Nordes 2021

AGENCY IN
THE CITY OF
KOLDING

15–18 August 2021
INTRODUCTION

This booklet introduces the art & design works that are to be experienced during the conference NORDES 2021. This exhibition takes place in the city of Kolding from 15 - 18 August 2021.

NORDES is short for an open network society on design research that started with the first Nordic Design Research Conference in Copenhagen, back in 2005. Apart from organizing bi-annual conferences and summer schools for students, NORDES promotes the publication and dissemination of design research.

Discover more: https://conference2021nordes.org

The exhibition format invites you – as a local or global citizen – on a tour through the inner city of Kolding to explore this year’s conference theme - Matters of Scale.

SO WHERE DOES IT START FOR YOU?

It starts outside – at eight different public sites; some of these sites might be familiar to you – others may not. At these locations, artists, designers and researchers are exploring the concept of “scale” through temporary urban experiments that attempt to create a dialogue between you passing by – perhaps together with others - and the site itself. These experiments might involve urban animals, insects, plants, the texture of the street, sounds, voices or the air we breathe.
The common denominator is that all works try to negotiate, challenge, explore or relate to the term “scale” in relation to the city and its engagement of human actors, species, artifacts and everyday things.

SITE 1
ONE Square Meter negotiates the terms of cultural and sustainable citizenship from the very specific perspective of a homeless man named Steve, who lived for years in the public parks of Berlin.

SITE 2
I Am You, uses bean plants and poetry to discuss the participatory aspects of community relations and context-specific modes of caring.

SITE 3
Motion of Scales uses a very narrow street as a performative stage to discover new spatial configurations and
forms of encounters between people passing by.

SITE 4
*Scale the Change* encourages debate on public and private actions and invites the citizens of Kolding to share their ideas and raise their voices for sustainable change.

SITE 5
*Material as Playmate* invites children and adults to take part in a playful installation in front of the public library; it explores play as a form of sense making and new form of dialogue.

SITE 6
*Rewild*, at the station square, explores the possibility of “buying” parts of the city – for instance a pavement stone to replace it with plants – with the aim of rewilding the city.

SITE 7
*mAcrobioome* speculates about a synthetic microbiome as a new lifeform that we can touch and smell in the tunnel under the railway station.

SITE 8
*Forgotten spaces* brings us down to the waterfront and to the unknown and hidden underworld beneath the surface of Kolding harbor.

On page 6-7 a map is included that indicates the location of each intervention. Furthermore, an online presentation is available at:

https://conference2021nordes.org/

Enjoy the exploratory tour through the eight sites. We are looking forward to an engaging dialogue on design experiments in the inner city of Kolding!

Exhibition Chairs
Eva Knutz & Kathrina Dankl
Site 3: Motion of Scales
Narrow path next to restaurant Rafael’s

Site 4: Scale the Change
Nearby the Spanish stairs
Site 1: One Square Meter
Nearby the canal and the Design School

Site 2: I am You
Nearby the parking lot and graffiti tunnel

Site 5: Material as Playmate
Outside the public library

Site 6: Rewild
At the station square

Site 7: mAcrobiome
At the station tunnel

Site 8: Forgotten Spaces
At Kolding Harbor
Project Descriptions

Nordes 2021
This project centers on Stephen Robinson who was a homeless man living in Berlin, known locally as ‘Steve on the bench’. His everyday life was lived out on one particular public bench in the city. His living space measured 195cm in length and 55cm in width with a total area of 1.03 square meters. The installation is intended to be a tribute to Steve as an acknowledged member (i.e. not an outsider) of society by positioning him through his words, mindset and perception. The installation questions ways of being in the world to elicit empathy, care and understanding of the sacrifices and sustainable actions Steve was living and making.

The work questions: How can Steve’s way of living and dwelling reflect, teach us or mediate certain forms of citizenship participation, sustainability and gratitude for life?
Ekaterina Feil, born in Semey, Kazakhstan, grew up in eastern Germany. She studied BA Integrated Design in Dessau, Germany and MA Design +Change in Växjö, Sweden and works as a freelance designer with a focus on sustainability, interdisciplinarity and equality. She is based between Berlin and Leipzig, Germany.

www.ekaterinafeil.com
Leah Ireland, born in Canada, lives in Växjö and works with regenerative urban design projects, local food systems and culture through VXO FARM-Lab, the Feminist Farmers and Under Ekarna.
As a slow intervention, ‘I AM U’ is a project that will grow and become a work of living art throughout the summer. As a norm-creative piece, it involves playful trellising and bean plants - making relations visible and explicit by experimenting with scale and site-responsive language. Local citizens, designers and gardeners will be involved in the process of helping with necessary gardening and maintenance work.

As the summer progresses, the bean plants will climb upwards in a special formation, collaboratively authoring a form of spatial poetry: I AM U.

The work questions:
How can collaborative urban gardening challenge us to reflect on our relation to urban space: how we move through it, how we live with it and how we care for it?
Marianna Czwojdrak, born 1991 in Poznan, lives and works as a designer and researcher in Poznan.

Mara Trübenbach, born 1991 in Cologne, lives and works as an architectural designer and PhD fellow in Leipzig and Oslo.

Nationality: Polish and German

WUNDERFORMA

Marianna Czwojdrak, born 1991 in Poznan, lives and works as a designer and researcher in Poznan.

Mara Trübenbach, born 1991 in Cologne, lives and works as an architectural designer and PhD fellow in Leipzig and Oslo.

www.wunderforma.com
This experimental work is installed in the inner city, in a narrow path that connects two popular cafe areas. ‘Motion of Scales’ incorporates the site to transform it into a stage. By referring to the notion of a canyon as a relic of the past and a product of time-related rock weathering process, the installation reflects upon scale of time and a life cycle. It challenges the embodied knowledge of scale of passers-by that become actors and agents of change, and it redisCOVERS the narrow path through new spatial connections by layering large surfaces of translucent fabric.

The work questions:
How do we experience scale in motion? How can performative elements be implemented to disrupt habitual movements of human bodies in narrow spaces? Do we dare to pass each other as strangers in limited urban sites and to rediscover new spatial calibrations?
‘Scale the Change’, is an invitation to playfully reflect on the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to encourage individual action and increase engagement in the global challenge.

The SDGs’s global scale can be overwhelming, making the goals look unreachable from an individual perspective, thus, provoking a passive attitude. ‘Scale the Change’ proposes an inverse strategy: to look at the SDGs from the little actions that everyone does in daily life. By scaling down the big goals, it is possible to unveil and highlight what citizens are already (conscious or unconsciously) contributing to, increasing their motivation and encouraging them to do more actions.

**The work questions:**
How can the ambitious SDGs be more tangible and operational for the average citizen?
Maria Candela Suarez
Nationality: Portuguese

Maria Candela Suarez (Argentina-Portugal, 1973). Architect (UNMdP, Argentina); PhD in Architectural Projects (ETSAB-UPC, Spain); Play designer (Designskolen Kolding, Denmark). Her research focuses on two axes: 1) the critical genetic analysis of Le Corbusier’s creative process; 2) the improvement of the architectural design process through play.

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Karen Juhl Petersen
Nationality: Danish

Karen Juhl Petersen, born 1992, lives and works in Denmark, educated play designer from Design School Kolding. In her practice Karen explores the role of materials in play, and how open-ended play can support collaboration and sensemaking processes. Her work is ranging from research projects, installations, and process facilitation.

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Site 5

Material as Playmate

Outside the public library, next to a parking lot, large scale foam elements in different density and shape, are placed in different formations.

‘Material as Playmate’ turns a public city site into an unexpected playground and invites citizens of all ages, to physically explore scale and materials in relation to their own body.

In this case design acts at a big scale design as a common third or ‘playmate’, to explore and define, through collaboration and open-ended play exploration.

The work questions:
How can big scale, weight, flexibility, and density – and other interaction qualities offer new opportunities for collaboration, sensemaking and playful exploration in open-ended play with materials?

The project is made in collaboration with TEMPUR sealy.
Aymeric Delecaut
Nationality: Belgian

Born in 1998 in Belgium. Studied three years industrial design at ESA Saint-Luc Liège (Belgium). Living in Kolding since September 2020 and student at the Design for Planet MA program at Design School Kolding. His interests are ecological transition, nature research and virtual versus real.
‘REWILD’ is rooted in a speculative scenario that attempts to construct images of a future reality in which we can “buy” parts of the city – for instance a pavement stone. When interacting with the work citizens become part of a “pavement sponsorship” aimed at making our planet green (again) by replacing pavement stones with plants.

The work questions:
What if we can protect our precious biodiversity and enhance it in urban space through the purchase of “pavement-sponsorships?”

Discover more about REWILD: https://conference2021nordes.org
In the darkness of the Kolding railway tunnel a speculative future is staged, mediated through the implant of a synthetic microbiome, a post-pandemic project that will strengthen human’s immune system. This measure not will only provide health safety but building resilience and sustainability on Kolding by reducing the bio-deterioration of the building materials of main city infrastructures. However, as most genetically modified experiments this lifeform has prolefeed and growing out of the damaged walls and ceilings in an enlarged form getting out of the control of specialists.

**The work questions:**
What if the microbiome starts to grow to unimaginable dimensions and spread rapidly through the city of Kolding? Will we be able to face and accept a macroscopic microbiome beneficial for the citizens?
Alison Mariñas (1994) is a multidisciplinary designer based in Kolding. After graduating in Holistic Design in Madrid, her fascination for nature made her focus in explore ways to join science, biology and design through interdisciplinary research projects. Currently she is pursuing a Master’s Degree in Design for Planet at Design School Kolding

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Katharine Graham was born in Western Australia but has been living in Denmark since 2016. Katharina has a MA degree in Design for Planet from Design School Kolding. Presently she works in the field of corporate social responsibility for LEGO.

http://www.graham-k.com
Forgotten Spaces

What lives underneath the surface of the harbor waterfront? What things have been hidden, or completely forgotten? A car used in a murder? Loads of rubbish? A rare fish? An unfamiliar sound?

The intervention invites participants to speculate about the under-water world and takes them for a walk under the sea level of the harbor to discover what lies beneath.

The work questions:
How can we re-occupy alienated spaces of the city? How can we bring the unknown under-water world of Kolding harbor to surface and thereby scale citizens’ attention?

Underwater-films is to be seen at: https://conference2021nordes.org
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Eva Knutz, University of Southern Denmark (SDU)

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