

International week

For the learning outcome bla we had an international week where people from Toronto, Canada came to visit for three days. The people from Toronto were divided by our groups. We got Keira added to our group. She is a Chinese girl who is studying in Toronto.

Monday

We went to visit Dutch Design Week(DDW) for two days, the Monday and the Tuesday. On Monday we decide to go to Eindhoven West since the weather was nice. We started by going to the Evoluon where the themes were Health and Wellbeing and Speculative and Social Design. We spend a lot of time walking around there and discussing what we found of the installations. For instance we talked about artificial meat and if we would be okay with eating it. Everyone would be okay with at least trying the meat if we ever had a chance to. We also talked about the combination of meat and vegetables grown as one thing. There were three options of it and we found that only one would work, the chicken and mushroom one, since the others seemed to have different cooking times. So by having both in one thing it would ruin them both by either overcooking one or undercooking the other. After visiting the Evoluon we started walking to the Plan B building and on the way we would come across some other installations.

During our walk we came across the Fashion Tech Farm and the Multispecies Dream Garden. The Fashion Tech Farm was a lot about clothing and making it better. For instance, there was a jacket that had warm water pumping in the lining of the jacket. This made the jacket warmer for in the winter. We also saw a new bra designed to wear after a procedure of breast cancer. Apparently the bra that you normally have to wear is very uncomfortable and unattractive. I found this really interesting, since I know a couple of people who have or had breast cancer.

We then went downstairs and came to the garden of the building. We got a small tour there and it was a lot about sustainability and living in tangent with the environment. For instance an old piano that had the harmful things taken out of it and put back into nature so that small animals and insects could give it new life. There was also a couple of wild flowers growing there to boost biodiversity and to help insects.

We then went to the Plan B building. We were already pretty tired from the walking around and seeing all the other stuff, so we just talked a lot about the cultural differences between China, Canada and the Netherlands. We talked about our education systems and our healthcare systems. The education system of the Netherlands and China are very comparable with how long we need to study and when we go to universities and higher education. A difference that we had was about the healthcare system, where you need to pay for the Dutch healthcare and in Canada the healthcare is public.

Tuesday

The next day we decided to go to Strijp and see what kind of installations there were. We started by going to a building that had three different rooms, one modern one, one that was the future with no windows, but you could see the nature through a screen and one room that had a lot of nature and openness to it. I personally liked the last room the most, because it gave the illusion of being more open and was more warm, both in sense of temperature and in sense of home. We then went to Area 51 where we saw a lot of installations that showed what possible futures could look like. I personally didn't really like this one, because a lot of concepts were confusing. We then went to walk around outside. It was really busy everywhere, so we didn't spend too much time looking at the things there.

Afterwards we went to the Klokgebouw. Here we saw a lot. We saw a lot of sustainable things, for instance a coating made of bacteria that goes on wood to protect it. This way you can recycle the wood if you want to. We also saw a lot about leather and the research that goes into looking into alternatives for it. At the moment leather is still the best to use, since it's a byproduct of the meat industry and it also last a very long time. In a different hall we saw a lot of companies and their products. For instance the Kiwi. A product designed to make sex less painful and more pleasurable. We also talked with the person from Kiwi and we asked about how they came up with the concept, how they tested it and what their future plans are. We also saw Spiritus Ludi. A product designed to foster social connections between e-sport players. We also talked with the person from Spiritus Ludi and talked about what the future of the products is. They want to develop it more and bring it to more people as well, not only e-sport. People from the fencing community were interested in it, but also people from the horse riding community were interested in it. They would have to adapt the design for the different sports to make it work for them.

Wednesday

On Wednesday we made our own product with the inspiration that we had gotten from visiting DDW. We decided to make a tree of life token that had a chip in it. You could then plant this token, which would grow a tree and you could program it to give you any food. This would help with making farming easier and less bad for nature. This would also help with famine around the world. We 3D printed the token at school, so that we had a small physical product that represented our idea.

Conclusion

We saw a lot of different thing. Topics that seemed to be recurring during the DDW a lot were the future and sustainability. I found this really interesting to see how people think about the future and how we can solve the current problems that we're facing. I also found the sustainability really important, since I myself like to be as sustainable as I can be whilst living comfortably. It was also really nice to meet Keira and to learn a bit more about Canada and China.