

Changing the change

Design Visions, Proposals and Tools

An international conference on the role and potential of design research in the transition towards sustainability

Torino, 10th - 11th - 12th July 2008

Organised by Co-ordination of Italian Design Research Doctorates with
Conference of Italian Design Faculty Deans and Programme Heads.

In the framework of WORLD DESIGN CAPITAL TORINO 2008 | © ICSID
An ICSID initiative of the IDA.

François Dupont [f.dupont@lecolededesign.com]
Student, l'Ecole de Design Nantes Atlantique (Nantes Atlantic School of Design), France

DESIGN, LOCAL DEVELOPMENT AND FAIR TOURISM

The EKIT project

Context

Since the years 1950s, tourist flows did not cease increasing. Today already very strong, the sector of tourism entered a new phase of growth even more considerable and without precedent. According to the forecasts of the OMT, the annual number of international voyages should double from here to 2020. Tourism thus will be propelled to the row of the first world branch of industry.

Due to the intensification of tourist flows, certain actors are wondering how to limit the harmful effects of this activity which could become even more problematic and are looking for a way to optimize its most positive results. The rise of ethical concerns gave birth to the idea of a "fair tourism", which allows the indigenous populations which wish to accommodate foreigners in their rural villages to benefit thus from a complementary source of income. However, this principle still remains limited by difficulties of adaptation, as well on the side of the travellers as of the local populations.

My project answers health and intimacy problems which are brakes for the travellers, without neither too brutally hustling the practices of the villagers nor to impose heavy infrastructures. It opens at the same time a way towards a progressive improvement of these conditions while being based on local resources and uses that each one can accept.

The EKIT concept

Bought (or possibly manufactured) by village associations, EKIT is a whole of common objects, which is employed to wash itself. Each family can use this kit, when she receives foreign travellers in her house. Avoiding creating a too brutal rupture with their usual uses, these objects can be also used by the villagers : when the kit is well accepted, they can indeed adapt themselves. Each tool induces essential gestures and is easy to use.

EKIT is presented as a pragmatic solution, which makes possible to the tourists to test conditions close to the daily reality of the inhabitants. Each tool is also conceived in agreement with the local cultures. Moreover, EKIT causes the awakening and the respect of the constraints related to the water consumption, making possible to realize of volumes used and inciting to throw worn water (which often stagnates in yards of houses or in the streets) far of residences. It offers at the same time equity of a respect of the communities of reception and the possibility of a better health.

The kit is composed of a small vat to wash itself, of a graduated bucket to draw clean water, of a container to recover worn water and to do possible to throw it elsewhere, of two sprinklers to wet and rinse itself which are optimized for a minimal water consumption and feet between which one a wire could be hanged to protect itself from the glances like behind a folding screen.

Changing the change

Design Visions, Proposals and Tools

An international conference on the role and potential of design research in the transition towards sustainability

All objects of EKIT are manufactured with the local resources and techniques and a natural material : wood. So, this kit is accessible for rural communities, which can gradually multiply the number of this small equipment to usually profit each family.



Fig. 1: preview of the developing concept (here it is not the final version of the proposition)