WEEK 17

This week's assignment was to read some websites and articles to write some reflections on secondary or minor techniques.

After reading these websites I was very interested in the concept of Low-tech Lab, they showcase many low-tech solutions for sustainable living and their wiki has a lot of details of low-tech devices, how they are made, how they work and how they work. These devices are very interesting and practical.

One of the projects on the Low-tech Lab wiki that really intrigued me was a device called the "Rocket Furnace", a low-cost, high-efficiency furnace made from materials such as bricks and metal cans. Rocket stoves solve the problem of inefficient and environmentally harmful cooking methods, such as traditional wood-burning cookers. As stated on the Low Tech Lab website: "The Rocket Stove is more efficient, less polluting and uses less fuel than traditional cookers. It is easy to build and can be manufactured from locally available materials, making it a great option for communities in rural areas or developing countries".

As their presentation shows, Low-tech Lab's focus on simple, sustainable solutions resonates with the concept of small/micro technologies discussed in the assigned readings. As Nishant Shah and Sunil Abraham put it in their article 'The Politics of Small Technology', small technology refers to "simple, affordable, low-tech technologies that can make a significant difference to people's lives". Low-tech lab projects such as the solar-powered food dryer and the bamboo bicycle exemplify this definition of small technology, as they provide accessible and sustainable solutions to common problems.

The rocket stove is a good example of the power of low-tech solutions to global problems such as climate change and poverty. As David Lee says in his TED talk 'The Future of Manufacturing', "We can make a huge difference with small technology. We don't need to have these giant machines and giant systems. We can have small solutions that make sense, that are local, and that are very effective".

Overall, Low-tech Lab's focus on simple, sustainable solutions to everyday problems exemplifies the concept of small technology discussed in the assigned readings. Projects like the Rocket Stove demonstrate the power of low-tech solutions in solving global problems and improving the lives of individuals and communities around the world. As we continue to face complex and pressing challenges, such as climate change, it is vital to explore and promote the potential of small technologies to make a meaningful impact.

Reference list：

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