.

Visits: From Zurich to Hong Kong

First of all, participants are going to experiment the interweaving urban/nature landscape of Hong Kong through 4 visits, which are following Yanki Lee's paths in Zurich in order to define different forms of nature:

1. Species in the City – exploring the species from Elephants' House in Zurich Zoo to Birdcage at Hong Kong Park/ Giant Panda Adventure at Ocean Park/ the Bird Street + Flower Market
2. Nature in City – visiting citizens' interpretations from Zurich's Freitag Tower to Hong Kong's Flower Granny and extremely small 'pocket parks'
3. Nature in Nature – using our bodies to across different forms of nature between residential areas from Zurich suburban area to Hong Kong new town
4. City in Nature – immersing ourselves in the urban oasis from Zurich's Unterer Letten to Hong Kong's Tai O Village or other outskirts

Step 1: Immersing to Other Species

Participants are going to immerse themselves into one nature species in Hong Kong and define purposes of nature through the immersive experience.

We, as a group of design researchers, are interested to experiment new design research method. Immersion is a method we are extending from traditional empathic methods. Instead of «putting themselves in other people's shoes», participants are requested to observe and become other nature species and design through their perspective. They need to articulate one purpose they will like to focus on. Our goal is to develop new design tactics to enable citizens to bring back nature in our urban areas.

Step 2: Investigating Politics of Nature

From private to public domains, designers are inspired by many citizen-driven innovation initiatives such as the 100in1Day and Guerrilla Gardening Movement and increasingly exploring societal challenges through engagements with issues that call forward new publics and new modes of democratic citizenship. Binder et al (2015) referred such engagements as «democratic design experiments» of re-

presentation and emergent civic actions.

1st Presentation on Day 5 will be about their immersion story and their investigation of politics of nature. Together, we are going to co-design and prototype a series of collective democratic design experiments as an action research project with designers from Zurich and Hong Kong citizens.

Step 3: Intervening Designs for the Nature in Cities

Participants are going to develop their proposals of «democratic design experiments» of bringing nature back to city, and how these negotiations can happen through design. They need to prototype their proposals at the Lee Garden Area (<http://www.leegardens.hk>) to invite citizens to negotiate how to bring back the nature to urban life.

2nd Presentation on Day 11 should be in a form of festival which participants will articulate and share their experiences. What we are seeking is disruptive, which means instead of looking for a harmonious scenario, we want the experiment to challenge some deep-rooted culture presuppositions that are built on some fundamental binary opposition such as right/wrong, beauty/ugly, temporary/permanent etc. We are asking participants to explore with us the cultural meanings of city/nature through co-design processes of urban interventions between designers and citizens.

Bibliographie / Literatur

References:

- Binder, T., Brandt, E., Ehn, P., & Halse, J. (2015). Democratic design experiments: between parliament and laboratory. In: CoDesign, 11(3-4), 152-165.
- Emerson R W (2009) Nature, Penguin Books: Great Ideas.
- Latour B (2004) Politics of Nature: How to Bring the Sciences into Democracy, - Harvard University Press

Cases:

- https://www.ted.com/talks/ron_finley_a_guerilla_gardener_in_south_central_la
- <http://www.hysan.com.hk/growing-watermelons-causeway-bay-roof/>
- <https://www.evergreen.ca/blog/entry/100-in-1-day-a-festival-to-create-urban-change/>
- <https://urbanfarmers.com>

Leistungsnachweis / Testatanforderung

Anwesenheit, Abgabe des Resultates

Termine

Duration: September 11th to 22rd 2017, Monday to Friday from 9am to 6pm
Start: Monday Sept. 11th from 9am to 11am, introduction guest lecturers and each workshop-session
End: Friday Sept 22rd from 6pm to 8pm, public presentation & discussion

Dauer

2 Weeks

Bewertungsform

bestanden / nicht bestanden

Bemerkung

Englisch als Kurssprache