

SPAIN TEAM PRESENTS A POSTER WITH THE RESULTS OF DESIGNERS' OPINION ABOUT CIRCULAR ECONOMY | AUGUST

The 12th of July Laura Ruíz-Pastor, from the UJI team, presented a poster with the results obtained during the interviews to general product designers about CE in the 21st International Conference on Project Management and Engineering held in Cadiz, Spain (<http://www.aepro.com/index.php/en/home-2017>) This poster was included in the topic area of environmental engineering and management of natural resources.

**BASQUE ECODESIGN MEETING 2017**19- 20 SEPTEMBER
BILBAO | JULY

The 2017 Basque Ecodesign Meeting is going to focus on analysing the implications for the industrial sector of the change of economic model as the result of the transition towards a Circular Economy in Europe, and on how to be in a position to change those challenges into business opportunities and to enhance business competitiveness.

Over 120 speakers from different social-economic areas from the public administration to the private sector will be taking part at the 2017 Basque Ecodesign Meeting to analyse those issues. That will be divided into 2 conference days, with three plenary and 12 parallel sessions being held. In short, a conference that is going to turn Bilbao and the Basque Country into one of the best European forum to talk, discuss and agree about the future challenges facing the industrial sector.

Read more: <http://bem2017.basqueecodesigncenter.net/en/home/>

LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AS A DRIVER FOR THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY

Local Governments have an important role to play in the transition towards sustainable, circular societies, both as brokers, as partners and on their own behalf.

The association Local Government Denmark, representing all 98 local governments in Denmark, recently published a catalogue of inspiration with recommendations and examples on, how local governments can integrate Circular Economy into their practices.

The recommendations cover 4 areas:

- Strategy, Planning and Supply
- Business development
- Procurement and tenders
- Building and construction

An example from the part in the catalogue related to Building and Construction says:

“The Local Government can promote recycling of building materials from its own buildings, renovations, and demolitions. By doing so, you can stimulate the market for recycled building materials. Data on buildings that are due for demolition can also be made available and thereby facilitate the transition of parts and materials from one building to the next. Moreover, the local government can request reuse and recycling, prepare district plans and set up environmental requirements to integrate circularity into a sustainable city development”.

(Own translation from the report prepared by KL “Den cirkulære kommune” (= The Circular Local Government), May 2017. KL means Kommunernes Landsforening, which translates into Association of Local Governments)



NEW UNDERLAY SPECIALLY DESIGNED FOR LVT FLOORING

Design and performance have changed the flooring industry, especially in the context of Luxury Vinyl Tiles (LVT). To meet the latest requirements AMORIM CORK COMPOSITES has developed the brand-new solution, Amorim ECO21dB - the perfect underlay for LVT flooring, that uses cork and other recycled materials, improves living comfort and is ingeniously simple to apply.

The agglomerated cork and recycled EVA used in the solution is pressure-resistant and provides reliable protection for the flooring against damage.

With an unbeatable performance with reduced thickness, Amorim ECO21dB has been specially designed to keep your LVT with a perfect balance between fashion and momentum and real consumer benefits.

Amorim ECO21dB is restorative and regenerative by design and takes the LVT concept to the next level – delivering a perfect match between premium design and the circular economy. Its lifecycle is based on a never ending and sustainable process. This exceptional underlay uses recyclable materials and can be recycled again at the end of its lifecycle.



See more: <http://bit.ly/2w8vdWE>

LIFE CERSUDS, AN INTERESTING CIRCULAR DESIGN INITIATIVE TO HELP COMBAT THE NEGATIVE EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE

The European project Life Cersuds launches its website to inform about the innovative sustainable system of urban drainage. An interesting circular design initiative! You can visit us at: <http://www.lifecersuds.eu> The Institute of Ceramic Technology (ITC) as coordinator of the European project LIFECERSUDS Ceramic Sustainable Urban Drainage System has launched a few months ago the project website: www.lifecersuds.eu .

In this website it is possible to know the characteristics of the project and its goals and objectives, in the languages of Spanish, English, Italian and Portuguese, languages of the countries participating in LIFE CERSUDS, as well as being able to keep track of the different events, meetings, presentations, etc., which are already taking place since the beginning of this process, one of whose goals is to support the fight against the effects of climate change through the development of a sustainable urban drainage system that uses the ceramic material that may have been left in stock by its low commercial value providing a new use, in this case to drain the water coming from the rains that at some times of the year in this geographical area become torrential.

In this way, LIFE CERSUDS presents itself from its website as an example of innovation focused on the use of a ceramic material that aims to improve the adaptability of cities to climate change and promote the use of green infrastructure in their urban plans.

From the website itself, which transmits an elegant and faithful brand image to the concept and purpose of LIFE CERSUDS, which has been created by the design studio Joan Rojeski, it is possible to subscribe to the newsletters generated by the project: <http://www.lifecersuds.eu/en/documentos> so as to keep the citizens, administrations, contacts and stakeholders informed of the progress and results of this project, which is funded by the European Union LIFE Program 2014-2020 for the Environment and The Action for the Climate (with reference: LIFE 15 CCA / ES000091).

Under the coordination of the ITC, the participants of LIFE CERSUDS project are the University of Valencia (UPV), the Municipality of Benicàssim (Castellón, Spain), will host the demonstrator, the Centro Ceramico de Bolonia (CCB-Italia), CHM Obras e Infraestructuras, SA, Centro Tecnológico da Cerâmica e do Vidro (CTCV-Portugal) and the company Trencadís de Sempre, SL., Spain.

LIFE
CER
SUDS



FIRST CIRCULAR ECONOMY MSC TO START THIS OCTOBER AT CRANFIELD UNIVERSITY

The world's first masters course on the circular economy – Technology, Innovation and Management for a Circular Economy will officially start this October. Developed in collaboration with the Ellen MacArthur Foundation's education team, this part-time executive MSc course aims to provide industrial professionals with the knowledge and skills to manage the transition of their organisation towards a circular economy.

The course combines Cranfield University's strengths across technology and management, fusing expertise in engineering, logistics and environmental sciences with world-leading programmes in business and finance. Through Cranfield University's membership of the Ellen MacArthur Foundation's Pioneer University and Circular Economy 100 networks, students on the course will benefit from contributions by leading businesses that are collaborating on circular economy innovation. The course will be delivered through a combination of both digital and face-to-face learning methodologies, innovative online events, and webinars which will offer students a unique opportunity to engage with internationally recognised circular economy thought leaders and business practitioners.

To apply or find out more, please go to the Cranfield University Course Page.



See more: <https://www.ellenmacarthurfoundation.org/news/first-circular-economy-msc-to-start-this-october-at-cranfield-university>

CREATIVE PIER OF COSTA NOVA - ÍLHAVO RECEIVES PORTUGUESE NATIONAL PRIZE FOR ARCHITECTURE IN WOOD 2017

An Honorable Mention was given to the Costa Nova Creative Pier, under the 2017 National Architecture Prize in Madeira (PNAM). The PNAM was created by a joint initiative of several entities, in the context of the commemorations of the International Year of Forests, which took place in 2011.

The jury, composed of personalities appointed by the Order of Architects, by the Architecture Department of the Faculty of Sciences and Technology of the University of Coimbra, by the Order of Architects - Regional Section of the North and Regional Section of the South, by LNEC - National Laboratory of Civil Engineering and by Balbino and Faustino, attributed an Honorable Mention for the Structural Quality of the Work.

Inaugurated in January 2016, the Creative Pier is located on the seafront of Costa Nova, on the dunes, and is connected to this beach by wooden walkways, being also totally built of wood (the exterior - "rough" and reminding an inverted ship, contrasting with the interior - "soft", white and gentle).



NEW EDITION OF GREEN FACTOR DESIGN CONTEST AWARDS SUSTAINABLE DESIGN PROPOSALS

The 5th edition of Green Factor Design Contest launches the challenge for young talents to create new 100% eco-sustainable and recyclable products (chair + bench or chair + desk) with wood. The theme of sustainability is very important for the Infiniti brand, so it will be appreciated works that minimize or eliminate the use of materials other than wood, minimizing the waste of material and space.

The challenge is launched to young designers and students from around the world who were born after 1/1/1982. The participant, individually or in groups, can submit more than one project.

The most innovative product receives a prize in the amount of 5 thousand euros and the opportunity to industrialize the products with the help of Infiniti. The winner will be announced in November 2017.



More information can be found on the contest website (<http://www.infinitidesign.it/en/contest/>), or requested by email: contest@infinitidesign.it or marketing@tracosinteriores.com

CONTEXTUALIZING THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY IN BUILDING DESIGN

Richard Boyd, senior engineer at ARUP, writes about circular economy and its challenges in the built environment.

“When 2050 — that often-cited and seemingly distant milestone — comes around, I will still have a good decade of my career to go. With this in mind, it is vital that my generation participates in discussions shaping the future of our built environment.

One such discussion point is the circular economy and how this can be made into a practical proposition in the built environment. In fact, there's a growing buzz around the circular economy: as we speak, books are being written, events are being held and time is being spent understanding what this topic means.

This buzz is being driven in part by widespread agreement that there are economic gains to be realized. Work by McKinsey predicts that, by increasing resource productivity, adopting a circular economy approach could add \$710 billion to the EU's economy by 2030. If you throw in non-resource and externality benefits, that figure rises to \$2.13 trillion.

The challenge remains, however, to translate all this talk into real action on real projects. So, in this piece I'll explore the key questions we, as an industry, can ask to bring us closer to a circular economy.

What is the circular economy?

The concept can be traced back to the work of architect Walter R. Stahel and academic Genevieve Reday-Mulvey, who produced a report titled "Jobs for Tomorrow" in 1976. The report was commissioned by the European Commission, which was concerned by the loss of jobs in manufacturing.

I take "circular" to mean avoiding waste. In addition to Stahel and Reday-Mulvey, other early circular economy thinkers, particularly American architect William McDonough and German chemist Michael Braungart, were inspired by natural ecosystems in which there is no waste, only nutrients. Circular economy, therefore, has a strong connection to biomimicry. It's important to say the circular economy is about a lot more than waste; nevertheless, this idea is a useful starting point.

Having established that circular equates to avoiding waste, pretty much everything else in the circular economy is about economy. If we are not going to throw things away (there is no such place as "away," only "somewhere else"), then we need to define how can we get the most value from the things we do not want or need anymore.

First, how can we add value and reduce waste in our existing buildings?

Use buildings more intensively

The average European office building is unused or unoccupied 35 to 40 percent of the time — this is during office hours. The opportunity to make better use of available space — flexible workspace for an increasingly mobile workforce — is huge. One idea is for architects and landlords (whether corporate or commercial) to partner with innovative platforms such as Haus to offer empty desks and tables to freelancers or start-ups.

By using an asset more intensively, the demand for building new, purpose-built venues diminishes. The industry, therefore, uses less material while at the same time adding to revenue-raising capabilities of existing assets.

Keep the materials for as long as possible

Intensified use naturally brings additional wear and tear, increasing the need to refurbish, replace or upgrade internal fixtures, fittings and finishes. Regarding refurbishment, only worn or obsolete parts should be replaced, minimizing new material entering a building. A new approach to design and detailing is required to make replacement of parts cheaper and easier.

New business models should be considered, where responsibility for and value from the replacement process lands with companies best-placed to capture that value, namely the suppliers of the products themselves.

Keep the building relevant for as long as possible

Eventually, market conditions will change and demand for different uses of a site will grow. For example, imagine that as more people work from home, demand for offices will drop. Demand for housing in cities such as London will remain — so the market signal is to change office buildings, at least partially, into apartments. Are office buildings being designed with such use-change in mind? Unlikely, although open-

plan styling and generous floor-to-floor heights are a good start. Challenges around facades and services distribution arise, so we should consider the design responses that will allow such issues to be overcome.

Deconstruct, do not demolish

The market, however, will keep changing and some buildings inevitably will need to be replaced. Following circular economy principles, buildings will be deconstructed, not demolished. Depending on the materials, whole façades and even building structures might be saved for re-use.

We must apply the lessons learnt in re-using buildings when designing replacement buildings. Scenario planning can be used to envisage a variety of futures for new constructs, ensuring design does not lock-in any unrectifiable challenges for future use changes. With flexibility designed in, low impact or reused materials should be chosen, and anything likely to wear out or become obsolete designed to be easily replaced.

Next, what are the key steps to thinking circular in future projects?

Define how long your building will last

Some buildings require a long-term view, designing for flexibility, adaptability, changes of use. For others, a lighter-touch approach is more appropriate; designing for reconfiguration, replacement, upgrade — even mobility. In the former, it will be easier to justify bespoke parts due to their anticipated long life; in the latter, standardization, a much-discussed topic among built environment professionals, will help achieve a better flow of materials from one project to the next.

Work to incorporate second-hand materials

We will not find a productive use for second-hand materials if we do not find ways of incorporating these into new buildings. This has important implications for designers; we are accustomed to freedoms granted to us by abundant, customized materials supplied for our projects. In a circular economy, this freedom is limited; the designer is constrained to work with materials already available.

Explore new business models

The circular economy requires business models to change; we must move from buying and selling products to buying and selling services. This will affect several project elements, most notably who retains ownership of materials, and the cost of materials — which will shift out of CapEx budgets and into OpEx budgets. This latter point should help promote a long-term, whole-life approach to design and procurement that will lead to better outcomes.

A future-proofing tool

The circular economy is ultimately a tool, one that should be considered in most, if not all, projects. As with any tool, its use must be tailored to suit the job at hand. Circular economy principles will be harder to apply to some projects than others.

This tool helps us maximize the residual value of materials in a building, future-proof our buildings and their components against future uncertainty, identify whether we are building for occupation or investment and decouple resource use from economic growth.

If the idea of the circular economy as a tool feels a little utilitarian, I want to say that the ideas in a circular economy are also inspirational. These ideas inspire us to create new designs and new business models to meet evolving industry needs while protecting the value of materials in the built environment.”



More information: <https://www.greenbiz.com/article/contextualizing-circular-economy-building-design>