L*unchBox Workshop - International Design Innovation Workshop 2019

April 1st – 5th 2019 Mines Saint-Etienne, France

Making in the City: Factories are back in town!

Our 2019 workshop will take place in the context of the Saint Etienne International Design Biennale, providing us with an overarching theme of *Designing Common Ground*. The challenge we're investigating this year is the return of production in towns, made possible by digital manufacturing technologies.

> *"A radical shift in the way goods are produced and consumed is on the horizon, driven by emerging technologies including 3D printing, the internet of things, cloud computing, and blockchain. This shift has been coined 'Industry 4.0' in recognition of its comparable significance to the three previous industrial revolutions (steam power, electricity and computing power. (...) Alongside technological change comes the serious imperative for society to become more environmentally sustainable. The challenge is to produce and use goods in ways which do not create harm for current or future generations. (...) Manufacturing in (...) cities finds itself between two storms: the significant impacts of globalisation and the changes that deindustrialisation brought have been felt, but the full impact of the next wave of technological development is yet to be realised. Now is the time to take stock of the current state of urban manufacturing and to form a vision for its future, one which will enable (...) cities to harness and capitalise on the next wave of disruption"* Cities of making, 2018.

The possibility of bringing manufacturing back into the spaces where we live, work and play has the potential of changing all the layers of our social structure, from the way local economies work, to how we work and produce value for society, to our own human relationships, and to how we express our individuality.

local, on-demand manufacturing of highly specialised parts ; mass customisation ; faster iteration in product-service innovation ; shorter user feedback timings, in-situ testing and adjustment ; new business models like shifting from ownership-of-goods to access-to-goods or peer production ; … these concepts are no longer limited by technology. They can either be the next thing for serial start-up pitchers to worship and dispose of, or hold the potential to change our cities, and bring them closer to being the communities we would like to live in. Recent experiments like Barcelona Makers District have proven that harnessing the combined power of artisans, hackers, engineers, designers and neighbours, with support from companies and public administrations, has an enormous potential to create real, positive change.

The challenge
What will your future neighbourhood factory look like?

Expected outcome
A vision for a future urban factory model, the *need-to-shop* equivalent of *farm-to-table*, starting with the human need they are solving, to the product they are delivering, to the underlying technology, to the human experience and how people (workers, customers, end-users, local communities), interact with this new type of industrial entity, and to the integration in the physical space of the city - both in terms of infrastructure and environment.

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L*unchBox Workshop is a brand of Mines Saint-Etienne. It is a hands-on experience in multi-cultural, multidiscipline, design-led innovation, devised in 2009 in association with Brunel University of London, joined in 2010 by Politecnico di Milano, Saint-Etienne Higher School of Arts and Design, in 2013 by Auburn University, and in 2014 by Université Jean Monnet. It connects international graduate students in Engineering, Design, Brand and Innovation strategy with 'co-creation' and emerging industry practices in innovation.

Mines Saint-Etienne is one of the major French graduate schools of engineering science, part of IMT, the #1 group of graduate schools of engineering and management in France.

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