

Press Release

From: UC Davis Design Museum

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Design Sustains Us

Sustainability, global warming, waste neutral, carbon neutral and cradle to cradle, these terms are entering our common language as the impacts of industrialization and consumerism have become increasingly tangible in the degradation of our environment. Architects and designers specify materials and processes that shape buildings and products. Increasingly, they are using their influence to rethink traditional design practices, and revolutionize the way we manufacture and consume our natural resources.

The 2007-8 season will be a year of “Eco-exhibitions” at the UC Davis Design Museum. The exhibitions will follow design themes that revolve around environmental stewardship and social issues. The installation build-outs and museum operations will incorporate green design, sustainable practices and design research.

Green Museums

Calculate the amount of museums and exhibition spaces in your region, the state, the country, and the world. There are over 1,300 museums in California alone. Museums change their exhibitions on a frequent basis, on average twelve times per year. Each new exhibition requires a hefty quantity of new materials, printed graphics, signage, and gallons of paints and finishes. All of these products and operations take a toll on our health, the environment, and consume large quantities of resources.

The Design Museum has adopted a program to address some of these environmental concerns, and developed an engaging interpretive graphics system to highlight some of its green initiatives. A reusable signage system will provide immediate access to information about the green materials and sustainable concepts used in the exhibition space. Particular emphasis will be placed on the major environmental issues in museum and exhibitions. These include electrical efficiency (energy), green products and sustainable resources (materials), and indoor environmental quality (air). This information will also be made available for distribution via the Design Museum’s web site. The system serves as an interpretive signage model for eventual UC Davis campus wide distribution.

The interpretive graphics system will focus on six specific applications that can be seen in the Design Museum, including: green materials, graphics, paint and finishes, modular furniture, energy efficient lighting, and sustainable opening events and hospitality.

Indoor Environmental Quality (AIR):

A new exhibition installation requires a large quantity of new materials, graphics, and paints. Many of these products contain harmful chemicals that are released as they cure. These chemicals dissipate slowly over time and become trapped in an indoor gallery environment. Museum objects and artifacts require display case environments that are protected and free from harmful contaminants. Why are museum visitors and staff deprived of the same type of environment? What is good for the conservation of objects, is also good for the health of the workers who install them, and the visitors who come to see them on display.

How can a museum improve the health of its visitors?

Use toxin (zero formaldehyde) free building materials. Low or zero toxin (no volatile organic compounds) adhesives, paints, sealers, stains, carpets and flooring. Toxin free (non petroleum based) printing inks such as soy and eco-solvent inks.

Electrical Use and Efficiency (ENERGY):

Museum and exhibition environments require elaborate heating and cooling systems (gallery climate control) to maintain a consistent temperature and humidity level for the preservation of objects and artifacts. Large, complex lighting systems have to deliver a specific quality of light (incandescent is still the preferred option) for maximum clarity. The intensity of light has to be adjustable, and the heat from the light source controlled so that certain objects will not fade. Climate control systems and museum quality tungsten-halogen track and case lighting systems operate using large amounts of electricity and are not very energy efficient. The majority of electrical energy comes from burning fossil fuels, which produces CO₂, which in turn is known to contribute to global warming.

How can a Museum consume less energy?

Use energy efficient lighting technologies where possible, such as LED's (light emitting diodes) and CFL's (compact fluorescents), they use a fraction of the energy, generate less heat, and will cost less to operate in the long run. If incandescent (tungsten-halogen) lighting remains the preferred option, consider renewable energy sources (wind, solar, biomass), and purchase carbon credits to offset energy consumption. Use motion sensors to turn exhibition lighting on, and timers to turn the lighting off. It's better for the preservation of the objects and the environment.

Green Products and Sustainable Resources (MATERIALS):

Buildings and construction account for up to 70% of our consumption of materials. Museums use a significant amount of raw materials for building exhibition walls and furniture, crating and shipping objects to different venues, and exterior and interior graphics to promote an exhibition. Due to the temporary nature of most exhibitions, and the lack of museum storage space, few of these materials are salvaged, and most end up in a land fill where they can take years to decompose.

How can a Museum use and reuse materials more responsibly?

Close the loop; use salvaged or recycled materials, design exhibition components for longevity and reuse, use modular furniture and wall systems that can be reconfigured for multiple installations. Avoid raw materials and energy intensive production processes; use rapidly renewable or certified woods and substrates such as wheat board and bamboo, recycled metals, papers and fabrics. Choose products that will eventually disappear; biodegradable graphic substrates and plastics, corn or potato starch based packaging.

For further information and recommended products go to www.projectregenerate.org/ucdgreen/

Exhibition Schedule 2007–8

Fall 2007

Peace Begins Here: Powerful design reactions to simple but profound acts of hope

September 27 – November 25, 2007

“The exhibition compels viewers to pause in the midst of their hurried pace, to reflect more deeply, and to dare to question. Our aim is for viewers to leave with a fresh perspective, inspired to act on the daily things they can do to create a more peace-filled world.” - Joshua Chen

Read the book, visit the exhibition, see the thought provoking graphic design work of Chen Design Associates take to the streets, buses and buildings of the City of Davis. For further information go to www.chendesign.com

With support from the City of Davis Arts Contract.

Winter 2008

GreenStop: Visionary designs for a self-sustainable rest stop

January 3 – March 9, 2008

Highlights from an international competition to select a design for a self-sustainable and “off the grid” roadside GreenStop©. CALTRANS and The Great Valley Center sponsored this unique opportunity to create a “green” rest area that can serve as a model for current and future rest stops within the California state system. The site for purposes of the competition was the Tipton rest area along Route 99 in Tulare County, San Joaquin Valley, CA. For further information go to www.greenstopdesign.com

In collaboration with the Department of Landscape Architecture, with support from the Sustainable Transportation Center at the UC Davis Institute for Transportation Studies.

UC Davis Picnic Day 2008

Design by Design: Juried Student Exhibition

April 7 – 19, 2007

This annual installation, timed to coincide with University Picnic Day, is a lively survey of student talent and creativity that reflects the multi-disciplinary breadth of the Design Department’s course work.

Spring 2008

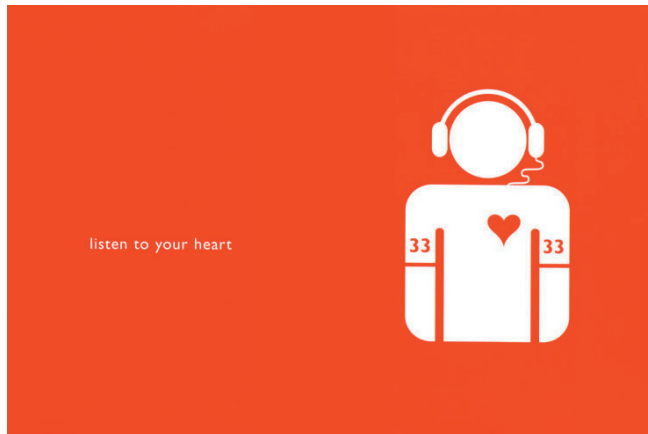
Fashion Conscious: Designs that will change the world one garment at a time

May 15 – July 13, 2008

As the fashion industry begins to embrace the green movement, how can everyday consumers make informed decisions? This exhibition explores sustainability and how it relates to the clothes we buy, from the ecological impact of eco-friendly textiles to the re-evaluation of industrial manufacturing. See exemplary designs by established and up-and-coming green designers.

All exhibitions have support from Green Sacramento, www.greensacramento.com.

Peace Begins Here: Powerful design reactions to simple but profound acts of hope
September 27 – November 25, 2007



Number 33, *Listen to your heart*
From the book "Peace: 100 Ideas"
Chen Design Associates, San Francisco, 2004



Peace Begins Here
Previous exhibition installation at PMCA,
Pasadena CA, 2003



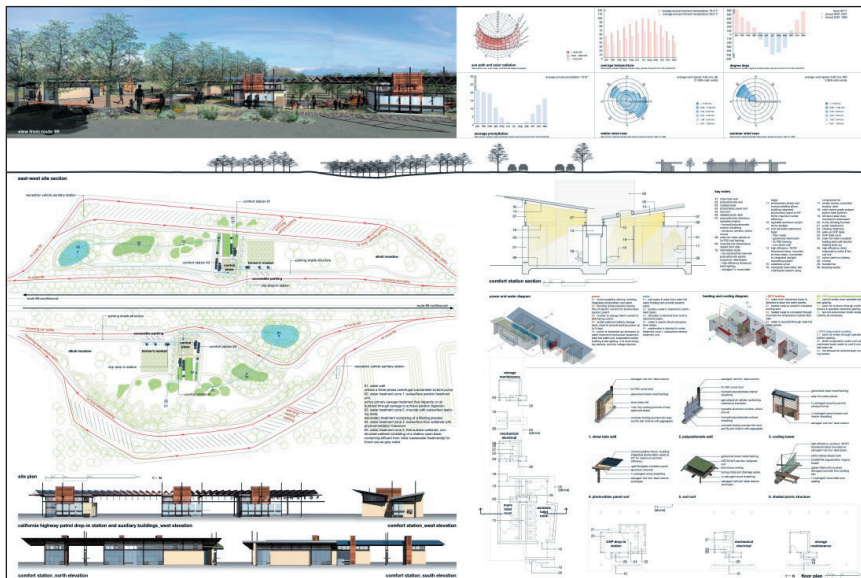
Peace Begins Here
Bus installation, City of Davis (visualization)

UC Davis Design Museum
Walker Hall
One Shields Avenue
Davis, CA 95616-8585

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GreenStop: Visionary designs for a self-sustainable rest stop

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GreenStop competition entry,
Ryan Jang, Lucinda Tay, Laing Chung, 2006

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Bag made from used food wrappers
UC Davis Design Class 127: Environmental
Consciousness, 2007



Tencel convertible dress by Carol Young,
wood-pulp fiber, 2007

design museum

University of California, Davis

“One of the top twenty places to see great design.” - HOW Magazine, 2005

The Design Museum is known for its exhibitions of national and international design-related material. The museum features changing installations of architecture, costume, graphic design, textiles, new media, and popular culture that reflect the multifaceted and global aspects of design. Dedicated to furthering our understanding of design and the contributions design makes to shaping our experiences, environment and culture, the museum also serves as a laboratory for experimental design installation, interpretation and practice.

Museum Hours: Monday – Friday: 12 – 4 p.m.

Sunday: 2 – 4 p.m.

Closed all holidays and holiday weekends.

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