

Changing the change

Design Visions, Proposals and Tools

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

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DESIGN AGAINST CRIME The Case For Socially Responsive Design

Abstract

Crime is a voracious form of planned obsolescence and has the potential to rival fashion as barrier to sustainable development. Money spent on policing crime and dealing with the consequences of theft and vandalism, across the world could be better spent on essential infrastructure (health, education, transport and culture). The Design Against Crime (DAC) Research Centre, winner of awards for innovation as well as those that recognize its contribution to education, work with designers, community groups, crime prevention professionals, local government and industry to deliver practice-led design research and design responses that seek to eradicate or mitigate crime problems. We catalyse, and in some cases create, communication design, products, environments and services that make life easier for citizens and their communities and harder for the thieves that predate them.

A changing society means changing problems. Founded on 'situational crime prevention', DAC applies a 'socially responsive', 'problem oriented' design approach. An understanding of the context in which a design is to be used is essential to identification of the design issues and users to be addressed. Many contexts require consideration of multiple, and sometimes of competing, design drivers to inform an effective and appropriate design solution. DAC is unique in the way its research into context enables multiple and competing design drivers to be considered. Its methodology, extends the concept of 'user driven innovation' to that of 'user/mis-user and abuser driven innovation' as will be shown when discussing our design research and our designs against bag and bike theft. See Figure 1. *Karrysafe - Anti Theft Bags And Accessories*, Figure 2. *Puma - Anti Theft Bike* and Image 3. *Bike Off - Anti Theft Bike Stands*. (We have also uploaded 5 text and image boards as we would also like to contribute to the VISUALISATION section of this event.)

DAC's approach is delivered using a series of 'create and consult' and 'create and test' iterations that ensure efficacy of solutions prior to advocacy and market introduction. Our approach to data gathering and analysis is multidisciplinary and inclusive, using information and communication technologies to locate stakeholder knowledge within the design process. We are looking forward to presenting our analysis, and showing our design work at Changing the Change, because we think our design tools and methods maybe of relevance and value to a wider design audience. We also believe our emphasis on market interventionist socially responsive design challenges Papanak's account of responsible "design for the real world", in the 21st century, where socially responsive design has a role to play in market and economic, as well as social terms.

Our paper will be presented linked to a visual presentation of our own design work and also the iterative design research approach we use. We seek to show as well as tell what DAC can deliver linked to results measured by crime scientists, and to compare DAC designs to others in the field, to show how consideration of crime deterrence and resistance can lead to product innovation, whilst also avoiding "vulnerability led" design responses that may 'profit from paranoia' and promote fear of crime. We believe our paper's emphasis not just on DAC's methodology, but also how this approach may be used

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to aid the delivery of other forms of socially responsive design, will be of interest to a broad audience. Our argument is that our design approach is unique because it is able to address many social agendas by accommodating consideration of multiple, often competing, user demands in a given context.

VISUALISATION

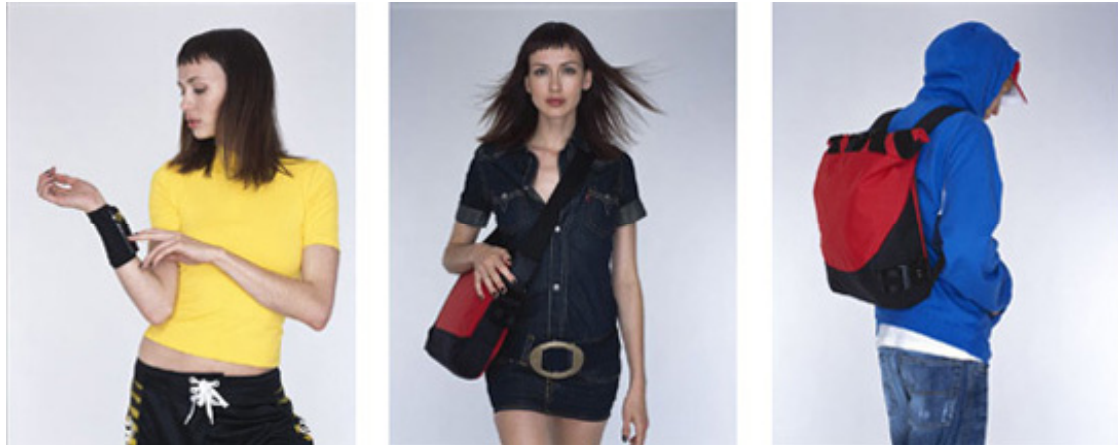


Figure 1. Karrysafe - Anti Theft Bags And Accessories



Figure 2. Puma – Anti Theft Bike

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Figure 3. Bike Off – Anti Theft Bike Stands

VISUALISATION - Objects Available For Exhibition Purposes

We have also uploaded 5 text and image boards as we would also like to contribute to the *VISUALIZATION* section of this event:

- Figure 1. Karrysafe - Anti Theft Bags And Accessories
- Figure 2. Puma – Anti Theft Bike
- Figure 3. Bike Off – Anti Theft Bike Stands
- Figure 4. Stop Thief – Bag Holding Chairs
- Figure 5. Grippa – Anti Bag Theft Table Clips