

More often than not our audiences are ourselves. Here we would like to present some of our techniques and objects and most of all just list our process. And like any process, the result is not determined in advance.

Opening the city by hacking it, by repurposing its materials and infra-structures, is not going to do the same for you as for us. By nature it's an open ended and experimental process. In this way we can't really offer instructions but only some openings, or some cracks to fall through. Some hints to bend the infrastructures of the city and to multiply the possibilities and nature of participation. Falling through the cracks in order to better participate.

We are trying to learn how to follow materials, to enter into a conversation with them, letting them guide us and push us. Each material and each technique we use opens another set of relations we didn't have before. We are trying to be as attentive as possible to these shifts in relations, to ask what they allow, what they make possible what we can learn from them?

We have come to see, smell and feel power; we have come to know when the security guards make their rounds, know where the cameras are, and we also have to know how best to get away. We have found that sometimes being an artist is the best thing you can be when breaking the law or standing on the limit of social boundaries. It can get you off the hook for a lot of things. There are cracks in everything

This work has taken us on trips and into unforeseen places through our resolve to push our own boundaries in seeking materials and sites to install works. It has meant coming into direct contact with the forces and techniques of power that are exerted in space, both public and private. It is a simple maxim but never the less true that by breaking the law you come to understand it better. By putting ourselves on the line of legality it becomes clear to us how we otherwise up hold deleterious relations of power in our everyday lives just by habit. Private property, real estate, commodities, ownership, consumption, etc... these things and their machinations become explicit once we put ourselves on their border lines.

We are less interested in others producing the same results or objects than sharing approaches. Each of our respective practices and communities have different needs and demands, the most we hope for is offering a little help in forming different strategies for meeting those needs and demands.

These are not meant as instructions so much as openings. It has been helpful for us to think of the city as cracked and riddled with openings, as always incomplete. This helps us to think about how to participate in it, to not be it's subject but its activators. To do this it has also been helpful for us to think of metropolitan infrastructures as hackable systems and turn once closed sites into open source technologies.

Objects

Swings:
Made of Tyvek postal envelopes or 1 dollar plastic carry all bags. An accessible and durable material. Bags are cut to appropriate size, filled with batting and connected to rope or strapping with carabiners. Swings can be installed anywhere that will hold the weight of a person. For instance: trees, subway car handrails, scaffolding, lamp posts, bus stops.

Cocoons:
The cocoon is an experiment in open source architecture... an attempt at a demystified architecture... an accessible architecture... an architecture that could push our notions of inhabitation by taking us to sleep in scaffolding, in parks, under bridges, in the metal and concrete canopies of the city. The cocoon is meant to save essential spaces from destruction by squatting... the cocoon is meant to be given away... It has been made of a number of different materials, from construction netting, to carryall bags to Tyvek. Its design is similar to a hammock's, and it can be rolled up into a small carrying case.

Dresses:
A revival of 1 dollar throw-away dresses from the 1960s but made from free Tyvek postal envelopes.

Other uses for free postal envelopes:

Sleeping bags:
Sew them together and fill envelopes with cotton batting at the very end

Flexible flower pots:
Copy an origami box using envelope as sheet.

Tents:
From simple 'A frame' to more complex designs. You can put them together with culled tape from hardware store.

Ovens:
That capture steam from underground steam systems. Use the steam as heat. We have built ovens with home depot ducting or light bulb cages stolen from a construction site. Separate your food from the steam either by making your oven double walled (filling the space between walls with steam) or by simply wrapping your food with foil.

(This is an incomplete list of possibilities; barely even the beginning of the work these materials can be put to, or of the possible relations they can create.)

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for the Leisure Library of Hideos Beast.

Pop-up notes by Forays

*you may copy and distribute.

Some introductory notes on the limitations of instructions.

- CONTENTS:
- A city
 - A few objects
 - Sites and sources
 - Relations and definitions

Sites and Sources

This category includes both sites of intervention and sources of materials. Often they overlap.

- Construction sites
- Post office
- Dollar store
- Sites of abandonment :
abandoned buildings, burnt our buildings and all the exciting peripheral and forgotten sites in a city.
- Public parks
- Dumpsters
- Craigslist:
a place to post your experiments and an access to free and cheap material. Also see freecycle.org
- Scaffolding:
you can sleep there. The excitement of turning a non-space into a space and a site to disturb the incessant construction of the city.
- Steam vents from the street

Relations and Definitions:

Hacking: The creative adaptation to circumstances.

Squatting : A tactic for protecting and claiming space against the motives of real estate.

Freecycling: A network enabling the free exchange of goods. It's not just about free stuff but also a space of encounter.

Gift: Driven by the necessity of redistributing resources and skills to those who need and want them. The giving of gifts is a responsibility just as much as being responsible to the gift that is given.

Larceny: For the love of undermining commodity culture.

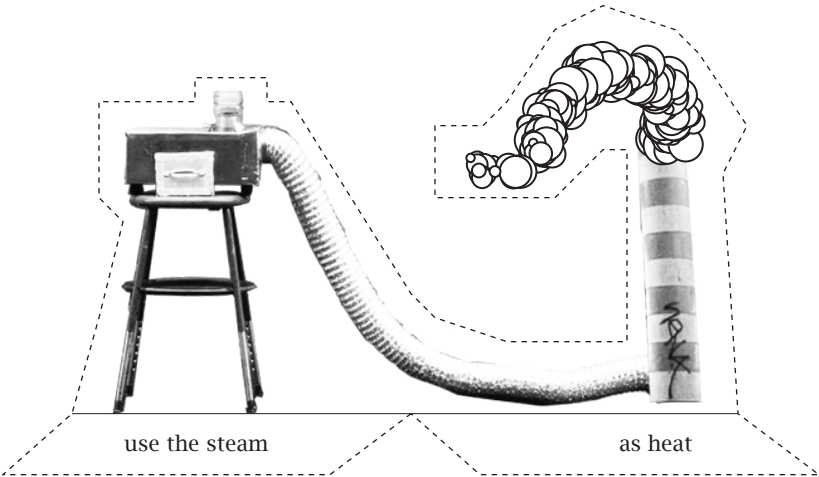
Dumpstering: For the love of undermining consumer culture.

Open Source Architecture: The demystification of architecture and an attempt at a co-creative, grass roots production of space.



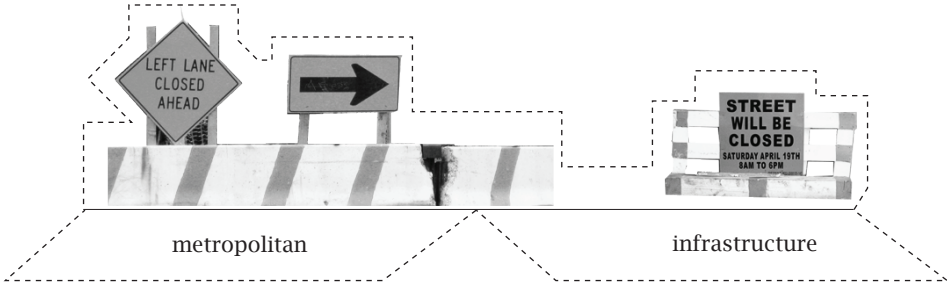
You may open your city

You may cut dashed lines



You may fold straight lines

You may glue the flaps



You may not follow instructions but possibilities
(in a new sheet of paper)