

ARTS 185: Critical Studies in Public Space with N55
Winter Term 2015
Carleton College

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CARLETON WORKSHOP + EXHIBITION

Goals:

Make a proposal for a new Arboretum Center and develop ideas of how to make the Arboretum area a new COMMONS so as to respect all the different interests in the local area.

The proposal will be presented in the form of models, drawings, text, etc. in a final exhibition in the Braucher Gallery at the Carleton College Perlman Teaching Museum.

A Manual for The Arboretum Centre will be an additional way to describe the proposal. This manual should also contain a concrete proposal for the democratic local administration of the new COMMONS.

Initial idea for the Arboretum Center building:

N55 proposes an Arboretum Center consisting of two basic elements:

A number of flexible multi-purpose mobile structures combined with an ARBORETUM HUB that stays in one place. As a platform for the flexible part we have brought a prototype of a new project called ROOMCYCLES. This will be used as inspiration for making different proposals for functional modules that can serve various purposes in the area. Maybe a mobile lab would make sense for use at Arboretum? Or a party module that students or local citizens could borrow?

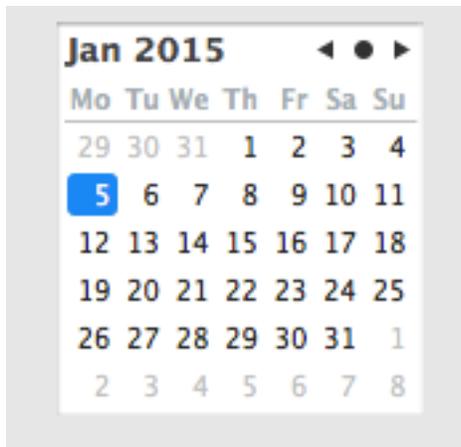
The ARBORETUM HUB could be based on the XYZ NODES building system:
www.n55.dk/MANUALS/XYZNODES/xyznodes.html

Considering the extreme weather in the winters in Minnesota, a strong roof constructed using the SPACEPLATES system could be combined with the XYZ NODES:
<http://d1004896.tdchweb.dk/MANUALS/SPACEPLATESG/spaceplatesg.html>

To do:

Present our proposal for the workshop to the students
Find out what the students knowledge/skills are
Assemble the ROOMCYCLES
Brainstorm
Make a plan (Maybe build a 1: 1 scale room example for the ROOMCYCLES)
Get materials and tools
Document process
Form different groups with defined tasks
Research, history of the Arboretum, interviews about how locals and students, etc.
would like to use the area?
Write text
Make drawings
Make models
Install exhibition

TIMETABLE FOR WORKSHOP:



Week One: 6th – 9th of January

Presentation by N55 about their general work on the 7th

Present our proposal for the workshop for the students
Find out what the students knowledge/skills are
Assemble the ROOMCYCLES
Brainstorm
Make a plan / develop details
Get materials and tools
Form different groups with defined tasks

Groups:

- ROOMCYCLES assembling team
- Draft and drawings team: ARBORETUM HUB and ROOMCYCLES MODULES
- Research team: history
- Research team: interview
- Manual for Arboretum Centre team
- Documenting team

Week Two: 12th – 16th of January

Develop initial models and drawings of HUB and ROOMCYCLES

Research of local opinions and history

Begin production of manual for Arboretum Center

Each group presents their work until this point

Make initial plan for exhibition installation

Week Three: 19th – 23rd of January

Refine drawings and models for the HUB and ROOMCYCLES: final design for both should be decided on

Research team looking into the opinions of local users make final presentation to Design team so that proper accommodations can be made

Research team looking into the history of the Arboretum assembles initial summary of key moments in the space's history

Solidify plans for exhibition installation

Weeks Four and Five: 26th of January – 5th of February

All components for the final model are cut with the CNC machine

Models for Arboretum Center and ROOMCYCLES are assembled in the gallery area

Research group looking into the opinions of local users make final edits to their work and assemble the product of this research into visual and audio formats to be shown in the gallery

Research group looking into the history of the Arboretum assemble visual material, edit this, and present it in the gallery

Arboretum manual is produced including:

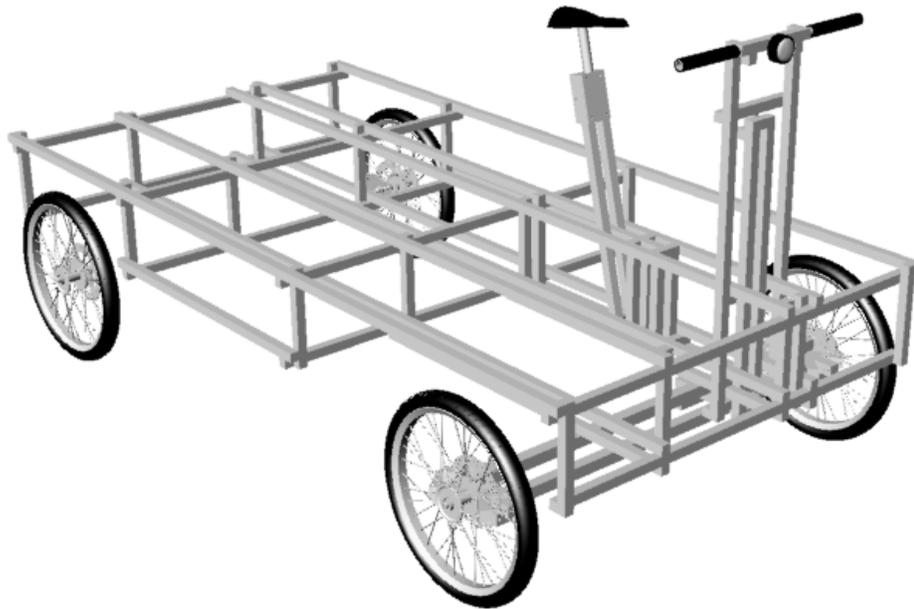
- an artist's statement from the invited architects
- a project overview from the project coordinator
- summaries of the research conducted into both the history of the Arboretum and the desires of its current users
- final drawings for the ultimate proposal for the Arboretum Center and ROOMCYCLES

- statement detailing the important role of the commons in developing this final design

January 6th:

Exhibition opening

manual for ROOMCYCLES



Introduction:

The ROOMCYCLES is an Open Source, low cost modular system that can be used by persons to reclaim, use and inhabit areas like streets or parking lots normally reserved for cars.

A basic ROOMCYCLES unit consists of a four wheel human powered mobile platform with a minimal room mounted on top. Each of the ROOMCYCLES can be customized to function for example as a single unit living space, an office, health clinic, workshop, small factory, shop, café or similar.

ROOMCYCLES can also gather up and be combined to form larger temporary rooms and buildings. In this way a new layer of flexible, affordable, mobile and legal rooms and buildings can be added to an existing city layout and make room for new forms of social activities and ways of living.

ROOMCYCLES can be seen as a DIY urban planning tool as an alternative to the top-down urban planning that dominates most cities in the world. N55 encourage persons to build their own ROOMCYCLES and hereby influence their local urban environments.

N55 proposes to share things in public space as an alternative to public ownership or private ownership and hereby to establish new Commons. The ROOMCYCLES can be

financed by local communities and be used to establish new Commons consisting of a number of flexible small mobile buildings available for the local citizens for all kinds of purposes.

Suggested Readings:

An Architektur, "On the Commons: A Public Interview with Massimo De Angelis and Stavros Stavrides ," in E-flux 17 (June 2010). Available from: <http://www.e-flux.com/journal/on-the-commons-a-public-interview-with-massimo-de-angelis-and-stavros-stavrides/>

Aureli, P.V., "The Theology of Tabula Rasa: Walter Benjamin and Architecture in the Age of Precarity," in Log 27 (Winter/Spring 2013): 111-127.

Aureli, P.V., *The Possibility of an Absolute Architecture* (Cambridge, MA: The MIT Press, 2011).

Bailey, S., "Beyond Ownership – Governing the wealth of urban commons." Public Lecture presented at the Commoning the City Conference, Royal Institute of Art, Stockholm, April 11, 2013. Available at: <https://www.kkh.se/video/Saki.html>

Crary, J., *24/7: Late Capitalism and the Ends of Sleep* (New York: Verso, 2013).

Deutsche, Rosalyn. *Evictions: Art and Spatial Politics* (Cambridge, MA: The MIT Press, 1996).

Fuller, R. B., *Operating Manual for Spaceship Earth*, Jamie Snyder, ed. (Baden, Switzerland: Lars Müller Publishers, 2008).

Helfrich, S. "Common Goods Don't Simply Exist – They Are Created," in *The Wealth of the Commons – a World beyond Market & State*, eds. D. Bollier and S. Helfrich (Amherst and Florence, MA: Levellers Press, 2012) Available at: <http://wealthofthecommons.org/essay/common-goods-don%E2%80%99t-simply-exist-%E2%80%93-they-are-created>

Negri, A. & Roche, F., "A Dialogue: Negri and Roche," in Log 25 (Summer 2012): 104–17.

Pearce, P., *Structure in Nature is a Strategy for Design* (Cambridge, MA: The MIT Press, 1978).

Virno, P., *A Grammar of the Multitude: For an Analysis of Contemporary Forms of Life* (Los Angeles: Semiotext(e), 2004).