

agronautes
new urban realities
creative tools to reinvent sustainable practices

Pezestudio

Index

0. Agronautes.....	2
1. New urban realities.....	3
2. General description and goals.....	3
3. Research Topics and Results.....	3
3.1. Ecological domestic free source infrastructures prototypes	
3.2. Artistic researches for communication strategies	
4. Methodology.....	4
5. Accomplished works: sharing tools for community gardens.....	5

0. [AGRONAUTES]

[Agronautes] is a multidisciplinary project that researches on processes, designs and proposals that reformulate relationships between people and natural environment.

The Agronautes project has been related to food sovereignty, new sustainable paradigms research and reconciliation between natural and urban environment spaces. Now Agronautes is opening another research line: sustainability on city inhabitance resource management impact. That's where our proposal is now framed.

0.1 Aims

+Socializing and spreading sustainable ways of life based on the activity of some professionals and communities by the use of information and media technologies.

+Developing different innovative projects, designs and built architectures that minimize expenses in terms of energy and resources, promote new habits and relationships with nature in everyday life and can be easily reproduced by citizens.

0.2 Tools

[Research]

The project is based on research using different types of knowledge. Minimizing human impact on the environment is studied both from a scientific knowledge point of view as from learning from experience. So that, we analyse particular initiatives of communities and professionals that have developed sustainable ideas and ways of life and, at the same time, we work with science specialists.

[Cultural formats]

Information and research findings are post-produced as what we call “cultural and artistic formats”, which consist in photography, audiovisual, literature, theatre etc creations that are easily assumed by society, in order to get this knowledge transferred to society. We trust in cultural formats as powerful tools to transform existing collective imaginary.

[Agro appliances]

Agroappliances are “ecological infrastructures” that can be defined as objects, buildings or devices that minimize energy and resources consumption in their construction systems and include monitoring devices in order to raise public awareness about these facts. They are made of natural and minimum impact materials.

Ecological infrastructures are open-source designs, they are developed in a collective way and as do-it-yourself or do-it-together products.

[Collaborative workshops]

Ecological infrastructures are built and designed with the collaboration of communities of future users that serve as experts and develop their skills with the aid of other experienced builders. Therefore, constructions are adapted to special needs.

[Evaluation and monitoring]

Prototypes are tested by the community of users that has been generated during the building process. Some electronic devices are created in order to monitor how infrastructures work, measuring energy and resources consumption and transforming data into graphical information that can be observed on Agronautas website.

[Virtual interaction]

All the technical information about the prototypes and how they are build is shared on the Agronautas website so that prototypes can be collectively developed. A network of online self-builders will be created.

[Self-management]

Users of ecological infrastructures are helped to improve their devices by the self-builders online community. They can also improve their designs through monitoring data.

1. New urban realities

Urban environment is experiencing big changes and should be rethought. The city of the future should - among other musts- reformulate their impact on the planet. This requires, for example, land occupation rethinking and the integration of new resource saving systems.

However, we propose that this evolution is not possible if it's not accompanied by a **generation of new practices and new ways of life, where citizens assume responsibilities** in a natural way.

Media, creative and cultural products carry symbolic and ideological information that throughout history have been used for many different purposes. We propose awareness of creators on the ability to work in an inclusive process that allows them to be initiators of a more sustainable and integrated society.

To do this we want to establish, as a base, different communication strategy among various agents - society, artists, professionals, technicians, designers ... – that may lead to the crystallization of visible cultural products that help the making of a new imagery that can be contrasted, assimilated and shared by all.

"New urban realities" consists on the generation of creative tools that reformulate through illustrating and bringing along discussions about renewed, desirable and possible practices and sustainable living fragments, based on domestic, free source and ecological infrastructures.

The base is innovative systems, techniques and activities easily reproducible. These will be worked out and reformulated through working with different artists, resulting in unique cultural products with capacity to be assimilated by society as a whole.

2. General description and goals

The proposal consists in creating, formalizing and transferring to the collective imaginary reformulated/renewed urban realities in terms of sustainability and commons that are possible through innovative, ecological, domestic, DIT (Do-It-Together) and free source equipments.

This project tries to rethink and reformulate infrastructures that manage natural resources from the domestic and common space, to be infiltrated in society through formulation, realization and dissemination of new practices and systems. **We work interconnected with different disciplines - architecture, urbanism, design, ecology, technology, comic, video and photography** - on objects and technologies that minimize human impact on the planet.

The project also aims at, apart from generating and transmitting this new imagery to a general audience, **getting together professionals from different disciplines and backgrounds around a common and complex project on sustainability. Under this sheme everyone can make their own contribution and mix their tested methodos technologies producing and sharing very specific and accurate knowledge.**

Artists related to visual arts and literature (comic) will generate realities in contact with the work of designers, architects, urban-planners, renewable energy technicians, programmers and electronics and free software experts.

3. Research topics and results

3.1 Ecological domestic free source infrastructures prototypes

These infrastructures are **replicable technologies and systems, developed in a DIT way with natural or reused/recycled materials, low energy impact and appropriate technologies**. Through them we'll generate alternatives to existing home energy systems as a starting point for a renewed and innovative energy and resources management network associated with new lifestyles.

We established some topics to work on in this part of the project:

a// **Develop free source technologies and designs associated with saving energy and resources:** food processing, water cycles, closed waste cycles as composting or ecological dry toilets, renewable energy low-cost systems, exchange systems with living communities or specific transformation activities.

b// **Free source energy monitoring systems (hard/software) and online visualization:** measures sensors (temperature, humidity, water and energy consumption ...) and displays them in order to analyze, spread their behavior and make improvements in the prototypes.

Also, the connection of these with Web applications, will allow to visualize the behavior of the different prototypes for interested users from different parts of the world.

3.2. Artistic researches for communication strategies

While ecological domestic infrastructures prototypes designing process we will collaborate with designers, technicians and artists to develop innovative communication formats to share the "new practices", resulting in comprehensible cultural products to transform society in some way.

These artistic formats will allow contextualizing ecological infrastructures previously developed through its implementation and fake use, turning these formats into ecological prototypes spreaders and normalizers.

All formats arise as goals:

- _Reframe artistic base discipline borders to generate unique formats and knowledge**
- _Build structural sociological background on which the infrastructures are real and visible**
- _Adapt ecological prototypes use to different cultural environments**
- _Generate unique high quality cultural products**

These are the formats we proposed:

- // Ecofuturistic comic building Manuals [Literature - Comic]**
- // Photographic Tales / Sequences / Postcards / Photo Collection [Photography]**
- // Fiction scenario micro-films [Video and audiovisual creation]**

4. Methodology

Working methodology proposes an interactive learning model with a horizontal hierarchy in which collective creation and free tool use are key elements, in an environment where participants and collaborators can learn and teach at the same time. This will generate a multidisciplinary working and exchange team/network. This team will develop at the same time building prototypes processes, registration and communication processes while use through artistic formats.

All information generated will have free source conditions and will be distributed (among other channels) by Internet network. All outcome works (cultural products and ecological domestic prototype designs) will have Creative Commons license and will be uploaded on a Web platform. This will allow all production to be shared and published and also generate a collective dialogue from it.

Ecological infrastructure designs and built prototypes will be shared through technical formats to be replicated and collectively evolved. Drawings, comic s, audiovisual and photographic pieces will be shared to be viewed, downloaded and published online. Furthermore, all data collected by the monitoring system will be accompanied with Web applications that enable replicas real-time comparison to improve collectively its design and use over time.

5. Accomplished works: sharing tools for community gardens

2011-now / Pezestudio + Raumlabor + Re:Farm the City + Mazetas + Solarquedada + Tunipanea
<http://www.agronautas.org/>

Funding: Fábricas de Creación del Departamento de Cultura del Gobierno Vasco.

Colaborators: Catalonia Official Architecture Association, EME3 Architecture Int'l Festival

Awards:

// Basque Govern Culture Department - "Fábricas de Creación 2012"

// Basque Govern Culture Department - "Fábricas de Creación 2011"

// EME3 International Architecture Festival 2012 - BUILD IT! Category

// Arts Department Madrid City Council - "Ayudas a la Creación Contemporánea 2012" Creators Category - Matadero Madrid

Projects:

> Agronautas Documentary (2012.06)

Madrid-Castilla y Leon - Asturias - Basque Country - Catalan
Official premiere at Official Architecture Association of Catalonia

In 2011, as the beginning of this exploration, we found and interviewed 56 people from various backgrounds and professional activities as representants of 40 initiatives from Asturias, Basque Country, Madrid, Castilla y León and Catalonia. Professionals, companies, civic citizen associations, activists, politicians, educators, artists, farmers, etc were interviewed.

This documentary is just a fragment of some of the discussions. It aims to spread and share knowledge about the issues the agronautes have created. It shows, above all, our desire to share opinions, worries and know-how searching experience, that can help us to rethink the way we occupy this planet.

> Agrokitchen Prototype (2012.06)

Bilbao, Basque Country, ZAWP Bilbao

[AGROKITCHEN] is an integral ecological experience concept based on infrastructure design related to architecture, gastronomy, culinary arts, ecology and society. The project works on the respect for the natural environment through the following values:

- _ Support local organic production, resulting in infrastructures to facilitate and enhance these practices.
- _ Minimize resources use in building process, using methods and ecologic materials
- _ Tend to 0 energy consumption through innovative and renewable technologies systems development and improvement
- _ Work with innovative cooking techniques, such as renewable energy sources recipes
- _ Enhance community around experiences related to food, cooking and groups meal events with different groups and linking different activities.

> Sharing mobile cycle-modules (2012.06)

Barcelona, EME3 International Architecture Festival 2012

This is a project of sharing furniture self-management at Ciutat Vella neighborhood in response to collective specific needs in public space, enhancing existing reactivating urban empty spaces initiatives. A participative building workshop to make sharing infrastructures agreed with associations, groups and stakeholders. The results were these prototypes:

- _ Solar cooking and water purification system cycle-module
- _ Furniture, portable garden and seedbed boxes cycle-module

Prototypes, after the workshop, were appropriated and managed by the neighbors. Modules became a common good, and management method will be shaped.

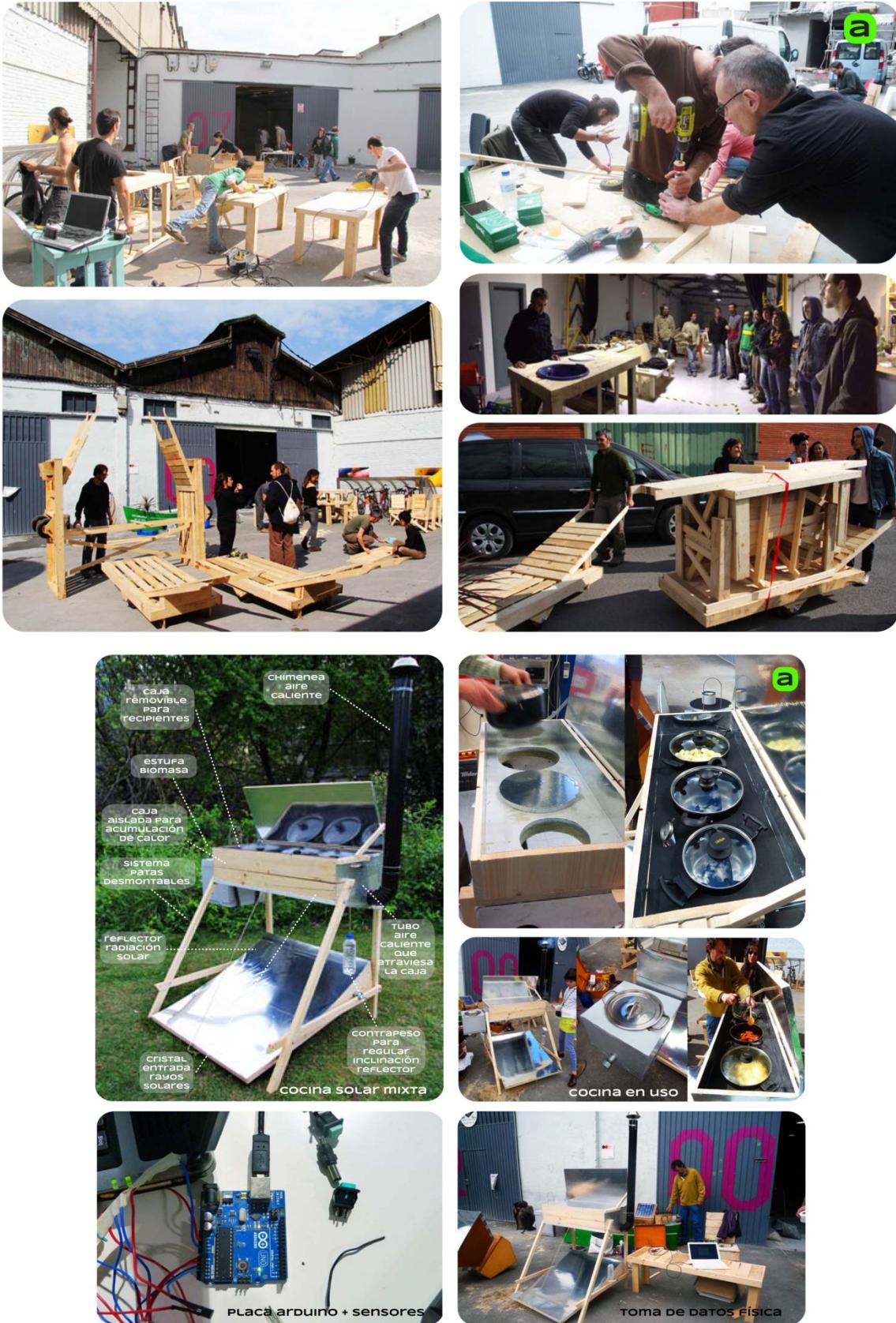
> Agro-house: Permanent Installation for Agrokitchen prototypes (2012.06)

ZAWP Bilbao

Agrokitchen installation project at ZAWP creative patio where artists in residence will test prototypes performance. As mobile prototypes they may still be requested by groups and associations who need to use them.



Agronautes Documentary Interviews and Places



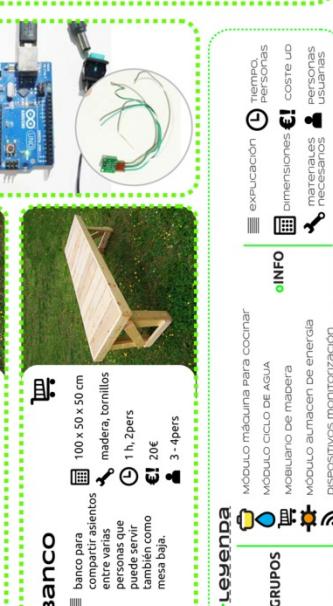
Agrokitchen Workshop in Bilbao

mobiliario compartido

Catálogo de elementos de la agrococina

agrococinabilbao

agronautas

fregadero		<p>fregadero móvil con sistema cerrado de agua, filtro de arena y filtro de grava para la realización directa del agua.</p> <p>140 x 80 x 70 cm madera, tornillos, bidones, tuberías, grava, arena 6 h, 2pers €! 80€ variable</p>
mesa		<p>mesa amplia y ligera, multiusos, ideal para transportarla en el maletero de un coche o en el portaequipajes de una bicicleta.</p> <p>140 x 80 x 70 cm madera, tornillos €! 25€ 1-8pers</p>
silla		<p>silla que se ajusta a la altura de las mesas para todo tipo de actividades colectivas. Se encierra de dos en dos para su transporte.</p> <p>50 x 50 x 85 cm madera, tornillos €! 20€ 1pers</p>
silla tumbona		<p>silla de menor altura, mejor inclinación, para relajarse y descansar cómodamente en el exterior.</p> <p>70 x 70 x 80 cm madera, tornillos €! 20€ 1pers</p>
banco		<p>banco para compartir asientos entre varias personas que puede servir también como mesa baja.</p> <p>100 x 50 x 50 cm madera, tornillos €! 20€ 3 - 4pers</p>
expedición		<p>modulo máquina para cocinar, modulo ciclo de agua, modulo baño de madera, modulo autógeno de energía</p> <p>200 x 220 x 80 cm madera, tornillos, cincha €! 2 h, 2pers €! 50€ variable</p>
LEYENDA		<p>grupos</p> <p>info</p> <p>personas</p> <p>dimensiones: €!</p> <p>coste uso</p> <p>materiales</p> <p>necesarias</p> <p>dispositivos monitoreo</p>

Agrokitchen Prototypes Catalog



Agrokitchen Outdoor Public Events



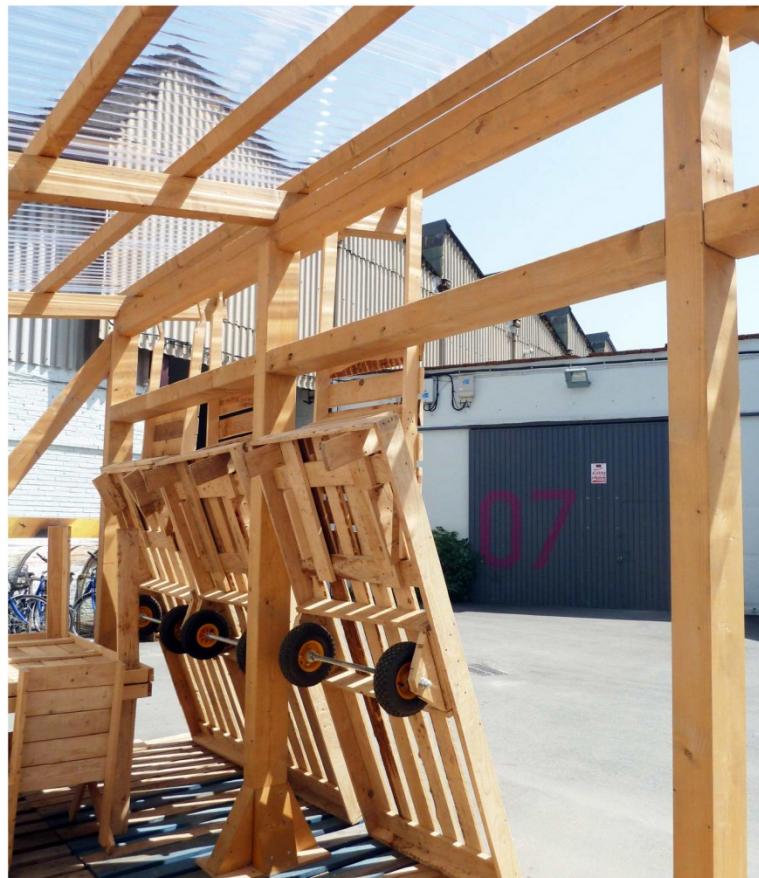
Agrokitchen Transportation and Indoor Uses



Barcelona Urban Garden Network Cycle-Modules Solar kitchen Prototype



Barcelona Urban Garden Network Cycle-Modules Furniture and Exchange Prototype



AgroStation in Zorrotzaurre Art Working Progress, Bilbao



2012
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