Co-designing as co-futuring: Tonttila, a community case study in the City of Lahti

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1. Defining co-design
2. Co-designing a design strategy with Lahti
3. Tonttila – Designing with a Finnish community
4. What next?
1. Defining co-design
... an approach predicated on the concept that people who ultimately use a designed artifact are entitled to have a voice in determining how the artifact is designed

Adapted from Carroll (2006)
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... is inclusive, encompassing, collaborative, co-operative, concurrent, human-centred, participatory, socio-technical and community design among others

CoDesign: International Journal of CoCreation in Design and the Arts, Taylor & Francis
Co-design for co-futuring sustainability

- Economic: to improve competitiveness
- Ecological: to minimize consumption of resources and ecological damage
- Social: to strengthen cohesion
- Institutional: to strengthen participation

Source: European DataBank Sustainable Development
Co-design is about PARTICIPATION

- to improve competitiveness
- to minimize consumption of resources and ecological damage
- to strengthen cohesion

Source: European DataBank Sustainable Development
Co-designing context, metaproblems, the brief and solutions


Co-design brief emerges here
Co-designing context, metaprobblems, the brief and solutions

We need to co-design *upstream* of the design brief.

**context**
- Co-framing the context and problem space

**upstream problems**
- Sharing experiences
- Understanding problems

**downstream solutions**
- Co-visioning, co-creating and co-futuring
- Designing solutions

**the design brief**
2. Co-designing a design strategy with Lahti
Lahti ...what kind of sustainable city is designed?
Teams mapping the stakeholders for ‘Lahti design city’
Stakeholder mapping for ‘Lahti design city’

1 Citizens; 2 City, Service Providers & Retailers; 3 Designers, educators, associations; 4 Industry, Funding organisations, Educational establishments in and beyond Lahti. Copyright City of Lahti 2011.
‘Generating ideas and creating stories by joyful and active co-designing while recognising the importance of life cycles and real needs in our local environment and bio-region.’
User-centred and co-design projects for Lahti 2002-2012

2002-2010
User-centred design

2011 onwards
Co-design
Lahti City design strategy development

Launched at OloMuoto, Lahti on 15.11.2012
3. Tonttila – Designing with a Finnish community
Radanvarsi design competition – Co-design as Planning, Form-giving

100000m² = 10 hectares
Karisto development, Lahti – Design as Planning

100000m² = 10 hectares
Zooming in on Tonttila
Zooming in on Tonttila

Marcus Lemuskoski, Architect, City of Lahti planning department
The soft side of planning – designing with people

Marcus Lemuskoski, Architect, City of Lahti planning department
The hard side of planning – (infra)structure

Marcus Lemuskoski, Architect, City of Lahti planning department
The initial community co-design workshops in Lahti

12 projects exploring how design can contribute to positive wellbeing in the lives of the elderly, Healthcare, the Suburbs, Smoke Free Environments and more, http://365wellbeing.aalto.fi/

12 modules + diverse stakeholders

Co-design, UCD, service design, design activism
Aalto and LAMK students and the community of Tonttila

Core teaching team:
Professor Alastair Fuad-Luke
Doctoral candidate Sandra Vina
Design researcher Katharina Moebus
The community design cycle

setting the context

walking the ground

fertilizing

choosing what to plant

planting the seeds

zooming from global to local

familiarisation with community

activating yourself & community

framing context, problems, brief

planting the seeds

measuring the impact

evolving the context

designing ‘what’s next’

harvesting the results

planting more seeds

nourishing the sprouts

more prototyping...

enabling the community

checking out the sprouts..

talking about early results

more fertilizing

activating the community more...

measuring the impact

enabling the community
Walking the ground and fertilising

TONTILASSA
17.11.2012
www.nestamikko.org/fi/

Are you finding your own path?-
So are we! Our research is focused on
understanding the factors that influence
food choice and how to promote healthy
eating habits. We aim to educate and
empower people to make informed choices
that support sustainable and healthy eating.

Breads and Breakfast Club
rule TEEHE

Introducing
BREAKFAST
CLUB
Walking the ground and fertilising
Tools to fit the ‘design life cycle’ and type of work

DSKD Method Cards: Five categories – Collaborate (black), Collect (green), Comprehend (blue), Conceptualise (purple), Create (red)

Tools to fit the ‘design life cycle’ and type of work

IDEO Human-Centered Design toolkit

Available at http://www.ideo.com/work/human-centered-design-toolkit/
Tools to fit the ‘design life cycle’ and type of work

Universal Methods of Design

Choosing and using the right tools
Choosing and using the right tools
the ‘meta-brief’ for Tonttila

Our design brief is to:

- Inspire & motivate & encourage
- New community connections to
- Activate a common identity,
- Vision & organisation
- Empower & give confidence to
- Tonttila.

Confidence / Community identity / Community connections / Activated / Go-experience

Motivation / Community identity / Community connections / Activated / Fresh transition / Inspiration / Vision
Prototyping & implementation – development of concepts

KIPINÄ - To enable community and people of Tonttila
Saana Turunen, Julianna Nevari, Hyeyoon Min, June Seo and Satomi Koyanagi
Prototyping & implementation – development of concepts

THE INCREASED HAPPINESS IS MEASURED BY:

- HOW MANY PEOPLE ARE INVOLVED IN DEAL

\[ \times \]

- HOW MANY PEOPLE POTENTIALLY BECOME HAPPIER

= HAPPINESS POINTS CREATED
How to balance Design as planning with Design as seeding?

DESIGN AS PLANNING

Hard - permanent

Natural Biotic + Abiotic ecology

Municipalities

Commercial-economy

Human ecology

DESIGN AS SEEDING

Soft - ephemeral

Socio-economy

Communities
Open co-design?

New ways of generating concepts

Collaborative, user-centered, user-driven, co-design, co-creation, sharable, crowdsourcing, half-way designs

Nicholas Mika’s Intermodal pop-up cafe space at TEDx Grand Rapids, on openideo.com

Instuctuables restaurant Afrikaanderwijk, Rotterdam, at instructablesrestaurant.com
MetaboliCity – modular experiments

MetaboliCity by Loop Ph http://loop.ph/bin/view/Loop/MetaboliCity
Ecobox – community experiments

Taking the Street – design interventions

Taking the Street project by Santiago Cirugeda, http://www.recetasurbanas.net
‘Social’ urban acupuncture – ephemeral structures

Circada by Marco Casagrande, Taipei, 2011

100m²
4. What next?
1. Train everybody how to co-design – how to frame contexts, understand problems, develop design briefs and **create solutions TOGETHER**... to deal with complex ‘wicked’ problems for sustainable city development

2. Ask ‘What are we trying to grow, nourish, protect or diminish’ in Lahti – apply the open source designCAPITALIA model
Training everyone in Lahti in co-design

The mayor & executive board

Civil servants – Planners, Maintenance, Estates, Health

Designers & their associations

Enterprises and their associations

Innubators & support agencies

Educators & trainers

Citizens
designCAPITALIA – Two domains, six key capitals

Alpha version, launched at the Open Knowledge Festival, Helsinki, 19.09.2012
Six KEY capitals

32 SUB capitals
The Sub-capital ’cards’

SUB capital definitions

Blank SUB capital cards for YOUR OWN definitions
Phase II - Interpretive

Step 3. Select the Key capitals and Sub capitals that you think are relevant to your chosen context. Lay the cards out on a large sheet of paper.
Phase II – Interpretive – FabLabs – 5 key capitals, 22 sub-capitals
Step 4. Arrange the capitals in relationships which are meaningful to you. How are they related? How are they orientated to each other? Are some more important than others?
Developing designCAPITALIA as open source framework...

....the next step is to apply the framework to your own project whether it is in the conceptual or planning stage or is an existing, real life, project...

The Alpha version of designCAPITALIA is available at our blog, http://window874.com
I love Atina – a Clear Village project

A polydisciplinary not-for-profit organisation engaging communities with a clear design communication strategy.

DESIS project – design for social innovation

DESIS Showcase Helsinki 2012
www.desis-showcase.org

Growing ‘social capital’ in Lahti...

Co-create tools, stories and projects/events to share design knowledge among and within all communities in Lahti to ‘ignite’ the ‘design city’ and give it pride, while giving ownership back to everyone.
An exhibition and prototyping eco-design/green design park where “GrowHow” knowledge (business) sits alongside (bio-)materials, bio-mass energy, quality assurance, supply chain and technical manufacturing advice/knowledge. Inexpensive or free start-up space to help grow the design communities.
A new Clean Design Centre has recently opened in Lahti.

Growing ‘financial capital’ in Lahti...

More easily accessible funds and ‘seed capital’ for pilot projects, SMEs, young entrepreneurs, accepting that some of the funds have to accept the risk of some failure against the potential successes. Proof of Return on Design investment. Imaginative ways of raising money from not-for-profit and co-operative banks and by crowdsourcing (sourcing from communities, individuals).
Growing ‘natural capital’ in Lahti...

A living, breathing, zero-waste, green city reflecting nature’s aesthetic shapes on a small and large scale, with hydro cycles, bio-mass energy and a vibrant ‘making’ ecotourism culture in and outside the city.
Involving the citizens and other stakeholders in Lahti

http://www.greencity.fi/en
Growing ‘human capital’ in Lahti...

Widening horizons by improving skills and abilities, then sharing them and making the knowledge open to benefit everyone. Upgrading skills to strengthen individuals [and the potential of Lahti].
Co-designing for co-futuring and sustaining the City of Lahti
...you know it makes sense!
Kiitos! Thank you!

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Aalto University http://arts.aalto.fi/en
NODUS, Sustainable Design Research group,
http://designresearch.aalto.fi/groups/nodus/