

Oberhaus community

with Jan Körbes from Refunc, Kit Kitev

TASK

With reclaimed materials, design two collective spaces in the building together with the inhabitants. These new collective spaces will support these inhabitants that mostly have a refugee background, to create a stronger 'sense of belonging' in their new environment.

WHAT WE DID

Inside garden hang-out

We wanted to create a garden-like feeling inside of a house. We found piles of thick rope lying around in Kitevs basement. We tear them apart and start knitting enormous hammocks. We also made vertical gardens from old isolation material with that we recreated a hanging garden in the guest apartment.

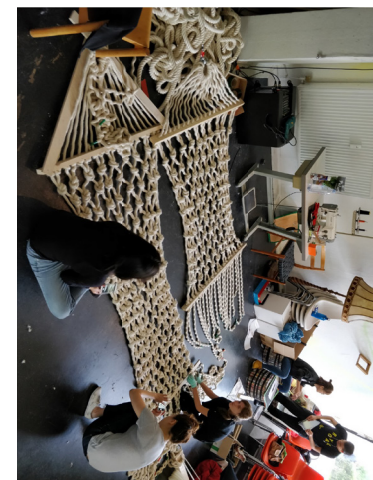
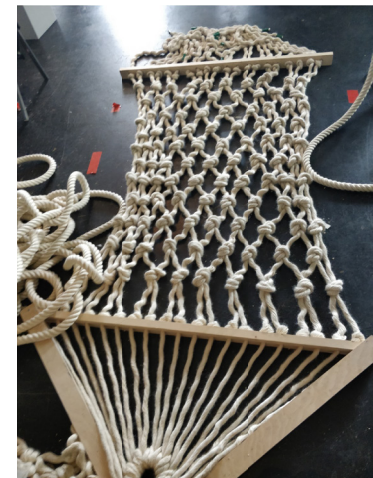
WHAT I LEARNED

It was a nice experience to work with people that will actually be using this space.

COMMENTS

It was a good start of the year. Really liked the workshop and the final results of our group and other groups as well. Jan and Eric were both in tremendous help.





Ober- hausen

04 Sept - 07 Sept 2017

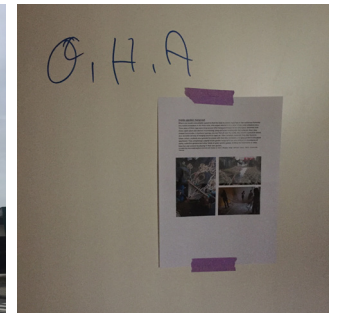
INSIDE students visited Oberhausen, Germany for building a shelter for refugees. By using recycled material from the basement, we built a playful rest area in the building. This work was guided by Kit Kitev collective and Jan from REFUNC. Every night, we had a small talk about design and our ideas with an amazing dinner that offered by students and collectives.



Sharing our ideas and design together.



The apartment in Oberhausen
which we worked at.



Short description about our work.

My interpretation

At first, when I've heard about the topic - spaces for improving refugee's life - I wanted to make a space that refugees really need. So I had a small talk with people who live in this apartment and asked some questions about what you need and how do you want to change this place. They answered that they usually don't know the neighbours and there is no entertainment and community space near this area. Therefore, I started to build playful elements in a studio in the building. Also, at the first glimpse, I could get an idea from a cluster of ropes.

Cooking for our collectives – sharing the culture.

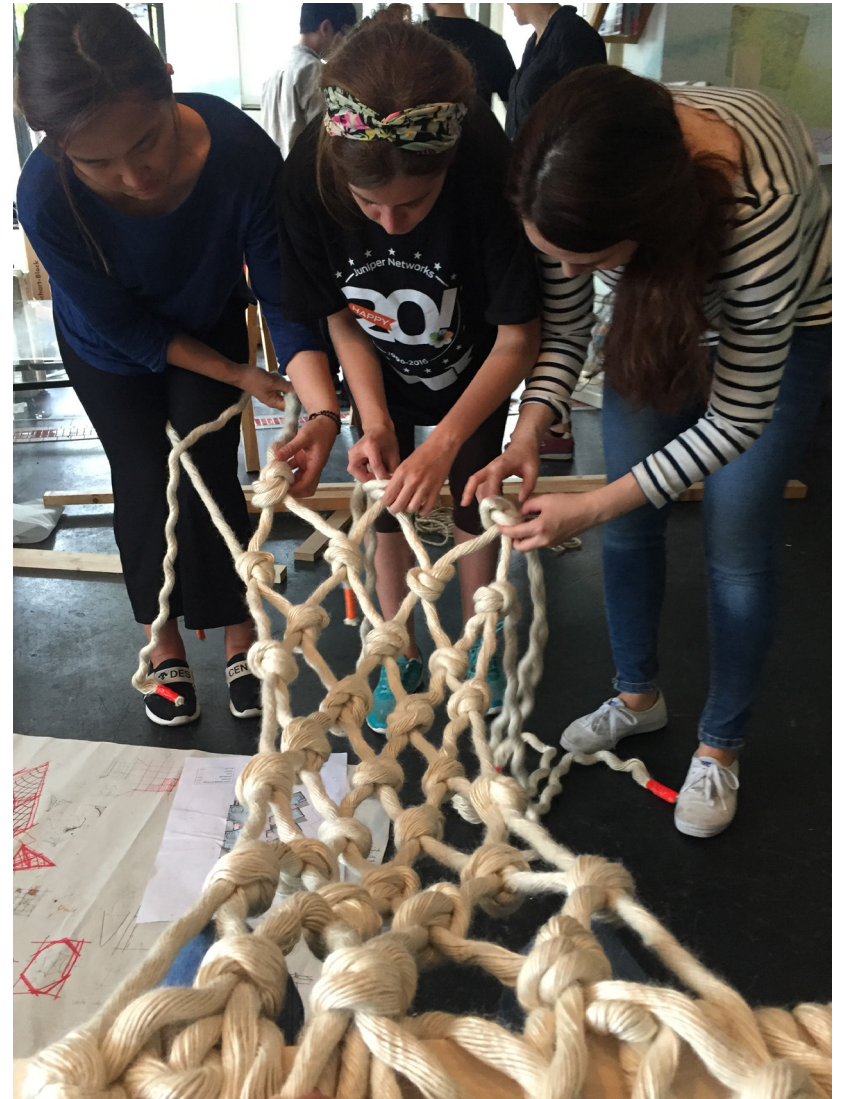


What I did in the workshop

With my group members, I decided to make a large hammock with ropes. We detached a thick rope into 4 thin rope pieces and made a node to build a hammock. It was physically demanding work because the scale of this work was quite large. So we got bits of help from refugees who live in this apartment. They fully enjoyed this process together and we could feel more close to them.



Making process of hammock
with ropes.



Cooperation work with group
members.

INSIDE:SKILLS

WORKSHOP: OBERHAUSEN WORKSHOP WITH REFUNC & KITEV

TASK :

OUR WORKPLACE WAS A BUILDING, WHICH IS MAINLY INHABITED BY PEOPLE THAT HAVE A BAD FINANCIAL STATUS. EVEN THOUGH THERE ARE SOME EXCEPTIONS, MANY PEOPLE DO NOT WANT TO LIVE THERE, THEY SEE THIS BUILDING AS A TEMPORARY SPACE FOR LIVING AND DO NOT HAVE FEELING OF ATTACHMENT. WE WERE SUPPOSE TO INVESTIGATE AND OBSERVE THE BUILDING AND PEOPLE WHO LIVE HERE AND TURN 2 APARTMENTS IN THE BUILDING TO SOCIAL AREAS FOR THEM. WHILE WE WERE WORKING THERE WE REALIZED THAT, TO THE EXCLUSION OF ALL THE PROBLEMS IN THEIR PERSONAL LIVES, ONE OF THE BIGGEST PROBLEMS AMONG THESE PEOPLE AND IN THIS BUILDING IS CAUSED BY LACK OF CONVERSATION. THEY ARE INHABITING THE SAME SPACE / THIS BUILDING, BUT THEY DON'T SHARE A LOT; THEY DON'T EVEN KNOW EACH OTHER. MOST OF THE PEOPLE THAT ARE LIVING THERE ARE REFUGEES: PEOPLE FAR AWAY FROM THEIR HOMES AND TRYING TO ADOPT TO A NEW ENVIRONMENT.



WHAT WE DID :

EVEN THOUGH EVERY WORKING GROUP FOCUSED ON DIFFERENT IDEAS DURING THIS WORKSHOP, IT WAS OBVIOUS THAT THE MAIN ASPECT OF OUR WORK WAS DIRECTLY RELATED WITH 'SHARING'. SO WE WANTED TO CREATE A PLATFORM FOR THEM TO SHARE THEIR IDEAS AND COMMUNICATE WITH EACH OTHER. WE DESIGNED A BOARD OUT OF WASTE MAGAZINES WHICH ARE THROWN TO THE FLOOR BY MAILMAN, KEEP COMING EVERY WEEK AND CAUSE A MESS IN THE ENTRANCE OF BUILDING. BY ROLLING THEM WE DID NOT CREATE A MESSAGE BOARD FOR INHABITANTS TO SHARE THEIR IDEAS BUT ALSO SITTING ELEMENTS.



INSIDE:SKILLS

WORKSHOP: OBERHAUSEN WORKSHOP WITH REFUNC & KITEV

COMMENTS :

AT THE END WE WERE REALLY HAPPY TO TURN THIS MESSY ENTRANCE AND WASTE MATERIALS INTO SOMETHING BETTER AND USEFUL. WE TRIED TO UNDERSTAND THE POSSIBILITIES AND LEARN TO LET MATERIALS SPEAK AND TELL US WHAT THEY WANT TO BECOME. I WAS NOT SURE ABOUT HOW LONG THIS SPACE WILL BE LIKE THIS AND MAYBE IT WAS A SMALL INTERVENTION FOR THEIR DAILY LIFE IN THIS BUILDING. BUT THERE WAS ONE THING THAT I WAS PRETTY SURE : WHILE WE WERE BUILDING THESE INSTALLATIONS TO CREATE WAYS FOR THEM TO COMMUNICATE IN THE BUILDING; WE ALSO STRENGTHENED OUR BOND BY SHARING OUR IDEAS, DUTIES, FOOD AND SLEEPING SPACE. I THINK FEELING OF ATTACHEMENT AND HOME CAN ONLY BE CREATED SURROUNDING YOURSELF WITH PEOPLE YOU LOVE AND SHARE THINGS WITH. AFTER THIS INTRODUCTION WEEK I FELT MORE ATTACHED TO MY CLASSMATES, NEW ENVIRONMENT AND HOME.



1. OBERHAUS with Jan Körbes from Refunc

(4, 5, 6 & 7 Sept 2017)

In collaboration with Kitev, our task was to design spatial change in an infamous tall residential building in Oberhausen trying to bring certain sense of community into the building.

We had to adapt to the circumstances of newcomers and refugees moving in and out of the building almost every day to give them a space to share and feel like home.

So two apartments were offered by Kitev to be transformed. We were given recycled materials and we started to work divided in groups in different projects.

I worked in the conversion of the small apartment into a shared playful room. We started cleaning the humidity stains of the walls and then we painted them in a happier colour. We also placed some plants in hand-made hanging pockets on the walls. But what we spent most of the time working on was making different-sized hammocks from old ropes we found in the train station basement. First we had to divide the thick and hard rope into 4 thinner and softer ropes with the help of some refugees. After that, we knitted a rhomboid pattern with the thin ropes. And when we finish the hammocks, we placed them in the apartment with Erik's help, using chemical anchors.

I really enjoyed the week we spent in Oberhausen, first travelling around to know the area better, and then trying to design a project which adapts to the circumstances of the place. It was nice to meet some people living with difficulties who were keen of using the designed hammocks. And I really wish the spaces we designed are useful and used by the residents of the building.

Photos:







Oberhaus

Refunc & Kitev

Description

The workshop is about intervening an ignored building close to Oberhausen train station, which most of its residents are immigrants or have a refugee background, in order to foster the interactions within neighbors and create a vibrant atmosphere to the building. We started with exploring the nearby area and collecting the valuable used material to develop our 'service'.

What we did

We created a welcoming space for residents to hang out. Also, we would like to establish a system for exchanging unused objects within inhabitants and to put the notion 'trash for treasure' into practice.

What I have learned

For me this workshop is not only about making use of the waste material to develop a concept, but also about understanding the context of a neighborhood and the sense of belonging through participating together.

Comments

I like this introduction workshop and I am glad to work with Kitev and Refunc. What's more, sleeping in a train station was indeed a particular experience I have ever had. This project could be tracked and I want to see how residents recently react on our interventions as well. I think the introduction week like this should be continued.





Oberhausen workshop *With Refunc*

How we work

We started with collecting waste material in the garage, but when we was looking around the biilding, we found a lot junk mails on the f loor because nobody really take them from the mail box. So we just collected a bunch of them and started making things out of it.

The things we made(a imformation board, some poofs, a chair) are all comes from what we think it's helpful for these refugees who live in that building.

My work

There is not really a individual work in this project, we made every decision all together, we help each other when our hands were free. We divided works into deffirent parts, but they were all done in a collective way.

What I learned

I really like this workshop because it's well organized and we really made good things. I've learned a lot from the process, about how to use tools to make things, about how to work effecient as a team.

Coroparation was the thing I felt most important in this workshop, not only to coraperate with your teammate but also with your target, your client which are those refugues is thid case. I like the parts that when they were helping us work, I think it really makes the two sides of a project understand each other cause usually the designer just presenting documents to their client.

Workshop Reflections – *Jack Bardwell*

Oberhausen

A few things that I thought were beneficial from this work shop was the pace of the conceptualising and making with quick decision making. It was difficult working in a group of three when we had only just met each other but the intensity was a good bonding exercise for sure. I really learnt from Jan's organised approach the setting up of an organised frame work, the food rota the designation of roles and setting of roles at the beginning. The reason I found this interesting was that it was paired with a spontaneous approach. These two things (organisation and spontaneity) are often seen as antithesis of each other. I think it worked in giving a framework in which to experiment within although I do think that sometimes he plays lip service to the experimentation and actually has a defined idea of the outcomes.

I have a natural scepticism of arts role in these situations and the position of privilege that we are operating from as artists and designers trying to 'solve' the problems of a community. This is often stifling which is frustrating. Working within the community and directly in a building with such a bad reputation in the local area was really eye opening. The fact that it started opening up discussion with the residence and generating interest around the site was really encouraging for the benefit of such exercises especially in challenging my own prejudice and fear in these situations.

Karolina

I really enjoyed the role playing scenarios in this workshop. We often fall into roles when discussing topics and this limits any progress as people fall back into how they think they should approach and argue an idea.