the six hours of talk that I gave\n00:01:35.000 called "The Monticello Dialogues" on NPR, and sent me this as a thank you note --\n00:01:41.000 "We realize that design is a signal of intention,\n00:01:43.000 but it also has to occur within a world,\n00:01:46.000 and we have to understand that world in order to\n00:01:50.000 imbue our designs with inherent intelligence,\n00:01:53.000 and so as we look back at the basic state of affairs\n00:01:58.000 in which we design, we, in a way, need to go to the primordial condition\n00:02:03.000 to understand the operating system and the frame conditions of a planet,\n00:02:08.000 and I think the exciting part of that is the good news that's there,\n00:02:13.000 because the news is the news of abundance,\n00:02:16.000 and not the news of limits,\n00:02:18.000 and I think as our culture tortures itself now\n00:02:23.000 with tyrannies and concerns over limits and fear,\n00:02:28.000 we can add this other dimension of abundance that is coherent,\n00:02:33.000 driven by the sun, and start to imagine\n00:02:35.000 what that would be like to share."\n00:02:42.000 That was a nice thing to get.\n00:02:44.000 That was one sentence.\n00:02:48.000 Henry James would be proud.\n00:02:50.000 This is -- I put it down at the bottom,\n00:02:52.000 but that was extemporaneous, obviously.\n00:02:55.000 The fundamental issue is that, for me,\n00:02:58.000 design is the first signal of human intentions.\n00:03:00.000 So what are our intentions, and what would our intentions be --\n00:03:04.000 if we wake up in the morning, we have designs on the world --\n00:03:07.000 well, what would our intention be as a species\n00:03:09.000 now that we're the dominant species?\n00:03:11.000 And it's not just stewardship and dominion debate,\n00:03:14.000 because really, dominion is implicit in stewardship --\n00:03:20.000 because how could you dominate something you had killed?\n00:03:22.000 And stewardship's implicit in dominion,\n00:03:24.000 because you can't be steward of something if you can't dominate it.\n00:03:26.000 So the question is, what is the first question for designers?\n00:03:32.000 Now, as guardians -- let's say the state, for example,\n00:03:35.000 which reserves the right to kill, the right to be duplicitous and so on --\n00:03:40.000 the question we're asking the guardian at this point is\n00:03:43.000 are we meant, how are we meant,\n00:03:45.000 to secure local societies, create world peace\n00:03:47.000 and save the environment?\n00:03:49.000 But I don't know that that's the common debate.\n00:03:52.000 Commerce, on the other hand, is relatively quick,\n00:03:56.000 essentially creative, highly effective and efficient,\n00:03:58.000 and fundamentally honest, because we can't exchange\n00:04:01.000 value for very long if we don't trust each other.\n00:04:05.000 So we use the tools of commerce primarily for our work,\n00:04:07.000 but the question we bring to it is,\n00:04:09.000 how do we love all the children of all species for all time?\n00:04:13.000 And so we start our designs with that question.\n00:04:16.000 Because what we realize today is that modern culture\n00:04:18.000 appears to have adopted a strategy of tragedy.\n00:04:21.000 If we come here and say, "Well, I didn't intend\n00:04:23.000 to cause global warming on the way here,"\n00:04:24.000 and we say, "That's not part of my plan,"\n00:04:26.000 then we realize it's part of our de facto plan.\n00:04:29.000 Because it's the thing that's happening because we have no other plan.\n00:04:32.000 And I was at the White House for President Bush,\n00:04:34.000 meeting with every federal department and agency,\n00:04:36.000 and I pointed out that they appear to have no plan.\n00:04:40.000 If the end game is global warming, they're doing great.\n00:04:42.000 If the end game is mercury toxification of our

children\n00:04:45.000 downwind of coal fire plants as they scuttled the Clean Air Act,\n00:04:48.000 then I see that our education programs should be explicitly defined as,\n00:04:52.000 "Brain death for all children. No child left behind."\n00:04:54.000 (Applause)\n00:04:58.000 So, the question is, how many federal officials\n00:05:02.000 are ready to move to Ohio and Pennsylvania with their families?\n00:05:05.000 So if you don't have an endgame of something delightful,\n00:05:09.000 then you're just moving chess pieces around,\n00:05:11.000 if you don't know you're taking the king.\n00:05:12.000 So perhaps we could develop a strategy of change,\n00:05:15.000 which requires humility. And in my business as an architect,\n00:05:18.000 it's unfortunate the word "humility" and the word "architect"\n00:05:22.000 have not appeared in the same paragraph since "The Fountainhead."\n00:05:25.000 So if anybody here has trouble with the concept of design humility,\n00:05:30.000 reflect on this -- it took us 5,000 years\n00:05:33.000 to put wheels on our luggage.\n00:05:37.000 So, as Kevin Kelly pointed out, there is no endgame.\n00:05:42.000 There is an infinite game, and we're playing in that infinite game.\n00:05:46.000 And so we call it "cradle to cradle,"\n00:05:48.000 and our goal is very simple.\n00:05:49.000 This is what I presented to the White House.\n00:05:51.000 Our goal is a delightfully diverse, safe, healthy and just world,\n00:05:54.000 with clean air, clean water, soil and power --\n00:05:57.000 economically, equitably, ecologically and elegantly enjoyed, period.\n00:06:01.000 (Applause)\n00:06:04.000 What don't you like about this?\n00:06:07.000 Which part of this don't you like?\n00:06:09.000 So we realized we want full diversity,\n00:06:11.000 even though it can be difficult to remember what De Gaulle said\n00:06:14.000 when asked what it was like to be President of France.\n00:06:16.000 He said, "What do you think it's like trying to run a country with 400 kinds of cheese?"\n00:06:20.000 But at the same time, we realize that our products are not safe and healthy.\n00:06:23.000 So we've designed products\n00:06:25.000 and we analyzed chemicals down to the parts per million.\n00:06:27.000 This is a baby blanket by Pendleton that will give your child nutrition\n00:06:30.000 instead of Alzheimer's later in life.\n00:06:32.000 We can ask ourselves, what is justice,\n00:06:34.000 and is justice blind, or is justice blindness?\n00:06:38.000 And at what point did that uniform turn from white to black?\n00:06:43.000 Water has been declared a human right by the United Nations.\n00:06:46.000 Air quality is an obvious thing to anyone who breathes.\n00:06:48.000 Is there anybody here who doesn't breathe?\n00:06:51.000 Clean soil is a critical problem -- the nitrification, the dead zones\n00:06:54.000 in the Gulf of Mexico.\n00:06:56.000 A fundamental issue that's not being addressed.\n00:06:58.000 We've seen the first form of solar energy\n00:07:00.000 that's beat the hegemony of fossil fuels in the form of wind\n00:07:03.000 here in the Great Plains, and so that hegemony is leaving.\n00:07:06.000 And if we remember Sheikh Yamani when he formed OPEC,\n00:07:09.000 they asked him, "When will we see the end of the age of oil?"\n00:07:12.000 I don't know if you remember his answer, but it was,\n00:07:15.000 "The Stone Age didn't end because we ran out of stones."\n00:07:19.000 We see that companies acting ethically in this world\n00:07:23.000 are outperforming those that don't.\n00:07:24.000 We see the flows of materials in a rather terrifying prospect.\n00:07:29.000 This is a hospital monitor from Los Angeles, sent to China.\n00:07:32.000 This woman will expose herself to toxic phosphorous,\n00:07:35.000 release four pounds of toxic lead into her

childrens' environment,\n00:07:38.000 which is from copper.\n00:07:40.000 On the other hand, we see great signs of hope.\n00:07:42.000 Here's Dr. Venkataswamy in India, who's figured out\n00:07:45.000 how to do mass-produced health.\n00:07:47.000 He has given eyesight to two million people for free.\n00:07:51.000 We see in our material flows that car steels don't become car steel again\n00:07:54.000 because of the contaminants of the coatings --\n00:07:56.000 bismuth, antimony, copper and so on.\n00:07:58.000 They become building steel.\n00:07:59.000 On the other hand, we're working with Berkshire Hathaway,\n00:08:01.000 Warren Buffett and Shaw Carpet,\n00:08:04.000 the largest carpet company in the world.\n00:08:05.000 We've developed a carpet that is continuously recyclable,\n00:08:08.000 down to the parts per million.\n00:08:11.000 The upper is Nylon 6 that can go back to caprolactam,\n00:08:14.000 the bottom, a polyolephine -- infinitely recyclable thermoplastic.\n00:08:17.000 Now if I was a bird, the building on my left is a liability.\n00:08:21.000 The building on my right, which is our corporate campus for The Gap\n00:08:24.000 with an ancient meadow, is an asset -- its nesting grounds.\n00:08:29.000 Here's where I come from. I grew up in Hong Kong,\n00:08:31.000 with six million people in 40 square miles.\n00:08:33.000 During the dry season, we had four hours of water every fourth day.\n00:08:37.000 And the relationship to landscape was that of farmers who have been\n00:08:40.000 farming the same piece of ground for 40 centuries.\n00:08:44.000 You can't farm the same piece of ground for 40 centuries\n00:08:46.000 without understanding nutrient flow.\n00:08:49.000 My childhood summers were in the Puget Sound of Washington,\n00:08:52.000 among the first growth and big growth.\n00:08:54.000 My grandfather had been a lumberjack in the Olympics,\n00:08:56.000 so I have a lot of tree karma I am working off.\n00:09:01.000 I went to Yale for graduate school,\n00:09:03.000 studied in a building of this style by Le Corbusier,\n00:09:05.000 affectionately known in our business as Brutalism.\n00:09:09.000 If we look at the world of architecture,\n00:09:12.000 we see with Mies' 1928 tower for Berlin,\n00:09:15.000 the question might be, "Well, where's the sun?"\n00:09:17.000 And this might have worked in Berlin, but we built it in Houston,\n00:09:20.000 and the windows are all closed. And with most products\n00:09:23.000 appearing not to have been designed for indoor use,\n00:09:25.000 this is actually a vertical gas chamber.\n00:09:28.000 When I went to Yale, we had the first energy crisis,\n00:09:31.000 and I was designing the first solar-heated house in Ireland\n00:09:33.000 as a student, which I then built --\n00:09:35.000 which would give you a sense of my ambition.\n00:09:37.000 And Richard Meier, who was one of my teachers,\n00:09:39.000 kept coming over to my desk to give me criticism,\n00:09:41.000 and he would say, "Bill, you've got to understand- --\n00:09:43.000 solar energy has nothing to do with architecture."\n00:09:51.000 I guess he didn't read Vitruvius.\n00:09:53.000 In 1984, we did the first so-called "green office" in America\n00:09:57.000 for Environmental Defense.\n00:09:58.000 We started asking manufacturers what were in their materials.\n00:10:01.000 They said, "They're proprietary, they're legal, go away."\n00:10:03.000 The only indoor quality work done in this country at that time\n00:10:05.000 was sponsored by R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Company,\n00:10:08.000 and it was to prove there was no danger\n00:10:09.000 from secondhand smoke in the workplace.\n00:10:12.000 So, all of a sudden, here I am, graduating from high school in 1969,\n00:10:16.000 and this happens, and we realize that "away" went away.\n00:10:19.000 Remember we used to throw things away,

and we'd point to away?\n00:10:23.000 And yet, NOAA has now shown us, for example --\n00:10:25.000 you see that little blue thing above Hawaii?\n00:10:27.000 That's the Pacific Gyre.\n00:10:28.000 It was recently dragged for plankton by scientists,\n00:10:30.000 and they found six times as much plastic as plankton.\n00:10:34.000 When asked, they said, "It's kind of like a giant toilet that doesn't flush."\n00:10:39.000 Perhaps that's away.\n00:10:40.000 So we're looking for the design rules of this --\n00:10:42.000 this is the highest biodiversity of trees in the world, Irian Jaya,\n00:10:44.000 259 species of tree, and we described this\n00:10:48.000 in the book, "Cradle to Cradle."\n00:10:49.000 The book itself is a polymer. It is not a tree.\n00:10:53.000 That's the name of the first chapter -- "This Book is Not a Tree."\n00:10:56.000 Because in poetics, as Margaret Atwood pointed out,\n00:10:59.000 "we write our history on the skin of fish\n00:11:01.000 with the blood of bears."\n00:11:04.000 And with so much polymer, what we really need\n00:11:05.000 is technical nutrition, and to use something\n00:11:08.000 as elegant as a tree -- imagine this design assignment:\n00:11:11.000 Design something that makes oxygen, sequesters carbon,\n00:11:13.000 fixes nitrogen, distills water, accrues solar energy as fuel,\n00:11:17.000 makes complex sugars and food, creates microclimates,\n00:11:21.000 changes colors with the seasons and self-replicates.\n00:11:27.000 Well, why don't we knock that down and write on it?\n00:11:29.000 (Laughter)\n00:11:35.000 So, we're looking at the same criteria\n00:11:37.000 as most people -- you know, can I afford it?\n00:11:39.000 Does it work? Do I like it?\n00:11:41.000 We're adding the Jeffersonian agenda, and I come from Charlottesville,\n00:11:43.000 where I've had the privilege of living in a house designed by Thomas Jefferson.\n00:11:47.000 We're adding life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.\n00:11:53.000 Now if we look at the word "competition,"\n00:11:54.000 I'm sure most of you've used it.\n00:11:56.000 You know, most people don't realize it comes from\n00:11:57.000 the Latin competere, which means strive together.\n00:12:00.000 It means the way Olympic athletes train with each other.\n00:12:03.000 They get fit together, and then they compete.\n00:12:06.000 The Williams sisters compete -- one wins Wimbledon.\n00:12:08.000 So we've been looking at the idea of competition\n00:12:11.000 as a way of cooperating in order to get fit together.\n00:12:15.000 And the Chinese government has now --\n00:12:16.000 I work with the Chinese government now --\n00:12:18.000 has taken this up.\n00:12:20.000 We're also looking at survival of the fittest,\n00:12:22.000 not in just competition terms in our modern context\n00:12:24.000 of destroy the other or beat them to the ground,\n00:12:27.000 but really to fit together and build niches\n00:12:29.000 and have growth that is good.\n00:12:31.000 Now most environmentalists don't say growth is good,\n00:12:33.000 because, in our lexicon, asphalt is two words: assigning blame.\n00:12:38.000 But if we look at asphalt as our growth,\n00:12:41.000 then we realize that all we're doing is destroying\n00:12:43.000 the planetary's fundamental underlying operating system.\n00:12:47.000 So when we see E equals mc squared come along, from a poet's perspective,\n00:12:52.000 we see energy as physics, chemistry as mass,\n00:12:54.000 and all of a sudden, you get this biology.\n00:12:56.000 And we have plenty of energy, so we'll solve that problem,\n00:12:59.000 but the biology problem's tricky, because as we put through\n00:13:02.000 all these toxic materials that we disgorge,\n00:13:05.000 we will never be able to recover

that.\n00:13:07.000 And as Francis Crick pointed out, nine years\n00:13:09.000 after discovering DNA with Mr. Watson,\n00:13:12.000 that life itself has to have growth as a precondition --\n00:13:16.000 it has to have free energy, sunlight\n00:13:18.000 and it needs to be an open system of chemicals.\n00:13:21.000 So we're asking for human artifice to become a living thing,\n00:13:24.000 and we want growth, we want free energy from sunlight\n00:13:26.000 and we want an open metabolism for chemicals.\n00:13:29.000 Then, the question becomes not growth or no growth,\n00:13:31.000 but what do you want to grow?\n00:13:34.000 So instead of just growing destruction,\n00:13:36.000 we want to grow the things that we might enjoy,\n00:13:38.000 and someday the FDA will allow us to make French cheese.\n00:13:41.000 So therefore, we have these two metabolisms,\n00:13:45.000 and I worked with a German chemist, Michael Braungart,\n00:13:47.000 and we've identified the two fundamental metabolisms.\n00:13:49.000 The biological one I'm sure you understand,\n00:13:51.000 but also the technical one, where we take materials\n00:13:53.000 and put them into closed cycles.\n00:13:55.000 We call them biological nutrition and technical nutrition.\n00:13:58.000 Technical nutrition will be in an order of magnitude of biological nutrition.\n00:14:02.000 Biological nutrition can supply about 500 million humans,\n00:14:05.000 which means that if we all wore Birkenstocks and cotton,\n00:14:07.000 the world would run out of cork and dry up.\n00:14:10.000 So we need materials in closed cycles,\n00:14:12.000 but we need to analyze them down to the parts per million\n00:14:14.000 for cancer, birth defects, mutagenic effects,\n00:14:17.000 disruption of our immune systems, biodegradation, persistence,\n00:14:20.000 heavy metal content, knowledge of how we're making them\n00:14:23.000 and their production and so on.\n00:14:25.000 Our first product was a textile where we analyzed 8,000 chemicals\n00:14:29.000 in the textile industry.\n00:14:30.000 Using those intellectual filters, we eliminated [7,962.]\n00:14:35.000 We were left with 38 chemicals.\n00:14:37.000 We have since databased the 4000 most commonly used chemicals\n00:14:40.000 in human manufacturing, and we're releasing this database into the public in six weeks.\n00:14:45.000 So designers all over the world can analyze their products\n00:14:47.000 down to the parts per million for human and ecological health.\n00:14:52.000 (Applause)\n00:14:57.000 We've developed a protocol so that companies can send\n00:15:00.000 these same messages all the way through their supply chains,\n00:15:03.000 because when we asked most companies we work with -- about a trillion dollars\n00:15:06.000 -- and say, "Where does your stuff come from?" They say, "Suppliers."\n00:15:08.000 "And where does it go?"\n00:15:10.000 "Customers."\n00:15:11.000 So we need some help there.\n00:15:12.000 So the biological nutrients, the first fabrics --\n00:15:14.000 the water coming out was clean enough to drink.\n00:15:16.000 Technical nutrients -- this is for Shaw Carpet, infinitely reusable carpet.\n00:15:20.000 Here's nylon going back to caprolactam back to carpet.\n00:15:23.000 Biotechnical nutrients -- the Model U for Ford Motor,\n00:15:26.000 a cradle to cradle car -- concept car.\n00:15:28.000 Shoes for Nike, where the uppers are polyesters, infinitely recyclable,\n00:15:32.000 the bottoms are biodegradable soles.\n00:15:35.000 Wear your old shoes in, your new shoes out.\n00:15:37.000 There is no finish line.\n00:15:39.000 The idea here of the car is that some of the materials\n00:15:41.000 go back to the industry forever, some of the materials go back to soil --\n00:15:44.000 it's all solar-powered.\n00:15:46.000 Here's a building at Oberlin College we designed\n00:15:48.000 that makes more energy than it needs to operate and purifies

its own water.\n00:15:52.000 Here's a building for The Gap, where the ancient grasses\n00:15:54.000 of San Bruno, California, are on the roof.\n00:15:58.000 And this is our project for Ford Motor Company.\n00:16:00.000 It's the revitalization of the River Rouge in Dearborn.\n00:16:02.000 This is obviously a color photograph.\n00:16:06.000 These are our tools. These are how we sold it to Ford.\n00:16:10.000 We saved Ford 35 million dollars doing it this way, day one,\n00:16:13.000 which is the equivalent of the Ford Taurus\n00:16:15.000 at a four percent margin of an order for 900 million dollars worth of cars.\n00:16:19.000 Here it is. It's the world's largest green roof, 10 and a half acres.\n00:16:22.000 This is the roof, saving money,\n00:16:25.000 and this is the first species to arrive here. These are killdeer.\n00:16:29.000 They showed up in five days.\n00:16:32.000 And we now have 350-pound auto workers\n00:16:34.000 learning bird songs on the Internet.\n00:16:38.000 We're developing now protocols for cities --\n00:16:40.000 that's the home of technical nutrients.\n00:16:42.000 The country -- the home of biological. And putting them together.\n00:16:45.000 And so I will finish by showing you a new city\n00:16:47.000 we're designing for the Chinese government.\n00:16:49.000 We're doing 12 cities for China right now,\n00:16:52.000 based on cradle to cradle as templates.\n00:16:54.000 Our assignment is to develop protocols for the housing\n00:16:57.000 for 400 million people in 12 years.\n00:16:59.000 We did a mass energy balance -- if they use brick,\n00:17:01.000 they will lose all their soil and burn all their coal.\n00:17:04.000 They'll have cities with no energy and no food.\n00:17:06.000 We signed a Memorandum of Understanding --\n00:17:08.000 here's Madam Deng Nan, Deng Xiaoping's daughter --\n00:17:10.000 for China to adopt cradle to cradle.\n00:17:12.000 Because if they toxify themselves, being the lowest-cost producer,\n00:17:16.000 send it to the lowest-cost distribution -- Wal-Mart --\n00:17:18.000 and then we send them all our money, what we'll discover is that\n00:17:21.000 we have what, effectively, when I was a student,\n00:17:24.000 was called mutually assured destruction.\n00:17:27.000 Now we do it by molecule. These are our cities.\n00:17:30.000 We're building a new city next to this city; look at that landscape.\n00:17:33.000 This is the site.\n00:17:35.000 We don't normally do green fields, but this one is about to be built,\n00:17:39.000 so they brought us in to intercede.\n00:17:41.000 This is their plan.\n00:17:43.000 It's a rubber stamp grid that they laid right on that landscape.\n00:17:46.000 And they brought us in and said, "What would you do?"\n00:17:49.000 This is what they would end up with, which is another color photograph.\n00:17:53.000 So this is the existing site, so this is what it looks like now,\n00:17:56.000 and here's our proposal.\n00:17:58.000 (Applause)\n00:18:02.000 So the way we approached this\n00:18:04.000 is we studied the hydrology very carefully.\n00:18:06.000 We studied the biota, the ancient biota,\n00:18:08.000 the current farming and the protocols.\n00:18:10.000 We studied the winds and the sun to make sure everybody in the city\n00:18:12.000 will have fresh air, fresh water and direct sunlight\n00:18:18.000 in every single apartment at some point during the day.\n00:18:21.000 We then take the parks and lay them out as ecological infrastructure.\n00:18:25.000 We lay out the building areas.\n00:18:28.000 We start to integrate commercial and mixed use\n00:18:29.000 so the people all have centers and places to be.\n00:18:32.000 The transportation is all very simple,\n00:18:34.000 everybody's within a five-minute walk of mobility.\n00:18:37.000 We have a 24-hour street, so that there's always a place that's alive.\n00:18:42.000 The

waste systems all connect.\n00:18:44.000 If you flush a toilet, your feces will go to the sewage treatment plants,\n00:18:49.000 which are sold as assets, not liabilities.\n00:18:51.000 Because who wants the fertilizer factory that makes natural gas?\n00:18:55.000 The waters are all taken in to construct the wetlands for habitat restorations.\n00:19:00.000 And then it makes natural gas, which then goes back into the city\n00:19:04.000 to power the fuel for the cooking for the city.\n00:19:08.000 So this is -- these are fertilizer gas plants.\n00:19:10.000 And then the compost is all taken back\n00:19:13.000 to the roofs of the city, where we've got farming,\n00:19:15.000 because what we've done is lifted up the city,\n00:19:19.000 the landscape, into the air to -- to restore the native landscape\n00:19:26.000 on the roofs of the buildings.\n00:19:28.000 The solar power of all the factory centers\n00:19:31.000 and all the industrial zones with their light roofs powers the city.\n00:19:34.000 And this is the concept for the top of the city.\n00:19:36.000 We've lifted the earth up onto the roofs.\n00:19:40.000 The farmers have little bridges to get from one roof to the next.\n00:19:44.000 We inhabit the city with work/live space on all the ground floors.\n00:19:48.000 And so this is the existing city, and this is the new city.\n00:19:53.000 (Applause)\n\nThe file is too long and its contents have been truncated.\n", "extra": {"cited_message_idx": 12, "search_result_idx": null, "evidence_text": "source"}}}, {"start_ix": 2042, "end_ix": 2053, "citation_format_type": "tether_og", "metadata": {"type": "file", "name": "tactiq-free-transcript-IoRjz8iTVoo.txt", "id": "file-QAdtwx5q5xmFsPgGvYJdRiuF", "source": "my_files", "text": "# tactiq.io free youtube transcript\n# Cradle to cradle design | William McDonough\n# https://www.youtube.com/watch/IoRjz8iTVoo\n\n00:00:26.000 In 1962, with Rachel Carson's "Silent Spring,"\n00:00:30.000 I think for people like me in the world of the making of things,\n00:00:35.000 the canary in the mine wasn't singing.\n00:00:39.000 And so the question that we might not have birds\n00:00:42.000 became kind of fundamental to those of us wandering around\n00:00:45.000 looking for the meadowlarks that seemed to have all disappeared.\n00:00:48.000 And the question was, were the birds singing?\n00:00:51.000 Now, I'm not a scientist, that'll be really clear.\n00:00:55.000 But, you know, we've just come from this discussion of what a bird might be.\n00:00:59.000 What is a bird?\n00:01:00.000 Well, in my world, this is a rubber duck.\n00:01:04.000 It comes in California with a warning --\n00:01:06.000 "This product contains chemicals known by the State of California\n00:01:09.000 to cause cancer and birth defects or other reproductive harm."\n00:01:16.000 This is a bird.\n00:01:19.000 What kind of culture would produce a product of this kind\n00:01:22.000 and then label it and sell it to children?\n00:01:27.000 I think we have a design problem.\n00:01:30.000 Someone heard the six hours of talk that I gave\n00:01:35.000 called "The Monticello Dialogues" on NPR, and sent me this as a thank you note --\n00:01:41.000 "We realize that design is a signal of intention,\n00:01:43.000 but it also has to occur within a world,\n00:01:46.000 and we have to understand that world in order to\n00:01:50.000 imbue our designs with inherent intelligence,\n00:01:53.000 and so as we look back at the basic state of affairs\n00:01:58.000 in which we design, we, in a way, need to go to the primordial condition\n00:02:03.000 to understand the operating system and the frame conditions of a planet,\n00:02:08.000 and I think the exciting part of that is the good news that's there,\n00:02:13.000 because the news is the news of abundance,\n00:02:16.000 and not the news of limits,\n00:02:18.000 and I think as our culture tortures itself now\n00:02:23.000 with tyrannies and concerns over

limits and fear,\n00:02:28.000 we can add this other dimension of abundance that is coherent,\n00:02:33.000 driven by the sun, and start to imagine\n00:02:35.000 what that would be like to share."\n00:02:42.000 That was a nice thing to get.\n00:02:44.000 That was one sentence.\n00:02:48.000 Henry James would be proud.\n00:02:50.000 This is -- I put it down at the bottom,\n00:02:52.000 but that was extemporaneous, obviously.\n00:02:55.000 The fundamental issue is that, for me,\n00:02:58.000 design is the first signal of human intentions.\n00:03:00.000 So what are our intentions, and what would our intentions be --\n00:03:04.000 if we wake up in the morning, we have designs on the world --\n00:03:07.000 well, what would our intention be as a species\n00:03:09.000 now that we're the dominant species?\n00:03:11.000 And it's not just stewardship and dominion debate,\n00:03:14.000 because really, dominion is implicit in stewardship --\n00:03:20.000 because how could you dominate something you had killed?\n00:03:22.000 And stewardship's implicit in dominion,\n00:03:24.000 because you can't be steward of something if you can't dominate it.\n00:03:26.000 So the question is, what is the first question for designers?\n00:03:32.000 Now, as guardians -- let's say the state, for example,\n00:03:35.000 which reserves the right to kill, the right to be duplicitous and so on --\n00:03:40.000 the question we're asking the guardian at this point is\n00:03:43.000 are we meant, how are we meant,\n00:03:45.000 to secure local societies, create world peace\n00:03:47.000 and save the environment?\n00:03:49.000 But I don't know that that's the common debate.\n00:03:52.000 Commerce, on the other hand, is relatively quick,\n00:03:56.000 essentially creative, highly effective and efficient,\n00:03:58.000 and fundamentally honest, because we can't exchange\n00:04:01.000 value for very long if we don't trust each other.\n00:04:05.000 So we use the tools of commerce primarily for our work,\n00:04:07.000 but the question we bring to it is,\n00:04:09.000 how do we love all the children of all species for all time?\n00:04:13.000 And so we start our designs with that question.\n00:04:16.000 Because what we realize today is that modern culture\n00:04:18.000 appears to have adopted a strategy of tragedy.\n00:04:21.000 If we come here and say, "Well, I didn't intend\n00:04:23.000 to cause global warming on the way here,"\n00:04:24.000 and we say, "That's not part of my plan,"\n00:04:26.000 then we realize it's part of our de facto plan.\n00:04:29.000 Because it's the thing that's happening because we have no other plan.\n00:04:32.000 And I was at the White House for President Bush,\n00:04:34.000 meeting with every federal department and agency,\n00:04:36.000 and I pointed out that they appear to have no plan.\n00:04:40.000 If the end game is global warming, they're doing great.\n00:04:42.000 If the end game is mercury toxification of our children\n00:04:45.000 downwind of coal fire plants as they scuttled the Clean Air Act,\n00:04:48.000 then I see that our education programs should be explicitly defined as,\n00:04:52.000 "Brain death for all children. No child left behind."\n00:04:54.000 (Applause)\n00:04:58.000 So, the question is, how many federal officials\n00:05:02.000 are ready to move to Ohio and Pennsylvania with their families?\n00:05:05.000 So if you don't have an endgame of something delightful,\n00:05:09.000 then you're just moving chess pieces around,\n00:05:11.000 if you don't know you're taking the king.\n00:05:12.000 So perhaps we could develop a strategy of change,\n00:05:15.000 which requires humility. And in my business as an architect,\n00:05:18.000 it's unfortunate the word "humility" and the word

"architect"\n00:05:22.000 have not appeared in the same paragraph since "The Fountainhead."\n00:05:25.000 So if anybody here has trouble with the concept of design humility,\n00:05:30.000 reflect on this -- it took us 5,000 years\n00:05:33.000 to put wheels on our luggage.\n00:05:37.000 So, as Kevin Kelly pointed out, there is no endgame.\n00:05:42.000 There is an infinite game, and we're playing in that infinite game.\n00:05:46.000 And so we call it "cradle to cradle,"\n00:05:48.000 and our goal is very simple.\n00:05:49.000 This is what I presented to the White House.\n00:05:51.000 Our goal is a delightfully diverse, safe, healthy and just world,\n00:05:54.000 with clean air, clean water, soil and power --\n00:05:57.000 economically, equitably, ecologically and elegantly enjoyed, period.\n00:06:01.000 (Applause)\n00:06:04.000 What don't you like about this?\n00:06:07.000 Which part of this don't you like?\n00:06:09.000 So we realized we want full diversity,\n00:06:11.000 even though it can be difficult to remember what De Gaulle said\n00:06:14.000 when asked what it was like to be President of France.\n00:06:16.000 He said, "What do you think it's like trying to run a country with 400 kinds of cheese?"\n00:06:20.000 But at the same time, we realize that our products are not safe and healthy.\n00:06:23.000 So we've designed products\n00:06:25.000 and we analyzed chemicals down to the parts per million.\n00:06:27.000 This is a baby blanket by Pendleton that will give your child nutrition\n00:06:30.000 instead of Alzheimer's later in life.\n00:06:32.000 We can ask ourselves, what is justice,\n00:06:34.000 and is justice blind, or is justice blindness?\n00:06:38.000 And at what point did that uniform turn from white to black?\n00:06:43.000 Water has been declared a human right by the United Nations.\n00:06:46.000 Air quality is an obvious thing to anyone who breathes.\n00:06:48.000 Is there anybody here who doesn't breathe?\n00:06:51.000 Clean soil is a critical problem -- the nitrification, the dead zones\n00:06:54.000 in the Gulf of Mexico.\n00:06:56.000 A fundamental issue that's not being addressed.\n00:06:58.000 We've seen the first form of solar energy\n00:07:00.000 that's beat the hegemony of fossil fuels in the form of wind\n00:07:03.000 here in the Great Plains, and so that hegemony is leaving.\n00:07:06.000 And if we remember Sheikh Yamani when he formed OPEC,\n00:07:09.000 they asked him, "When will we see the end of the age of oil?"\n00:07:12.000 I don't know if you remember his answer, but it was,\n00:07:15.000 "The Stone Age didn't end because we ran out of stones."\n00:07:19.000 We see that companies acting ethically in this world\n00:07:23.000 are outperforming those that don't.\n00:07:24.000 We see the flows of materials in a rather terrifying prospect.\n00:07:29.000 This is a hospital monitor from Los Angeles, sent to China.\n00:07:32.000 This woman will expose herself to toxic phosphorous,\n00:07:35.000 release four pounds of toxic lead into her childrens' environment,\n00:07:38.000 which is from copper.\n00:07:40.000 On the other hand, we see great signs of hope.\n00:07:42.000 Here's Dr. Venkataswamy in India, who's figured out\n00:07:45.000 how to do mass-produced health.\n00:07:47.000 He has given eyesight to two million people for free.\n00:07:51.000 We see in our material flows that car steels don't become car steel again\n00:07:54.000 because of the contaminants of the coatings --\n00:07:56.000 bismuth, antimony, copper and so on.\n00:07:58.000 They become building steel.\n00:07:59.000 On the other hand, we're working with Berkshire Hathaway,\n00:08:01.000 Warren Buffett and Shaw Carpet,\n00:08:04.000 the largest carpet company in the world.\n00:08:05.000 We've developed a carpet that is continuously recyclable,\n00:08:08.000 down to the parts per million.\n00:08:11.000

The upper is Nylon 6 that can go back to caprolactam,\n00:08:14.000 the bottom, a polyolephine -- infinitely recyclable thermoplastic.\n00:08:17.000 Now if I was a bird, the building on my left is a liability.\n00:08:21.000 The building on my right, which is our corporate campus for The Gap\n00:08:24.000 with an ancient meadow, is an asset -- its nesting grounds.\n00:08:29.000 Here's where I come from. I grew up in Hong Kong,\n00:08:31.000 with six million people in 40 square miles.\n00:08:33.000 During the dry season, we had four hours of water every fourth day.\n00:08:37.000 And the relationship to landscape was that of farmers who have been\n00:08:40.000 farming the same piece of ground for 40 centuries.\n00:08:44.000 You can't farm the same piece of ground for 40 centuries\n00:08:46.000 without understanding nutrient flow.\n00:08:49.000 My childhood summers were in the Puget Sound of Washington,\n00:08:52.000 among the first growth and big growth.\n00:08:54.000 My grandfather had been a lumberjack in the Olympics,\n00:08:56.000 so I have a lot of tree karma I am working off.\n00:09:01.000 I went to Yale for graduate school,\n00:09:03.000 studied in a building of this style by Le Corbusier,\n00:09:05.000 affectionately known in our business as Brutalism.\n00:09:09.000 If we look at the world of architecture,\n00:09:12.000 we see with Mies' 1928 tower for Berlin,\n00:09:15.000 the question might be, "Well, where's the sun?"\n00:09:17.000 And this might have worked in Berlin, but we built it in Houston,\n00:09:20.000 and the windows are all closed. And with most products\n00:09:23.000 appearing not to have been designed for indoor use,\n00:09:25.000 this is actually a vertical gas chamber.\n00:09:28.000 When I went to Yale, we had the first energy crisis,\n00:09:31.000 and I was designing the first solar-heated house in Ireland\n00:09:33.000 as a student, which I then built -- \n00:09:35.000 which would give you a sense of my ambition.\n00:09:37.000 And Richard Meier, who was one of my teachers,\n00:09:39.000 kept coming over to my desk to give me criticism,\n00:09:41.000 and he would say, "Bill, you've got to understand- --\n00:09:43.000 solar energy has nothing to do with architecture."\n00:09:51.000 I guess he didn't read Vitruvius.\n00:09:53.000 In 1984, we did the first so-called "green office" in America\n00:09:57.000 for Environmental Defense.\n00:09:58.000 We started asking manufacturers what were in their materials.\n00:10:01.000 They said, "They're proprietary, they're legal, go away."\n00:10:03.000 The only indoor quality work done in this country at that time\n00:10:05.000 was sponsored by R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Company,\n00:10:08.000 and it was to prove there was no danger\n00:10:09.000 from secondhand smoke in the workplace.\n00:10:12.000 So, all of a sudden, here I am, graduating from high school in 1969,\n00:10:16.000 and this happens, and we realize that "away" went away.\n00:10:19.000 Remember we used to throw things away, and we'd point to away?\n00:10:23.000 And yet, NOAA has now shown us, for example --\n00:10:25.000 you see that little blue thing above Hawaii?\n00:10:27.000 That's the Pacific Gyre.\n00:10:28.000 It was recently dragged for plankton by scientists,\n00:10:30.000 and they found six times as much plastic as plankton.\n00:10:34.000 When asked, they said, "It's kind of like a giant toilet that doesn't flush."\n00:10:39.000 Perhaps that's away.\n00:10:40.000 So we're looking for the design rules of this -- \n00:10:42.000 this is the highest biodiversity of trees in the world, Irian Jaya,\n00:10:44.000 259 species of tree, and we described this\n00:10:48.000 in the book, "Cradle to Cradle."\n00:10:49.000 The book itself is a polymer. It is not a tree.\n00:10:53.000 That's the name of the first chapter -- "This Book

is Not a Tree."\n00:10:56.000 Because in poetics, as Margaret Atwood pointed out,\n00:10:59.000 "we write our history on the skin of fish\n00:11:01.000 with the blood of bears."\n00:11:04.000 And with so much polymer, what we really need\n00:11:05.000 is technical nutrition, and to use something\n00:11:08.000 as elegant as a tree -- imagine this design assignment:\n00:11:11.000 Design something that makes oxygen, sequesters carbon,\n00:11:13.000 fixes nitrogen, distills water, accrues solar energy as fuel,\n00:11:17.000 makes complex sugars and food, creates microclimates,\n00:11:21.000 changes colors with the seasons and self-replicates.\n00:11:27.000 Well, why don't we knock that down and write on it?\n00:11:29.000 (Laughter)\n00:11:35.000 So, we're looking at the same criteria\n00:11:37.000 as most people -- you know, can I afford it?\n00:11:39.000 Does it work? Do I like it?\n00:11:41.000 We're adding the Jeffersonian agenda, and I come from Charlottesville,\n00:11:43.000 where I've had the privilege of living in a house designed by Thomas Jefferson.\n00:11:47.000 We're adding life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.\n00:11:53.000 Now if we look at the word "competition,"\n00:11:54.000 I'm sure most of you've used it.\n00:11:56.000 You know, most people don't realize it comes from\n00:11:57.000 the Latin competere, which means strive together.\n00:12:00.000 It means the way Olympic athletes train with each other.\n00:12:03.000 They get fit together, and then they compete.\n00:12:06.000 The Williams sisters compete -- one wins Wimbledon.\n00:12:08.000 So we've been looking at the idea of competition\n00:12:11.000 as a way of cooperating in order to get fit together.\n00:12:15.000 And the Chinese government has now --\n00:12:16.000 I work with the Chinese government now --\n00:12:18.000 has taken this up.\n00:12:20.000 We're also looking at survival of the fittest,\n00:12:22.000 not in just competition terms in our modern context\n00:12:24.000 of destroy the other or beat them to the ground,\n00:12:27.000 but really to fit together and build niches\n00:12:29.000 and have growth that is good.\n00:12:31.000 Now most environmentalists don't say growth is good,\n00:12:33.000 because, in our lexicon, asphalt is two words: assigning blame.\n00:12:38.000 But if we look at asphalt as our growth,\n00:12:41.000 then we realize that all we're doing is destroying\n00:12:43.000 the planetary's fundamental underlying operating system.\n00:12:47.000 So when we see E equals mc squared come along, from a poet's perspective,\n00:12:52.000 we see energy as physics, chemistry as mass,\n00:12:54.000 and all of a sudden, you get this biology.\n00:12:56.000 And we have plenty of energy, so we'll solve that problem,\n00:12:59.000 but the biology problem's tricky, because as we put through\n00:13:02.000 all these toxic materials that we disgorge,\n00:13:05.000 we will never be able to recover that.\n00:13:07.000 And as Francis Crick pointed out, nine years\n00:13:09.000 after discovering DNA with Mr. Watson,\n00:13:12.000 that life itself has to have growth as a precondition --\n00:13:16.000 it has to have free energy, sunlight\n00:13:18.000 and it needs to be an open system of chemicals.\n00:13:21.000 So we're asking for human artifice to become a living thing,\n00:13:24.000 and we want growth, we want free energy from sunlight\n00:13:26.000 and we want an open metabolism for chemicals.\n00:13:29.000 Then, the question becomes not growth or no growth,\n00:13:31.000 but what do you want to grow?\n00:13:34.000 So instead of just growing destruction,\n00:13:36.000 we want to grow the things that we might enjoy,\n00:13:38.000 and someday the FDA will allow us to make French cheese.\n00:13:41.000 So therefore, we have these two metabolisms,\n00:13:45.000 and I

worked with a German chemist, Michael Braungart,\n00:13:47.000 and we've identified the two fundamental metabolisms.\n00:13:49.000 The biological one I'm sure you understand,\n00:13:51.000 but also the technical one, where we take materials\n00:13:53.000 and put them into closed cycles.\n00:13:55.000 We call them biological nutrition and technical nutrition.\n00:13:58.000 Technical nutrition will be in an order of magnitude of biological nutrition.\n00:14:02.000 Biological nutrition can supply about 500 million humans,\n00:14:05.000 which means that if we all wore Birkenstocks and cotton,\n00:14:07.000 the world would run out of cork and dry up.\n00:14:10.000 So we need materials in closed cycles,\n00:14:12.000 but we need to analyze them down to the parts per million\n00:14:14.000 for cancer, birth defects, mutagenic effects,\n00:14:17.000 disruption of our immune systems, biodegradation, persistence,\n00:14:20.000 heavy metal content, knowledge of how we're making them\n00:14:23.000 and their production and so on.\n00:14:25.000 Our first product was a textile where we analyzed 8,000 chemicals\n00:14:29.000 in the textile industry.\n00:14:30.000 Using those intellectual filters, we eliminated [7,962.]\n00:14:35.000 We were left with 38 chemicals.\n00:14:37.000 We have since databased the 4000 most commonly used chemicals\n00:14:40.000 in human manufacturing, and we're releasing this database into the public in six weeks.\n00:14:45.000 So designers all over the world can analyze their products\n00:14:47.000 down to the parts per million for human and ecological health.\n00:14:52.000 (Applause)\n00:14:57.000 We've developed a protocol so that companies can send\n00:15:00.000 these same messages all the way through their supply chains,\n00:15:03.000 because when we asked most companies we work with -- about a trillion dollars\n00:15:06.000 -- and say, "Where does your stuff come from?" They say, "Suppliers."\n00:15:08.000 "And where does it go?"\n00:15:10.000 "Customers."\n00:15:11.000 So we need some help there.\n00:15:12.000 So the biological nutrients, the first fabrics --\n00:15:14.000 the water coming out was clean enough to drink.\n00:15:16.000 Technical nutrients -- this is for Shaw Carpet, infinitely reusable carpet.\n00:15:20.000 Here's nylon going back to caprolactam back to carpet.\n00:15:23.000 Biotechnical nutrients -- the Model U for Ford Motor,\n00:15:26.000 a cradle to cradle car -- concept car.\n00:15:28.000 Shoes for Nike, where the uppers are polyesters, infinitely recyclable,\n00:15:32.000 the bottoms are biodegradable soles.\n00:15:35.000 Wear your old shoes in, your new shoes out.\n00:15:37.000 There is no finish line.\n00:15:39.000 The idea here of the car is that some of the materials\n00:15:41.000 go back to the industry forever, some of the materials go back to soil --\n00:15:44.000 it's all solar-powered.\n00:15:46.000 Here's a building at Oberlin College we designed\n00:15:48.000 that makes more energy than it needs to operate and purifies its own water.\n00:15:52.000 Here's a building for The Gap, where the ancient grasses\n00:15:54.000 of San Bruno, California, are on the roof.\n00:15:58.000 And this is our project for Ford Motor Company.\n00:16:00.000 It's the revitalization of the River Rouge in Dearborn.\n00:16:02.000 This is obviously a color photograph.\n00:16:06.000 These are our tools. These are how we sold it to Ford.\n00:16:10.000 We saved Ford 35 million dollars doing it this way, day one,\n00:16:13.000 which is the equivalent of the Ford Taurus\n00:16:15.000 at a four percent margin of an order for 900 million dollars worth of cars.\n00:16:19.000 Here it is. It's the world's largest green roof, 10 and a half acres.\n00:16:22.000 This is the roof, saving money,\n00:16:25.000 and this is the first species to arrive here. These are killdeer.\n00:16:29.000 They showed up in five

days.\n00:16:32.000 And we now have 350-pound auto workers\n00:16:34.000 learning bird songs on the Internet.\n00:16:38.000 We're developing now protocols for cities --\n00:16:40.000 that's the home of technical nutrients.\n00:16:42.000 The country -- the home of biological. And putting them together.\n00:16:45.000 And so I will finish by showing you a new city\n00:16:47.000 we're designing for the Chinese government.\n00:16:49.000 We're doing 12 cities for China right now,\n00:16:52.000 based on cradle to cradle as templates.\n00:16:54.000 Our assignment is to develop protocols for the housing\n00:16:57.000 for 400 million people in 12 years.\n00:16:59.000 We did a mass energy balance -- if they use brick,\n00:17:01.000 they will lose all their soil and burn all their coal.\n00:17:04.000 They'll have cities with no energy and no food.\n00:17:06.000 We signed a Memorandum of Understanding --\n00:17:08.000 here's Madam Deng Nan, Deng Xiaoping's daughter --\n00:17:10.000 for China to adopt cradle to cradle.\n00:17:12.000 Because if they toxify themselves, being the lowest-cost producer,\n00:17:16.000 send it to the lowest-cost distribution -- Wal-Mart --\n00:17:18.000 and then we send them all our money, what we'll discover is that\n00:17:21.000 we have what, effectively, when I was a student,\n00:17:24.000 was called mutually assured destruction.\n00:17:27.000 Now we do it by molecule. These are our cities.\n00:17:30.000 We're building a new city next to this city; look at that landscape.\n00:17:33.000 This is the site.\n00:17:35.000 We don't normally do green fields, but this one is about to be built,\n00:17:39.000 so they brought us in to intercede.\n00:17:41.000 This is their plan.\n00:17:43.000 It's a rubber stamp grid that they laid right on that landscape.\n00:17:46.000 And they brought us in and said, "What would you do?"\n00:17:49.000 This is what they would end up with, which is another color photograph.\n00:17:53.000 So this is the existing site, so this is what it looks like now,\n00:17:56.000 and here's our proposal.\n00:17:58.000 (Applause)\n00:18:02.000 So the way we approached this\n00:18:04.000 is we studied the hydrology very carefully.\n00:18:06.000 We studied the biota, the ancient biota,\n00:18:08.000 the current farming and the protocols.\n00:18:10.000 We studied the winds and the sun to make sure everybody in the city\n00:18:12.000 will have fresh air, fresh water and direct sunlight\n00:18:18.000 in every single apartment at some point during the day.\n00:18:21.000 We then take the parks and lay them out as ecological infrastructure.\n00:18:25.000 We lay out the building areas.\n00:18:28.000 We start to integrate commercial and mixed use\n00:18:29.000 so the people all have centers and places to be.\n00:18:32.000 The transportation is all very simple,\n00:18:34.000 everybody's within a five-minute walk of mobility.\n00:18:37.000 We have a 24-hour street, so that there's always a place that's alive.\n00:18:42.000 The waste systems all connect.\n00:18:44.000 If you flush a toilet, your feces will go to the sewage treatment plants,\n00:18:49.000 which are sold as assets, not liabilities.\n00:18:51.000 Because who wants the fertilizer factory that makes natural gas?\n00:18:55.000 The waters are all taken in to construct the wetlands for habitat restorations.\n00:19:00.000 And then it makes natural gas, which then goes back into the city\n00:19:04.000 to power the fuel for the cooking for the city.\n00:19:08.000 So this is -- these are fertilizer gas plants.\n00:19:10.000 And then the compost is all taken back\n00:19:13.000 to the roofs of the city, where we've got farming,\n00:19:15.000 because what we've done is lifted up the city,\n00:19:19.000 the landscape, into the air to -- to restore the native landscape\n00:19:26.000 on the roofs of the buildings.\n00:19:28.000 The solar power

of all the factory centers\n00:19:31.000 and all the industrial zones with their light roofs powers the city.\n00:19:34.000 And this is the concept for the top of the city.\n00:19:36.000 We've lifted the earth up onto the roofs.\n00:19:40.000 The farmers have little bridges to get from one roof to the next.\n00:19:44.000 We inhabit the city with work/live space on all the ground floors.\n00:19:48.000 And so this is the existing city, and this is the new city.\n00:19:53.000 (Applause)\n\nThe file is too long and its contents have been truncated.\n", "extra": {"cited_message_idx": 12, "search_result_idx": null, "evidence_text": "source"}}}, {"start_ix": 2571, "end_ix": 2582, "citation_format_type": "tether_og", "metadata": {"type": "file", "name": "tactiq-free-transcript-IoRjz8iTVoo.txt", "id": "file-QAdtwx5q5xmFsPgGvYJdRiuF", "source": "my_files", "text": "# tactiq.io free youtube transcript\n# Cradle to cradle design | William McDonough\n# https://www.youtube.com/watch/IoRjz8iTVoo\n\n00:00:26.000 In 1962, with Rachel Carson's "Silent Spring,"\n00:00:30.000 I think for people like me in the world of the making of things,\n00:00:35.000 the canary in the mine wasn't singing.\n00:00:39.000 And so the question that we might not have birds\n00:00:42.000 became kind of fundamental to those of us wandering around\n00:00:45.000 looking for the meadowlarks that seemed to have all disappeared.\n00:00:48.000 And the question was, were the birds singing?\n00:00:51.000 Now, I'm not a scientist, that'll be really clear.\n00:00:55.000 But, you know, we've just come from this discussion of what a bird might be.\n00:00:59.000 What is a bird?\n00:01:00.000 Well, in my world, this is a rubber duck.\n00:01:04.000 It comes in California with a warning --\n00:01:06.000 "This product contains chemicals known by the State of California\n00:01:09.000 to cause cancer and birth defects or other reproductive harm."\n00:01:16.000 This is a bird.\n00:01:19.000 What kind of culture would produce a product of this kind\n00:01:22.000 and then label it and sell it to children?\n00:01:27.000 I think we have a design problem.\n00:01:30.000 Someone heard the six hours of talk that I gave\n00:01:35.000 called "The Monticello Dialogues" on NPR, and sent me this as a thank you note --\n00:01:41.000 "We realize that design is a signal of intention,\n00:01:43.000 but it also has to occur within a world,\n00:01:46.000 and we have to understand that world in order to\n00:01:50.000 imbue our designs with inherent intelligence,\n00:01:53.000 and so as we look back at the basic state of affairs\n00:01:58.000 in which we design, we, in a way, need to go to the primordial condition\n00:02:03.000 to understand the operating system and the frame conditions of a planet,\n00:02:08.000 and I think the exciting part of that is the good news that's there,\n00:02:13.000 because the news is the news of abundance,\n00:02:16.000 and not the news of limits,\n00:02:18.000 and I think as our culture tortures itself now\n00:02:23.000 with tyrannies and concerns over limits and fear,\n00:02:28.000 we can add this other dimension of abundance that is coherent,\n00:02:33.000 driven by the sun, and start to imagine\n00:02:35.000 what that would be like to share."\n00:02:42.000 That was a nice thing to get.\n00:02:44.000 That was one sentence.\n00:02:48.000 Henry James would be proud.\n00:02:50.000 This is -- I put it down at the bottom,\n00:02:52.000 but that was extemporaneous, obviously.\n00:02:55.000 The fundamental issue is that, for me,\n00:02:58.000 design is the first signal of human intentions.\n00:03:00.000 So what are our intentions, and what would our intentions be --\n00:03:04.000 if we wake up in the morning, we have designs on the world --\n00:03:07.000 well, what would our intention be as a species\n00:03:09.000 now that we're the dominant species?\n00:03:11.000 And it's not just stewardship and dominion

debate,\n00:03:14.000 because really, dominion is implicit in stewardship --\n00:03:20.000 because how could you dominate something you had killed?\n00:03:22.000 And stewardship's implicit in dominion,\n00:03:24.000 because you can't be steward of something if you can't dominate it.\n00:03:26.000 So the question is, what is the first question for designers?\n00:03:32.000 Now, as guardians -- let's say the state, for example,\n00:03:35.000 which reserves the right to kill, the right to be duplicitous and so on --\n00:03:40.000 the question we're asking the guardian at this point is\n00:03:43.000 are we meant, how are we meant,\n00:03:45.000 to secure local societies, create world peace\n00:03:47.000 and save the environment?\n00:03:49.000 But I don't know that that's the common debate.\n00:03:52.000 Commerce, on the other hand, is relatively quick,\n00:03:56.000 essentially creative, highly effective and efficient,\n00:03:58.000 and fundamentally honest, because we can't exchange\n00:04:01.000 value for very long if we don't trust each other.\n00:04:05.000 So we use the tools of commerce primarily for our work,\n00:04:07.000 but the question we bring to it is,\n00:04:09.000 how do we love all the children of all species for all time?\n00:04:13.000 And so we start our designs with that question.\n00:04:16.000 Because what we realize today is that modern culture\n00:04:18.000 appears to have adopted a strategy of tragedy.\n00:04:21.000 If we come here and say, "Well, I didn't intend\n00:04:23.000 to cause global warming on the way here,"\n00:04:24.000 and we say, "That's not part of my plan,"\n00:04:26.000 then we realize it's part of our de facto plan.\n00:04:29.000 Because it's the thing that's happening because we have no other plan.\n00:04:32.000 And I was at the White House for President Bush,\n00:04:34.000 meeting with every federal department and agency,\n00:04:36.000 and I pointed out that they appear to have no plan.\n00:04:40.000 If the end game is global warming, they're doing great.\n00:04:42.000 If the end game is mercury toxification of our children\n00:04:45.000 downwind of coal fire plants as they scuttled the Clean Air Act,\n00:04:48.000 then I see that our education programs should be explicitly defined as,\n00:04:52.000 "Brain death for all children. No child left behind."\n00:04:54.000 (Applause)\n00:04:58.000 So, the question is, how many federal officials\n00:05:02.000 are ready to move to Ohio and Pennsylvania with their families?\n00:05:05.000 So if you don't have an endgame of something delightful,\n00:05:09.000 then you're just moving chess pieces around,\n00:05:11.000 if you don't know you're taking the king.\n00:05:12.000 So perhaps we could develop a strategy of change,\n00:05:15.000 which requires humility. And in my business as an architect,\n00:05:18.000 it's unfortunate the word "humility" and the word "architect"\n00:05:22.000 have not appeared in the same paragraph since "The Fountainhead."\n00:05:25.000 So if anybody here has trouble with the concept of design humility,\n00:05:30.000 reflect on this -- it took us 5,000 years\n00:05:33.000 to put wheels on our luggage.\n00:05:37.000 So, as Kevin Kelly pointed out, there is no endgame.\n00:05:42.000 There is an infinite game, and we're playing in that infinite game.\n00:05:46.000 And so we call it "cradle to cradle,"\n00:05:48.000 and our goal is very simple.\n00:05:49.000 This is what I presented to the White House.\n00:05:51.000 Our goal is a delightfully diverse, safe, healthy and just world,\n00:05:54.000 with clean air, clean water, soil and power --\n00:05:57.000 economically, equitably, ecologically and elegantly enjoyed, period.\n00:06:01.000 (Applause)\n00:06:04.000 What don't you like about

this?\n00:06:07.000 Which part of this don't you like?\n00:06:09.000 So we realized we want full diversity,\n00:06:11.000 even though it can be difficult to remember what De Gaulle said\n00:06:14.000 when asked what it was like to be President of France.\n00:06:16.000 He said, "What do you think it's like trying to run a country with 400 kinds of cheese?"\n00:06:20.000 But at the same time, we realize that our products are not safe and healthy.\n00:06:23.000 So we've designed products\n00:06:25.000 and we analyzed chemicals down to the parts per million.\n00:06:27.000 This is a baby blanket by Pendleton that will give your child nutrition\n00:06:30.000 instead of Alzheimer's later in life.\n00:06:32.000 We can ask ourselves, what is justice,\n00:06:34.000 and is justice blind, or is justice blindness?\n00:06:38.000 And at what point did that uniform turn from white to black?\n00:06:43.000 Water has been declared a human right by the United Nations.\n00:06:46.000 Air quality is an obvious thing to anyone who breathes.\n00:06:48.000 Is there anybody here who doesn't breathe?\n00:06:51.000 Clean soil is a critical problem -- the nitrification, the dead zones\n00:06:54.000 in the Gulf of Mexico.\n00:06:56.000 A fundamental issue that's not being addressed.\n00:06:58.000 We've seen the first form of solar energy\n00:07:00.000 that's beat the hegemony of fossil fuels in the form of wind\n00:07:03.000 here in the Great Plains, and so that hegemony is leaving.\n00:07:06.000 And if we remember Sheikh Yamani when he formed OPEC,\n00:07:09.000 they asked him, "When will we see the end of the age of oil?"\n00:07:12.000 I don't know if you remember his answer, but it was,\n00:07:15.000 "The Stone Age didn't end because we ran out of stones."\n00:07:19.000 We see that companies acting ethically in this world\n00:07:23.000 are outperforming those that don't.\n00:07:24.000 We see the flows of materials in a rather terrifying prospect.\n00:07:29.000 This is a hospital monitor from Los Angeles, sent to China.\n00:07:32.000 This woman will expose herself to toxic phosphorous,\n00:07:35.000 release four pounds of toxic lead into her childrens' environment,\n00:07:38.000 which is from copper.\n00:07:40.000 On the other hand, we see great signs of hope.\n00:07:42.000 Here's Dr. Venkataswamy in India, who's figured out\n00:07:45.000 how to do mass-produced health.\n00:07:47.000 He has given eyesight to two million people for free.\n00:07:51.000 We see in our material flows that car steels don't become car steel again\n00:07:54.000 because of the contaminants of the coatings --\n00:07:56.000 bismuth, antimony, copper and so on.\n00:07:58.000 They become building steel.\n00:07:59.000 On the other hand, we're working with Berkshire Hathaway,\n00:08:01.000 Warren Buffett and Shaw Carpet,\n00:08:04.000 the largest carpet company in the world.\n00:08:05.000 We've developed a carpet that is continuously recyclable,\n00:08:08.000 down to the parts per million.\n00:08:11.000 The upper is Nylon 6 that can go back to caprolactam,\n00:08:14.000 the bottom, a polyolephine -- infinitely recyclable thermoplastic.\n00:08:17.000 Now if I was a bird, the building on my left is a liability.\n00:08:21.000 The building on my right, which is our corporate campus for The Gap\n00:08:24.000 with an ancient meadow, is an asset -- its nesting grounds.\n00:08:29.000 Here's where I come from. I grew up in Hong Kong,\n00:08:31.000 with six million people in 40 square miles.\n00:08:33.000 During the dry season, we had four hours of water every fourth day.\n00:08:37.000 And the relationship to landscape was that of farmers who have been\n00:08:40.000 farming the same piece of ground for 40 centuries.\n00:08:44.000 You can't farm the same piece of ground for 40 centuries\n00:08:46.000 without understanding nutrient flow.\n00:08:49.000 My childhood summers were in the Puget Sound of

Washington,\n00:08:52.000 among the first growth and big growth.\n00:08:54.000 My grandfather had been a lumberjack in the Olympics,\n00:08:56.000 so I have a lot of tree karma I am working off.\n00:09:01.000 I went to Yale for graduate school,\n00:09:03.000 studied in a building of this style by Le Corbusier,\n00:09:05.000 affectionately known in our business as Brutalism.\n00:09:09.000 If we look at the world of architecture,\n00:09:12.000 we see with Mies' 1928 tower for Berlin,\n00:09:15.000 the question might be, "Well, where's the sun?"\n00:09:17.000 And this might have worked in Berlin, but we built it in Houston,\n00:09:20.000 and the windows are all closed. And with most products\n00:09:23.000 appearing not to have been designed for indoor use,\n00:09:25.000 this is actually a vertical gas chamber.\n00:09:28.000 When I went to Yale, we had the first energy crisis,\n00:09:31.000 and I was designing the first solar-heated house in Ireland\n00:09:33.000 as a student, which I then built --\n00:09:35.000 which would give you a sense of my ambition.\n00:09:37.000 And Richard Meier, who was one of my teachers,\n00:09:39.000 kept coming over to my desk to give me criticism,\n00:09:41.000 and he would say, "Bill, you've got to understand- --\n00:09:43.000 solar energy has nothing to do with architecture."\n00:09:51.000 I guess he didn't read Vitruvius.\n00:09:53.000 In 1984, we did the first so-called "green office" in America\n00:09:57.000 for Environmental Defense.\n00:09:58.000 We started asking manufacturers what were in their materials.\n00:10:01.000 They said, "They're proprietary, they're legal, go away."\n00:10:03.000 The only indoor quality work done in this country at that time\n00:10:05.000 was sponsored by R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Company,\n00:10:08.000 and it was to prove there was no danger\n00:10:09.000 from secondhand smoke in the workplace.\n00:10:12.000 So, all of a sudden, here I am, graduating from high school in 1969,\n00:10:16.000 and this happens, and we realize that "away" went away.\n00:10:19.000 Remember we used to throw things away, and we'd point to away?\n00:10:23.000 And yet, NOAA has now shown us, for example --\n00:10:25.000 you see that little blue thing above Hawaii?\n00:10:27.000 That's the Pacific Gyre.\n00:10:28.000 It was recently dragged for plankton by scientists,\n00:10:30.000 and they found six times as much plastic as plankton.\n00:10:34.000 When asked, they said, "It's kind of like a giant toilet that doesn't flush."\n00:10:39.000 Perhaps that's away.\n00:10:40.000 So we're looking for the design rules of this --\n00:10:42.000 this is the highest biodiversity of trees in the world, Irian Jaya,\n00:10:44.000 259 species of tree, and we described this\n00:10:48.000 in the book, "Cradle to Cradle."\n00:10:49.000 The book itself is a polymer. It is not a tree.\n00:10:53.000 That's the name of the first chapter -- "This Book is Not a Tree."\n00:10:56.000 Because in poetics, as Margaret Atwood pointed out,\n00:10:59.000 "we write our history on the skin of fish\n00:11:01.000 with the blood of bears."\n00:11:04.000 And with so much polymer, what we really need\n00:11:05.000 is technical nutrition, and to use something\n00:11:08.000 as elegant as a tree -- imagine this design assignment:\n00:11:11.000 Design something that makes oxygen, sequesters carbon,\n00:11:13.000 fixes nitrogen, distills water, accrues solar energy as fuel,\n00:11:17.000 makes complex sugars and food, creates microclimates,\n00:11:21.000 changes colors with the seasons and self-replicates.\n00:11:27.000 Well, why don't we knock that down and write on it?\n00:11:29.000 (Laughter)\n00:11:35.000 So, we're looking at the same criteria\n00:11:37.000 as most people -- you know, can I afford it?\n00:11:39.000 Does

it work? Do I like it?\n00:11:41.000 We're adding the Jeffersonian agenda, and I come from Charlottesville,\n00:11:43.000 where I've had the privilege of living in a house designed by Thomas Jefferson.\n00:11:47.000 We're adding life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.\n00:11:53.000 Now if we look at the word "competition,"\n00:11:54.000 I'm sure most of you've used it.\n00:11:56.000 You know, most people don't realize it comes from\n00:11:57.000 the Latin competere, which means strive together.\n00:12:00.000 It means the way Olympic athletes train with each other.\n00:12:03.000 They get fit together, and then they compete.\n00:12:06.000 The Williams sisters compete -- one wins Wimbledon.\n00:12:08.000 So we've been looking at the idea of competition\n00:12:11.000 as a way of cooperating in order to get fit together.\n00:12:15.000 And the Chinese government has now --\n00:12:16.000 I work with the Chinese government now --\n00:12:18.000 has taken this up.\n00:12:20.000 We're also looking at survival of the fittest,\n00:12:22.000 not in just competition terms in our modern context\n00:12:24.000 of destroy the other or beat them to the ground,\n00:12:27.000 but really to fit together and build niches\n00:12:29.000 and have growth that is good.\n00:12:31.000 Now most environmentalists don't say growth is good,\n00:12:33.000 because, in our lexicon, asphalt is two words: assigning blame.\n00:12:38.000 But if we look at asphalt as our growth,\n00:12:41.000 then we realize that all we're doing is destroying\n00:12:43.000 the planetary's fundamental underlying operating system.\n00:12:47.000 So when we see E equals mc squared come along, from a poet's perspective,\n00:12:52.000 we see energy as physics, chemistry as mass,\n00:12:54.000 and all of a sudden, you get this biology.\n00:12:56.000 And we have plenty of energy, so we'll solve that problem,\n00:12:59.000 but the biology problem's tricky, because as we put through\n00:13:02.000 all these toxic materials that we disgorge,\n00:13:05.000 we will never be able to recover that.\n00:13:07.000 And as Francis Crick pointed out, nine years\n00:13:09.000 after discovering DNA with Mr. Watson,\n00:13:12.000 that life itself has to have growth as a precondition --\n00:13:16.000 it has to have free energy, sunlight\n00:13:18.000 and it needs to be an open system of chemicals.\n00:13:21.000 So we're asking for human artifice to become a living thing,\n00:13:24.000 and we want growth, we want free energy from sunlight\n00:13:26.000 and we want an open metabolism for chemicals.\n00:13:29.000 Then, the question becomes not growth or no growth,\n00:13:31.000 but what do you want to grow?\n00:13:34.000 So instead of just growing destruction,\n00:13:36.000 we want to grow the things that we might enjoy,\n00:13:38.000 and someday the FDA will allow us to make French cheese.\n00:13:41.000 So therefore, we have these two metabolisms,\n00:13:45.000 and I worked with a German chemist, Michael Braungart,\n00:13:47.000 and we've identified the two fundamental metabolisms.\n00:13:49.000 The biological one I'm sure you understand,\n00:13:51.000 but also the technical one, where we take materials\n00:13:53.000 and put them into closed cycles.\n00:13:55.000 We call them biological nutrition and technical nutrition.\n00:13:58.000 Technical nutrition will be in an order of magnitude of biological nutrition.\n00:14:02.000 Biological nutrition can supply about 500 million humans,\n00:14:05.000 which means that if we all wore Birkenstocks and cotton,\n00:14:07.000 the world would run out of cork and dry up.\n00:14:10.000 So we need materials in closed cycles,\n00:14:12.000 but we need to analyze them down to the parts per million\n00:14:14.000 for cancer, birth defects, mutagenic effects,\n00:14:17.000 disruption of our immune systems, biodegradation,

persistence,\n00:14:20.000 heavy metal content, knowledge of how we're making them\n00:14:23.000 and their production and so on.\n00:14:25.000 Our first product was a textile where we analyzed 8,000 chemicals\n00:14:29.000 in the textile industry.\n00:14:30.000 Using those intellectual filters, we eliminated [7,962.]\n00:14:35.000 We were left with 38 chemicals.\n00:14:37.000 We have since databased the 4000 most commonly used chemicals\n00:14:40.000 in human manufacturing, and we're releasing this database into the public in six weeks.\n00:14:45.000 So designers all over the world can analyze their products\n00:14:47.000 down to the parts per million for human and ecological health.\n00:14:52.000 (Applause)\n00:14:57.000 We've developed a protocol so that companies can send\n00:15:00.000 these same messages all the way through their supply chains,\n00:15:03.000 because when we asked most companies we work with -- about a trillion dollars\n00:15:06.000 -- and say, "Where does your stuff come from?" They say, "Suppliers."\n00:15:08.000 "And where does it go?"\n00:15:10.000 "Customers."\n00:15:11.000 So we need some help there.\n00:15:12.000 So the biological nutrients, the first fabrics --\n00:15:14.000 the water coming out was clean enough to drink.\n00:15:16.000 Technical nutrients -- this is for Shaw Carpet, infinitely reusable carpet.\n00:15:20.000 Here's nylon going back to caprolactam back to carpet.\n00:15:23.000 Biotechnical nutrients -- the Model U for Ford Motor,\n00:15:26.000 a cradle to cradle car -- concept car.\n00:15:28.000 Shoes for Nike, where the uppers are polyesters, infinitely recyclable,\n00:15:32.000 the bottoms are biodegradable soles.\n00:15:35.000 Wear your old shoes in, your new shoes out.\n00:15:37.000 There is no finish line.\n00:15:39.000 The idea here of the car is that some of the materials\n00:15:41.000 go back to the industry forever, some of the materials go back to soil --\n00:15:44.000 it's all solar-powered.\n00:15:46.000 Here's a building at Oberlin College we designed\n00:15:48.000 that makes more energy than it needs to operate and purifies its own water.\n00:15:52.000 Here's a building for The Gap, where the ancient grasses\n00:15:54.000 of San Bruno, California, are on the roof.\n00:15:58.000 And this is our project for Ford Motor Company.\n00:16:00.000 It's the revitalization of the River Rouge in Dearborn.\n00:16:02.000 This is obviously a color photograph.\n00:16:06.000 These are our tools. These are how we sold it to Ford.\n00:16:10.000 We saved Ford 35 million dollars doing it this way, day one,\n00:16:13.000 which is the equivalent of the Ford Taurus\n00:16:15.000 at a four percent margin of an order for 900 million dollars worth of cars.\n00:16:19.000 Here it is. It's the world's largest green roof, 10 and a half acres.\n00:16:22.000 This is the roof, saving money,\n00:16:25.000 and this is the first species to arrive here. These are killdeer.\n00:16:29.000 They showed up in five days.\n00:16:32.000 And we now have 350-pound auto workers\n00:16:34.000 learning bird songs on the Internet.\n00:16:38.000 We're developing now protocols for cities --\n00:16:40.000 that's the home of technical nutrients.\n00:16:42.000 The country -- the home of biological. And putting them together.\n00:16:45.000 And so I will finish by showing you a new city\n00:16:47.000 we're designing for the Chinese government.\n00:16:49.000 We're doing 12 cities for China right now,\n00:16:52.000 based on cradle to cradle as templates.\n00:16:54.000 Our assignment is to develop protocols for the housing\n00:16:57.000 for 400 million people in 12 years.\n00:16:59.000 We did a mass energy balance -- if they use brick,\n00:17:01.000 they will lose all their soil and burn all their coal.\n00:17:04.000 They'll have cities with no energy and no food.\n00:17:06.000

We signed a Memorandum of Understanding --\n00:17:08.000 here's Madam Deng Nan, Deng Xiaoping's daughter --\n00:17:10.000 for China to adopt cradle to cradle.\n00:17:12.000 Because if they toxify themselves, being the lowest-cost producer,\n00:17:16.000 send it to the lowest-cost distribution -- Wal-Mart --\n00:17:18.000 and then we send them all our money, what we'll discover is that\n00:17:21.000 we have what, effectively, when I was a student,\n00:17:24.000 was called mutually assured destruction.\n00:17:27.000 Now we do it by molecule. These are our cities.\n00:17:30.000 We're building a new city next to this city; look at that landscape.\n00:17:33.000 This is the site.\n00:17:35.000 We don't normally do green fields, but this one is about to be built,\n00:17:39.000 so they brought us in to intercede.\n00:17:41.000 This is their plan.\n00:17:43.000 It's a rubber stamp grid that they laid right on that landscape.\n00:17:46.000 And they brought us in and said, "What would you do?"\n00:17:49.000 This is what they would end up with, which is another color photograph.\n00:17:53.000 So this is the existing site, so this is what it looks like now,\n00:17:56.000 and here's our proposal.\n00:17:58.000 (Applause)\n00:18:02.000 So the way we approached this\n00:18:04.000 is we studied the hydrology very carefully.\n00:18:06.000 We studied the biota, the ancient biota,\n00:18:08.000 the current farming and the protocols.\n00:18:10.000 We studied the winds and the sun to make sure everybody in the city\n00:18:12.000 will have fresh air, fresh water and direct sunlight\n00:18:18.000 in every single apartment at some point during the day.\n00:18:21.000 We then take the parks and lay them out as ecological infrastructure.\n00:18:25.000 We lay out the building areas.\n00:18:28.000 We start to integrate commercial and mixed use\n00:18:29.000 so the people all have centers and places to be.\n00:18:32.000 The transportation is all very simple,\n00:18:34.000 everybody's within a five-minute walk of mobility.\n00:18:37.000 We have a 24-hour street, so that there's always a place that's alive.\n00:18:42.000 The waste systems all connect.\n00:18:44.000 If you flush a toilet, your feces will go to the sewage treatment plants,\n00:18:49.000 which are sold as assets, not liabilities.\n00:18:51.000 Because who wants the fertilizer factory that makes natural gas?\n00:18:55.000 The waters are all taken in to construct the wetlands for habitat restorations.\n00:19:00.000 And then it makes natural gas, which then goes back into the city\n00:19:04.000 to power the fuel for the cooking for the city.\n00:19:08.000 So this is -- these are fertilizer gas plants.\n00:19:10.000 And then the compost is all taken back\n00:19:13.000 to the roofs of the city, where we've got farming,\n00:19:15.000 because what we've done is lifted up the city,\n00:19:19.000 the landscape, into the air to -- to restore the native landscape\n00:19:26.000 on the roofs of the buildings.\n00:19:28.000 The solar power of all the factory centers\n00:19:31.000 and all the industrial zones with their light roofs powers the city.\n00:19:34.000 And this is the concept for the top of the city.\n00:19:36.000 We've lifted the earth up onto the roofs.\n00:19:40.000 The farmers have little bridges to get from one roof to the next.\n00:19:44.000 We inhabit the city with work/live space on all the ground floors.\n00:19:48.000 And so this is the existing city, and this is the new city.\n00:19:53.000 (Applause)\n\nThe file is too long and its contents have been truncated.\n", "extra": {"cited_message_idx": 12, "search_result_idx": null, "evidence_text": "source"}}}, {"start_ix": 2960, "end_ix": 2971, "citation_format_type": "tether_og", "metadata": {"type": "file", "name": "tactiq-free-transcript-IoRjz8iTVoo.txt", "id": "file-QAdtwx5q5xmFsPgGvYJdRiuF", "source": "my_files", "text": "# tactiq.io free youtube transcript\n# Cradle to cradle

design | William McDonough\n#
https://www.youtube.com/watch/IoRjz8iTVoo\n\n00:00:26.000 In 1962, with Rachel Carson's "Silent Spring,"\n00:00:30.000 I think for people like me in the world of the making of things,\n00:00:35.000 the canary in the mine wasn't singing.\n00:00:39.000 And so the question that we might not have birds\n00:00:42.000 became kind of fundamental to those of us wandering around\n00:00:45.000 looking for the meadowlarks that seemed to have all disappeared.\n00:00:48.000 And the question was, were the birds singing?\n00:00:51.000 Now, I'm not a scientist, that'll be really clear.\n00:00:55.000 But, you know, we've just come from this discussion of what a bird might be.\n00:00:59.000 What is a bird?\n00:01:00.000 Well, in my world, this is a rubber duck.\n00:01:04.000 It comes in California with a warning --\n00:01:06.000 "This product contains chemicals known by the State of California\n00:01:09.000 to cause cancer and birth defects or other reproductive harm."\n00:01:16.000 This is a bird.\n00:01:19.000 What kind of culture would produce a product of this kind\n00:01:22.000 and then label it and sell it to children?\n00:01:27.000 I think we have a design problem.\n00:01:30.000 Someone heard the six hours of talk that I gave\n00:01:35.000 called "The Monticello Dialogues" on NPR, and sent me this as a thank you note --\n00:01:41.000 "We realize that design is a signal of intention,\n00:01:43.000 but it also has to occur within a world,\n00:01:46.000 and we have to understand that world in order to\n00:01:50.000 imbue our designs with inherent intelligence,\n00:01:53.000 and so as we look back at the basic state of affairs\n00:01:58.000 in which we design, we, in a way, need to go to the primordial condition\n00:02:03.000 to understand the operating system and the frame conditions of a planet,\n00:02:08.000 and I think the exciting part of that is the good news that's there,\n00:02:13.000 because the news is the news of abundance,\n00:02:16.000 and not the news of limits,\n00:02:18.000 and I think as our culture tortures itself now\n00:02:23.000 with tyrannies and concerns over limits and fear,\n00:02:28.000 we can add this other dimension of abundance that is coherent,\n00:02:33.000 driven by the sun, and start to imagine\n00:02:35.000 what that would be like to share."\n00:02:42.000 That was a nice thing to get.\n00:02:44.000 That was one sentence.\n00:02:48.000 Henry James would be proud.\n00:02:50.000 This is -- I put it down at the bottom,\n00:02:52.000 but that was extemporaneous, obviously.\n00:02:55.000 The fundamental issue is that, for me,\n00:02:58.000 design is the first signal of human intentions.\n00:03:00.000 So what are our intentions, and what would our intentions be --\n00:03:04.000 if we wake up in the morning, we have designs on the world --\n00:03:07.000 well, what would our intention be as a species\n00:03:09.000 now that we're the dominant species?\n00:03:11.000 And it's not just stewardship and dominion debate,\n00:03:14.000 because really, dominion is implicit in stewardship --\n00:03:20.000 because how could you dominate something you had killed?\n00:03:22.000 And stewardship's implicit in dominion,\n00:03:24.000 because you can't be steward of something if you can't dominate it.\n00:03:26.000 So the question is, what is the first question for designers?\n00:03:32.000 Now, as guardians -- let's say the state, for example,\n00:03:35.000 which reserves the right to kill, the right to be duplicitous and so on --\n00:03:40.000 the question we're asking the guardian at this point is\n00:03:43.000 are we meant, how are we meant,\n00:03:45.000 to secure local societies, create world peace\n00:03:47.000 and save the environment?\n00:03:49.000 But I don't know that that's the common debate.\n00:03:52.000 Commerce, on the other hand, is relatively quick,\n00:03:56.000

essentially creative, highly effective and efficient,\n00:03:58.000 and fundamentally honest, because we can't exchange\n00:04:01.000 value for very long if we don't trust each other.\n00:04:05.000 So we use the tools of commerce primarily for our work,\n00:04:07.000 but the question we bring to it is,\n00:04:09.000 how do we love all the children of all species for all time?\n00:04:13.000 And so we start our designs with that question.\n00:04:16.000 Because what we realize today is that modern culture\n00:04:18.000 appears to have adopted a strategy of tragedy.\n00:04:21.000 If we come here and say, "Well, I didn't intend\n00:04:23.000 to cause global warming on the way here,"\n00:04:24.000 and we say, "That's not part of my plan,"\n00:04:26.000 then we realize it's part of our de facto plan.\n00:04:29.000 Because it's the thing that's happening because we have no other plan.\n00:04:32.000 And I was at the White House for President Bush,\n00:04:34.000 meeting with every federal department and agency,\n00:04:36.000 and I pointed out that they appear to have no plan.\n00:04:40.000 If the end game is global warming, they're doing great.\n00:04:42.000 If the end game is mercury toxification of our children\n00:04:45.000 downwind of coal fire plants as they scuttled the Clean Air Act,\n00:04:48.000 then I see that our education programs should be explicitly defined as,\n00:04:52.000 "Brain death for all children. No child left behind."\n00:04:54.000 (Applause)\n00:04:58.000 So, the question is, how many federal officials\n00:05:02.000 are ready to move to Ohio and Pennsylvania with their families?\n00:05:05.000 So if you don't have an endgame of something delightful,\n00:05:09.000 then you're just moving chess pieces around,\n00:05:11.000 if you don't know you're taking the king.\n00:05:12.000 So perhaps we could develop a strategy of change,\n00:05:15.000 which requires humility. And in my business as an architect,\n00:05:18.000 it's unfortunate the word "humility" and the word "architect"\n00:05:22.000 have not appeared in the same paragraph since "The Fountainhead."\n00:05:25.000 So if anybody here has trouble with the concept of design humility,\n00:05:30.000 reflect on this -- it took us 5,000 years\n00:05:33.000 to put wheels on our luggage.\n00:05:37.000 So, as Kevin Kelly pointed out, there is no endgame.\n00:05:42.000 There is an infinite game, and we're playing in that infinite game.\n00:05:46.000 And so we call it "cradle to cradle,"\n00:05:48.000 and our goal is very simple.\n00:05:49.000 This is what I presented to the White House.\n00:05:51.000 Our goal is a delightfully diverse, safe, healthy and just world,\n00:05:54.000 with clean air, clean water, soil and power --\n00:05:57.000 economically, equitably, ecologically and elegantly enjoyed, period.\n00:06:01.000 (Applause)\n00:06:04.000 What don't you like about this?\n00:06:07.000 Which part of this don't you like?\n00:06:09.000 So we realized we want full diversity,\n00:06:11.000 even though it can be difficult to remember what De Gaulle said\n00:06:14.000 when asked what it was like to be President of France.\n00:06:16.000 He said, "What do you think it's like trying to run a country with 400 kinds of cheese?"\n00:06:20.000 But at the same time, we realize that our products are not safe and healthy.\n00:06:23.000 So we've designed products\n00:06:25.000 and we analyzed chemicals down to the parts per million.\n00:06:27.000 This is a baby blanket by Pendleton that will give your child nutrition\n00:06:30.000 instead of Alzheimer's later in life.\n00:06:32.000 We can ask ourselves, what is justice,\n00:06:34.000 and is justice blind, or is justice blindness?\n00:06:38.000 And at what point did that uniform turn from white to

black?\n00:06:43.000 Water has been declared a human right by the United Nations.\n00:06:46.000 Air quality is an obvious thing to anyone who breathes.\n00:06:48.000 Is there anybody here who doesn't breathe?\n00:06:51.000 Clean soil is a critical problem -- the nitrification, the dead zones\n00:06:54.000 in the Gulf of Mexico.\n00:06:56.000 A fundamental issue that's not being addressed.\n00:06:58.000 We've seen the first form of solar energy\n00:07:00.000 that's beat the hegemony of fossil fuels in the form of wind\n00:07:03.000 here in the Great Plains, and so that hegemony is leaving.\n00:07:06.000 And if we remember Sheikh Yamani when he formed OPEC,\n00:07:09.000 they asked him, "When will we see the end of the age of oil?"\n00:07:12.000 I don't know if you remember his answer, but it was,\n00:07:15.000 "The Stone Age didn't end because we ran out of stones."\n00:07:19.000 We see that companies acting ethically in this world\n00:07:23.000 are outperforming those that don't.\n00:07:24.000 We see the flows of materials in a rather terrifying prospect.\n00:07:29.000 This is a hospital monitor from Los Angeles, sent to China.\n00:07:32.000 This woman will expose herself to toxic phosphorous,\n00:07:35.000 release four pounds of toxic lead into her childrens' environment,\n00:07:38.000 which is from copper.\n00:07:40.000 On the other hand, we see great signs of hope.\n00:07:42.000 Here's Dr. Venkataswamy in India, who's figured out\n00:07:45.000 how to do mass-produced health.\n00:07:47.000 He has given eyesight to two million people for free.\n00:07:51.000 We see in our material flows that car steels don't become car steel again\n00:07:54.000 because of the contaminants of the coatings --\n00:07:56.000 bismuth, antimony, copper and so on.\n00:07:58.000 They become building steel.\n00:07:59.000 On the other hand, we're working with Berkshire Hathaway,\n00:08:01.000 Warren Buffett and Shaw Carpet,\n00:08:04.000 the largest carpet company in the world.\n00:08:05.000 We've developed a carpet that is continuously recyclable,\n00:08:08.000 down to the parts per million.\n00:08:11.000 The upper is Nylon 6 that can go back to caprolactam,\n00:08:14.000 the bottom, a polyolephine -- infinitely recyclable thermoplastic.\n00:08:17.000 Now if I was a bird, the building on my left is a liability.\n00:08:21.000 The building on my right, which is our corporate campus for The Gap\n00:08:24.000 with an ancient meadow, is an asset -- its nesting grounds.\n00:08:29.000 Here's where I come from. I grew up in Hong Kong,\n00:08:31.000 with six million people in 40 square miles.\n00:08:33.000 During the dry season, we had four hours of water every fourth day.\n00:08:37.000 And the relationship to landscape was that of farmers who have been\n00:08:40.000 farming the same piece of ground for 40 centuries.\n00:08:44.000 You can't farm the same piece of ground for 40 centuries\n00:08:46.000 without understanding nutrient flow.\n00:08:49.000 My childhood summers were in the Puget Sound of Washington,\n00:08:52.000 among the first growth and big growth.\n00:08:54.000 My grandfather had been a lumberjack in the Olympics,\n00:08:56.000 so I have a lot of tree karma I am working off.\n00:09:01.000 I went to Yale for graduate school,\n00:09:03.000 studied in a building of this style by Le Corbusier,\n00:09:05.000 affectionately known in our business as Brutalism.\n00:09:09.000 If we look at the world of architecture,\n00:09:12.000 we see with Mies' 1928 tower for Berlin,\n00:09:15.000 the question might be, "Well, where's the sun?"\n00:09:17.000 And this might have worked in Berlin, but we built it in Houston,\n00:09:20.000 and the windows are all closed. And with most products\n00:09:23.000 appearing not to have been designed for indoor use,\n00:09:25.000 this is actually a vertical gas chamber.\n00:09:28.000 When I went

to Yale, we had the first energy crisis,\n00:09:31.000 and I was designing the first solar-heated house in Ireland\n00:09:33.000 as a student, which I then built --\n00:09:35.000 which would give you a sense of my ambition.\n00:09:37.000 And Richard Meier, who was one of my teachers,\n00:09:39.000 kept coming over to my desk to give me criticism,\n00:09:41.000 and he would say, "Bill, you've got to understand- --\n00:09:43.000 solar energy has nothing to do with architecture."\n00:09:51.000 I guess he didn't read Vitruvius.\n00:09:53.000 In 1984, we did the first so-called "green office" in America\n00:09:57.000 for Environmental Defense.\n00:09:58.000 We started asking manufacturers what were in their materials.\n00:10:01.000 They said, "They're proprietary, they're legal, go away."\n00:10:03.000 The only indoor quality work done in this country at that time\n00:10:05.000 was sponsored by R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Company,\n00:10:08.000 and it was to prove there was no danger\n00:10:09.000 from secondhand smoke in the workplace.\n00:10:12.000 So, all of a sudden, here I am, graduating from high school in 1969,\n00:10:16.000 and this happens, and we realize that "away" went away.\n00:10:19.000 Remember we used to throw things away, and we'd point to away?\n00:10:23.000 And yet, NOAA has now shown us, for example --\n00:10:25.000 you see that little blue thing above Hawaii?\n00:10:27.000 That's the Pacific Gyre.\n00:10:28.000 It was recently dragged for plankton by scientists,\n00:10:30.000 and they found six times as much plastic as plankton.\n00:10:34.000 When asked, they said, "It's kind of like a giant toilet that doesn't flush."\n00:10:39.000 Perhaps that's away.\n00:10:40.000 So we're looking for the design rules of this --\n00:10:42.000 this is the highest biodiversity of trees in the world, Irian Jaya,\n00:10:44.000 259 species of tree, and we described this\n00:10:48.000 in the book, "Cradle to Cradle."\n00:10:49.000 The book itself is a polymer. It is not a tree.\n00:10:53.000 That's the name of the first chapter -- "This Book is Not a Tree."\n00:10:56.000 Because in poetics, as Margaret Atwood pointed out,\n00:10:59.000 "we write our history on the skin of fish\n00:11:01.000 with the blood of bears."\n00:11:04.000 And with so much polymer, what we really need\n00:11:05.000 is technical nutrition, and to use something\n00:11:08.000 as elegant as a tree -- imagine this design assignment:\n00:11:11.000 Design something that makes oxygen, sequesters carbon,\n00:11:13.000 fixes nitrogen, distills water, accrues solar energy as fuel,\n00:11:17.000 makes complex sugars and food, creates microclimates,\n00:11:21.000 changes colors with the seasons and self-replicates.\n00:11:27.000 Well, why don't we knock that down and write on it?\n00:11:29.000 (Laughter)\n00:11:35.000 So, we're looking at the same criteria\n00:11:37.000 as most people -- you know, can I afford it?\n00:11:39.000 Does it work? Do I like it?\n00:11:41.000 We're adding the Jeffersonian agenda, and I come from Charlottesville,\n00:11:43.000 where I've had the privilege of living in a house designed by Thomas Jefferson.\n00:11:47.000 We're adding life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.\n00:11:53.000 Now if we look at the word "competition,"\n00:11:54.000 I'm sure most of you've used it.\n00:11:56.000 You know, most people don't realize it comes from\n00:11:57.000 the Latin competere, which means strive together.\n00:12:00.000 It means the way Olympic athletes train with each other.\n00:12:03.000 They get fit together, and then they compete.\n00:12:06.000 The Williams sisters compete -- one wins Wimbledon.\n00:12:08.000 So we've been looking at the idea of competition\n00:12:11.000 as a way of cooperating in order to get fit

together.\n00:12:15.000 And the Chinese government has now --\n00:12:16.000 I work with the Chinese government now --\n00:12:18.000 has taken this up.\n00:12:20.000 We're also looking at survival of the fittest,\n00:12:22.000 not in just competition terms in our modern context\n00:12:24.000 of destroy the other or beat them to the ground,\n00:12:27.000 but really to fit together and build niches\n00:12:29.000 and have growth that is good.\n00:12:31.000 Now most environmentalists don't say growth is good,\n00:12:33.000 because, in our lexicon, asphalt is two words: assigning blame.\n00:12:38.000 But if we look at asphalt as our growth,\n00:12:41.000 then we realize that all we're doing is destroying\n00:12:43.000 the planetary's fundamental underlying operating system.\n00:12:47.000 So when we see E equals mc squared come along, from a poet's perspective,\n00:12:52.000 we see energy as physics, chemistry as mass,\n00:12:54.000 and all of a sudden, you get this biology.\n00:12:56.000 And we have plenty of energy, so we'll solve that problem,\n00:12:59.000 but the biology problem's tricky, because as we put through\n00:13:02.000 all these toxic materials that we disgorge,\n00:13:05.000 we will never be able to recover that.\n00:13:07.000 And as Francis Crick pointed out, nine years\n00:13:09.000 after discovering DNA with Mr. Watson,\n00:13:12.000 that life itself has to have growth as a precondition --\n00:13:16.000 it has to have free energy, sunlight\n00:13:18.000 and it needs to be an open system of chemicals.\n00:13:21.000 So we're asking for human artifice to become a living thing,\n00:13:24.000 and we want growth, we want free energy from sunlight\n00:13:26.000 and we want an open metabolism for chemicals.\n00:13:29.000 Then, the question becomes not growth or no growth,\n00:13:31.000 but what do you want to grow?\n00:13:34.000 So instead of just growing destruction,\n00:13:36.000 we want to grow the things that we might enjoy,\n00:13:38.000 and someday the FDA will allow us to make French cheese.\n00:13:41.000 So therefore, we have these two metabolisms,\n00:13:45.000 and I worked with a German chemist, Michael Braungart,\n00:13:47.000 and we've identified the two fundamental metabolisms.\n00:13:49.000 The biological one I'm sure you understand,\n00:13:51.000 but also the technical one, where we take materials\n00:13:53.000 and put them into closed cycles.\n00:13:55.000 We call them biological nutrition and technical nutrition.\n00:13:58.000 Technical nutrition will be in an order of magnitude of biological nutrition.\n00:14:02.000 Biological nutrition can supply about 500 million humans,\n00:14:05.000 which means that if we all wore Birkenstocks and cotton,\n00:14:07.000 the world would run out of cork and dry up.\n00:14:10.000 So we need materials in closed cycles,\n00:14:12.000 but we need to analyze them down to the parts per million\n00:14:14.000 for cancer, birth defects, mutagenic effects,\n00:14:17.000 disruption of our immune systems, biodegradation, persistence,\n00:14:20.000 heavy metal content, knowledge of how we're making them\n00:14:23.000 and their production and so on.\n00:14:25.000 Our first product was a textile where we analyzed 8,000 chemicals\n00:14:29.000 in the textile industry.\n00:14:30.000 Using those intellectual filters, we eliminated [7,962.]\n00:14:35.000 We were left with 38 chemicals.\n00:14:37.000 We have since databased the 4000 most commonly used chemicals\n00:14:40.000 in human manufacturing, and we're releasing this database into the public in six weeks.\n00:14:45.000 So designers all over the world can analyze their products\n00:14:47.000 down to the parts per million for human and ecological health.\n00:14:52.000 (Applause)\n00:14:57.000 We've developed a protocol so that companies can send\n00:15:00.000 these same messages all the way through their supply

chains,\n00:15:03.000 because when we asked most companies we work with -- about a trillion dollars\n00:15:06.000 -- and say, "Where does your stuff come from?" They say, "Suppliers."\n00:15:08.000 "And where does it go?"\n00:15:10.000 "Customers."\n00:15:11.000 So we need some help there.\n00:15:12.000 So the biological nutrients, the first fabrics --\n00:15:14.000 the water coming out was clean enough to drink.\n00:15:16.000 Technical nutrients -- this is for Shaw Carpet, infinitely reusable carpet.\n00:15:20.000 Here's nylon going back to caprolactam back to carpet.\n00:15:23.000 Biotechnical nutrients -- the Model U for Ford Motor,\n00:15:26.000 a cradle to cradle car -- concept car.\n00:15:28.000 Shoes for Nike, where the uppers are polyesters, infinitely recyclable,\n00:15:32.000 the bottoms are biodegradable soles.\n00:15:35.000 Wear your old shoes in, your new shoes out.\n00:15:37.000 There is no finish line.\n00:15:39.000 The idea here of the car is that some of the materials\n00:15:41.000 go back to the industry forever, some of the materials go back to soil --\n00:15:44.000 it's all solar-powered.\n00:15:46.000 Here's a building at Oberlin College we designed\n00:15:48.000 that makes more energy than it needs to operate and purifies its own water.\n00:15:52.000 Here's a building for The Gap, where the ancient grasses\n00:15:54.000 of San Bruno, California, are on the roof.\n00:15:58.000 And this is our project for Ford Motor Company.\n00:16:00.000 It's the revitalization of the River Rouge in Dearborn.\n00:16:02.000 This is obviously a color photograph.\n00:16:06.000 These are our tools. These are how we sold it to Ford.\n00:16:10.000 We saved Ford 35 million dollars doing it this way, day one,\n00:16:13.000 which is the equivalent of the Ford Taurus\n00:16:15.000 at a four percent margin of an order for 900 million dollars worth of cars.\n00:16:19.000 Here it is. It's the world's largest green roof, 10 and a half acres.\n00:16:22.000 This is the roof, saving money,\n00:16:25.000 and this is the first species to arrive here. These are killdeer.\n00:16:29.000 They showed up in five days.\n00:16:32.000 And we now have 350-pound auto workers\n00:16:34.000 learning bird songs on the Internet.\n00:16:38.000 We're developing now protocols for cities --\n00:16:40.000 that's the home of technical nutrients.\n00:16:42.000 The country -- the home of biological. And putting them together.\n00:16:45.000 And so I will finish by showing you a new city\n00:16:47.000 we're designing for the Chinese government.\n00:16:49.000 We're doing 12 cities for China right now,\n00:16:52.000 based on cradle to cradle as templates.\n00:16:54.000 Our assignment is to develop protocols for the housing\n00:16:57.000 for 400 million people in 12 years.\n00:16:59.000 We did a mass energy balance -- if they use brick,\n00:17:01.000 they will lose all their soil and burn all their coal.\n00:17:04.000 They'll have cities with no energy and no food.\n00:17:06.000 We signed a Memorandum of Understanding --\n00:17:08.000 here's Madam Deng Nan, Deng Xiaoping's daughter --\n00:17:10.000 for China to adopt cradle to cradle.\n00:17:12.000 Because if they toxify themselves, being the lowest-cost producer,\n00:17:16.000 send it to the lowest-cost distribution -- Wal-Mart --\n00:17:18.000 and then we send them all our money, what we'll discover is that\n00:17:21.000 we have what, effectively, when I was a student,\n00:17:24.000 was called mutually assured destruction.\n00:17:27.000 Now we do it by molecule. These are our cities.\n00:17:30.000 We're building a new city next to this city; look at that landscape.\n00:17:33.000 This is the site.\n00:17:35.000 We don't normally do green fields, but this one is about to be built,\n00:17:39.000 so they brought us in to intercede.\n00:17:41.000 This is their plan.\n00:17:43.000 It's a rubber

stamp grid that they laid right on that landscape.\n00:17:46.000 And they brought us in and said, "What would you do?"\n00:17:49.000 This is what they would end up with, which is another color photograph.\n00:17:53.000 So this is the existing site, so this is what it looks like now,\n00:17:56.000 and here's our proposal.\n00:17:58.000 (Applause)\n00:18:02.000 So the way we approached this\n00:18:04.000 is we studied the hydrology very carefully.\n00:18:06.000 We studied the biota, the ancient biota,\n00:18:08.000 the current farming and the protocols.\n00:18:10.000 We studied the winds and the sun to make sure everybody in the city\n00:18:12.000 will have fresh air, fresh water and direct sunlight\n00:18:18.000 in every single apartment at some point during the day.\n00:18:21.000 We then take the parks and lay them out as ecological infrastructure.\n00:18:25.000 We lay out the building areas.\n00:18:28.000 We start to integrate commercial and mixed use\n00:18:29.000 so the people all have centers and places to be.\n00:18:32.000 The transportation is all very simple,\n00:18:34.000 everybody's within a five-minute walk of mobility.\n00:18:37.000 We have a 24-hour street, so that there's always a place that's alive.\n00:18:42.000 The waste systems all connect.\n00:18:44.000 If you flush a toilet, your feces will go to the sewage treatment plants,\n00:18:49.000 which are sold as assets, not liabilities.\n00:18:51.000 Because who wants the fertilizer factory that makes natural gas?\n00:18:55.000 The waters are all taken in to construct the wetlands for habitat restorations.\n00:19:00.000 And then it makes natural gas, which then goes back into the city\n00:19:04.000 to power the fuel for the cooking for the city.\n00:19:08.000 So this is -- these are fertilizer gas plants.\n00:19:10.000 And then the compost is all taken back\n00:19:13.000 to the roofs of the city, where we've got farming,\n00:19:15.000 because what we've done is lifted up the city,\n00:19:19.000 the landscape, into the air to -- to restore the native landscape\n00:19:26.000 on the roofs of the buildings.\n00:19:28.000 The solar power of all the factory centers\n00:19:31.000 and all the industrial zones with their light roofs powers the city.\n00:19:34.000 And this is the concept for the top of the city.\n00:19:36.000 We've lifted the earth up onto the roofs.\n00:19:40.000 The farmers have little bridges to get from one roof to the next.\n00:19:44.000 We inhabit the city with work/live space on all the ground floors.\n00:19:48.000 And so this is the existing city, and this is the new city.\n00:19:53.000 (Applause)\n\nThe file is too long and its contents have been truncated.\n", "extra": {"cited_message_idx": 12, "search_result_idx": null, "evidence_text": "source"}}, {"start_ix": 3428, "end_ix": 3439, "citation_format_type": "tether_og", "metadata": {"type": "file", "name": "tactiq-free-transcript-IoRjz8iTVoo.txt", "id": "file-QAdtwx5q5xmFsPgGvYJdRiuF", "source": "my_files", "text": "# tactiq.io free youtube transcript\n# Cradle to cradle design | William McDonough\n# https://www.youtube.com/watch/IoRjz8iTVoo\n\n00:00:26.000 In 1962, with Rachel Carson's "Silent Spring,"\n00:00:30.000 I think for people like me in the world of the making of things,\n00:00:35.000 the canary in the mine wasn't singing.\n00:00:39.000 And so the question that we might not have birds\n00:00:42.000 became kind of fundamental to those of us wandering around\n00:00:45.000 looking for the meadowlarks that seemed to have all disappeared.\n00:00:48.000 And the question was, were the birds singing?\n00:00:51.000 Now, I'm not a scientist, that'll be really clear.\n00:00:55.000 But, you know, we've just come from this discussion of what a bird might be.\n00:00:59.000 What is a bird?\n00:01:00.000 Well, in my world, this is a rubber duck.\n00:01:04.000 It comes in California with a

warning --\n00:01:06.000 "This product contains chemicals known by the State of California\n00:01:09.000 to cause cancer and birth defects or other reproductive harm."\n00:01:16.000 This is a bird.\n00:01:19.000 What kind of culture would produce a product of this kind\n00:01:22.000 and then label it and sell it to children?\n00:01:27.000 I think we have a design problem.\n00:01:30.000 Someone heard the six hours of talk that I gave\n00:01:35.000 called "The Monticello Dialogues" on NPR, and sent me this as a thank you note --\n00:01:41.000 "We realize that design is a signal of intention,\n00:01:43.000 but it also has to occur within a world,\n00:01:46.000 and we have to understand that world in order to\n00:01:50.000 imbue our designs with inherent intelligence,\n00:01:53.000 and so as we look back at the basic state of affairs\n00:01:58.000 in which we design, we, in a way, need to go to the primordial condition\n00:02:03.000 to understand the operating system and the frame conditions of a planet,\n00:02:08.000 and I think the exciting part of that is the good news that's there,\n00:02:13.000 because the news is the news of abundance,\n00:02:16.000 and not the news of limits,\n00:02:18.000 and I think as our culture tortures itself now\n00:02:23.000 with tyrannies and concerns over limits and fear,\n00:02:28.000 we can add this other dimension of abundance that is coherent,\n00:02:33.000 driven by the sun, and start to imagine\n00:02:35.000 what that would be like to share."\n00:02:42.000 That was a nice thing to get.\n00:02:44.000 That was one sentence.\n00:02:48.000 Henry James would be proud.\n00:02:50.000 This is -- I put it down at the bottom,\n00:02:52.000 but that was extemporaneous, obviously.\n00:02:55.000 The fundamental issue is that, for me,\n00:02:58.000 design is the first signal of human intentions.\n00:03:00.000 So what are our intentions, and what would our intentions be --\n00:03:04.000 if we wake up in the morning, we have designs on the world --\n00:03:07.000 well, what would our intention be as a species\n00:03:09.000 now that we're the dominant species?\n00:03:11.000 And it's not just stewardship and dominion debate,\n00:03:14.000 because really, dominion is implicit in stewardship --\n00:03:20.000 because how could you dominate something you had killed?\n00:03:22.000 And stewardship's implicit in dominion,\n00:03:24.000 because you can't be steward of something if you can't dominate it.\n00:03:26.000 So the question is, what is the first question for designers?\n00:03:32.000 Now, as guardians -- let's say the state, for example,\n00:03:35.000 which reserves the right to kill, the right to be duplicitous and so on --\n00:03:40.000 the question we're asking the guardian at this point is\n00:03:43.000 are we meant, how are we meant,\n00:03:45.000 to secure local societies, create world peace\n00:03:47.000 and save the environment?\n00:03:49.000 But I don't know that that's the common debate.\n00:03:52.000 Commerce, on the other hand, is relatively quick,\n00:03:56.000 essentially creative, highly effective and efficient,\n00:03:58.000 and fundamentally honest, because we can't exchange\n00:04:01.000 value for very long if we don't trust each other.\n00:04:05.000 So we use the tools of commerce primarily for our work,\n00:04:07.000 but the question we bring to it is,\n00:04:09.000 how do we love all the children of all species for all time?\n00:04:13.000 And so we start our designs with that question.\n00:04:16.000 Because what we realize today is that modern culture\n00:04:18.000 appears to have adopted a strategy of tragedy.\n00:04:21.000 If we come here and say, "Well, I didn't intend\n00:04:23.000 to cause global warming on the way here,"\n00:04:24.000 and we say, "That's not part of my plan,"\n00:04:26.000 then we realize it's part of our de facto plan.\n00:04:29.000 Because it's the thing

that's happening because we have no other plan.\n00:04:32.000 And I was at the White House for President Bush,\n00:04:34.000 meeting with every federal department and agency,\n00:04:36.000 and I pointed out that they appear to have no plan.\n00:04:40.000 If the end game is global warming, they're doing great.\n00:04:42.000 If the end game is mercury toxification of our children\n00:04:45.000 downwind of coal fire plants as they scuttled the Clean Air Act,\n00:04:48.000 then I see that our education programs should be explicitly defined as,\n00:04:52.000 "Brain death for all children. No child left behind."\n00:04:54.000 (Applause)\n00:04:58.000 So, the question is, how many federal officials\n00:05:02.000 are ready to move to Ohio and Pennsylvania with their families?\n00:05:05.000 So if you don't have an endgame of something delightful,\n00:05:09.000 then you're just moving chess pieces around,\n00:05:11.000 if you don't know you're taking the king.\n00:05:12.000 So perhaps we could develop a strategy of change,\n00:05:15.000 which requires humility. And in my business as an architect,\n00:05:18.000 it's unfortunate the word "humility" and the word "architect"\n00:05:22.000 have not appeared in the same paragraph since "The Fountainhead."\n00:05:25.000 So if anybody here has trouble with the concept of design humility,\n00:05:30.000 reflect on this -- it took us 5,000 years\n00:05:33.000 to put wheels on our luggage.\n00:05:37.000 So, as Kevin Kelly pointed out, there is no endgame.\n00:05:42.000 There is an infinite game, and we're playing in that infinite game.\n00:05:46.000 And so we call it "cradle to cradle,"\n00:05:48.000 and our goal is very simple.\n00:05:49.000 This is what I presented to the White House.\n00:05:51.000 Our goal is a delightfully diverse, safe, healthy and just world,\n00:05:54.000 with clean air, clean water, soil and power --\n00:05:57.000 economically, equitably, ecologically and elegantly enjoyed, period.\n00:06:01.000 (Applause)\n00:06:04.000 What don't you like about this?\n00:06:07.000 Which part of this don't you like?\n00:06:09.000 So we realized we want full diversity,\n00:06:11.000 even though it can be difficult to remember what De Gaulle said\n00:06:14.000 when asked what it was like to be President of France.\n00:06:16.000 He said, "What do you think it's like trying to run a country with 400 kinds of cheese?"\n00:06:20.000 But at the same time, we realize that our products are not safe and healthy.\n00:06:23.000 So we've designed products\n00:06:25.000 and we analyzed chemicals down to the parts per million.\n00:06:27.000 This is a baby blanket by Pendleton that will give your child nutrition\n00:06:30.000 instead of Alzheimer's later in life.\n00:06:32.000 We can ask ourselves, what is justice,\n00:06:34.000 and is justice blind, or is justice blindness?\n00:06:38.000 And at what point did that uniform turn from white to black?\n00:06:43.000 Water has been declared a human right by the United Nations.\n00:06:46.000 Air quality is an obvious thing to anyone who breathes.\n00:06:48.000 Is there anybody here who doesn't breathe?\n00:06:51.000 Clean soil is a critical problem -- the nitrification, the dead zones\n00:06:54.000 in the Gulf of Mexico.\n00:06:56.000 A fundamental issue that's not being addressed.\n00:06:58.000 We've seen the first form of solar energy\n00:07:00.000 that's beat the hegemony of fossil fuels in the form of wind\n00:07:03.000 here in the Great Plains, and so that hegemony is leaving.\n00:07:06.000 And if we remember Sheikh Yamani when he formed OPEC,\n00:07:09.000 they asked him, "When will we see the end of the age of oil?"\n00:07:12.000 I don't know if you remember his answer, but it was,\n00:07:15.000 "The Stone Age didn't end because we

ran out of stones."\n00:07:19.000 We see that companies acting ethically in this world\n00:07:23.000 are outperforming those that don't.\n00:07:24.000 We see the flows of materials in a rather terrifying prospect.\n00:07:29.000 This is a hospital monitor from Los Angeles, sent to China.\n00:07:32.000 This woman will expose herself to toxic phosphorous,\n00:07:35.000 release four pounds of toxic lead into her childrens' environment,\n00:07:38.000 which is from copper.\n00:07:40.000 On the other hand, we see great signs of hope.\n00:07:42.000 Here's Dr. Venkataswamy in India, who's figured out\n00:07:45.000 how to do mass-produced health.\n00:07:47.000 He has given eyesight to two million people for free.\n00:07:51.000 We see in our material flows that car steels don't become car steel again\n00:07:54.000 because of the contaminants of the coatings --\n00:07:56.000 bismuth, antimony, copper and so on.\n00:07:58.000 They become building steel.\n00:07:59.000 On the other hand, we're working with Berkshire Hathaway,\n00:08:01.000 Warren Buffett and Shaw Carpet,\n00:08:04.000 the largest carpet company in the world.\n00:08:05.000 We've developed a carpet that is continuously recyclable,\n00:08:08.000 down to the parts per million.\n00:08:11.000 The upper is Nylon 6 that can go back to caprolactam,\n00:08:14.000 the bottom, a polyolephine -- infinitely recyclable thermoplastic.\n00:08:17.000 Now if I was a bird, the building on my left is a liability.\n00:08:21.000 The building on my right, which is our corporate campus for The Gap\n00:08:24.000 with an ancient meadow, is an asset -- its nesting grounds.\n00:08:29.000 Here's where I come from. I grew up in Hong Kong,\n00:08:31.000 with six million people in 40 square miles.\n00:08:33.000 During the dry season, we had four hours of water every fourth day.\n00:08:37.000 And the relationship to landscape was that of farmers who have been\n00:08:40.000 farming the same piece of ground for 40 centuries.\n00:08:44.000 You can't farm the same piece of ground for 40 centuries\n00:08:46.000 without understanding nutrient flow.\n00:08:49.000 My childhood summers were in the Puget Sound of Washington,\n00:08:52.000 among the first growth and big growth.\n00:08:54.000 My grandfather had been a lumberjack in the Olympics,\n00:08:56.000 so I have a lot of tree karma I am working off.\n00:09:01.000 I went to Yale for graduate school,\n00:09:03.000 studied in a building of this style by Le Corbusier,\n00:09:05.000 affectionately known in our business as Brutalism.\n00:09:09.000 If we look at the world of architecture,\n00:09:12.000 we see with Mies' 1928 tower for Berlin,\n00:09:15.000 the question might be, "Well, where's the sun?"\n00:09:17.000 And this might have worked in Berlin, but we built it in Houston,\n00:09:20.000 and the windows are all closed. And with most products\n00:09:23.000 appearing not to have been designed for indoor use,\n00:09:25.000 this is actually a vertical gas chamber.\n00:09:28.000 When I went to Yale, we had the first energy crisis,\n00:09:31.000 and I was designing the first solar-heated house in Ireland\n00:09:33.000 as a student, which I then built --\n00:09:35.000 which would give you a sense of my ambition.\n00:09:37.000 And Richard Meier, who was one of my teachers,\n00:09:39.000 kept coming over to my desk to give me criticism,\n00:09:41.000 and he would say, "Bill, you've got to understand- --\n00:09:43.000 solar energy has nothing to do with architecture."\n00:09:51.000 I guess he didn't read Vitruvius.\n00:09:53.000 In 1984, we did the first so-called "green office" in America\n00:09:57.000 for Environmental Defense.\n00:09:58.000 We started asking manufacturers what were in their materials.\n00:10:01.000 They said, "They're proprietary, they're legal, go away."\n00:10:03.000 The only indoor quality work done in this country

at that time\n00:10:05.000 was sponsored by R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Company,\n00:10:08.000 and it was to prove there was no danger\n00:10:09.000 from secondhand smoke in the workplace.\n00:10:12.000 So, all of a sudden, here I am, graduating from high school in 1969,\n00:10:16.000 and this happens, and we realize that "away" went away.\n00:10:19.000 Remember we used to throw things away, and we'd point to away?\n00:10:23.000 And yet, NOAA has now shown us, for example --\n00:10:25.000 you see that little blue thing above Hawaii?\n00:10:27.000 That's the Pacific Gyre.\n00:10:28.000 It was recently dragged for plankton by scientists,\n00:10:30.000 and they found six times as much plastic as plankton.\n00:10:34.000 When asked, they said, "It's kind of like a giant toilet that doesn't flush."\n00:10:39.000 Perhaps that's away.\n00:10:40.000 So we're looking for the design rules of this --\n00:10:42.000 this is the highest biodiversity of trees in the world, Irian Jaya,\n00:10:44.000 259 species of tree, and we described this\n00:10:48.000 in the book, "Cradle to Cradle."\n00:10:49.000 The book itself is a polymer. It is not a tree.\n00:10:53.000 That's the name of the first chapter -- "This Book is Not a Tree."\n00:10:56.000 Because in poetics, as Margaret Atwood pointed out,\n00:10:59.000 "we write our history on the skin of fish\n00:11:01.000 with the blood of bears."\n00:11:04.000 And with so much polymer, what we really need\n00:11:05.000 is technical nutrition, and to use something\n00:11:08.000 as elegant as a tree -- imagine this design assignment:\n00:11:11.000 Design something that makes oxygen, sequesters carbon,\n00:11:13.000 fixes nitrogen, distills water, accrues solar energy as fuel,\n00:11:17.000 makes complex sugars and food, creates microclimates,\n00:11:21.000 changes colors with the seasons and self-replicates.\n00:11:27.000 Well, why don't we knock that down and write on it?\n00:11:29.000 (Laughter)\n00:11:35.000 So, we're looking at the same criteria\n00:11:37.000 as most people -- you know, can I afford it?\n00:11:39.000 Does it work? Do I like it?\n00:11:41.000 We're adding the Jeffersonian agenda, and I come from Charlottesville,\n00:11:43.000 where I've had the privilege of living in a house designed by Thomas Jefferson.\n00:11:47.000 We're adding life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.\n00:11:53.000 Now if we look at the word "competition,"\n00:11:54.000 I'm sure most of you've used it.\n00:11:56.000 You know, most people don't realize it comes from\n00:11:57.000 the Latin competere, which means strive together.\n00:12:00.000 It means the way Olympic athletes train with each other.\n00:12:03.000 They get fit together, and then they compete.\n00:12:06.000 The Williams sisters compete -- one wins Wimbledon.\n00:12:08.000 So we've been looking at the idea of competition\n00:12:11.000 as a way of cooperating in order to get fit together.\n00:12:15.000 And the Chinese government has now --\n00:12:16.000 I work with the Chinese government now --\n00:12:18.000 has taken this up.\n00:12:20.000 We're also looking at survival of the fittest,\n00:12:22.000 not in just competition terms in our modern context\n00:12:24.000 of destroy the other or beat them to the ground,\n00:12:27.000 but really to fit together and build niches\n00:12:29.000 and have growth that is good.\n00:12:31.000 Now most environmentalists don't say growth is good,\n00:12:33.000 because, in our lexicon, asphalt is two words: assigning blame.\n00:12:38.000 But if we look at asphalt as our growth,\n00:12:41.000 then we realize that all we're doing is destroying\n00:12:43.000 the planetary's fundamental underlying operating system.\n00:12:47.000 So when we see E equals mc squared come along, from a

poet's perspective,\n00:12:52.000 we see energy as physics, chemistry as mass,\n00:12:54.000 and all of a sudden, you get this biology.\n00:12:56.000 And we have plenty of energy, so we'll solve that problem,\n00:12:59.000 but the biology problem's tricky, because as we put through\n00:13:02.000 all these toxic materials that we disgorge,\n00:13:05.000 we will never be able to recover that.\n00:13:07.000 And as Francis Crick pointed out, nine years\n00:13:09.000 after discovering DNA with Mr. Watson,\n00:13:12.000 that life itself has to have growth as a precondition --\n00:13:16.000 it has to have free energy, sunlight\n00:13:18.000 and it needs to be an open system of chemicals.\n00:13:21.000 So we're asking for human artifice to become a living thing,\n00:13:24.000 and we want growth, we want free energy from sunlight\n00:13:26.000 and we want an open metabolism for chemicals.\n00:13:29.000 Then, the question becomes not growth or no growth,\n00:13:31.000 but what do you want to grow?\n00:13:34.000 So instead of just growing destruction,\n00:13:36.000 we want to grow the things that we might enjoy,\n00:13:38.000 and someday the FDA will allow us to make French cheese.\n00:13:41.000 So therefore, we have these two metabolisms,\n00:13:45.000 and I worked with a German chemist, Michael Braungart,\n00:13:47.000 and we've identified the two fundamental metabolisms.\n00:13:49.000 The biological one I'm sure you understand,\n00:13:51.000 but also the technical one, where we take materials\n00:13:53.000 and put them into closed cycles.\n00:13:55.000 We call them biological nutrition and technical nutrition.\n00:13:58.000 Technical nutrition will be in an order of magnitude of biological nutrition.\n00:14:02.000 Biological nutrition can supply about 500 million humans,\n00:14:05.000 which means that if we all wore Birkenstocks and cotton,\n00:14:07.000 the world would run out of cork and dry up.\n00:14:10.000 So we need materials in closed cycles,\n00:14:12.000 but we need to analyze them down to the parts per million\n00:14:14.000 for cancer, birth defects, mutagenic effects,\n00:14:17.000 disruption of our immune systems, biodegradation, persistence,\n00:14:20.000 heavy metal content, knowledge of how we're making them\n00:14:23.000 and their production and so on.\n00:14:25.000 Our first product was a textile where we analyzed 8,000 chemicals\n00:14:29.000 in the textile industry.\n00:14:30.000 Using those intellectual filters, we eliminated [7,962.]\n00:14:35.000 We were left with 38 chemicals.\n00:14:37.000 We have since databased the 4000 most commonly used chemicals\n00:14:40.000 in human manufacturing, and we're releasing this database into the public in six weeks.\n00:14:45.000 So designers all over the world can analyze their products\n00:14:47.000 down to the parts per million for human and ecological health.\n00:14:52.000 (Applause)\n00:14:57.000 We've developed a protocol so that companies can send\n00:15:00.000 these same messages all the way through their supply chains,\n00:15:03.000 because when we asked most companies we work with -- about a trillion dollars\n00:15:06.000 -- and say, "Where does your stuff come from?" They say, "Suppliers."\n00:15:08.000 "And where does it go?"\n00:15:10.000 "Customers."\n00:15:11.000 So we need some help there.\n00:15:12.000 So the biological nutrients, the first fabrics --\n00:15:14.000 the water coming out was clean enough to drink.\n00:15:16.000 Technical nutrients -- this is for Shaw Carpet, infinitely reusable carpet.\n00:15:20.000 Here's nylon going back to caprolactam back to carpet.\n00:15:23.000 Biotechnical nutrients -- the Model U for Ford Motor,\n00:15:26.000 a cradle to cradle car -- concept car.\n00:15:28.000 Shoes for Nike, where the uppers are polyesters, infinitely recyclable,\n00:15:32.000 the bottoms are biodegradable soles.\n00:15:35.000 Wear your

old shoes in, your new shoes out.\n00:15:37.000 There is no finish line.\n00:15:39.000 The idea here of the car is that some of the materials\n00:15:41.000 go back to the industry forever, some of the materials go back to soil --\n00:15:44.000 it's all solar-powered.\n00:15:46.000 Here's a building at Oberlin College we designed\n00:15:48.000 that makes more energy than it needs to operate and purifies its own water.\n00:15:52.000 Here's a building for The Gap, where the ancient grasses\n00:15:54.000 of San Bruno, California, are on the roof.\n00:15:58.000 And this is our project for Ford Motor Company.\n00:16:00.000 It's the revitalization of the River Rouge in Dearborn.\n00:16:02.000 This is obviously a color photograph.\n00:16:06.000 These are our tools. These are how we sold it to Ford.\n00:16:10.000 We saved Ford 35 million dollars doing it this way, day one,\n00:16:13.000 which is the equivalent of the Ford Taurus\n00:16:15.000 at a four percent margin of an order for 900 million dollars worth of cars.\n00:16:19.000 Here it is. It's the world's largest green roof, 10 and a half acres.\n00:16:22.000 This is the roof, saving money,\n00:16:25.000 and this is the first species to arrive here. These are killdeer.\n00:16:29.000 They showed up in five days.\n00:16:32.000 And we now have 350-pound auto workers\n00:16:34.000 learning bird songs on the Internet.\n00:16:38.000 We're developing now protocols for cities --\n00:16:40.000 that's the home of technical nutrients.\n00:16:42.000 The country -- the home of biological. And putting them together.\n00:16:45.000 And so I will finish by showing you a new city\n00:16:47.000 we're designing for the Chinese government.\n00:16:49.000 We're doing 12 cities for China right now,\n00:16:52.000 based on cradle to cradle as templates.\n00:16:54.000 Our assignment is to develop protocols for the housing\n00:16:57.000 for 400 million people in 12 years.\n00:16:59.000 We did a mass energy balance -- if they use brick,\n00:17:01.000 they will lose all their soil and burn all their coal.\n00:17:04.000 They'll have cities with no energy and no food.\n00:17:06.000 We signed a Memorandum of Understanding --\n00:17:08.000 here's Madam Deng Nan, Deng Xiaoping's daughter --\n00:17:10.000 for China to adopt cradle to cradle.\n00:17:12.000 Because if they toxify themselves, being the lowest-cost producer,\n00:17:16.000 send it to the lowest-cost distribution -- Wal-Mart --\n00:17:18.000 and then we send them all our money, what we'll discover is that\n00:17:21.000 we have what, effectively, when I was a student,\n00:17:24.000 was called mutually assured destruction.\n00:17:27.000 Now we do it by molecule. These are our cities.\n00:17:30.000 We're building a new city next to this city; look at that landscape.\n00:17:33.000 This is the site.\n00:17:35.000 We don't normally do green fields, but this one is about to be built,\n00:17:39.000 so they brought us in to intercede.\n00:17:41.000 This is their plan.\n00:17:43.000 It's a rubber stamp grid that they laid right on that landscape.\n00:17:46.000 And they brought us in and said, "What would you do?"\n00:17:49.000 This is what they would end up with, which is another color photograph.\n00:17:53.000 So this is the existing site, so this is what it looks like now,\n00:17:56.000 and here's our proposal.\n00:17:58.000 (Applause)\n00:18:02.000 So the way we approached this\n00:18:04.000 is we studied the hydrology very carefully.\n00:18:06.000 We studied the biota, the ancient biota,\n00:18:08.000 the current farming and the protocols.\n00:18:10.000 We studied the winds and the sun to make sure everybody in the city\n00:18:12.000 will have fresh air, fresh water and direct sunlight\n00:18:18.000 in every single apartment at some point during the day.\n00:18:21.000 We then take the parks and lay them out as ecological

infrastructure.\n00:18:25.000 We lay out the building areas.\n00:18:28.000 We start to integrate commercial and mixed use\n00:18:29.000 so the people all have centers and places to be.\n00:18:32.000 The transportation is all very simple,\n00:18:34.000 everybody's within a five-minute walk of mobility.\n00:18:37.000 We have a 24-hour street, so that there's always a place that's alive.\n00:18:42.000 The waste systems all connect.\n00:18:44.000 If you flush a toilet, your feces will go to the sewage treatment plants,\n00:18:49.000 which are sold as assets, not liabilities.\n00:18:51.000 Because who wants the fertilizer factory that makes natural gas?\n00:18:55.000 The waters are all taken in to construct the wetlands for habitat restorations.\n00:19:00.000 And then it makes natural gas, which then goes back into the city\n00:19:04.000 to power the fuel for the cooking for the city.\n00:19:08.000 So this is -- these are fertilizer gas plants.\n00:19:10.000 And then the compost is all taken back\n00:19:13.000 to the roofs of the city, where we've got farming,\n00:19:15.000 because what we've done is lifted up the city,\n00:19:19.000 the landscape, into the air to -- to restore the native landscape\n00:19:26.000 on the roofs of the buildings.\n00:19:28.000 The solar power of all the factory centers\n00:19:31.000 and all the industrial zones with their light roofs powers the city.\n00:19:34.000 And this is the concept for the top of the city.\n00:19:36.000 We've lifted the earth up onto the roofs.\n00:19:40.000 The farmers have little bridges to get from one roof to the next.\n00:19:44.000 We inhabit the city with work/live space on all the ground floors.\n00:19:48.000 And so this is the existing city, and this is the new city.\n00:19:53.000 (Applause)\n\nThe file is too long and its contents have been truncated.\n", "extra": {"cited_message_idx": 12, "search_result_idx": null, "evidence_text": "source"}}}, {"start_ix": 3720, "end_ix": 3731, "citation_format_type": "tether_og", "metadata": {"type": "file", "name": "tactiq-free-transcript-IoRjz8iTVoo.txt", "id": "file-QAdtwx5q5xmFsPgGvYJdRiuF", "source": "my_files", "text": "# tactiq.io free youtube transcript\n# Cradle to cradle design | William McDonough\n# https://www.youtube.com/watch/IoRjz8iTVoo\n\n00:00:26.000 In 1962, with Rachel Carson's "Silent Spring,"\n00:00:30.000 I think for people like me in the world of the making of things,\n00:00:35.000 the canary in the mine wasn't singing.\n00:00:39.000 And so the question that we might not have birds\n00:00:42.000 became kind of fundamental to those of us wandering around\n00:00:45.000 looking for the meadowlarks that seemed to have all disappeared.\n00:00:48.000 And the question was, were the birds singing?\n00:00:51.000 Now, I'm not a scientist, that'll be really clear.\n00:00:55.000 But, you know, we've just come from this discussion of what a bird might be.\n00:00:59.000 What is a bird?\n00:01:00.000 Well, in my world, this is a rubber duck.\n00:01:04.000 It comes in California with a warning --\n00:01:06.000 "This product contains chemicals known by the State of California\n00:01:09.000 to cause cancer and birth defects or other reproductive harm."\n00:01:16.000 This is a bird.\n00:01:19.000 What kind of culture would produce a product of this kind\n00:01:22.000 and then label it and sell it to children?\n00:01:27.000 I think we have a design problem.\n00:01:30.000 Someone heard the six hours of talk that I gave\n00:01:35.000 called "The Monticello Dialogues" on NPR, and sent me this as a thank you note --\n00:01:41.000 "We realize that design is a signal of intention,\n00:01:43.000 but it also has to occur within a world,\n00:01:46.000 and we have to understand that world in order to\n00:01:50.000 imbue our designs with inherent intelligence,\n00:01:53.000 and so as we look back at the basic state of affairs\n00:01:58.000 in which we design, we, in a

way, need to go to the primordial condition\n00:02:03.000 to understand the operating system and the frame conditions of a planet,\n00:02:08.000 and I think the exciting part of that is the good news that's there,\n00:02:13.000 because the news is the news of abundance,\n00:02:16.000 and not the news of limits,\n00:02:18.000 and I think as our culture tortures itself now\n00:02:23.000 with tyrannies and concerns over limits and fear,\n00:02:28.000 we can add this other dimension of abundance that is coherent,\n00:02:33.000 driven by the sun, and start to imagine\n00:02:35.000 what that would be like to share."\n00:02:42.000 That was a nice thing to get.\n00:02:44.000 That was one sentence.\n00:02:48.000 Henry James would be proud.\n00:02:50.000 This is -- I put it down at the bottom,\n00:02:52.000 but that was extemporaneous, obviously.\n00:02:55.000 The fundamental issue is that, for me,\n00:02:58.000 design is the first signal of human intentions.\n00:03:00.000 So what are our intentions, and what would our intentions be --\n00:03:04.000 if we wake up in the morning, we have designs on the world --\n00:03:07.000 well, what would our intention be as a species\n00:03:09.000 now that we're the dominant species?\n00:03:11.000 And it's not just stewardship and dominion debate,\n00:03:14.000 because really, dominion is implicit in stewardship --\n00:03:20.000 because how could you dominate something you had killed?\n00:03:22.000 And stewardship's implicit in dominion,\n00:03:24.000 because you can't be steward of something if you can't dominate it.\n00:03:26.000 So the question is, what is the first question for designers?\n00:03:32.000 Now, as guardians -- let's say the state, for example,\n00:03:35.000 which reserves the right to kill, the right to be duplicitous and so on --\n00:03:40.000 the question we're asking the guardian at this point is\n00:03:43.000 are we meant, how are we meant,\n00:03:45.000 to secure local societies, create world peace\n00:03:47.000 and save the environment?\n00:03:49.000 But I don't know that that's the common debate.\n00:03:52.000 Commerce, on the other hand, is relatively quick,\n00:03:56.000 essentially creative, highly effective and efficient,\n00:03:58.000 and fundamentally honest, because we can't exchange\n00:04:01.000 value for very long if we don't trust each other.\n00:04:05.000 So we use the tools of commerce primarily for our work,\n00:04:07.000 but the question we bring to it is,\n00:04:09.000 how do we love all the children of all species for all time?\n00:04:13.000 And so we start our designs with that question.\n00:04:16.000 Because what we realize today is that modern culture\n00:04:18.000 appears to have adopted a strategy of tragedy.\n00:04:21.000 If we come here and say, "Well, I didn't intend\n00:04:23.000 to cause global warming on the way here,"\n00:04:24.000 and we say, "That's not part of my plan,"\n00:04:26.000 then we realize it's part of our de facto plan.\n00:04:29.000 Because it's the thing that's happening because we have no other plan.\n00:04:32.000 And I was at the White House for President Bush,\n00:04:34.000 meeting with every federal department and agency,\n00:04:36.000 and I pointed out that they appear to have no plan.\n00:04:40.000 If the end game is global warming, they're doing great.\n00:04:42.000 If the end game is mercury toxification of our children\n00:04:45.000 downwind of coal fire plants as they scuttled the Clean Air Act,\n00:04:48.000 then I see that our education programs should be explicitly defined as,\n00:04:52.000 "Brain death for all children. No child left behind."\n00:04:54.000 (Applause)\n00:04:58.000 So, the question is, how many federal officials\n00:05:02.000 are ready to move to Ohio and Pennsylvania with their families?\n00:05:05.000 So if you don't have an endgame of something

delightful,\n00:05:09.000 then you're just moving chess pieces around,\n00:05:11.000 if you don't know you're taking the king.\n00:05:12.000 So perhaps we could develop a strategy of change,\n00:05:15.000 which requires humility. And in my business as an architect,\n00:05:18.000 it's unfortunate the word "humility" and the word "architect"\n00:05:22.000 have not appeared in the same paragraph since "The Fountainhead."\n00:05:25.000 So if anybody here has trouble with the concept of design humility,\n00:05:30.000 reflect on this -- it took us 5,000 years\n00:05:33.000 to put wheels on our luggage.\n00:05:37.000 So, as Kevin Kelly pointed out, there is no endgame.\n00:05:42.000 There is an infinite game, and we're playing in that infinite game.\n00:05:46.000 And so we call it "cradle to cradle,"\n00:05:48.000 and our goal is very simple.\n00:05:49.000 This is what I presented to the White House.\n00:05:51.000 Our goal is a delightfully diverse, safe, healthy and just world,\n00:05:54.000 with clean air, clean water, soil and power --\n00:05:57.000 economically, equitably, ecologically and elegantly enjoyed, period.\n00:06:01.000 (Applause)\n00:06:04.000 What don't you like about this?\n00:06:07.000 Which part of this don't you like?\n00:06:09.000 So we realized we want full diversity,\n00:06:11.000 even though it can be difficult to remember what De Gaulle said\n00:06:14.000 when asked what it was like to be President of France.\n00:06:16.000 He said, "What do you think it's like trying to run a country with 400 kinds of cheese?"\n00:06:20.000 But at the same time, we realize that our products are not safe and healthy.\n00:06:23.000 So we've designed products\n00:06:25.000 and we analyzed chemicals down to the parts per million.\n00:06:27.000 This is a baby blanket by Pendleton that will give your child nutrition\n00:06:30.000 instead of Alzheimer's later in life.\n00:06:32.000 We can ask ourselves, what is justice,\n00:06:34.000 and is justice blind, or is justice blindness?\n00:06:38.000 And at what point did that uniform turn from white to black?\n00:06:43.000 Water has been declared a human right by the United Nations.\n00:06:46.000 Air quality is an obvious thing to anyone who breathes.\n00:06:48.000 Is there anybody here who doesn't breathe?\n00:06:51.000 Clean soil is a critical problem -- the nitrification, the dead zones\n00:06:54.000 in the Gulf of Mexico.\n00:06:56.000 A fundamental issue that's not being addressed.\n00:06:58.000 We've seen the first form of solar energy\n00:07:00.000 that's beat the hegemony of fossil fuels in the form of wind\n00:07:03.000 here in the Great Plains, and so that hegemony is leaving.\n00:07:06.000 And if we remember Sheikh Yamani when he formed OPEC,\n00:07:09.000 they asked him, "When will we see the end of the age of oil?"\n00:07:12.000 I don't know if you remember his answer, but it was,\n00:07:15.000 "The Stone Age didn't end because we ran out of stones."\n00:07:19.000 We see that companies acting ethically in this world\n00:07:23.000 are outperforming those that don't.\n00:07:24.000 We see the flows of materials in a rather terrifying prospect.\n00:07:29.000 This is a hospital monitor from Los Angeles, sent to China.\n00:07:32.000 This woman will expose herself to toxic phosphorous,\n00:07:35.000 release four pounds of toxic lead into her childrens' environment,\n00:07:38.000 which is from copper.\n00:07:40.000 On the other hand, we see great signs of hope.\n00:07:42.000 Here's Dr. Venkataswamy in India, who's figured out\n00:07:45.000 how to do mass-produced health.\n00:07:47.000 He has given eyesight to two million people for free.\n00:07:51.000 We see in our material flows that car steels don't become car steel again\n00:07:54.000 because of the contaminants of the coatings --\n00:07:56.000

bismuth, antimony, copper and so on.\n00:07:58.000 They become building steel.\n00:07:59.000 On the other hand, we're working with Berkshire Hathaway,\n00:08:01.000 Warren Buffett and Shaw Carpet,\n00:08:04.000 the largest carpet company in the world.\n00:08:05.000 We've developed a carpet that is continuously recyclable,\n00:08:08.000 down to the parts per million.\n00:08:11.000 The upper is Nylon 6 that can go back to caprolactam,\n00:08:14.000 the bottom, a polyolephine -- infinitely recyclable thermoplastic.\n00:08:17.000 Now if I was a bird, the building on my left is a liability.\n00:08:21.000 The building on my right, which is our corporate campus for The Gap\n00:08:24.000 with an ancient meadow, is an asset -- its nesting grounds.\n00:08:29.000 Here's where I come from. I grew up in Hong Kong,\n00:08:31.000 with six million people in 40 square miles.\n00:08:33.000 During the dry season, we had four hours of water every fourth day.\n00:08:37.000 And the relationship to landscape was that of farmers who have been\n00:08:40.000 farming the same piece of ground for 40 centuries.\n00:08:44.000 You can't farm the same piece of ground for 40 centuries\n00:08:46.000 without understanding nutrient flow.\n00:08:49.000 My childhood summers were in the Puget Sound of Washington,\n00:08:52.000 among the first growth and big growth.\n00:08:54.000 My grandfather had been a lumberjack in the Olympics,\n00:08:56.000 so I have a lot of tree karma I am working off.\n00:09:01.000 I went to Yale for graduate school,\n00:09:03.000 studied in a building of this style by Le Corbusier,\n00:09:05.000 affectionately known in our business as Brutalism.\n00:09:09.000 If we look at the world of architecture,\n00:09:12.000 we see with Mies' 1928 tower for Berlin,\n00:09:15.000 the question might be, "Well, where's the sun?"\n00:09:17.000 And this might have worked in Berlin, but we built it in Houston,\n00:09:20.000 and the windows are all closed. And with most products\n00:09:23.000 appearing not to have been designed for indoor use,\n00:09:25.000 this is actually a vertical gas chamber.\n00:09:28.000 When I went to Yale, we had the first energy crisis,\n00:09:31.000 and I was designing the first solar-heated house in Ireland\n00:09:33.000 as a student, which I then built --\n00:09:35.000 which would give you a sense of my ambition.\n00:09:37.000 And Richard Meier, who was one of my teachers,\n00:09:39.000 kept coming over to my desk to give me criticism,\n00:09:41.000 and he would say, "Bill, you've got to understand- --\n00:09:43.000 solar energy has nothing to do with architecture."\n00:09:51.000 I guess he didn't read Vitruvius.\n00:09:53.000 In 1984, we did the first so-called "green office" in America\n00:09:57.000 for Environmental Defense.\n00:09:58.000 We started asking manufacturers what were in their materials.\n00:10:01.000 They said, "They're proprietary, they're legal, go away."\n00:10:03.000 The only indoor quality work done in this country at that time\n00:10:05.000 was sponsored by R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Company,\n00:10:08.000 and it was to prove there was no danger\n00:10:09.000 from secondhand smoke in the workplace.\n00:10:12.000 So, all of a sudden, here I am, graduating from high school in 1969,\n00:10:16.000 and this happens, and we realize that "away" went away.\n00:10:19.000 Remember we used to throw things away, and we'd point to away?\n00:10:23.000 And yet, NOAA has now shown us, for example --\n00:10:25.000 you see that little blue thing above Hawaii?\n00:10:27.000 That's the Pacific Gyre.\n00:10:28.000 It was recently dragged for plankton by scientists,\n00:10:30.000 and they found six times as much plastic as plankton.\n00:10:34.000 When asked, they said, "It's kind of like a giant toilet that doesn't flush."\n00:10:39.000 Perhaps that's

away.\n00:10:40.000 So we're looking for the design rules of this --\n00:10:42.000 this is the highest biodiversity of trees in the world, Irian Jaya,\n00:10:44.000 259 species of tree, and we described this\n00:10:48.000 in the book, "Cradle to Cradle."\n00:10:49.000 The book itself is a polymer. It is not a tree.\n00:10:53.000 That's the name of the first chapter -- "This Book is Not a Tree."\n00:10:56.000 Because in poetics, as Margaret Atwood pointed out,\n00:10:59.000 "we write our history on the skin of fish\n00:11:01.000 with the blood of bears."\n00:11:04.000 And with so much polymer, what we really need\n00:11:05.000 is technical nutrition, and to use something\n00:11:08.000 as elegant as a tree -- imagine this design assignment:\n00:11:11.000 Design something that makes oxygen, sequesters carbon,\n00:11:13.000 fixes nitrogen, distills water, accrues solar energy as fuel,\n00:11:17.000 makes complex sugars and food, creates microclimates,\n00:11:21.000 changes colors with the seasons and self-replicates.\n00:11:27.000 Well, why don't we knock that down and write on it?\n00:11:29.000 (Laughter)\n00:11:35.000 So, we're looking at the same criteria\n00:11:37.000 as most people -- you know, can I afford it?\n00:11:39.000 Does it work? Do I like it?\n00:11:41.000 We're adding the Jeffersonian agenda, and I come from Charlottesville,\n00:11:43.000 where I've had the privilege of living in a house designed by Thomas Jefferson.\n00:11:47.000 We're adding life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.\n00:11:53.000 Now if we look at the word "competition,"\n00:11:54.000 I'm sure most of you've used it.\n00:11:56.000 You know, most people don't realize it comes from\n00:11:57.000 the Latin competere, which means strive together.\n00:12:00.000 It means the way Olympic athletes train with each other.\n00:12:03.000 They get fit together, and then they compete.\n00:12:06.000 The Williams sisters compete -- one wins Wimbledon.\n00:12:08.000 So we've been looking at the idea of competition\n00:12:11.000 as a way of cooperating in order to get fit together.\n00:12:15.000 And the Chinese government has now --\n00:12:16.000 I work with the Chinese government now --\n00:12:18.000 has taken this up.\n00:12:20.000 We're also looking at survival of the fittest,\n00:12:22.000 not in just competition terms in our modern context\n00:12:24.000 of destroy the other or beat them to the ground,\n00:12:27.000 but really to fit together and build niches\n00:12:29.000 and have growth that is good.\n00:12:31.000 Now most environmentalists don't say growth is good,\n00:12:33.000 because, in our lexicon, asphalt is two words: assigning blame.\n00:12:38.000 But if we look at asphalt as our growth,\n00:12:41.000 then we realize that all we're doing is destroying\n00:12:43.000 the planetary's fundamental underlying operating system.\n00:12:47.000 So when we see E equals mc squared come along, from a poet's perspective,\n00:12:52.000 we see energy as physics, chemistry as mass,\n00:12:54.000 and all of a sudden, you get this biology.\n00:12:56.000 And we have plenty of energy, so we'll solve that problem,\n00:12:59.000 but the biology problem's tricky, because as we put through\n00:13:02.000 all these toxic materials that we disgorge,\n00:13:05.000 we will never be able to recover that.\n00:13:07.000 And as Francis Crick pointed out, nine years\n00:13:09.000 after discovering DNA with Mr. Watson,\n00:13:12.000 that life itself has to have growth as a precondition --\n00:13:16.000 it has to have free energy, sunlight\n00:13:18.000 and it needs to be an open system of chemicals.\n00:13:21.000 So we're asking for human artifice to become a living thing,\n00:13:24.000 and we want growth, we want free energy from sunlight\n00:13:26.000 and we want an open metabolism for

chemicals.\n00:13:29.000 Then, the question becomes not growth or no growth,\n00:13:31.000 but what do you want to grow?\n00:13:34.000 So instead of just growing destruction,\n00:13:36.000 we want to grow the things that we might enjoy,\n00:13:38.000 and someday the FDA will allow us to make French cheese.\n00:13:41.000 So therefore, we have these two metabolisms,\n00:13:45.000 and I worked with a German chemist, Michael Braungart,\n00:13:47.000 and we've identified the two fundamental metabolisms.\n00:13:49.000 The biological one I'm sure you understand,\n00:13:51.000 but also the technical one, where we take materials\n00:13:53.000 and put them into closed cycles.\n00:13:55.000 We call them biological nutrition and technical nutrition.\n00:13:58.000 Technical nutrition will be in an order of magnitude of biological nutrition.\n00:14:02.000 Biological nutrition can supply about 500 million humans,\n00:14:05.000 which means that if we all wore Birkenstocks and cotton,\n00:14:07.000 the world would run out of cork and dry up.\n00:14:10.000 So we need materials in closed cycles,\n00:14:12.000 but we need to analyze them down to the parts per million\n00:14:14.000 for cancer, birth defects, mutagenic effects,\n00:14:17.000 disruption of our immune systems, biodegradation, persistence,\n00:14:20.000 heavy metal content, knowledge of how we're making them\n00:14:23.000 and their production and so on.\n00:14:25.000 Our first product was a textile where we analyzed 8,000 chemicals\n00:14:29.000 in the textile industry.\n00:14:30.000 Using those intellectual filters, we eliminated [7,962.]\n00:14:35.000 We were left with 38 chemicals.\n00:14:37.000 We have since databased the 4000 most commonly used chemicals\n00:14:40.000 in human manufacturing, and we're releasing this database into the public in six weeks.\n00:14:45.000 So designers all over the world can analyze their products\n00:14:47.000 down to the parts per million for human and ecological health.\n00:14:52.000 (Applause)\n00:14:57.000 We've developed a protocol so that companies can send\n00:15:00.000 these same messages all the way through their supply chains,\n00:15:03.000 because when we asked most companies we work with -- about a trillion dollars\n00:15:06.000 -- and say, "Where does your stuff come from?" They say, "Suppliers."\n00:15:08.000 "And where does it go?"\n00:15:10.000 "Customers."\n00:15:11.000 So we need some help there.\n00:15:12.000 So the biological nutrients, the first fabrics --\n00:15:14.000 the water coming out was clean enough to drink.\n00:15:16.000 Technical nutrients -- this is for Shaw Carpet, infinitely reusable carpet.\n00:15:20.000 Here's nylon going back to caprolactam back to carpet.\n00:15:23.000 Biotechnical nutrients -- the Model U for Ford Motor,\n00:15:26.000 a cradle to cradle car -- concept car.\n00:15:28.000 Shoes for Nike, where the uppers are polyesters, infinitely recyclable,\n00:15:32.000 the bottoms are biodegradable soles.\n00:15:35.000 Wear your old shoes in, your new shoes out.\n00:15:37.000 There is no finish line.\n00:15:39.000 The idea here of the car is that some of the materials\n00:15:41.000 go back to the industry forever, some of the materials go back to soil --\n00:15:44.000 it's all solar-powered.\n00:15:46.000 Here's a building at Oberlin College we designed\n00:15:48.000 that makes more energy than it needs to operate and purifies its own water.\n00:15:52.000 Here's a building for The Gap, where the ancient grasses\n00:15:54.000 of San Bruno, California, are on the roof.\n00:15:58.000 And this is our project for Ford Motor Company.\n00:16:00.000 It's the revitalization of the River Rouge in Dearborn.\n00:16:02.000 This is obviously a color photograph.\n00:16:06.000 These are our tools. These are how we sold it to Ford.\n00:16:10.000 We saved Ford 35 million dollars doing it this way, day

one,\n00:16:13.000 which is the equivalent of the Ford Taurus\n00:16:15.000 at a four percent margin of an order for 900 million dollars worth of cars.\n00:16:19.000 Here it is. It's the world's largest green roof, 10 and a half acres.\n00:16:22.000 This is the roof, saving money,\n00:16:25.000 and this is the first species to arrive here. These are killdeer.\n00:16:29.000 They showed up in five days.\n00:16:32.000 And we now have 350-pound auto workers\n00:16:34.000 learning bird songs on the Internet.\n00:16:38.000 We're developing now protocols for cities --\n00:16:40.000 that's the home of technical nutrients.\n00:16:42.000 The country -- the home of biological. And putting them together.\n00:16:45.000 And so I will finish by showing you a new city\n00:16:47.000 we're designing for the Chinese government.\n00:16:49.000 We're doing 12 cities for China right now,\n00:16:52.000 based on cradle to cradle as templates.\n00:16:54.000 Our assignment is to develop protocols for the housing\n00:16:57.000 for 400 million people in 12 years.\n00:16:59.000 We did a mass energy balance -- if they use brick,\n00:17:01.000 they will lose all their soil and burn all their coal.\n00:17:04.000 They'll have cities with no energy and no food.\n00:17:06.000 We signed a Memorandum of Understanding --\n00:17:08.000 here's Madam Deng Nan, Deng Xiaoping's daughter --\n00:17:10.000 for China to adopt cradle to cradle.\n00:17:12.000 Because if they toxify themselves, being the lowest-cost producer,\n00:17:16.000 send it to the lowest-cost distribution -- Wal-Mart --\n00:17:18.000 and then we send them all our money, what we'll discover is that\n00:17:21.000 we have what, effectively, when I was a student,\n00:17:24.000 was called mutually assured destruction.\n00:17:27.000 Now we do it by molecule. These are our cities.\n00:17:30.000 We're building a new city next to this city; look at that landscape.\n00:17:33.000 This is the site.\n00:17:35.000 We don't normally do green fields, but this one is about to be built,\n00:17:39.000 so they brought us in to intercede.\n00:17:41.000 This is their plan.\n00:17:43.000 It's a rubber stamp grid that they laid right on that landscape.\n00:17:46.000 And they brought us in and said, "What would you do?"\n00:17:49.000 This is what they would end up with, which is another color photograph.\n00:17:53.000 So this is the existing site, so this is what it looks like now,\n00:17:56.000 and here's our proposal.\n00:17:58.000 (Applause)\n00:18:02.000 So the way we approached this\n00:18:04.000 is we studied the hydrology very carefully.\n00:18:06.000 We studied the biota, the ancient biota,\n00:18:08.000 the current farming and the protocols.\n00:18:10.000 We studied the winds and the sun to make sure everybody in the city\n00:18:12.000 will have fresh air, fresh water and direct sunlight\n00:18:18.000 in every single apartment at some point during the day.\n00:18:21.000 We then take the parks and lay them out as ecological infrastructure.\n00:18:25.000 We lay out the building areas.\n00:18:28.000 We start to integrate commercial and mixed use\n00:18:29.000 so the people all have centers and places to be.\n00:18:32.000 The transportation is all very simple,\n00:18:34.000 everybody's within a five-minute walk of mobility.\n00:18:37.000 We have a 24-hour street, so that there's always a place that's alive.\n00:18:42.000 The waste systems all connect.\n00:18:44.000 If you flush a toilet, your feces will go to the sewage treatment plants,\n00:18:49.000 which are sold as assets, not liabilities.\n00:18:51.000 Because who wants the fertilizer factory that makes natural gas?\n00:18:55.000 The waters are all taken in to construct the wetlands for habitat restorations.\n00:19:00.000 And then it makes natural gas, which then goes back into the city\n00:19:04.000 to power the fuel for the cooking for the city.\n00:19:08.000

So this is -- these are fertilizer gas plants.\n00:19:10.000 And then the compost is all taken back\n00:19:13.000 to the roofs of the city, where we've got farming,\n00:19:15.000 because what we've done is lifted up the city,\n00:19:19.000 the landscape, into the air to -- to restore the native landscape\n00:19:26.000 on the roofs of the buildings.\n00:19:28.000 The solar power of all the factory centers\n00:19:31.000 and all the industrial zones with their light roofs powers the city.\n00:19:34.000 And this is the concept for the top of the city.\n00:19:36.000 We've lifted the earth up onto the roofs.\n00:19:40.000 The farmers have little bridges to get from one roof to the next.\n00:19:44.000 We inhabit the city with work/live space on all the ground floors.\n00:19:48.000 And so this is the existing city, and this is the new city.\n00:19:53.000 (Applause)\n\nThe file is too long and its contents have been truncated.\n", "extra": {"cited_message_idx": 12, "search_result_idx": null, "evidence_text": "source"}}}, {"start_ix": 4116, "end_ix": 4127, "citation_format_type": "tether_og", "metadata": {"type": "file", "name": "tactiq-free-transcript-IoRjz8iTVoo.txt", "id": "file-QAdtwx5q5xmFsPgGvYJdRiuF", "source": "my_files", "text": "# tactiq.io free youtube transcript\n# Cradle to cradle design | William McDonough\n# https://www.youtube.com/watch/IoRjz8iTVoo\n\n00:00:26.000 In 1962, with Rachel Carson's "Silent Spring,"\n00:00:30.000 I think for people like me in the world of the making of things,\n00:00:35.000 the canary in the mine wasn't singing.\n00:00:39.000 And so the question that we might not have birds\n00:00:42.000 became kind of fundamental to those of us wandering around\n00:00:45.000 looking for the meadowlarks that seemed to have all disappeared.\n00:00:48.000 And the question was, were the birds singing?\n00:00:51.000 Now, I'm not a scientist, that'll be really clear.\n00:00:55.000 But, you know, we've just come from this discussion of what a bird might be.\n00:00:59.000 What is a bird?\n00:01:00.000 Well, in my world, this is a rubber duck.\n00:01:04.000 It comes in California with a warning --\n00:01:06.000 "This product contains chemicals known by the State of California\n00:01:09.000 to cause cancer and birth defects or other reproductive harm."\n00:01:16.000 This is a bird.\n00:01:19.000 What kind of culture would produce a product of this kind\n00:01:22.000 and then label it and sell it to children?\n00:01:27.000 I think we have a design problem.\n00:01:30.000 Someone heard the six hours of talk that I gave\n00:01:35.000 called "The Monticello Dialogues" on NPR, and sent me this as a thank you note --\n00:01:41.000 "We realize that design is a signal of intention,\n00:01:43.000 but it also has to occur within a world,\n00:01:46.000 and we have to understand that world in order to\n00:01:50.000 imbue our designs with inherent intelligence,\n00:01:53.000 and so as we look back at the basic state of affairs\n00:01:58.000 in which we design, we, in a way, need to go to the primordial condition\n00:02:03.000 to understand the operating system and the frame conditions of a planet,\n00:02:08.000 and I think the exciting part of that is the good news that's there,\n00:02:13.000 because the news is the news of abundance,\n00:02:16.000 and not the news of limits,\n00:02:18.000 and I think as our culture tortures itself now\n00:02:23.000 with tyrannies and concerns over limits and fear,\n00:02:28.000 we can add this other dimension of abundance that is coherent,\n00:02:33.000 driven by the sun, and start to imagine\n00:02:35.000 what that would be like to share."\n00:02:42.000 That was a nice thing to get.\n00:02:44.000 That was one sentence.\n00:02:48.000 Henry James would be proud.\n00:02:50.000 This is -- I put it down at the bottom,\n00:02:52.000 but that was extemporaneous, obviously.\n00:02:55.000 The fundamental issue is that, for

me,\n00:02:58.000 design is the first signal of human intentions.\n00:03:00.000 So what are our intentions, and what would our intentions be --\n00:03:04.000 if we wake up in the morning, we have designs on the world --\n00:03:07.000 well, what would our intention be as a species\n00:03:09.000 now that we're the dominant species?\n00:03:11.000 And it's not just stewardship and dominion debate,\n00:03:14.000 because really, dominion is implicit in stewardship --\n00:03:20.000 because how could you dominate something you had killed?\n00:03:22.000 And stewardship's implicit in dominion,\n00:03:24.000 because you can't be steward of something if you can't dominate it.\n00:03:26.000 So the question is, what is the first question for designers?\n00:03:32.000 Now, as guardians -- let's say the state, for example,\n00:03:35.000 which reserves the right to kill, the right to be duplicitous and so on --\n00:03:40.000 the question we're asking the guardian at this point is\n00:03:43.000 are we meant, how are we meant,\n00:03:45.000 to secure local societies, create world peace\n00:03:47.000 and save the environment?\n00:03:49.000 But I don't know that that's the common debate.\n00:03:52.000 Commerce, on the other hand, is relatively quick,\n00:03:56.000 essentially creative, highly effective and efficient,\n00:03:58.000 and fundamentally honest, because we can't exchange\n00:04:01.000 value for very long if we don't trust each other.\n00:04:05.000 So we use the tools of commerce primarily for our work,\n00:04:07.000 but the question we bring to it is,\n00:04:09.000 how do we love all the children of all species for all time?\n00:04:13.000 And so we start our designs with that question.\n00:04:16.000 Because what we realize today is that modern culture\n00:04:18.000 appears to have adopted a strategy of tragedy.\n00:04:21.000 If we come here and say, "Well, I didn't intend\n00:04:23.000 to cause global warming on the way here,"\n00:04:24.000 and we say, "That's not part of my plan,"\n00:04:26.000 then we realize it's part of our de facto plan.\n00:04:29.000 Because it's the thing that's happening because we have no other plan.\n00:04:32.000 And I was at the White House for President Bush,\n00:04:34.000 meeting with every federal department and agency,\n00:04:36.000 and I pointed out that they appear to have no plan.\n00:04:40.000 If the end game is global warming, they're doing great.\n00:04:42.000 If the end game is mercury toxification of our children\n00:04:45.000 downwind of coal fire plants as they scuttled the Clean Air Act,\n00:04:48.000 then I see that our education programs should be explicitly defined as,\n00:04:52.000 "Brain death for all children. No child left behind."\n00:04:54.000 (Applause)\n00:04:58.000 So, the question is, how many federal officials\n00:05:02.000 are ready to move to Ohio and Pennsylvania with their families?\n00:05:05.000 So if you don't have an endgame of something delightful,\n00:05:09.000 then you're just moving chess pieces around,\n00:05:11.000 if you don't know you're taking the king.\n00:05:12.000 So perhaps we could develop a strategy of change,\n00:05:15.000 which requires humility. And in my business as an architect,\n00:05:18.000 it's unfortunate the word "humility" and the word "architect"\n00:05:22.000 have not appeared in the same paragraph since "The Fountainhead."\n00:05:25.000 So if anybody here has trouble with the concept of design humility,\n00:05:30.000 reflect on this -- it took us 5,000 years\n00:05:33.000 to put wheels on our luggage.\n00:05:37.000 So, as Kevin Kelly pointed out, there is no endgame.\n00:05:42.000 There is an infinite game, and we're playing in that infinite game.\n00:05:46.000 And so we call it "cradle

to cradle,"\n00:05:48.000 and our goal is very simple.\n00:05:49.000 This is what I presented to the White House.\n00:05:51.000 Our goal is a delightfully diverse, safe, healthy and just world,\n00:05:54.000 with clean air, clean water, soil and power --\n00:05:57.000 economically, equitably, ecologically and elegantly enjoyed, period.\n00:06:01.000 (Applause)\n00:06:04.000 What don't you like about this?\n00:06:07.000 Which part of this don't you like?\n00:06:09.000 So we realized we want full diversity,\n00:06:11.000 even though it can be difficult to remember what De Gaulle said\n00:06:14.000 when asked what it was like to be President of France.\n00:06:16.000 He said, "What do you think it's like trying to run a country with 400 kinds of cheese?"\n00:06:20.000 But at the same time, we realize that our products are not safe and healthy.\n00:06:23.000 So we've designed products\n00:06:25.000 and we analyzed chemicals down to the parts per million.\n00:06:27.000 This is a baby blanket by Pendleton that will give your child nutrition\n00:06:30.000 instead of Alzheimer's later in life.\n00:06:32.000 We can ask ourselves, what is justice,\n00:06:34.000 and is justice blind, or is justice blindness?\n00:06:38.000 And at what point did that uniform turn from white to black?\n00:06:43.000 Water has been declared a human right by the United Nations.\n00:06:46.000 Air quality is an obvious thing to anyone who breathes.\n00:06:48.000 Is there anybody here who doesn't breathe?\n00:06:51.000 Clean soil is a critical problem -- the nitrification, the dead zones\n00:06:54.000 in the Gulf of Mexico.\n00:06:56.000 A fundamental issue that's not being addressed.\n00:06:58.000 We've seen the first form of solar energy\n00:07:00.000 that's beat the hegemony of fossil fuels in the form of wind\n00:07:03.000 here in the Great Plains, and so that hegemony is leaving.\n00:07:06.000 And if we remember Sheikh Yamani when he formed OPEC,\n00:07:09.000 they asked him, "When will we see the end of the age of oil?"\n00:07:12.000 I don't know if you remember his answer, but it was,\n00:07:15.000 "The Stone Age didn't end because we ran out of stones."\n00:07:19.000 We see that companies acting ethically in this world\n00:07:23.000 are outperforming those that don't.\n00:07:24.000 We see the flows of materials in a rather terrifying prospect.\n00:07:29.000 This is a hospital monitor from Los Angeles, sent to China.\n00:07:32.000 This woman will expose herself to toxic phosphorous,\n00:07:35.000 release four pounds of toxic lead into her childrens' environment,\n00:07:38.000 which is from copper.\n00:07:40.000 On the other hand, we see great signs of hope.\n00:07:42.000 Here's Dr. Venkataswamy in India, who's figured out\n00:07:45.000 how to do mass-produced health.\n00:07:47.000 He has given eyesight to two million people for free.\n00:07:51.000 We see in our material flows that car steels don't become car steel again\n00:07:54.000 because of the contaminants of the coatings --\n00:07:56.000 bismuth, antimony, copper and so on.\n00:07:58.000 They become building steel.\n00:07:59.000 On the other hand, we're working with Berkshire Hathaway,\n00:08:01.000 Warren Buffett and Shaw Carpet,\n00:08:04.000 the largest carpet company in the world.\n00:08:05.000 We've developed a carpet that is continuously recyclable,\n00:08:08.000 down to the parts per million.\n00:08:11.000 The upper is Nylon 6 that can go back to caprolactam,\n00:08:14.000 the bottom, a polyolephine -- infinitely recyclable thermoplastic.\n00:08:17.000 Now if I was a bird, the building on my left is a liability.\n00:08:21.000 The building on my right, which is our corporate campus for The Gap\n00:08:24.000 with an ancient meadow, is an asset -- its nesting grounds.\n00:08:29.000 Here's where I come from. I grew up in Hong Kong,\n00:08:31.000 with six million people in 40 square miles.\n00:08:33.000 During

the dry season, we had four hours of water every fourth day.\n00:08:37.000 And the relationship to landscape was that of farmers who have been\n00:08:40.000 farming the same piece of ground for 40 centuries.\n00:08:44.000 You can't farm the same piece of ground for 40 centuries\n00:08:46.000 without understanding nutrient flow.\n00:08:49.000 My childhood summers were in the Puget Sound of Washington,\n00:08:52.000 among the first growth and big growth.\n00:08:54.000 My grandfather had been a lumberjack in the Olympics,\n00:08:56.000 so I have a lot of tree karma I am working off.\n00:09:01.000 I went to Yale for graduate school,\n00:09:03.000 studied in a building of this style by Le Corbusier,\n00:09:05.000 affectionately known in our business as Brutalism.\n00:09:09.000 If we look at the world of architecture,\n00:09:12.000 we see with Mies' 1928 tower for Berlin,\n00:09:15.000 the question might be, "Well, where's the sun?"\n00:09:17.000 And this might have worked in Berlin, but we built it in Houston,\n00:09:20.000 and the windows are all closed. And with most products\n00:09:23.000 appearing not to have been designed for indoor use,\n00:09:25.000 this is actually a vertical gas chamber.\n00:09:28.000 When I went to Yale, we had the first energy crisis,\n00:09:31.000 and I was designing the first solar-heated house in Ireland\n00:09:33.000 as a student, which I then built --\n00:09:35.000 which would give you a sense of my ambition.\n00:09:37.000 And Richard Meier, who was one of my teachers,\n00:09:39.000 kept coming over to my desk to give me criticism,\n00:09:41.000 and he would say, "Bill, you've got to understand- --\n00:09:43.000 solar energy has nothing to do with architecture."\n00:09:51.000 I guess he didn't read Vitruvius.\n00:09:53.000 In 1984, we did the first so-called "green office" in America\n00:09:57.000 for Environmental Defense.\n00:09:58.000 We started asking manufacturers what were in their materials.\n00:10:01.000 They said, "They're proprietary, they're legal, go away."\n00:10:03.000 The only indoor quality work done in this country at that time\n00:10:05.000 was sponsored by R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Company,\n00:10:08.000 and it was to prove there was no danger\n00:10:09.000 from secondhand smoke in the workplace.\n00:10:12.000 So, all of a sudden, here I am, graduating from high school in 1969,\n00:10:16.000 and this happens, and we realize that "away" went away.\n00:10:19.000 Remember we used to throw things away, and we'd point to away?\n00:10:23.000 And yet, NOAA has now shown us, for example --\n00:10:25.000 you see that little blue thing above Hawaii?\n00:10:27.000 That's the Pacific Gyre.\n00:10:28.000 It was recently dragged for plankton by scientists,\n00:10:30.000 and they found six times as much plastic as plankton.\n00:10:34.000 When asked, they said, "It's kind of like a giant toilet that doesn't flush."\n00:10:39.000 Perhaps that's away.\n00:10:40.000 So we're looking for the design rules of this --\n00:10:42.000 this is the highest biodiversity of trees in the world, Irian Jaya,\n00:10:44.000 259 species of tree, and we described this\n00:10:48.000 in the book, "Cradle to Cradle."\n00:10:49.000 The book itself is a polymer. It is not a tree.\n00:10:53.000 That's the name of the first chapter -- "This Book is Not a Tree."\n00:10:56.000 Because in poetics, as Margaret Atwood pointed out,\n00:10:59.000 "we write our history on the skin of fish\n00:11:01.000 with the blood of bears."\n00:11:04.000 And with so much polymer, what we really need\n00:11:05.000 is technical nutrition, and to use something\n00:11:08.000 as elegant as a tree -- imagine this design assignment:\n00:11:11.000 Design something that makes oxygen, sequesters carbon,\n00:11:13.000 fixes nitrogen, distills water,

accrues solar energy as fuel,\n00:11:17.000 makes complex sugars and food, creates microclimates,\n00:11:21.000 changes colors with the seasons and self-replicates.\n00:11:27.000 Well, why don't we knock that down and write on it?\n00:11:29.000 (Laughter)\n00:11:35.000 So, we're looking at the same criteria\n00:11:37.000 as most people -- you know, can I afford it?\n00:11:39.000 Does it work? Do I like it?\n00:11:41.000 We're adding the Jeffersonian agenda, and I come from Charlottesville,\n00:11:43.000 where I've had the privilege of living in a house designed by Thomas Jefferson.\n00:11:47.000 We're adding life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.\n00:11:53.000 Now if we look at the word "competition,"\n00:11:54.000 I'm sure most of you've used it.\n00:11:56.000 You know, most people don't realize it comes from\n00:11:57.000 the Latin competere, which means strive together.\n00:12:00.000 It means the way Olympic athletes train with each other.\n00:12:03.000 They get fit together, and then they compete.\n00:12:06.000 The Williams sisters compete -- one wins Wimbledon.\n00:12:08.000 So we've been looking at the idea of competition\n00:12:11.000 as a way of cooperating in order to get fit together.\n00:12:15.000 And the Chinese government has now --\n00:12:16.000 I work with the Chinese government now --\n00:12:18.000 has taken this up.\n00:12:20.000 We're also looking at survival of the fittest,\n00:12:22.000 not in just competition terms in our modern context\n00:12:24.000 of destroy the other or beat them to the ground,\n00:12:27.000 but really to fit together and build niches\n00:12:29.000 and have growth that is good.\n00:12:31.000 Now most environmentalists don't say growth is good,\n00:12:33.000 because, in our lexicon, asphalt is two words: assigning blame.\n00:12:38.000 But if we look at asphalt as our growth,\n00:12:41.000 then we realize that all we're doing is destroying\n00:12:43.000 the planetary's fundamental underlying operating system.\n00:12:47.000 So when we see E equals mc squared come along, from a poet's perspective,\n00:12:52.000 we see energy as physics, chemistry as mass,\n00:12:54.000 and all of a sudden, you get this biology.\n00:12:56.000 And we have plenty of energy, so we'll solve that problem,\n00:12:59.000 but the biology problem's tricky, because as we put through\n00:13:02.000 all these toxic materials that we disgorge,\n00:13:05.000 we will never be able to recover that.\n00:13:07.000 And as Francis Crick pointed out, nine years\n00:13:09.000 after discovering DNA with Mr. Watson,\n00:13:12.000 that life itself has to have growth as a precondition --\n00:13:16.000 it has to have free energy, sunlight\n00:13:18.000 and it needs to be an open system of chemicals.\n00:13:21.000 So we're asking for human artifice to become a living thing,\n00:13:24.000 and we want growth, we want free energy from sunlight\n00:13:26.000 and we want an open metabolism for chemicals.\n00:13:29.000 Then, the question becomes not growth or no growth,\n00:13:31.000 but what do you want to grow?\n00:13:34.000 So instead of just growing destruction,\n00:13:36.000 we want to grow the things that we might enjoy,\n00:13:38.000 and someday the FDA will allow us to make French cheese.\n00:13:41.000 So therefore, we have these two metabolisms,\n00:13:45.000 and I worked with a German chemist, Michael Braungart,\n00:13:47.000 and we've identified the two fundamental metabolisms.\n00:13:49.000 The biological one I'm sure you understand,\n00:13:51.000 but also the technical one, where we take materials\n00:13:53.000 and put them into closed cycles.\n00:13:55.000 We call them biological nutrition and technical nutrition.\n00:13:58.000 Technical nutrition will be in an order of magnitude of biological nutrition.\n00:14:02.000 Biological

nutrition can supply about 500 million humans,\n00:14:05.000 which means that if we all wore Birkenstocks and cotton,\n00:14:07.000 the world would run out of cork and dry up.\n00:14:10.000 So we need materials in closed cycles,\n00:14:12.000 but we need to analyze them down to the parts per million\n00:14:14.000 for cancer, birth defects, mutagenic effects,\n00:14:17.000 disruption of our immune systems, biodegradation, persistence,\n00:14:20.000 heavy metal content, knowledge of how we're making them\n00:14:23.000 and their production and so on.\n00:14:25.000 Our first product was a textile where we analyzed 8,000 chemicals\n00:14:29.000 in the textile industry.\n00:14:30.000 Using those intellectual filters, we eliminated [7,962.]\n00:14:35.000 We were left with 38 chemicals.\n00:14:37.000 We have since databased the 4000 most commonly used chemicals\n00:14:40.000 in human manufacturing, and we're releasing this database into the public in six weeks.\n00:14:45.000 So designers all over the world can analyze their products\n00:14:47.000 down to the parts per million for human and ecological health.\n00:14:52.000 (Applause)\n00:14:57.000 We've developed a protocol so that companies can send\n00:15:00.000 these same messages all the way through their supply chains,\n00:15:03.000 because when we asked most companies we work with -- about a trillion dollars\n00:15:06.000 -- and say, "Where does your stuff come from?" They say, "Suppliers."\n00:15:08.000 "And where does it go?"\n00:15:10.000 "Customers."\n00:15:11.000 So we need some help there.\n00:15:12.000 So the biological nutrients, the first fabrics --\n00:15:14.000 the water coming out was clean enough to drink.\n00:15:16.000 Technical nutrients -- this is for Shaw Carpet, infinitely reusable carpet.\n00:15:20.000 Here's nylon going back to caprolactam back to carpet.\n00:15:23.000 Biotechnical nutrients -- the Model U for Ford Motor,\n00:15:26.000 a cradle to cradle car -- concept car.\n00:15:28.000 Shoes for Nike, where the uppers are polyesters, infinitely recyclable,\n00:15:32.000 the bottoms are biodegradable soles.\n00:15:35.000 Wear your old shoes in, your new shoes out.\n00:15:37.000 There is no finish line.\n00:15:39.000 The idea here of the car is that some of the materials\n00:15:41.000 go back to the industry forever, some of the materials go back to soil --\n00:15:44.000 it's all solar-powered.\n00:15:46.000 Here's a building at Oberlin College we designed\n00:15:48.000 that makes more energy than it needs to operate and purifies its own water.\n00:15:52.000 Here's a building for The Gap, where the ancient grasses\n00:15:54.000 of San Bruno, California, are on the roof.\n00:15:58.000 And this is our project for Ford Motor Company.\n00:16:00.000 It's the revitalization of the River Rouge in Dearborn.\n00:16:02.000 This is obviously a color photograph.\n00:16:06.000 These are our tools. These are how we sold it to Ford.\n00:16:10.000 We saved Ford 35 million dollars doing it this way, day one,\n00:16:13.000 which is the equivalent of the Ford Taurus\n00:16:15.000 at a four percent margin of an order for 900 million dollars worth of cars.\n00:16:19.000 Here it is. It's the world's largest green roof, 10 and a half acres.\n00:16:22.000 This is the roof, saving money,\n00:16:25.000 and this is the first species to arrive here. These are killdeer.\n00:16:29.000 They showed up in five days.\n00:16:32.000 And we now have 350-pound auto workers\n00:16:34.000 learning bird songs on the Internet.\n00:16:38.000 We're developing now protocols for cities --\n00:16:40.000 that's the home of technical nutrients.\n00:16:42.000 The country -- the home of biological. And putting them together.\n00:16:45.000 And so I will finish by showing you a new city\n00:16:47.000 we're designing for the Chinese government.\n00:16:49.000 We're doing 12 cities for China right

now,\n00:16:52.000 based on cradle to cradle as templates.\n00:16:54.000 Our assignment is to develop protocols for the housing\n00:16:57.000 for 400 million people in 12 years.\n00:16:59.000 We did a mass energy balance -- if they use brick,\n00:17:01.000 they will lose all their soil and burn all their coal.\n00:17:04.000 They'll have cities with no energy and no food.\n00:17:06.000 We signed a Memorandum of Understanding --\n00:17:08.000 here's Madam Deng Nan, Deng Xiaoping's daughter --\n00:17:10.000 for China to adopt cradle to cradle.\n00:17:12.000 Because if they toxify themselves, being the lowest-cost producer,\n00:17:16.000 send it to the lowest-cost distribution -- Wal-Mart -- \n00:17:18.000 and then we send them all our money, what we'll discover is that\n00:17:21.000 we have what, effectively, when I was a student,\n00:17:24.000 was called mutually assured destruction.\n00:17:27.000 Now we do it by molecule. These are our cities.\n00:17:30.000 We're building a new city next to this city; look at that landscape.\n00:17:33.000 This is the site.\n00:17:35.000 We don't normally do green fields, but this one is about to be built,\n00:17:39.000 so they brought us in to intercede.\n00:17:41.000 This is their plan.\n00:17:43.000 It's a rubber stamp grid that they laid right on that landscape.\n00:17:46.000 And they brought us in and said, "What would you do?"\n00:17:49.000 This is what they would end up with, which is another color photograph.\n00:17:53.000 So this is the existing site, so this is what it looks like now,\n00:17:56.000 and here's our proposal.\n00:17:58.000 (Applause)\n00:18:02.000 So the way we approached this\n00:18:04.000 is we studied the hydrology very carefully.\n00:18:06.000 We studied the biota, the ancient biota,\n00:18:08.000 the current farming and the protocols.\n00:18:10.000 We studied the winds and the sun to make sure everybody in the city\n00:18:12.000 will have fresh air, fresh water and direct sunlight\n00:18:18.000 in every single apartment at some point during the day.\n00:18:21.000 We then take the parks and lay them out as ecological infrastructure.\n00:18:25.000 We lay out the building areas.\n00:18:28.000 We start to integrate commercial and mixed use\n00:18:29.000 so the people all have centers and places to be.\n00:18:32.000 The transportation is all very simple,\n00:18:34.000 everybody's within a five-minute walk of mobility.\n00:18:37.000 We have a 24-hour street, so that there's always a place that's alive.\n00:18:42.000 The waste systems all connect.\n00:18:44.000 If you flush a toilet, your feces will go to the sewage treatment plants,\n00:18:49.000 which are sold as assets, not liabilities.\n00:18:51.000 Because who wants the fertilizer factory that makes natural gas?\n00:18:55.000 The waters are all taken in to construct the wetlands for habitat restorations.\n00:19:00.000 And then it makes natural gas, which then goes back into the city\n00:19:04.000 to power the fuel for the cooking for the city.\n00:19:08.000 So this is -- these are fertilizer gas plants.\n00:19:10.000 And then the compost is all taken back\n00:19:13.000 to the roofs of the city, where we've got farming,\n00:19:15.000 because what we've done is lifted up the city,\n00:19:19.000 the landscape, into the air to -- to restore the native landscape\n00:19:26.000 on the roofs of the buildings.\n00:19:28.000 The solar power of all the factory centers\n00:19:31.000 and all the industrial zones with their light roofs powers the city.\n00:19:34.000 And this is the concept for the top of the city.\n00:19:36.000 We've lifted the earth up onto the roofs.\n00:19:40.000 The farmers have little bridges to get from one roof to the next.\n00:19:44.000 We inhabit the city with work/live space on all the ground floors.\n00:19:48.000 And so this is the existing city, and this is the new city.\n00:19:53.000 (Applause)\n\nThe file is

too long and its contents have been truncated.\n", "extra": {"cited_message_idx": 12, "search_result_idx": null, "evidence_text": "source"}}}, {"start_ix": 4501, "end_ix": 4512, "citation_format_type": "tether_og", "metadata": {"type": "file", "name": "tactiq-free-transcript-IoRjz8iTVoo.txt", "id": "file-QAdtwx5q5xmFsPgGvYJdRiuF", "source": "my_files", "text": "# tactiq.io free youtube transcript\n# Cradle to cradle design | William McDonough\n# https://www.youtube.com/watch/IoRjz8iTVoo\n\n00:00:26.000 In 1962, with Rachel Carson's "Silent Spring,"\n00:00:30.000 I think for people like me in the world of the making of things,\n00:00:35.000 the canary in the mine wasn't singing.\n00:00:39.000 And so the question that we might not have birds\n00:00:42.000 became kind of fundamental to those of us wandering around\n00:00:45.000 looking for the meadowlarks that seemed to have all disappeared.\n00:00:48.000 And the question was, were the birds singing?\n00:00:51.000 Now, I'm not a scientist, that'll be really clear.\n00:00:55.000 But, you know, we've just come from this discussion of what a bird might be.\n00:00:59.000 What is a bird?\n00:01:00.000 Well, in my world, this is a rubber duck.\n00:01:04.000 It comes in California with a warning --\n00:01:06.000 "This product contains chemicals known by the State of California\n00:01:09.000 to cause cancer and birth defects or other reproductive harm."\n00:01:16.000 This is a bird.\n00:01:19.000 What kind of culture would produce a product of this kind\n00:01:22.000 and then label it and sell it to children?\n00:01:27.000 I think we have a design problem.\n00:01:30.000 Someone heard the six hours of talk that I gave\n00:01:35.000 called "The Monticello Dialogues" on NPR, and sent me this as a thank you note --\n00:01:41.000 "We realize that design is a signal of intention,\n00:01:43.000 but it also has to occur within a world,\n00:01:46.000 and we have to understand that world in order to\n00:01:50.000 imbue our designs with inherent intelligence,\n00:01:53.000 and so as we look back at the basic state of affairs\n00:01:58.000 in which we design, we, in a way, need to go to the primordial condition\n00:02:03.000 to understand the operating system and the frame conditions of a planet,\n00:02:08.000 and I think the exciting part of that is the good news that's there,\n00:02:13.000 because the news is the news of abundance,\n00:02:16.000 and not the news of limits,\n00:02:18.000 and I think as our culture tortures itself now\n00:02:23.000 with tyrannies and concerns over limits and fear,\n00:02:28.000 we can add this other dimension of abundance that is coherent,\n00:02:33.000 driven by the sun, and start to imagine\n00:02:35.000 what that would be like to share."\n00:02:42.000 That was a nice thing to get.\n00:02:44.000 That was one sentence.\n00:02:48.000 Henry James would be proud.\n00:02:50.000 This is -- I put it down at the bottom,\n00:02:52.000 but that was extemporaneous, obviously.\n00:02:55.000 The fundamental issue is that, for me,\n00:02:58.000 design is the first signal of human intentions.\n00:03:00.000 So what are our intentions, and what would our intentions be --\n00:03:04.000 if we wake up in the morning, we have designs on the world --\n00:03:07.000 well, what would our intention be as a species\n00:03:09.000 now that we're the dominant species?\n00:03:11.000 And it's not just stewardship and dominion debate,\n00:03:14.000 because really, dominion is implicit in stewardship --\n00:03:20.000 because how could you dominate something you had killed?\n00:03:22.000 And stewardship's implicit in dominion,\n00:03:24.000 because you can't be steward of something if you can't dominate it.\n00:03:26.000 So the question is, what is the first question for designers?\n00:03:32.000 Now, as guardians -- let's say the state, for example,\n00:03:35.000 which reserves the right to kill,

the right to be duplicitous and so on --\n00:03:40.000 the question we're asking the guardian at this point is\n00:03:43.000 are we meant, how are we meant,\n00:03:45.000 to secure local societies, create world peace\n00:03:47.000 and save the environment?\n00:03:49.000 But I don't know that that's the common debate.\n00:03:52.000 Commerce, on the other hand, is relatively quick,\n00:03:56.000 essentially creative, highly effective and efficient,\n00:03:58.000 and fundamentally honest, because we can't exchange\n00:04:01.000 value for very long if we don't trust each other.\n00:04:05.000 So we use the tools of commerce primarily for our work,\n00:04:07.000 but the question we bring to it is,\n00:04:09.000 how do we love all the children of all species for all time?\n00:04:13.000 And so we start our designs with that question.\n00:04:16.000 Because what we realize today is that modern culture\n00:04:18.000 appears to have adopted a strategy of tragedy.\n00:04:21.000 If we come here and say, "Well, I didn't intend\n00:04:23.000 to cause global warming on the way here,"\n00:04:24.000 and we say, "That's not part of my plan,"\n00:04:26.000 then we realize it's part of our de facto plan.\n00:04:29.000 Because it's the thing that's happening because we have no other plan.\n00:04:32.000 And I was at the White House for President Bush,\n00:04:34.000 meeting with every federal department and agency,\n00:04:36.000 and I pointed out that they appear to have no plan.\n00:04:40.000 If the end game is global warming, they're doing great.\n00:04:42.000 If the end game is mercury toxification of our children\n00:04:45.000 downwind of coal fire plants as they scuttled the Clean Air Act,\n00:04:48.000 then I see that our education programs should be explicitly defined as,\n00:04:52.000 "Brain death for all children. No child left behind."\n00:04:54.000 (Applause)\n00:04:58.000 So, the question is, how many federal officials\n00:05:02.000 are ready to move to Ohio and Pennsylvania with their families?\n00:05:05.000 So if you don't have an endgame of something delightful,\n00:05:09.000 then you're just moving chess pieces around,\n00:05:11.000 if you don't know you're taking the king.\n00:05:12.000 So perhaps we could develop a strategy of change,\n00:05:15.000 which requires humility. And in my business as an architect,\n00:05:18.000 it's unfortunate the word "humility" and the word "architect"\n00:05:22.000 have not appeared in the same paragraph since "The Fountainhead."\n00:05:25.000 So if anybody here has trouble with the concept of design humility,\n00:05:30.000 reflect on this -- it took us 5,000 years\n00:05:33.000 to put wheels on our luggage.\n00:05:37.000 So, as Kevin Kelly pointed out, there is no endgame.\n00:05:42.000 There is an infinite game, and we're playing in that infinite game.\n00:05:46.000 And so we call it "cradle to cradle,"\n00:05:48.000 and our goal is very simple.\n00:05:49.000 This is what I presented to the White House.\n00:05:51.000 Our goal is a delightfully diverse, safe, healthy and just world,\n00:05:54.000 with clean air, clean water, soil and power --\n00:05:57.000 economically, equitably, ecologically and elegantly enjoyed, period.\n00:06:01.000 (Applause)\n00:06:04.000 What don't you like about this?\n00:06:07.000 Which part of this don't you like?\n00:06:09.000 So we realized we want full diversity,\n00:06:11.000 even though it can be difficult to remember what De Gaulle said\n00:06:14.000 when asked what it was like to be President of France.\n00:06:16.000 He said, "What do you think it's like trying to run a country with 400 kinds of cheese?"\n00:06:20.000 But at the same time, we realize that our products are not safe and healthy.\n00:06:23.000 So we've

designed products\n00:06:25.000 and we analyzed chemicals down to the parts per million.\n00:06:27.000 This is a baby blanket by Pendleton that will give your child nutrition\n00:06:30.000 instead of Alzheimer's later in life.\n00:06:32.000 We can ask ourselves, what is justice,\n00:06:34.000 and is justice blind, or is justice blindness?\n00:06:38.000 And at what point did that uniform turn from white to black?\n00:06:43.000 Water has been declared a human right by the United Nations.\n00:06:46.000 Air quality is an obvious thing to anyone who breathes.\n00:06:48.000 Is there anybody here who doesn't breathe?\n00:06:51.000 Clean soil is a critical problem -- the nitrification, the dead zones\n00:06:54.000 in the Gulf of Mexico.\n00:06:56.000 A fundamental issue that's not being addressed.\n00:06:58.000 We've seen the first form of solar energy\n00:07:00.000 that's beat the hegemony of fossil fuels in the form of wind\n00:07:03.000 here in the Great Plains, and so that hegemony is leaving.\n00:07:06.000 And if we remember Sheikh Yamani when he formed OPEC,\n00:07:09.000 they asked him, "When will we see the end of the age of oil?"\n00:07:12.000 I don't know if you remember his answer, but it was,\n00:07:15.000 "The Stone Age didn't end because we ran out of stones."\n00:07:19.000 We see that companies acting ethically in this world\n00:07:23.000 are outperforming those that don't.\n00:07:24.000 We see the flows of materials in a rather terrifying prospect.\n00:07:29.000 This is a hospital monitor from Los Angeles, sent to China.\n00:07:32.000 This woman will expose herself to toxic phosphorous,\n00:07:35.000 release four pounds of toxic lead into her childrens' environment,\n00:07:38.000 which is from copper.\n00:07:40.000 On the other hand, we see great signs of hope.\n00:07:42.000 Here's Dr. Venkataswamy in India, who's figured out\n00:07:45.000 how to do mass-produced health.\n00:07:47.000 He has given eyesight to two million people for free.\n00:07:51.000 We see in our material flows that car steels don't become car steel again\n00:07:54.000 because of the contaminants of the coatings --\n00:07:56.000 bismuth, antimony, copper and so on.\n00:07:58.000 They become building steel.\n00:07:59.000 On the other hand, we're working with Berkshire Hathaway,\n00:08:01.000 Warren Buffett and Shaw Carpet,\n00:08:04.000 the largest carpet company in the world.\n00:08:05.000 We've developed a carpet that is continuously recyclable,\n00:08:08.000 down to the parts per million.\n00:08:11.000 The upper is Nylon 6 that can go back to caprolactam,\n00:08:14.000 the bottom, a polyolephine -- infinitely recyclable thermoplastic.\n00:08:17.000 Now if I was a bird, the building on my left is a liability.\n00:08:21.000 The building on my right, which is our corporate campus for The Gap\n00:08:24.000 with an ancient meadow, is an asset -- its nesting grounds.\n00:08:29.000 Here's where I come from. I grew up in Hong Kong,\n00:08:31.000 with six million people in 40 square miles.\n00:08:33.000 During the dry season, we had four hours of water every fourth day.\n00:08:37.000 And the relationship to landscape was that of farmers who have been\n00:08:40.000 farming the same piece of ground for 40 centuries.\n00:08:44.000 You can't farm the same piece of ground for 40 centuries\n00:08:46.000 without understanding nutrient flow.\n00:08:49.000 My childhood summers were in the Puget Sound of Washington,\n00:08:52.000 among the first growth and big growth.\n00:08:54.000 My grandfather had been a lumberjack in the Olympics,\n00:08:56.000 so I have a lot of tree karma I am working off.\n00:09:01.000 I went to Yale for graduate school,\n00:09:03.000 studied in a building of this style by Le Corbusier,\n00:09:05.000 affectionately known in our business as Brutalism.\n00:09:09.000 If we look at the world of architecture,\n00:09:12.000 we see

with Mies' 1928 tower for Berlin,\n00:09:15.000 the question might be, "Well, where's the sun?"\n00:09:17.000 And this might have worked in Berlin, but we built it in Houston,\n00:09:20.000 and the windows are all closed. And with most products\n00:09:23.000 appearing not to have been designed for indoor use,\n00:09:25.000 this is actually a vertical gas chamber.\n00:09:28.000 When I went to Yale, we had the first energy crisis,\n00:09:31.000 and I was designing the first solar-heated house in Ireland\n00:09:33.000 as a student, which I then built --\n00:09:35.000 which would give you a sense of my ambition.\n00:09:37.000 And Richard Meier, who was one of my teachers,\n00:09:39.000 kept coming over to my desk to give me criticism,\n00:09:41.000 and he would say, "Bill, you've got to understand- --\n00:09:43.000 solar energy has nothing to do with architecture."\n00:09:51.000 I guess he didn't read Vitruvius.\n00:09:53.000 In 1984, we did the first so-called "green office" in America\n00:09:57.000 for Environmental Defense.\n00:09:58.000 We started asking manufacturers what were in their materials.\n00:10:01.000 They said, "They're proprietary, they're legal, go away."\n00:10:03.000 The only indoor quality work done in this country at that time\n00:10:05.000 was sponsored by R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Company,\n00:10:08.000 and it was to prove there was no danger\n00:10:09.000 from secondhand smoke in the workplace.\n00:10:12.000 So, all of a sudden, here I am, graduating from high school in 1969,\n00:10:16.000 and this happens, and we realize that "away" went away.\n00:10:19.000 Remember we used to throw things away, and we'd point to away?\n00:10:23.000 And yet, NOAA has now shown us, for example --\n00:10:25.000 you see that little blue thing above Hawaii?\n00:10:27.000 That's the Pacific Gyre.\n00:10:28.000 It was recently dragged for plankton by scientists,\n00:10:30.000 and they found six times as much plastic as plankton.\n00:10:34.000 When asked, they said, "It's kind of like a giant toilet that doesn't flush."\n00:10:39.000 Perhaps that's away.\n00:10:40.000 So we're looking for the design rules of this --\n00:10:42.000 this is the highest biodiversity of trees in the world, Irian Jaya,\n00:10:44.000 259 species of tree, and we described this\n00:10:48.000 in the book, "Cradle to Cradle."\n00:10:49.000 The book itself is a polymer. It is not a tree.\n00:10:53.000 That's the name of the first chapter -- "This Book is Not a Tree."\n00:10:56.000 Because in poetics, as Margaret Atwood pointed out,\n00:10:59.000 "we write our history on the skin of fish\n00:11:01.000 with the blood of bears."\n00:11:04.000 And with so much polymer, what we really need\n00:11:05.000 is technical nutrition, and to use something\n00:11:08.000 as elegant as a tree -- imagine this design assignment:\n00:11:11.000 Design something that makes oxygen, sequesters carbon,\n00:11:13.000 fixes nitrogen, distills water, accrues solar energy as fuel,\n00:11:17.000 makes complex sugars and food, creates microclimates,\n00:11:21.000 changes colors with the seasons and self-replicates.\n00:11:27.000 Well, why don't we knock that down and write on it?\n00:11:29.000 (Laughter)\n00:11:35.000 So, we're looking at the same criteria\n00:11:37.000 as most people -- you know, can I afford it?\n00:11:39.000 Does it work? Do I like it?\n00:11:41.000 We're adding the Jeffersonian agenda, and I come from Charlottesville,\n00:11:43.000 where I've had the privilege of living in a house designed by Thomas Jefferson.\n00:11:47.000 We're adding life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.\n00:11:53.000 Now if we look at the word "competition,"\n00:11:54.000 I'm sure most of you've used it.\n00:11:56.000 You know, most people don't realize it comes from\n00:11:57.000

the Latin competere, which means strive together.\n00:12:00.000 It means the way Olympic athletes train with each other.\n00:12:03.000 They get fit together, and then they compete.\n00:12:06.000 The Williams sisters compete -- one wins Wimbledon.\n00:12:08.000 So we've been looking at the idea of competition\n00:12:11.000 as a way of cooperating in order to get fit together.\n00:12:15.000 And the Chinese government has now --\n00:12:16.000 I work with the Chinese government now --\n00:12:18.000 has taken this up.\n00:12:20.000 We're also looking at survival of the fittest,\n00:12:22.000 not in just competition terms in our modern context\n00:12:24.000 of destroy the other or beat them to the ground,\n00:12:27.000 but really to fit together and build niches\n00:12:29.000 and have growth that is good.\n00:12:31.000 Now most environmentalists don't say growth is good,\n00:12:33.000 because, in our lexicon, asphalt is two words: assigning blame.\n00:12:38.000 But if we look at asphalt as our growth,\n00:12:41.000 then we realize that all we're doing is destroying\n00:12:43.000 the planetary's fundamental underlying operating system.\n00:12:47.000 So when we see E equals mc squared come along, from a poet's perspective,\n00:12:52.000 we see energy as physics, chemistry as mass,\n00:12:54.000 and all of a sudden, you get this biology.\n00:12:56.000 And we have plenty of energy, so we'll solve that problem,\n00:12:59.000 but the biology problem's tricky, because as we put through\n00:13:02.000 all these toxic materials that we disgorge,\n00:13:05.000 we will never be able to recover that.\n00:13:07.000 And as Francis Crick pointed out, nine years\n00:13:09.000 after discovering DNA with Mr. Watson,\n00:13:12.000 that life itself has to have growth as a precondition --\n00:13:16.000 it has to have free energy, sunlight\n00:13:18.000 and it needs to be an open system of chemicals.\n00:13:21.000 So we're asking for human artifice to become a living thing,\n00:13:24.000 and we want growth, we want free energy from sunlight\n00:13:26.000 and we want an open metabolism for chemicals.\n00:13:29.000 Then, the question becomes not growth or no growth,\n00:13:31.000 but what do you want to grow?\n00:13:34.000 So instead of just growing destruction,\n00:13:36.000 we want to grow the things that we might enjoy,\n00:13:38.000 and someday the FDA will allow us to make French cheese.\n00:13:41.000 So therefore, we have these two metabolisms,\n00:13:45.000 and I worked with a German chemist, Michael Braungart,\n00:13:47.000 and we've identified the two fundamental metabolisms.\n00:13:49.000 The biological one I'm sure you understand,\n00:13:51.000 but also the technical one, where we take materials\n00:13:53.000 and put them into closed cycles.\n00:13:55.000 We call them biological nutrition and technical nutrition.\n00:13:58.000 Technical nutrition will be in an order of magnitude of biological nutrition.\n00:14:02.000 Biological nutrition can supply about 500 million humans,\n00:14:05.000 which means that if we all wore Birkenstocks and cotton,\n00:14:07.000 the world would run out of cork and dry up.\n00:14:10.000 So we need materials in closed cycles,\n00:14:12.000 but we need to analyze them down to the parts per million\n00:14:14.000 for cancer, birth defects, mutagenic effects,\n00:14:17.000 disruption of our immune systems, biodegradation, persistence,\n00:14:20.000 heavy metal content, knowledge of how we're making them\n00:14:23.000 and their production and so on.\n00:14:25.000 Our first product was a textile where we analyzed 8,000 chemicals\n00:14:29.000 in the textile industry.\n00:14:30.000 Using those intellectual filters, we eliminated [7,962.]\n00:14:35.000 We were left with 38 chemicals.\n00:14:37.000 We have since databased the 4000 most commonly used chemicals\n00:14:40.000 in human manufacturing,

and we're releasing this database into the public in six weeks.\n00:14:45.000 So designers all over the world can analyze their products\n00:14:47.000 down to the parts per million for human and ecological health.\n00:14:52.000 (Applause)\n00:14:57.000 We've developed a protocol so that companies can send\n00:15:00.000 these same messages all the way through their supply chains,\n00:15:03.000 because when we asked most companies we work with -- about a trillion dollars\n00:15:06.000 -- and say, "Where does your stuff come from?" They say, "Suppliers."\n00:15:08.000 "And where does it go?"\n00:15:10.000 "Customers."\n00:15:11.000 So we need some help there.\n00:15:12.000 So the biological nutrients, the first fabrics --\n00:15:14.000 the water coming out was clean enough to drink.\n00:15:16.000 Technical nutrients -- this is for Shaw Carpet, infinitely reusable carpet.\n00:15:20.000 Here's nylon going back to caprolactam back to carpet.\n00:15:23.000 Biotechnical nutrients -- the Model U for Ford Motor,\n00:15:26.000 a cradle to cradle car -- concept car.\n00:15:28.000 Shoes for Nike, where the uppers are polyesters, infinitely recyclable,\n00:15:32.000 the bottoms are biodegradable soles.\n00:15:35.000 Wear your old shoes in, your new shoes out.\n00:15:37.000 There is no finish line.\n00:15:39.000 The idea here of the car is that some of the materials\n00:15:41.000 go back to the industry forever, some of the materials go back to soil --\n00:15:44.000 it's all solar-powered.\n00:15:46.000 Here's a building at Oberlin College we designed\n00:15:48.000 that makes more energy than it needs to operate and purifies its own water.\n00:15:52.000 Here's a building for The Gap, where the ancient grasses\n00:15:54.000 of San Bruno, California, are on the roof.\n00:15:58.000 And this is our project for Ford Motor Company.\n00:16:00.000 It's the revitalization of the River Rouge in Dearborn.\n00:16:02.000 This is obviously a color photograph.\n00:16:06.000 These are our tools. These are how we sold it to Ford.\n00:16:10.000 We saved Ford 35 million dollars doing it this way, day one,\n00:16:13.000 which is the equivalent of the Ford Taurus\n00:16:15.000 at a four percent margin of an order for 900 million dollars worth of cars.\n00:16:19.000 Here it is. It's the world's largest green roof, 10 and a half acres.\n00:16:22.000 This is the roof, saving money,\n00:16:25.000 and this is the first species to arrive here. These are killdeer.\n00:16:29.000 They showed up in five days.\n00:16:32.000 And we now have 350-pound auto workers\n00:16:34.000 learning bird songs on the Internet.\n00:16:38.000 We're developing now protocols for cities --\n00:16:40.000 that's the home of technical nutrients.\n00:16:42.000 The country -- the home of biological. And putting them together.\n00:16:45.000 And so I will finish by showing you a new city\n00:16:47.000 we're designing for the Chinese government.\n00:16:49.000 We're doing 12 cities for China right now,\n00:16:52.000 based on cradle to cradle as templates.\n00:16:54.000 Our assignment is to develop protocols for the housing\n00:16:57.000 for 400 million people in 12 years.\n00:16:59.000 We did a mass energy balance -- if they use brick,\n00:17:01.000 they will lose all their soil and burn all their coal.\n00:17:04.000 They'll have cities with no energy and no food.\n00:17:06.000 We signed a Memorandum of Understanding --\n00:17:08.000 here's Madam Deng Nan, Deng Xiaoping's daughter --\n00:17:10.000 for China to adopt cradle to cradle.\n00:17:12.000 Because if they toxify themselves, being the lowest-cost producer,\n00:17:16.000 send it to the lowest-cost distribution -- Wal-Mart --\n00:17:18.000 and then we send them all our money, what we'll discover is that\n00:17:21.000 we have what, effectively, when I was a student,\n00:17:24.000 was

called mutually assured destruction.\n00:17:27.000 Now we do it by molecule. These are our cities.\n00:17:30.000 We're building a new city next to this city; look at that landscape.\n00:17:33.000 This is the site.\n00:17:35.000 We don't normally do green fields, but this one is about to be built,\n00:17:39.000 so they brought us in to intercede.\n00:17:41.000 This is their plan.\n00:17:43.000 It's a rubber stamp grid that they laid right on that landscape.\n00:17:46.000 And they brought us in and said, "What would you do?"\n00:17:49.000 This is what they would end up with, which is another color photograph.\n00:17:53.000 So this is the existing site, so this is what it looks like now,\n00:17:56.000 and here's our proposal.\n00:17:58.000 (Applause)\n00:18:02.000 So the way we approached this\n00:18:04.000 is we studied the hydrology very carefully.\n00:18:06.000 We studied the biota, the ancient biota,\n00:18:08.000 the current farming and the protocols.\n00:18:10.000 We studied the winds and the sun to make sure everybody in the city\n00:18:12.000 will have fresh air, fresh water and direct sunlight\n00:18:18.000 in every single apartment at some point during the day.\n00:18:21.000 We then take the parks and lay them out as ecological infrastructure.\n00:18:25.000 We lay out the building areas.\n00:18:28.000 We start to integrate commercial and mixed use\n00:18:29.000 so the people all have centers and places to be.\n00:18:32.000 The transportation is all very simple,\n00:18:34.000 everybody's within a five-minute walk of mobility.\n00:18:37.000 We have a 24-hour street, so that there's always a place that's alive.\n00:18:42.000 The waste systems all connect.\n00:18:44.000 If you flush a toilet, your feces will go to the sewage treatment plants,\n00:18:49.000 which are sold as assets, not liabilities.\n00:18:51.000 Because who wants the fertilizer factory that makes natural gas?\n00:18:55.000 The waters are all taken in to construct the wetlands for habitat restorations.\n00:19:00.000 And then it makes natural gas, which then goes back into the city\n00:19:04.000 to power the fuel for the cooking for the city.\n00:19:08.000 So this is -- these are fertilizer gas plants.\n00:19:10.000 And then the compost is all taken back\n00:19:13.000 to the roofs of the city, where we've got farming,\n00:19:15.000 because what we've done is lifted up the city,\n00:19:19.000 the landscape, into the air to -- to restore the native landscape\n00:19:26.000 on the roofs of the buildings.\n00:19:28.000 The solar power of all the factory centers\n00:19:31.000 and all the industrial zones with their light roofs powers the city.\n00:19:34.000 And this is the concept for the top of the city.\n00:19:36.000 We've lifted the earth up onto the roofs.\n00:19:40.000 The farmers have little bridges to get from one roof to the next.\n00:19:44.000 We inhabit the city with work/live space on all the ground floors.\n00:19:48.000 And so this is the existing city, and this is the new city.\n00:19:53.000 (Applause)\n\nThe file is too long and its contents have been truncated.\n", "extra": {"cited_message_idx": 12, "search_result_idx": null, "evidence_text": "source"}}}], "gizmo_id": "g-HTKib04fm", "message_type": null, "model_slug": "gpt-4o", "default_model_slug": "gpt-4", "pad": "AAAAAAAAAAAAAAAA", "parent_id": "bf7b3c0b-2586-4022-8e00-92d81b4d42c2", "finish_details": {"type": "stop", "stop_tokens": [200002]}, "is_complete": true, "request_id": "88e26decaabf0e63-MXP", "timestamp_": "absolute", "content_references": [{"matched_text": "\u301012\u2020source\u3011", "start_idx": 794, "end_idx": 805, "alt": null, "type": "file", "name": "tactiq-free-transcript-IoRjz8iTVoo.txt", "id": "file-QAdtwx5q5xmFsPgGvYJdRiuF", "source": "my_files", "snippet": "# tactiq.io free youtube transcript\n# Cradle to cradle design | William McDonough\n# https://www.youtube.com/watch/IoRjz8iTVoo\n\n00:00:26.000 In 1962, with Rachel

Carson's "Silent Spring,"\n00:00:30.000 I think for people like me in the world of the making of things,\n00:00:35.000 the canary in the mine wasn't singing.\n00:00:39.000 And so the question that we might not have birds\n00:00:42.000 became kind of fundamental to those of us wandering around\n00:00:45.000 looking for the meadowlarks that seemed to have all disappeared.\n00:00:48.000 And the question was, were the birds singing?\n00:00:51.000 Now, I'm not a scientist, that'll be really clear.\n00:00:55.000 But, you know, we've just come from this discussion of what a bird might be.\n00:00:59.000 What is a bird?\n00:01:00.000 Well, in my world, this is a rubber duck.\n00:01:04.000 It comes in California with a warning --\n00:01:06.000 "This product contains chemicals known by the State of California\n00:01:09.000 to cause cancer and birth defects or other reproductive harm."\n00:01:16.000 This is a bird.\n00:01:19.000 What kind of culture would produce a product of this kind\n00:01:22.000 and then label it and sell it to children?\n00:01:27.000 I think we have a design problem.\n00:01:30.000 Someone heard the six hours of talk that I gave\n00:01:35.000 called "The Monticello Dialogues" on NPR, and sent me this as a thank you note --\n00:01:41.000 "We realize that design is a signal of intention,\n00:01:43.000 but it also has to occur within a world,\n00:01:46.000 and we have to understand that world in order to\n00:01:50.000 imbue our designs with inherent intelligence,\n00:01:53.000 and so as we look back at the basic state of affairs\n00:01:58.000 in which we design, we, in a way, need to go to the primordial condition\n00:02:03.000 to understand the operating system and the frame conditions of a planet,\n00:02:08.000 and I think the exciting part of that is the good news that's there,\n00:02:13.000 because the news is the news of abundance,\n00:02:16.000 and not the news of limits,\n00:02:18.000 and I think as our culture tortures itself now\n00:02:23.000 with tyrannies and concerns over limits and fear,\n00:02:28.000 we can add this other dimension of abundance that is coherent,\n00:02:33.000 driven by the sun, and start to imagine\n00:02:35.000 what that would be like to share."\n00:02:42.000 That was a nice thing to get.\n00:02:44.000 That was one sentence.\n00:02:48.000 Henry James would be proud.\n00:02:50.000 This is -- I put it down at the bottom,\n00:02:52.000 but that was extemporaneous, obviously.\n00:02:55.000 The fundamental issue is that, for me,\n00:02:58.000 design is the first signal of human intentions.\n00:03:00.000 So what are our intentions, and what would our intentions be --\n00:03:04.000 if we wake up in the morning, we have designs on the world --\n00:03:07.000 well, what would our intention be as a species\n00:03:09.000 now that we're the dominant species?\n00:03:11.000 And it's not just stewardship and dominion debate,\n00:03:14.000 because really, dominion is implicit in stewardship --\n00:03:20.000 because how could you dominate something you had killed?\n00:03:22.000 And stewardship's implicit in dominion,\n00:03:24.000 because you can't be steward of something if you can't dominate it.\n00:03:26.000 So the question is, what is the first question for designers?\n00:03:32.000 Now, as guardians -- let's say the state, for example,\n00:03:35.000 which reserves the right to kill, the right to be duplicitous and so on --\n00:03:40.000 the question we're asking the guardian at this point is\n00:03:43.000 are we meant, how are we meant,\n00:03:45.000 to secure local societies, create world peace\n00:03:47.000 and save the environment?\n00:03:49.000 But I don't know that that's the common debate.\n00:03:52.000 Commerce, on the other hand, is relatively quick,\n00:03:56.000 essentially creative, highly effective and efficient,\n00:03:58.000 and fundamentally honest, because we can't exchange\n00:04:01.000 value for very long if we

don't trust each other.\n00:04:05.000 So we use the tools of commerce primarily for our work,\n00:04:07.000 but the question we bring to it is,\n00:04:09.000 how do we love all the children of all species for all time?\n00:04:13.000 And so we start our designs with that question.\n00:04:16.000 Because what we realize today is that modern culture\n00:04:18.000 appears to have adopted a strategy of tragedy.\n00:04:21.000 If we come here and say, "Well, I didn't intend\n00:04:23.000 to cause global warming on the way here,"\n00:04:24.000 and we say, "That's not part of my plan,"\n00:04:26.000 then we realize it's part of our de facto plan.\n00:04:29.000 Because it's the thing that's happening because we have no other plan.\n00:04:32.000 And I was at the White House for President Bush,\n00:04:34.000 meeting with every federal department and agency,\n00:04:36.000 and I pointed out that they appear to have no plan.\n00:04:40.000 If the end game is global warming, they're doing great.\n00:04:42.000 If the end game is mercury toxification of our children\n00:04:45.000 downwind of coal fire plants as they scuttled the Clean Air Act,\n00:04:48.000 then I see that our education programs should be explicitly defined as,\n00:04:52.000 "Brain death for all children. No child left behind."\n00:04:54.000 (Applause)\n00:04:58.000 So, the question is, how many federal officials\n00:05:02.000 are ready to move to Ohio and Pennsylvania with their families?\n00:05:05.000 So if you don't have an endgame of something delightful,\n00:05:09.000 then you're just moving chess pieces around,\n00:05:11.000 if you don't know you're taking the king.\n00:05:12.000 So perhaps we could develop a strategy of change,\n00:05:15.000 which requires humility. And in my business as an architect,\n00:05:18.000 it's unfortunate the word "humility" and the word "architect"\n00:05:22.000 have not appeared in the same paragraph since "The Fountainhead."\n00:05:25.000 So if anybody here has trouble with the concept of design humility,\n00:05:30.000 reflect on this -- it took us 5,000 years\n00:05:33.000 to put wheels on our luggage.\n00:05:37.000 So, as Kevin Kelly pointed out, there is no endgame.\n00:05:42.000 There is an infinite game, and we're playing in that infinite game.\n00:05:46.000 And so we call it "cradle to cradle,"\n00:05:48.000 and our goal is very simple.\n00:05:49.000 This is what I presented to the White House.\n00:05:51.000 Our goal is a delightfully diverse, safe, healthy and just world,\n00:05:54.000 with clean air, clean water, soil and power --\n00:05:57.000 economically, equitably, ecologically and elegantly enjoyed, period.\n00:06:01.000 (Applause)\n00:06:04.000 What don't you like about this?\n00:06:07.000 Which part of this don't you like?\n00:06:09.000 So we realized we want full diversity,\n00:06:11.000 even though it can be difficult to remember what De Gaulle said\n00:06:14.000 when asked what it was like to be President of France.\n00:06:16.000 He said, "What do you think it's like trying to run a country with 400 kinds of cheese?"\n00:06:20.000 But at the same time, we realize that our products are not safe and healthy.\n00:06:23.000 So we've designed products\n00:06:25.000 and we analyzed chemicals down to the parts per million.\n00:06:27.000 This is a baby blanket by Pendleton that will give your child nutrition\n00:06:30.000 instead of Alzheimer's later in life.\n00:06:32.000 We can ask ourselves, what is justice,\n00:06:34.000 and is justice blind, or is justice blindness?\n00:06:38.000 And at what point did that uniform turn from white to black?\n00:06:43.000 Water has been declared a human right by the United Nations.\n00:06:46.000 Air quality is an obvious thing to anyone who

breathes.\n00:06:48.000 Is there anybody here who doesn't breathe?\n00:06:51.000 Clean soil is a critical problem -- the nitrification, the dead zones\n00:06:54.000 in the Gulf of Mexico.\n00:06:56.000 A fundamental issue that's not being addressed.\n00:06:58.000 We've seen the first form of solar energy\n00:07:00.000 that's beat the hegemony of fossil fuels in the form of wind\n00:07:03.000 here in the Great Plains, and so that hegemony is leaving.\n00:07:06.000 And if we remember Sheikh Yamani when he formed OPEC,\n00:07:09.000 they asked him, "When will we see the end of the age of oil?"\n00:07:12.000 I don't know if you remember his answer, but it was,\n00:07:15.000 "The Stone Age didn't end because we ran out of stones."\n00:07:19.000 We see that companies acting ethically in this world\n00:07:23.000 are outperforming those that don't.\n00:07:24.000 We see the flows of materials in a rather terrifying prospect.\n00:07:29.000 This is a hospital monitor from Los Angeles, sent to China.\n00:07:32.000 This woman will expose herself to toxic phosphorous,\n00:07:35.000 release four pounds of toxic lead into her childrens' environment,\n00:07:38.000 which is from copper.\n00:07:40.000 On the other hand, we see great signs of hope.\n00:07:42.000 Here's Dr. Venkataswamy in India, who's figured out\n00:07:45.000 how to do mass-produced health.\n00:07:47.000 He has given eyesight to two million people for free.\n00:07:51.000 We see in our material flows that car steels don't become car steel again\n00:07:54.000 because of the contaminants of the coatings --\n00:07:56.000 bismuth, antimony, copper and so on.\n00:07:58.000 They become building steel.\n00:07:59.000 On the other hand, we're working with Berkshire Hathaway,\n00:08:01.000 Warren Buffett and Shaw Carpet,\n00:08:04.000 the largest carpet company in the world.\n00:08:05.000 We've developed a carpet that is continuously recyclable,\n00:08:08.000 down to the parts per million.\n00:08:11.000 The upper is Nylon 6 that can go back to caprolactam,\n00:08:14.000 the bottom, a polyolephine -- infinitely recyclable thermoplastic.\n00:08:17.000 Now if I was a bird, the building on my left is a liability.\n00:08:21.000 The building on my right, which is our corporate campus for The Gap\n00:08:24.000 with an ancient meadow, is an asset -- its nesting grounds.\n00:08:29.000 Here's where I come from. I grew up in Hong Kong,\n00:08:31.000 with six million people in 40 square miles.\n00:08:33.000 During the dry season, we had four hours of water every fourth day.\n00:08:37.000 And the relationship to landscape was that of farmers who have been\n00:08:40.000 farming the same piece of ground for 40 centuries.\n00:08:44.000 You can't farm the same piece of ground for 40 centuries\n00:08:46.000 without understanding nutrient flow.\n00:08:49.000 My childhood summers were in the Puget Sound of Washington,\n00:08:52.000 among the first growth and big growth.\n00:08:54.000 My grandfather had been a lumberjack in the Olympics,\n00:08:56.000 so I have a lot of tree karma I am working off.\n00:09:01.000 I went to Yale for graduate school,\n00:09:03.000 studied in a building of this style by Le Corbusier,\n00:09:05.000 affectionately known in our business as Brutalism.\n00:09:09.000 If we look at the world of architecture,\n00:09:12.000 we see with Mies' 1928 tower for Berlin,\n00:09:15.000 the question might be, "Well, where's the sun?"\n00:09:17.000 And this might have worked in Berlin, but we built it in Houston,\n00:09:20.000 and the windows are all closed. And with most products\n00:09:23.000 appearing not to have been designed for indoor use,\n00:09:25.000 this is actually a vertical gas chamber.\n00:09:28.000 When I went to Yale, we had the first energy crisis,\n00:09:31.000 and I was designing the first solar-heated house in Ireland\n00:09:33.000 as a student, which I then built --

\n00:09:35.000 which would give you a sense of my ambition.\n00:09:37.000 And Richard Meier, who was one of my teachers,\n00:09:39.000 kept coming over to my desk to give me criticism,\n00:09:41.000 and he would say, "Bill, you've got to understand- --\n00:09:43.000 solar energy has nothing to do with architecture."\n00:09:51.000 I guess he didn't read Vitruvius.\n00:09:53.000 In 1984, we did the first so-called "green office" in America\n00:09:57.000 for Environmental Defense.\n00:09:58.000 We started asking manufacturers what were in their materials.\n00:10:01.000 They said, "They're proprietary, they're legal, go away."\n00:10:03.000 The only indoor quality work done in this country at that time\n00:10:05.000 was sponsored by R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Company,\n00:10:08.000 and it was to prove there was no danger\n00:10:09.000 from secondhand smoke in the workplace.\n00:10:12.000 So, all of a sudden, here I am, graduating from high school in 1969,\n00:10:16.000 and this happens, and we realize that "away" went away.\n00:10:19.000 Remember we used to throw things away, and we'd point to away?\n00:10:23.000 And yet, NOAA has now shown us, for example --\n00:10:25.000 you see that little blue thing above Hawaii?\n00:10:27.000 That's the Pacific Gyre.\n00:10:28.000 It was recently dragged for plankton by scientists,\n00:10:30.000 and they found six times as much plastic as plankton.\n00:10:34.000 When asked, they said, "It's kind of like a giant toilet that doesn't flush."\n00:10:39.000 Perhaps that's away.\n00:10:40.000 So we're looking for the design rules of this --\n00:10:42.000 this is the highest biodiversity of trees in the world, Irian Jaya,\n00:10:44.000 259 species of tree, and we described this\n00:10:48.000 in the book, "Cradle to Cradle."\n00:10:49.000 The book itself is a polymer. It is not a tree.\n00:10:53.000 That's the name of the first chapter -- "This Book is Not a Tree."\n00:10:56.000 Because in poetics, as Margaret Atwood pointed out,\n00:10:59.000 "we write our history on the skin of fish\n00:11:01.000 with the blood of bears."\n00:11:04.000 And with so much polymer, what we really need\n00:11:05.000 is technical nutrition, and to use something\n00:11:08.000 as elegant as a tree -- imagine this design assignment:\n00:11:11.000 Design something that makes oxygen, sequesters carbon,\n00:11:13.000 fixes nitrogen, distills water, accrues solar energy as fuel,\n00:11:17.000 makes complex sugars and food, creates microclimates,\n00:11:21.000 changes colors with the seasons and self-replicates.\n00:11:27.000 Well, why don't we knock that down and write on it?\n00:11:29.000 (Laughter)\n00:11:35.000 So, we're looking at the same criteria\n00:11:37.000 as most people -- you know, can I afford it?\n00:11:39.000 Does it work? Do I like it?\n00:11:41.000 We're adding the Jeffersonian agenda, and I come from Charlottesville,\n00:11:43.000 where I've had the privilege of living in a house designed by Thomas Jefferson.\n00:11:47.000 We're adding life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.\n00:11:53.000 Now if we look at the word "competition,"\n00:11:54.000 I'm sure most of you've used it.\n00:11:56.000 You know, most people don't realize it comes from\n00:11:57.000 the Latin competere, which means strive together.\n00:12:00.000 It means the way Olympic athletes train with each other.\n00:12:03.000 They get fit together, and then they compete.\n00:12:06.000 The Williams sisters compete -- one wins Wimbledon.\n00:12:08.000 So we've been looking at the idea of competition\n00:12:11.000 as a way of cooperating in order to get fit together.\n00:12:15.000 And the Chinese government has now --\n00:12:16.000 I work with the Chinese government now --\n00:12:18.000 has taken this up.\n00:12:20.000

We're also looking at survival of the fittest,\n00:12:22.000 not in just competition terms in our modern context\n00:12:24.000 of destroy the other or beat them to the ground,\n00:12:27.000 but really to fit together and build niches\n00:12:29.000 and have growth that is good.\n00:12:31.000 Now most environmentalists don't say growth is good,\n00:12:33.000 because, in our lexicon, asphalt is two words: assigning blame.\n00:12:38.000 But if we look at asphalt as our growth,\n00:12:41.000 then we realize that all we're doing is destroying\n00:12:43.000 the planetary's fundamental underlying operating system.\n00:12:47.000 So when we see E equals mc squared come along, from a poet's perspective,\n00:12:52.000 we see energy as physics, chemistry as mass,\n00:12:54.000 and all of a sudden, you get this biology.\n00:12:56.000 And we have plenty of energy, so we'll solve that problem,\n00:12:59.000 but the biology problem's tricky, because as we put through\n00:13:02.000 all these toxic materials that we disgorge,\n00:13:05.000 we will never be able to recover that.\n00:13:07.000 And as Francis Crick pointed out, nine years\n00:13:09.000 after discovering DNA with Mr. Watson,\n00:13:12.000 that life itself has to have growth as a precondition --\n00:13:16.000 it has to have free energy, sunlight\n00:13:18.000 and it needs to be an open system of chemicals.\n00:13:21.000 So we're asking for human artifice to become a living thing,\n00:13:24.000 and we want growth, we want free energy from sunlight\n00:13:26.000 and we want an open metabolism for chemicals.\n00:13:29.000 Then, the question becomes not growth or no growth,\n00:13:31.000 but what do you want to grow?\n00:13:34.000 So instead of just growing destruction,\n00:13:36.000 we want to grow the things that we might enjoy,\n00:13:38.000 and someday the FDA will allow us to make French cheese.\n00:13:41.000 So therefore, we have these two metabolisms,\n00:13:45.000 and I worked with a German chemist, Michael Braungart,\n00:13:47.000 and we've identified the two fundamental metabolisms.\n00:13:49.000 The biological one I'm sure you understand,\n00:13:51.000 but also the technical one, where we take materials\n00:13:53.000 and put them into closed cycles.\n00:13:55.000 We call them biological nutrition and technical nutrition.\n00:13:58.000 Technical nutrition will be in an order of magnitude of biological nutrition.\n00:14:02.000 Biological nutrition can supply about 500 million humans,\n00:14:05.000 which means that if we all wore Birkenstocks and cotton,\n00:14:07.000 the world would run out of cork and dry up.\n00:14:10.000 So we need materials in closed cycles,\n00:14:12.000 but we need to analyze them down to the parts per million\n00:14:14.000 for cancer, birth defects, mutagenic effects,\n00:14:17.000 disruption of our immune systems, biodegradation, persistence,\n00:14:20.000 heavy metal content, knowledge of how we're making them\n00:14:23.000 and their production and so on.\n00:14:25.000 Our first product was a textile where we analyzed 8,000 chemicals\n00:14:29.000 in the textile industry.\n00:14:30.000 Using those intellectual filters, we eliminated [7,962.]\n00:14:35.000 We were left with 38 chemicals.\n00:14:37.000 We have since databased the 4000 most commonly used chemicals\n00:14:40.000 in human manufacturing, and we're releasing this database into the public in six weeks.\n00:14:45.000 So designers all over the world can analyze their products\n00:14:47.000 down to the parts per million for human and ecological health.\n00:14:52.000 (Applause)\n00:14:57.000 We've developed a protocol so that companies can send\n00:15:00.000 these same messages all the way through their supply chains,\n00:15:03.000 because when we asked most companies we work with -- about a trillion dollars\n00:15:06.000 -- and say, "Where does your stuff come from?"

They say, "Suppliers."\n00:15:08.000 "And where does it go?"\n00:15:10.000 "Customers."\n00:15:11.000 So we need some help there.\n00:15:12.000 So the biological nutrients, the first fabrics --\n00:15:14.000 the water coming out was clean enough to drink.\n00:15:16.000 Technical nutrients -- this is for Shaw Carpet, infinitely reusable carpet.\n00:15:20.000 Here's nylon going back to caprolactam back to carpet.\n00:15:23.000 Biotechnical nutrients -- the Model U for Ford Motor,\n00:15:26.000 a cradle to cradle car -- concept car.\n00:15:28.000 Shoes for Nike, where the uppers are polyesters, infinitely recyclable,\n00:15:32.000 the bottoms are biodegradable soles.\n00:15:35.000 Wear your old shoes in, your new shoes out.\n00:15:37.000 There is no finish line.\n00:15:39.000 The idea here of the car is that some of the materials\n00:15:41.000 go back to the industry forever, some of the materials go back to soil --\n00:15:44.000 it's all solar-powered.\n00:15:46.000 Here's a building at Oberlin College we designed\n00:15:48.000 that makes more energy than it needs to operate and purifies its own water.\n00:15:52.000 Here's a building for The Gap, where the ancient grasses\n00:15:54.000 of San Bruno, California, are on the roof.\n00:15:58.000 And this is our project for Ford Motor Company.\n00:16:00.000 It's the revitalization of the River Rouge in Dearborn.\n00:16:02.000 This is obviously a color photograph.\n00:16:06.000 These are our tools. These are how we sold it to Ford.\n00:16:10.000 We saved Ford 35 million dollars doing it this way, day one,\n00:16:13.000 which is the equivalent of the Ford Taurus\n00:16:15.000 at a four percent margin of an order for 900 million dollars worth of cars.\n00:16:19.000 Here it is. It's the world's largest green roof, 10 and a half acres.\n00:16:22.000 This is the roof, saving money,\n00:16:25.000 and this is the first species to arrive here. These are killdeer.\n00:16:29.000 They showed up in five days.\n00:16:32.000 And we now have 350-pound auto workers\n00:16:34.000 learning bird songs on the Internet.\n00:16:38.000 We're developing now protocols for cities --\n00:16:40.000 that's the home of technical nutrients.\n00:16:42.000 The country -- the home of biological. And putting them together.\n00:16:45.000 And so I will finish by showing you a new city\n00:16:47.000 we're designing for the Chinese government.\n00:16:49.000 We're doing 12 cities for China right now,\n00:16:52.000 based on cradle to cradle as templates.\n00:16:54.000 Our assignment is to develop protocols for the housing\n00:16:57.000 for 400 million people in 12 years.\n00:16:59.000 We did a mass energy balance -- if they use brick,\n00:17:01.000 they will lose all their soil and burn all their coal.\n00:17:04.000 They'll have cities with no energy and no food.\n00:17:06.000 We signed a Memorandum of Understanding --\n00:17:08.000 here's Madam Deng Nan, Deng Xiaoping's daughter --\n00:17:10.000 for China to adopt cradle to cradle.\n00:17:12.000 Because if they toxify themselves, being the lowest-cost producer,\n00:17:16.000 send it to the lowest-cost distribution -- Wal-Mart --\n00:17:18.000 and then we send them all our money, what we'll discover is that\n00:17:21.000 we have what, effectively, when I was a student,\n00:17:24.000 was called mutually assured destruction.\n00:17:27.000 Now we do it by molecule. These are our cities.\n00:17:30.000 We're building a new city next to this city; look at that landscape.\n00:17:33.000 This is the site.\n00:17:35.000 We don't normally do green fields, but this one is about to be built,\n00:17:39.000 so they brought us in to intercede.\n00:17:41.000 This is their plan.\n00:17:43.000 It's a rubber stamp grid that they laid right on that landscape.\n00:17:46.000 And they brought us in and said, "What would you do?"\n00:17:49.000 This is what they would end

up with, which is another color photograph.\n00:17:53.000 So this is the existing site, so this is what it looks like now,\n00:17:56.000 and here's our proposal.\n00:17:58.000 (Applause)\n00:18:02.000 So the way we approached this\n00:18:04.000 is we studied the hydrology very carefully.\n00:18:06.000 We studied the biota, the ancient biota,\n00:18:08.000 the current farming and the protocols.\n00:18:10.000 We studied the winds and the sun to make sure everybody in the city\n00:18:12.000 will have fresh air, fresh water and direct sunlight\n00:18:18.000 in every single apartment at some point during the day.\n00:18:21.000 We then take the parks and lay them out as ecological infrastructure.\n00:18:25.000 We lay out the building areas.\n00:18:28.000 We start to integrate commercial and mixed use\n00:18:29.000 so the people all have centers and places to be.\n00:18:32.000 The transportation is all very simple,\n00:18:34.000 everybody's within a five-minute walk of mobility.\n00:18:37.000 We have a 24-hour street, so that there's always a place that's alive.\n00:18:42.000 The waste systems all connect.\n00:18:44.000 If you flush a toilet, your feces will go to the sewage treatment plants,\n00:18:49.000 which are sold as assets, not liabilities.\n00:18:51.000 Because who wants the fertilizer factory that makes natural gas?\n00:18:55.000 The waters are all taken in to construct the wetlands for habitat restorations.\n00:19:00.000 And then it makes natural gas, which then goes back into the city\n00:19:04.000 to power the fuel for the cooking for the city.\n00:19:08.000 So this is -- these are fertilizer gas plants.\n00:19:10.000 And then the compost is all taken back\n00:19:13.000 to the roofs of the city, where we've got farming,\n00:19:15.000 because what we've done is lifted up the city,\n00:19:19.000 the landscape, into the air to -- to restore the native landscape\n00:19:26.000 on the roofs of the buildings.\n00:19:28.000 The solar power of all the factory centers\n00:19:31.000 and all the industrial zones with their light roofs powers the city.\n00:19:34.000 And this is the concept for the top of the city.\n00:19:36.000 We've lifted the earth up onto the roofs.\n00:19:40.000 The farmers have little bridges to get from one roof to the next.\n00:19:44.000 We inhabit the city with work/live space on all the ground floors.\n00:19:48.000 And so this is the existing city, and this is the new city.\n00:19:53.000 (Applause)\n\nThe file is too long and its contents have been truncated.\n", "cloud_doc_url": null}, {"matched_text": "\u301012\u2020source\u3011", "start_idx": 1012, "end_idx": 1023, "alt": null, "type": "file", "name": "tactiq-free-transcript-IoRjz8iTVoo.txt", "id": "file-QAdtwx5q5xmFsPgGvYJdRiuF", "source": "my_files", "snippet": "# tactiq.io free youtube transcript\n# Cradle to cradle design | William McDonough\n# https://www.youtube.com/watch/IoRjz8iTVoo\n\n00:00:26.000 In 1962, with Rachel Carson's "Silent Spring,"\n00:00:30.000 I think for people like me in the world of the making of things,\n00:00:35.000 the canary in the mine wasn't singing.\n00:00:39.000 And so the question that we might not have birds\n00:00:42.000 became kind of fundamental to those of us wandering around\n00:00:45.000 looking for the meadowlarks that seemed to have all disappeared.\n00:00:48.000 And the question was, were the birds singing?\n00:00:51.000 Now, I'm not a scientist, that'll be really clear.\n00:00:55.000 But, you know, we've just come from this discussion of what a bird might be.\n00:00:59.000 What is a bird?\n00:01:00.000 Well, in my world, this is a rubber duck.\n00:01:04.000 It comes in California with a warning --\n00:01:06.000 "This product contains chemicals known by the State of California\n00:01:09.000 to cause cancer and birth defects or other reproductive harm."\n00:01:16.000 This is a bird.\n00:01:19.000 What kind of culture would

produce a product of this kind\n00:01:22.000 and then label it and sell it to children?\n00:01:27.000 I think we have a design problem.\n00:01:30.000 Someone heard the six hours of talk that I gave\n00:01:35.000 called "The Monticello Dialogues" on NPR, and sent me this as a thank you note --\n00:01:41.000 "We realize that design is a signal of intention,\n00:01:43.000 but it also has to occur within a world,\n00:01:46.000 and we have to understand that world in order to\n00:01:50.000 imbue our designs with inherent intelligence,\n00:01:53.000 and so as we look back at the basic state of affairs\n00:01:58.000 in which we design, we, in a way, need to go to the primordial condition\n00:02:03.000 to understand the operating system and the frame conditions of a planet,\n00:02:08.000 and I think the exciting part of that is the good news that's there,\n00:02:13.000 because the news is the news of abundance,\n00:02:16.000 and not the news of limits,\n00:02:18.000 and I think as our culture tortures itself now\n00:02:23.000 with tyrannies and concerns over limits and fear,\n00:02:28.000 we can add this other dimension of abundance that is coherent,\n00:02:33.000 driven by the sun, and start to imagine\n00:02:35.000 what that would be like to share."\n00:02:42.000 That was a nice thing to get.\n00:02:44.000 That was one sentence.\n00:02:48.000 Henry James would be proud.\n00:02:50.000 This is -- I put it down at the bottom,\n00:02:52.000 but that was extemporaneous, obviously.\n00:02:55.000 The fundamental issue is that, for me,\n00:02:58.000 design is the first signal of human intentions.\n00:03:00.000 So what are our intentions, and what would our intentions be --\n00:03:04.000 if we wake up in the morning, we have designs on the world --\n00:03:07.000 well, what would our intention be as a species\n00:03:09.000 now that we're the dominant species?\n00:03:11.000 And it's not just stewardship and dominion debate,\n00:03:14.000 because really, dominion is implicit in stewardship --\n00:03:20.000 because how could you dominate something you had killed?\n00:03:22.000 And stewardship's implicit in dominion,\n00:03:24.000 because you can't be steward of something if you can't dominate it.\n00:03:26.000 So the question is, what is the first question for designers?\n00:03:32.000 Now, as guardians -- let's say the state, for example,\n00:03:35.000 which reserves the right to kill, the right to be duplicitous and so on --\n00:03:40.000 the question we're asking the guardian at this point is\n00:03:43.000 are we meant, how are we meant,\n00:03:45.000 to secure local societies, create world peace\n00:03:47.000 and save the environment?\n00:03:49.000 But I don't know that that's the common debate.\n00:03:52.000 Commerce, on the other hand, is relatively quick,\n00:03:56.000 essentially creative, highly effective and efficient,\n00:03:58.000 and fundamentally honest, because we can't exchange\n00:04:01.000 value for very long if we don't trust each other.\n00:04:05.000 So we use the tools of commerce primarily for our work,\n00:04:07.000 but the question we bring to it is,\n00:04:09.000 how do we love all the children of all species for all time?\n00:04:13.000 And so we start our designs with that question.\n00:04:16.000 Because what we realize today is that modern culture\n00:04:18.000 appears to have adopted a strategy of tragedy.\n00:04:21.000 If we come here and say, "Well, I didn't intend\n00:04:23.000 to cause global warming on the way here,"\n00:04:24.000 and we say, "That's not part of my plan,"\n00:04:26.000 then we realize it's part of our de facto plan.\n00:04:29.000 Because it's the thing that's happening because we have no other plan.\n00:04:32.000 And I was at the White House for President Bush,\n00:04:34.000 meeting with every federal department and agency,\n00:04:36.000 and I pointed out that they appear to have no

plan.\n00:04:40.000 If the end game is global warming, they're doing great.\n00:04:42.000 If the end game is mercury toxification of our children\n00:04:45.000 downwind of coal fire plants as they scuttled the Clean Air Act,\n00:04:48.000 then I see that our education programs should be explicitly defined as,\n00:04:52.000 "Brain death for all children. No child left behind."\n00:04:54.000 (Applause)\n00:04:58.000 So, the question is, how many federal officials\n00:05:02.000 are ready to move to Ohio and Pennsylvania with their families?\n00:05:05.000 So if you don't have an endgame of something delightful,\n00:05:09.000 then you're just moving chess pieces around,\n00:05:11.000 if you don't know you're taking the king.\n00:05:12.000 So perhaps we could develop a strategy of change,\n00:05:15.000 which requires humility. And in my business as an architect,\n00:05:18.000 it's unfortunate the word "humility" and the word "architect"\n00:05:22.000 have not appeared in the same paragraph since "The Fountainhead."\n00:05:25.000 So if anybody here has trouble with the concept of design humility,\n00:05:30.000 reflect on this -- it took us 5,000 years\n00:05:33.000 to put wheels on our luggage.\n00:05:37.000 So, as Kevin Kelly pointed out, there is no endgame.\n00:05:42.000 There is an infinite game, and we're playing in that infinite game.\n00:05:46.000 And so we call it "cradle to cradle,"\n00:05:48.000 and our goal is very simple.\n00:05:49.000 This is what I presented to the White House.\n00:05:51.000 Our goal is a delightfully diverse, safe, healthy and just world,\n00:05:54.000 with clean air, clean water, soil and power --\n00:05:57.000 economically, equitably, ecologically and elegantly enjoyed, period.\n00:06:01.000 (Applause)\n00:06:04.000 What don't you like about this?\n00:06:07.000 Which part of this don't you like?\n00:06:09.000 So we realized we want full diversity,\n00:06:11.000 even though it can be difficult to remember what De Gaulle said\n00:06:14.000 when asked what it was like to be President of France.\n00:06:16.000 He said, "What do you think it's like trying to run a country with 400 kinds of cheese?"\n00:06:20.000 But at the same time, we realize that our products are not safe and healthy.\n00:06:23.000 So we've designed products\n00:06:25.000 and we analyzed chemicals down to the parts per million.\n00:06:27.000 This is a baby blanket by Pendleton that will give your child nutrition\n00:06:30.000 instead of Alzheimer's later in life.\n00:06:32.000 We can ask ourselves, what is justice,\n00:06:34.000 and is justice blind, or is justice blindness?\n00:06:38.000 And at what point did that uniform turn from white to black?\n00:06:43.000 Water has been declared a human right by the United Nations.\n00:06:46.000 Air quality is an obvious thing to anyone who breathes.\n00:06:48.000 Is there anybody here who doesn't breathe?\n00:06:51.000 Clean soil is a critical problem -- the nitrification, the dead zones\n00:06:54.000 in the Gulf of Mexico.\n00:06:56.000 A fundamental issue that's not being addressed.\n00:06:58.000 We've seen the first form of solar energy\n00:07:00.000 that's beat the hegemony of fossil fuels in the form of wind\n00:07:03.000 here in the Great Plains, and so that hegemony is leaving.\n00:07:06.000 And if we remember Sheikh Yamani when he formed OPEC,\n00:07:09.000 they asked him, "When will we see the end of the age of oil?"\n00:07:12.000 I don't know if you remember his answer, but it was,\n00:07:15.000 "The Stone Age didn't end because we ran out of stones."\n00:07:19.000 We see that companies acting ethically in this world\n00:07:23.000 are outperforming those that don't.\n00:07:24.000 We see the flows of materials in a rather terrifying prospect.\n00:07:29.000 This is a hospital

monitor from Los Angeles, sent to China.\n00:07:32.000 This woman will expose herself to toxic phosphorous,\n00:07:35.000 release four pounds of toxic lead into her childrens' environment,\n00:07:38.000 which is from copper.\n00:07:40.000 On the other hand, we see great signs of hope.\n00:07:42.000 Here's Dr. Venkataswamy in India, who's figured out\n00:07:45.000 how to do mass-produced health.\n00:07:47.000 He has given eyesight to two million people for free.\n00:07:51.000 We see in our material flows that car steels don't become car steel again\n00:07:54.000 because of the contaminants of the coatings --\n00:07:56.000 bismuth, antimony, copper and so on.\n00:07:58.000 They become building steel.\n00:07:59.000 On the other hand, we're working with Berkshire Hathaway,\n00:08:01.000 Warren Buffett and Shaw Carpet,\n00:08:04.000 the largest carpet company in the world.\n00:08:05.000 We've developed a carpet that is continuously recyclable,\n00:08:08.000 down to the parts per million.\n00:08:11.000 The upper is Nylon 6 that can go back to caprolactam,\n00:08:14.000 the bottom, a polyolephine -- infinitely recyclable thermoplastic.\n00:08:17.000 Now if I was a bird, the building on my left is a liability.\n00:08:21.000 The building on my right, which is our corporate campus for The Gap\n00:08:24.000 with an ancient meadow, is an asset -- its nesting grounds.\n00:08:29.000 Here's where I come from. I grew up in Hong Kong,\n00:08:31.000 with six million people in 40 square miles.\n00:08:33.000 During the dry season, we had four hours of water every fourth day.\n00:08:37.000 And the relationship to landscape was that of farmers who have been\n00:08:40.000 farming the same piece of ground for 40 centuries.\n00:08:44.000 You can't farm the same piece of ground for 40 centuries\n00:08:46.000 without understanding nutrient flow.\n00:08:49.000 My childhood summers were in the Puget Sound of Washington,\n00:08:52.000 among the first growth and big growth.\n00:08:54.000 My grandfather had been a lumberjack in the Olympics,\n00:08:56.000 so I have a lot of tree karma I am working off.\n00:09:01.000 I went to Yale for graduate school,\n00:09:03.000 studied in a building of this style by Le Corbusier,\n00:09:05.000 affectionately known in our business as Brutalism.\n00:09:09.000 If we look at the world of architecture,\n00:09:12.000 we see with Mies' 1928 tower for Berlin,\n00:09:15.000 the question might be, "Well, where's the sun?"\n00:09:17.000 And this might have worked in Berlin, but we built it in Houston,\n00:09:20.000 and the windows are all closed. And with most products\n00:09:23.000 appearing not to have been designed for indoor use,\n00:09:25.000 this is actually a vertical gas chamber.\n00:09:28.000 When I went to Yale, we had the first energy crisis,\n00:09:31.000 and I was designing the first solar-heated house in Ireland\n00:09:33.000 as a student, which I then built --\n00:09:35.000 which would give you a sense of my ambition.\n00:09:37.000 And Richard Meier, who was one of my teachers,\n00:09:39.000 kept coming over to my desk to give me criticism,\n00:09:41.000 and he would say, "Bill, you've got to understand- --\n00:09:43.000 solar energy has nothing to do with architecture."\n00:09:51.000 I guess he didn't read Vitruvius.\n00:09:53.000 In 1984, we did the first so-called "green office" in America\n00:09:57.000 for Environmental Defense.\n00:09:58.000 We started asking manufacturers what were in their materials.\n00:10:01.000 They said, "They're proprietary, they're legal, go away."\n00:10:03.000 The only indoor quality work done in this country at that time\n00:10:05.000 was sponsored by R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Company,\n00:10:08.000 and it was to prove there was no danger\n00:10:09.000 from secondhand smoke in the workplace.\n00:10:12.000 So, all of a sudden, here I am,

graduating from high school in 1969,\n00:10:16.000 and this happens, and we realize that "away" went away.\n00:10:19.000 Remember we used to throw things away, and we'd point to away?\n00:10:23.000 And yet, NOAA has now shown us, for example --\n00:10:25.000 you see that little blue thing above Hawaii?\n00:10:27.000 That's the Pacific Gyre.\n00:10:28.000 It was recently dragged for plankton by scientists,\n00:10:30.000 and they found six times as much plastic as plankton.\n00:10:34.000 When asked, they said, "It's kind of like a giant toilet that doesn't flush."\n00:10:39.000 Perhaps that's away.\n00:10:40.000 So we're looking for the design rules of this --\n00:10:42.000 this is the highest biodiversity of trees in the world, Irian Jaya,\n00:10:44.000 259 species of tree, and we described this\n00:10:48.000 in the book, "Cradle to Cradle."\n00:10:49.000 The book itself is a polymer. It is not a tree.\n00:10:53.000 That's the name of the first chapter -- "This Book is Not a Tree."\n00:10:56.000 Because in poetics, as Margaret Atwood pointed out,\n00:10:59.000 "we write our history on the skin of fish\n00:11:01.000 with the blood of bears."\n00:11:04.000 And with so much polymer, what we really need\n00:11:05.000 is technical nutrition, and to use something\n00:11:08.000 as elegant as a tree -- imagine this design assignment:\n00:11:11.000 Design something that makes oxygen, sequesters carbon,\n00:11:13.000 fixes nitrogen, distills water, accrues solar energy as fuel,\n00:11:17.000 makes complex sugars and food, creates microclimates,\n00:11:21.000 changes colors with the seasons and self-replicates.\n00:11:27.000 Well, why don't we knock that down and write on it?\n00:11:29.000 (Laughter)\n00:11:35.000 So, we're looking at the same criteria\n00:11:37.000 as most people -- you know, can I afford it?\n00:11:39.000 Does it work? Do I like it?\n00:11:41.000 We're adding the Jeffersonian agenda, and I come from Charlottesville,\n00:11:43.000 where I've had the privilege of living in a house designed by Thomas Jefferson.\n00:11:47.000 We're adding life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.\n00:11:53.000 Now if we look at the word "competition,"\n00:11:54.000 I'm sure most of you've used it.\n00:11:56.000 You know, most people don't realize it comes from\n00:11:57.000 the Latin competere, which means strive together.\n00:12:00.000 It means the way Olympic athletes train with each other.\n00:12:03.000 They get fit together, and then they compete.\n00:12:06.000 The Williams sisters compete -- one wins Wimbledon.\n00:12:08.000 So we've been looking at the idea of competition\n00:12:11.000 as a way of cooperating in order to get fit together.\n00:12:15.000 And the Chinese government has now --\n00:12:16.000 I work with the Chinese government now --\n00:12:18.000 has taken this up.\n00:12:20.000 We're also looking at survival of the fittest,\n00:12:22.000 not in just competition terms in our modern context\n00:12:24.000 of destroy the other or beat them to the ground,\n00:12:27.000 but really to fit together and build niches\n00:12:29.000 and have growth that is good.\n00:12:31.000 Now most environmentalists don't say growth is good,\n00:12:33.000 because, in our lexicon, asphalt is two words: assigning blame.\n00:12:38.000 But if we look at asphalt as our growth,\n00:12:41.000 then we realize that all we're doing is destroying\n00:12:43.000 the planetary's fundamental underlying operating system.\n00:12:47.000 So when we see E equals mc squared come along, from a poet's perspective,\n00:12:52.000 we see energy as physics, chemistry as mass,\n00:12:54.000 and all of a sudden, you get this biology.\n00:12:56.000 And we have plenty of energy, so we'll solve that problem,\n00:12:59.000 but the biology

problem's tricky, because as we put through\n00:13:02.000 all these toxic materials that we disgorge,\n00:13:05.000 we will never be able to recover that.\n00:13:07.000 And as Francis Crick pointed out, nine years\n00:13:09.000 after discovering DNA with Mr. Watson,\n00:13:12.000 that life itself has to have growth as a precondition --\n00:13:16.000 it has to have free energy, sunlight\n00:13:18.000 and it needs to be an open system of chemicals.\n00:13:21.000 So we're asking for human artifice to become a living thing,\n00:13:24.000 and we want growth, we want free energy from sunlight\n00:13:26.000 and we want an open metabolism for chemicals.\n00:13:29.000 Then, the question becomes not growth or no growth,\n00:13:31.000 but what do you want to grow?\n00:13:34.000 So instead of just growing destruction,\n00:13:36.000 we want to grow the things that we might enjoy,\n00:13:38.000 and someday the FDA will allow us to make French cheese.\n00:13:41.000 So therefore, we have these two metabolisms,\n00:13:45.000 and I worked with a German chemist, Michael Braungart,\n00:13:47.000 and we've identified the two fundamental metabolisms.\n00:13:49.000 The biological one I'm sure you understand,\n00:13:51.000 but also the technical one, where we take materials\n00:13:53.000 and put them into closed cycles.\n00:13:55.000 We call them biological nutrition and technical nutrition.\n00:13:58.000 Technical nutrition will be in an order of magnitude of biological nutrition.\n00:14:02.000 Biological nutrition can supply about 500 million humans,\n00:14:05.000 which means that if we all wore Birkenstocks and cotton,\n00:14:07.000 the world would run out of cork and dry up.\n00:14:10.000 So we need materials in closed cycles,\n00:14:12.000 but we need to analyze them down to the parts per million\n00:14:14.000 for cancer, birth defects, mutagenic effects,\n00:14:17.000 disruption of our immune systems, biodegradation, persistence,\n00:14:20.000 heavy metal content, knowledge of how we're making them\n00:14:23.000 and their production and so on.\n00:14:25.000 Our first product was a textile where we analyzed 8,000 chemicals\n00:14:29.000 in the textile industry.\n00:14:30.000 Using those intellectual filters, we eliminated [7,962.]\n00:14:35.000 We were left with 38 chemicals.\n00:14:37.000 We have since databased the 4000 most commonly used chemicals\n00:14:40.000 in human manufacturing, and we're releasing this database into the public in six weeks.\n00:14:45.000 So designers all over the world can analyze their products\n00:14:47.000 down to the parts per million for human and ecological health.\n00:14:52.000 (Applause)\n00:14:57.000 We've developed a protocol so that companies can send\n00:15:00.000 these same messages all the way through their supply chains,\n00:15:03.000 because when we asked most companies we work with -- about a trillion dollars\n00:15:06.000 -- and say, "Where does your stuff come from?" They say, "Suppliers."\n00:15:08.000 "And where does it go?"\n00:15:10.000 "Customers."\n00:15:11.000 So we need some help there.\n00:15:12.000 So the biological nutrients, the first fabrics --\n00:15:14.000 the water coming out was clean enough to drink.\n00:15:16.000 Technical nutrients -- this is for Shaw Carpet, infinitely reusable carpet.\n00:15:20.000 Here's nylon going back to caprolactam back to carpet.\n00:15:23.000 Biotechnical nutrients -- the Model U for Ford Motor,\n00:15:26.000 a cradle to cradle car -- concept car.\n00:15:28.000 Shoes for Nike, where the uppers are polyesters, infinitely recyclable,\n00:15:32.000 the bottoms are biodegradable soles.\n00:15:35.000 Wear your old shoes in, your new shoes out.\n00:15:37.000 There is no finish line.\n00:15:39.000 The idea here of the car is that some of the materials\n00:15:41.000 go back to the industry forever, some of the materials go back to soil --\n00:15:44.000 it's all

solar-powered.\n00:15:46.000 Here's a building at Oberlin College we designed\n00:15:48.000 that makes more energy than it needs to operate and purifies its own water.\n00:15:52.000 Here's a building for The Gap, where the ancient grasses\n00:15:54.000 of San Bruno, California, are on the roof.\n00:15:58.000 And this is our project for Ford Motor Company.\n00:16:00.000 It's the revitalization of the River Rouge in Dearborn.\n00:16:02.000 This is obviously a color photograph.\n00:16:06.000 These are our tools. These are how we sold it to Ford.\n00:16:10.000 We saved Ford 35 million dollars doing it this way, day one,\n00:16:13.000 which is the equivalent of the Ford Taurus\n00:16:15.000 at a four percent margin of an order for 900 million dollars worth of cars.\n00:16:19.000 Here it is. It's the world's largest green roof, 10 and a half acres.\n00:16:22.000 This is the roof, saving money,\n00:16:25.000 and this is the first species to arrive here. These are killdeer.\n00:16:29.000 They showed up in five days.\n00:16:32.000 And we now have 350-pound auto workers\n00:16:34.000 learning bird songs on the Internet.\n00:16:38.000 We're developing now protocols for cities --\n00:16:40.000 that's the home of technical nutrients.\n00:16:42.000 The country -- the home of biological. And putting them together.\n00:16:45.000 And so I will finish by showing you a new city\n00:16:47.000 we're designing for the Chinese government.\n00:16:49.000 We're doing 12 cities for China right now,\n00:16:52.000 based on cradle to cradle as templates.\n00:16:54.000 Our assignment is to develop protocols for the housing\n00:16:57.000 for 400 million people in 12 years.\n00:16:59.000 We did a mass energy balance -- if they use brick,\n00:17:01.000 they will lose all their soil and burn all their coal.\n00:17:04.000 They'll have cities with no energy and no food.\n00:17:06.000 We signed a Memorandum of Understanding --\n00:17:08.000 here's Madam Deng Nan, Deng Xiaoping's daughter --\n00:17:10.000 for China to adopt cradle to cradle.\n00:17:12.000 Because if they toxify themselves, being the lowest-cost producer,\n00:17:16.000 send it to the lowest-cost distribution -- Wal-Mart --\n00:17:18.000 and then we send them all our money, what we'll discover is that\n00:17:21.000 we have what, effectively, when I was a student,\n00:17:24.000 was called mutually assured destruction.\n00:17:27.000 Now we do it by molecule. These are our cities.\n00:17:30.000 We're building a new city next to this city; look at that landscape.\n00:17:33.000 This is the site.\n00:17:35.000 We don't normally do green fields, but this one is about to be built,\n00:17:39.000 so they brought us in to intercede.\n00:17:41.000 This is their plan.\n00:17:43.000 It's a rubber stamp grid that they laid right on that landscape.\n00:17:46.000 And they brought us in and said, "What would you do?"\n00:17:49.000 This is what they would end up with, which is another color photograph.\n00:17:53.000 So this is the existing site, so this is what it looks like now,\n00:17:56.000 and here's our proposal.\n00:17:58.000 (Applause)\n00:18:02.000 So the way we approached this\n00:18:04.000 is we studied the hydrology very carefully.\n00:18:06.000 We studied the biota, the ancient biota,\n00:18:08.000 the current farming and the protocols.\n00:18:10.000 We studied the winds and the sun to make sure everybody in the city\n00:18:12.000 will have fresh air, fresh water and direct sunlight\n00:18:18.000 in every single apartment at some point during the day.\n00:18:21.000 We then take the parks and lay them out as ecological infrastructure.\n00:18:25.000 We lay out the building areas.\n00:18:28.000 We start to integrate commercial and mixed use\n00:18:29.000 so the people all have centers and places to be.\n00:18:32.000 The transportation is all very simple,\n00:18:34.000

everybody's within a five-minute walk of mobility.\n00:18:37.000 We have a 24-hour street, so that there's always a place that's alive.\n00:18:42.000 The waste systems all connect.\n00:18:44.000 If you flush a toilet, your feces will go to the sewage treatment plants,\n00:18:49.000 which are sold as assets, not liabilities.\n00:18:51.000 Because who wants the fertilizer factory that makes natural gas?\n00:18:55.000 The waters are all taken in to construct the wetlands for habitat restorations.\n00:19:00.000 And then it makes natural gas, which then goes back into the city\n00:19:04.000 to power the fuel for the cooking for the city.\n00:19:08.000 So this is -- these are fertilizer gas plants.\n00:19:10.000 And then the compost is all taken back\n00:19:13.000 to the roofs of the city, where we've got farming,\n00:19:15.000 because what we've done is lifted up the city,\n00:19:19.000 the landscape, into the air to -- to restore the native landscape\n00:19:26.000 on the roofs of the buildings.\n00:19:28.000 The solar power of all the factory centers\n00:19:31.000 and all the industrial zones with their light roofs powers the city.\n00:19:34.000 And this is the concept for the top of the city.\n00:19:36.000 We've lifted the earth up onto the roofs.\n00:19:40.000 The farmers have little bridges to get from one roof to the next.\n00:19:44.000 We inhabit the city with work/live space on all the ground floors.\n00:19:48.000 And so this is the existing city, and this is the new city.\n00:19:53.000 (Applause)\n\nThe file is too long and its contents have been truncated.\n", "cloud_doc_url": null}, {"matched_text": "\u301012\u2020source\u3011", "start_idx": 1468, "end_idx": 1479, "alt": null, "type": "file", "name": "tactiq-free-transcript-IoRjz8iTVoo.txt", "id": "file-QAdtwx5q5xmFsPgGvYJdRiuF", "source": "my_files", "snippet": "# tactiq.io free youtube transcript\n# Cradle to cradle design | William McDonough\n# https://www.youtube.com/watch/IoRjz8iTVoo\n\n00:00:26.000 In 1962, with Rachel Carson's "Silent Spring,"\n00:00:30.000 I think for people like me in the world of the making of things,\n00:00:35.000 the canary in the mine wasn't singing.\n00:00:39.000 And so the question that we might not have birds\n00:00:42.000 became kind of fundamental to those of us wandering around\n00:00:45.000 looking for the meadowlarks that seemed to have all disappeared.\n00:00:48.000 And the question was, were the birds singing?\n00:00:51.000 Now, I'm not a scientist, that'll be really clear.\n00:00:55.000 But, you know, we've just come from this discussion of what a bird might be.\n00:00:59.000 What is a bird?\n00:01:00.000 Well, in my world, this is a rubber duck.\n00:01:04.000 It comes in California with a warning --\n00:01:06.000 "This product contains chemicals known by the State of California\n00:01:09.000 to cause cancer and birth defects or other reproductive harm."\n00:01:16.000 This is a bird.\n00:01:19.000 What kind of culture would produce a product of this kind\n00:01:22.000 and then label it and sell it to children?\n00:01:27.000 I think we have a design problem.\n00:01:30.000 Someone heard the six hours of talk that I gave\n00:01:35.000 called "The Monticello Dialogues" on NPR, and sent me this as a thank you note --\n00:01:41.000 "We realize that design is a signal of intention,\n00:01:43.000 but it also has to occur within a world,\n00:01:46.000 and we have to understand that world in order to\n00:01:50.000 imbue our designs with inherent intelligence,\n00:01:53.000 and so as we look back at the basic state of affairs\n00:01:58.000 in which we design, we, in a way, need to go to the primordial condition\n00:02:03.000 to understand the operating system and the frame conditions of a planet,\n00:02:08.000 and I think the exciting part of that is the good news that's there,\n00:02:13.000 because the news is the news of abundance,\n00:02:16.000 and not the news of limits,\n00:02:18.000 and I think

as our culture tortures itself now\n00:02:23.000 with tyrannies and concerns over limits and fear,\n00:02:28.000 we can add this other dimension of abundance that is coherent,\n00:02:33.000 driven by the sun, and start to imagine\n00:02:35.000 what that would be like to share."\n00:02:42.000 That was a nice thing to get.\n00:02:44.000 That was one sentence.\n00:02:48.000 Henry James would be proud.\n00:02:50.000 This is -- I put it down at the bottom,\n00:02:52.000 but that was extemporaneous, obviously.\n00:02:55.000 The fundamental issue is that, for me,\n00:02:58.000 design is the first signal of human intentions.\n00:03:00.000 So what are our intentions, and what would our intentions be --\n00:03:04.000 if we wake up in the morning, we have designs on the world --\n00:03:07.000 well, what would our intention be as a species\n00:03:09.000 now that we're the dominant species?\n00:03:11.000 And it's not just stewardship and dominion debate,\n00:03:14.000 because really, dominion is implicit in stewardship --\n00:03:20.000 because how could you dominate something you had killed?\n00:03:22.000 And stewardship's implicit in dominion,\n00:03:24.000 because you can't be steward of something if you can't dominate it.\n00:03:26.000 So the question is, what is the first question for designers?\n00:03:32.000 Now, as guardians -- let's say the state, for example,\n00:03:35.000 which reserves the right to kill, the right to be duplicitous and so on --\n00:03:40.000 the question we're asking the guardian at this point is\n00:03:43.000 are we meant, how are we meant,\n00:03:45.000 to secure local societies, create world peace\n00:03:47.000 and save the environment?\n00:03:49.000 But I don't know that that's the common debate.\n00:03:52.000 Commerce, on the other hand, is relatively quick,\n00:03:56.000 essentially creative, highly effective and efficient,\n00:03:58.000 and fundamentally honest, because we can't exchange\n00:04:01.000 value for very long if we don't trust each other.\n00:04:05.000 So we use the tools of commerce primarily for our work,\n00:04:07.000 but the question we bring to it is,\n00:04:09.000 how do we love all the children of all species for all time?\n00:04:13.000 And so we start our designs with that question.\n00:04:16.000 Because what we realize today is that modern culture\n00:04:18.000 appears to have adopted a strategy of tragedy.\n00:04:21.000 If we come here and say, "Well, I didn't intend\n00:04:23.000 to cause global warming on the way here,"\n00:04:24.000 and we say, "That's not part of my plan,"\n00:04:26.000 then we realize it's part of our de facto plan.\n00:04:29.000 Because it's the thing that's happening because we have no other plan.\n00:04:32.000 And I was at the White House for President Bush,\n00:04:34.000 meeting with every federal department and agency,\n00:04:36.000 and I pointed out that they appear to have no plan.\n00:04:40.000 If the end game is global warming, they're doing great.\n00:04:42.000 If the end game is mercury toxification of our children\n00:04:45.000 downwind of coal fire plants as they scuttled the Clean Air Act,\n00:04:48.000 then I see that our education programs should be explicitly defined as,\n00:04:52.000 "Brain death for all children. No child left behind."\n00:04:54.000 (Applause)\n00:04:58.000 So, the question is, how many federal officials\n00:05:02.000 are ready to move to Ohio and Pennsylvania with their families?\n00:05:05.000 So if you don't have an endgame of something delightful,\n00:05:09.000 then you're just moving chess pieces around,\n00:05:11.000 if you don't know you're taking the king.\n00:05:12.000 So perhaps we could develop a strategy of change,\n00:05:15.000 which requires humility. And in my business as an architect,\n00:05:18.000 it's

unfortunate the word "humility" and the word "architect"\n00:05:22.000 have not appeared in the same paragraph since "The Fountainhead."\n00:05:25.000 So if anybody here has trouble with the concept of design humility,\n00:05:30.000 reflect on this -- it took us 5,000 years\n00:05:33.000 to put wheels on our luggage.\n00:05:37.000 So, as Kevin Kelly pointed out, there is no endgame.\n00:05:42.000 There is an infinite game, and we're playing in that infinite game.\n00:05:46.000 And so we call it "cradle to cradle,"\n00:05:48.000 and our goal is very simple.\n00:05:49.000 This is what I presented to the White House.\n00:05:51.000 Our goal is a delightfully diverse, safe, healthy and just world,\n00:05:54.000 with clean air, clean water, soil and power --\n00:05:57.000 economically, equitably, ecologically and elegantly enjoyed, period.\n00:06:01.000 (Applause)\n00:06:04.000 What don't you like about this?\n00:06:07.000 Which part of this don't you like?\n00:06:09.000 So we realized we want full diversity,\n00:06:11.000 even though it can be difficult to remember what De Gaulle said\n00:06:14.000 when asked what it was like to be President of France.\n00:06:16.000 He said, "What do you think it's like trying to run a country with 400 kinds of cheese?"\n00:06:20.000 But at the same time, we realize that our products are not safe and healthy.\n00:06:23.000 So we've designed products\n00:06:25.000 and we analyzed chemicals down to the parts per million.\n00:06:27.000 This is a baby blanket by Pendleton that will give your child nutrition\n00:06:30.000 instead of Alzheimer's later in life.\n00:06:32.000 We can ask ourselves, what is justice,\n00:06:34.000 and is justice blind, or is justice blindness?\n00:06:38.000 And at what point did that uniform turn from white to black?\n00:06:43.000 Water has been declared a human right by the United Nations.\n00:06:46.000 Air quality is an obvious thing to anyone who breathes.\n00:06:48.000 Is there anybody here who doesn't breathe?\n00:06:51.000 Clean soil is a critical problem -- the nitrification, the dead zones\n00:06:54.000 in the Gulf of Mexico.\n00:06:56.000 A fundamental issue that's not being addressed.\n00:06:58.000 We've seen the first form of solar energy\n00:07:00.000 that's beat the hegemony of fossil fuels in the form of wind\n00:07:03.000 here in the Great Plains, and so that hegemony is leaving.\n00:07:06.000 And if we remember Sheikh Yamani when he formed OPEC,\n00:07:09.000 they asked him, "When will we see the end of the age of oil?"\n00:07:12.000 I don't know if you remember his answer, but it was,\n00:07:15.000 "The Stone Age didn't end because we ran out of stones."\n00:07:19.000 We see that companies acting ethically in this world\n00:07:23.000 are outperforming those that don't.\n00:07:24.000 We see the flows of materials in a rather terrifying prospect.\n00:07:29.000 This is a hospital monitor from Los Angeles, sent to China.\n00:07:32.000 This woman will expose herself to toxic phosphorous,\n00:07:35.000 release four pounds of toxic lead into her childrens' environment,\n00:07:38.000 which is from copper.\n00:07:40.000 On the other hand, we see great signs of hope.\n00:07:42.000 Here's Dr. Venkataswamy in India, who's figured out\n00:07:45.000 how to do mass-produced health.\n00:07:47.000 He has given eyesight to two million people for free.\n00:07:51.000 We see in our material flows that car steels don't become car steel again\n00:07:54.000 because of the contaminants of the coatings --\n00:07:56.000 bismuth, antimony, copper and so on.\n00:07:58.000 They become building steel.\n00:07:59.000 On the other hand, we're working with Berkshire Hathaway,\n00:08:01.000 Warren Buffett and Shaw Carpet,\n00:08:04.000 the largest carpet company in the world.\n00:08:05.000 We've developed a carpet that is

continuously recyclable,\n00:08:08.000 down to the parts per million.\n00:08:11.000 The upper is Nylon 6 that can go back to caprolactam,\n00:08:14.000 the bottom, a polyolephine -- infinitely recyclable thermoplastic.\n00:08:17.000 Now if I was a bird, the building on my left is a liability.\n00:08:21.000 The building on my right, which is our corporate campus for The Gap\n00:08:24.000 with an ancient meadow, is an asset -- its nesting grounds.\n00:08:29.000 Here's where I come from. I grew up in Hong Kong,\n00:08:31.000 with six million people in 40 square miles.\n00:08:33.000 During the dry season, we had four hours of water every fourth day.\n00:08:37.000 And the relationship to landscape was that of farmers who have been\n00:08:40.000 farming the same piece of ground for 40 centuries.\n00:08:44.000 You can't farm the same piece of ground for 40 centuries\n00:08:46.000 without understanding nutrient flow.\n00:08:49.000 My childhood summers were in the Puget Sound of Washington,\n00:08:52.000 among the first growth and big growth.\n00:08:54.000 My grandfather had been a lumberjack in the Olympics,\n00:08:56.000 so I have a lot of tree karma I am working off.\n00:09:01.000 I went to Yale for graduate school,\n00:09:03.000 studied in a building of this style by Le Corbusier,\n00:09:05.000 affectionately known in our business as Brutalism.\n00:09:09.000 If we look at the world of architecture,\n00:09:12.000 we see with Mies' 1928 tower for Berlin,\n00:09:15.000 the question might be, "Well, where's the sun?"\n00:09:17.000 And this might have worked in Berlin, but we built it in Houston,\n00:09:20.000 and the windows are all closed. And with most products\n00:09:23.000 appearing not to have been designed for indoor use,\n00:09:25.000 this is actually a vertical gas chamber.\n00:09:28.000 When I went to Yale, we had the first energy crisis,\n00:09:31.000 and I was designing the first solar-heated house in Ireland\n00:09:33.000 as a student, which I then built --\n00:09:35.000 which would give you a sense of my ambition.\n00:09:37.000 And Richard Meier, who was one of my teachers,\n00:09:39.000 kept coming over to my desk to give me criticism,\n00:09:41.000 and he would say, "Bill, you've got to understand- --\n00:09:43.000 solar energy has nothing to do with architecture."\n00:09:51.000 I guess he didn't read Vitruvius.\n00:09:53.000 In 1984, we did the first so-called "green office" in America\n00:09:57.000 for Environmental Defense.\n00:09:58.000 We started asking manufacturers what were in their materials.\n00:10:01.000 They said, "They're proprietary, they're legal, go away."\n00:10:03.000 The only indoor quality work done in this country at that time\n00:10:05.000 was sponsored by R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Company,\n00:10:08.000 and it was to prove there was no danger\n00:10:09.000 from secondhand smoke in the workplace.\n00:10:12.000 So, all of a sudden, here I am, graduating from high school in 1969,\n00:10:16.000 and this happens, and we realize that "away" went away.\n00:10:19.000 Remember we used to throw things away, and we'd point to away?\n00:10:23.000 And yet, NOAA has now shown us, for example --\n00:10:25.000 you see that little blue thing above Hawaii?\n00:10:27.000 That's the Pacific Gyre.\n00:10:28.000 It was recently dragged for plankton by scientists,\n00:10:30.000 and they found six times as much plastic as plankton.\n00:10:34.000 When asked, they said, "It's kind of like a giant toilet that doesn't flush."\n00:10:39.000 Perhaps that's away.\n00:10:40.000 So we're looking for the design rules of this --\n00:10:42.000 this is the highest biodiversity of trees in the world, Irian Jaya,\n00:10:44.000 259 species of tree, and we described this\n00:10:48.000 in the book, "Cradle to Cradle."\n00:10:49.000 The book itself is a polymer. It is

not a tree.\n00:10:53.000 That's the name of the first chapter -- "This Book is Not a Tree."\n00:10:56.000 Because in poetics, as Margaret Atwood pointed out,\n00:10:59.000 "we write our history on the skin of fish\n00:11:01.000 with the blood of bears."\n00:11:04.000 And with so much polymer, what we really need\n00:11:05.000 is technical nutrition, and to use something\n00:11:08.000 as elegant as a tree -- imagine this design assignment:\n00:11:11.000 Design something that makes oxygen, sequesters carbon,\n00:11:13.000 fixes nitrogen, distills water, accrues solar energy as fuel,\n00:11:17.000 makes complex sugars and food, creates microclimates,\n00:11:21.000 changes colors with the seasons and self-replicates.\n00:11:27.000 Well, why don't we knock that down and write on it?\n00:11:29.000 (Laughter)\n00:11:35.000 So, we're looking at the same criteria\n00:11:37.000 as most people -- you know, can I afford it?\n00:11:39.000 Does it work? Do I like it?\n00:11:41.000 We're adding the Jeffersonian agenda, and I come from Charlottesville,\n00:11:43.000 where I've had the privilege of living in a house designed by Thomas Jefferson.\n00:11:47.000 We're adding life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.\n00:11:53.000 Now if we look at the word "competition,"\n00:11:54.000 I'm sure most of you've used it.\n00:11:56.000 You know, most people don't realize it comes from\n00:11:57.000 the Latin competere, which means strive together.\n00:12:00.000 It means the way Olympic athletes train with each other.\n00:12:03.000 They get fit together, and then they compete.\n00:12:06.000 The Williams sisters compete -- one wins Wimbledon.\n00:12:08.000 So we've been looking at the idea of competition\n00:12:11.000 as a way of cooperating in order to get fit together.\n00:12:15.000 And the Chinese government has now --\n00:12:16.000 I work with the Chinese government now --\n00:12:18.000 has taken this up.\n00:12:20.000 We're also looking at survival of the fittest,\n00:12:22.000 not in just competition terms in our modern context\n00:12:24.000 of destroy the other or beat them to the ground,\n00:12:27.000 but really to fit together and build niches\n00:12:29.000 and have growth that is good.\n00:12:31.000 Now most environmentalists don't say growth is good,\n00:12:33.000 because, in our lexicon, asphalt is two words: assigning blame.\n00:12:38.000 But if we look at asphalt as our growth,\n00:12:41.000 then we realize that all we're doing is destroying\n00:12:43.000 the planetary's fundamental underlying operating system.\n00:12:47.000 So when we see E equals mc squared come along, from a poet's perspective,\n00:12:52.000 we see energy as physics, chemistry as mass,\n00:12:54.000 and all of a sudden, you get this biology.\n00:12:56.000 And we have plenty of energy, so we'll solve that problem,\n00:12:59.000 but the biology problem's tricky, because as we put through\n00:13:02.000 all these toxic materials that we disgorge,\n00:13:05.000 we will never be able to recover that.\n00:13:07.000 And as Francis Crick pointed out, nine years\n00:13:09.000 after discovering DNA with Mr. Watson,\n00:13:12.000 that life itself has to have growth as a precondition --\n00:13:16.000 it has to have free energy, sunlight\n00:13:18.000 and it needs to be an open system of chemicals.\n00:13:21.000 So we're asking for human artifice to become a living thing,\n00:13:24.000 and we want growth, we want free energy from sunlight\n00:13:26.000 and we want an open metabolism for chemicals.\n00:13:29.000 Then, the question becomes not growth or no growth,\n00:13:31.000 but what do you want to grow?\n00:13:34.000 So instead of just growing destruction,\n00:13:36.000 we want to grow the things that we might enjoy,\n00:13:38.000 and someday the FDA will allow us to make French

cheese.\n00:13:41.000 So therefore, we have these two metabolisms,\n00:13:45.000 and I worked with a German chemist, Michael Braungart,\n00:13:47.000 and we've identified the two fundamental metabolisms.\n00:13:49.000 The biological one I'm sure you understand,\n00:13:51.000 but also the technical one, where we take materials\n00:13:53.000 and put them into closed cycles.\n00:13:55.000 We call them biological nutrition and technical nutrition.\n00:13:58.000 Technical nutrition will be in an order of magnitude of biological nutrition.\n00:14:02.000 Biological nutrition can supply about 500 million humans,\n00:14:05.000 which means that if we all wore Birkenstocks and cotton,\n00:14:07.000 the world would run out of cork and dry up.\n00:14:10.000 So we need materials in closed cycles,\n00:14:12.000 but we need to analyze them down to the parts per million\n00:14:14.000 for cancer, birth defects, mutagenic effects,\n00:14:17.000 disruption of our immune systems, biodegradation, persistence,\n00:14:20.000 heavy metal content, knowledge of how we're making them\n00:14:23.000 and their production and so on.\n00:14:25.000 Our first product was a textile where we analyzed 8,000 chemicals\n00:14:29.000 in the textile industry.\n00:14:30.000 Using those intellectual filters, we eliminated [7,962.]\n00:14:35.000 We were left with 38 chemicals.\n00:14:37.000 We have since databased the 4000 most commonly used chemicals\n00:14:40.000 in human manufacturing, and we're releasing this database into the public in six weeks.\n00:14:45.000 So designers all over the world can analyze their products\n00:14:47.000 down to the parts per million for human and ecological health.\n00:14:52.000 (Applause)\n00:14:57.000 We've developed a protocol so that companies can send\n00:15:00.000 these same messages all the way through their supply chains,\n00:15:03.000 because when we asked most companies we work with -- about a trillion dollars\n00:15:06.000 -- and say, "Where does your stuff come from?" They say, "Suppliers."\n00:15:08.000 "And where does it go?"\n00:15:10.000 "Customers."\n00:15:11.000 So we need some help there.\n00:15:12.000 So the biological nutrients, the first fabrics --\n00:15:14.000 the water coming out was clean enough to drink.\n00:15:16.000 Technical nutrients -- this is for Shaw Carpet, infinitely reusable carpet.\n00:15:20.000 Here's nylon going back to caprolactam back to carpet.\n00:15:23.000 Biotechnical nutrients -- the Model U for Ford Motor,\n00:15:26.000 a cradle to cradle car -- concept car.\n00:15:28.000 Shoes for Nike, where the uppers are polyesters, infinitely recyclable,\n00:15:32.000 the bottoms are biodegradable soles.\n00:15:35.000 Wear your old shoes in, your new shoes out.\n00:15:37.000 There is no finish line.\n00:15:39.000 The idea here of the car is that some of the materials\n00:15:41.000 go back to the industry forever, some of the materials go back to soil --\n00:15:44.000 it's all solar-powered.\n00:15:46.000 Here's a building at Oberlin College we designed\n00:15:48.000 that makes more energy than it needs to operate and purifies its own water.\n00:15:52.000 Here's a building for The Gap, where the ancient grasses\n00:15:54.000 of San Bruno, California, are on the roof.\n00:15:58.000 And this is our project for Ford Motor Company.\n00:16:00.000 It's the revitalization of the River Rouge in Dearborn.\n00:16:02.000 This is obviously a color photograph.\n00:16:06.000 These are our tools. These are how we sold it to Ford.\n00:16:10.000 We saved Ford 35 million dollars doing it this way, day one,\n00:16:13.000 which is the equivalent of the Ford Taurus\n00:16:15.000 at a four percent margin of an order for 900 million dollars worth of cars.\n00:16:19.000 Here it is. It's the world's largest green roof, 10 and a half acres.\n00:16:22.000 This is the roof, saving money,\n00:16:25.000 and this is the

first species to arrive here. These are killdeer.\n00:16:29.000 They showed up in five days.\n00:16:32.000 And we now have 350-pound auto workers\n00:16:34.000 learning bird songs on the Internet.\n00:16:38.000 We're developing now protocols for cities -- \n00:16:40.000 that's the home of technical nutrients.\n00:16:42.000 The country -- the home of biological. And putting them together.\n00:16:45.000 And so I will finish by showing you a new city\n00:16:47.000 we're designing for the Chinese government.\n00:16:49.000 We're doing 12 cities for China right now,\n00:16:52.000 based on cradle to cradle as templates.\n00:16:54.000 Our assignment is to develop protocols for the housing\n00:16:57.000 for 400 million people in 12 years.\n00:16:59.000 We did a mass energy balance -- if they use brick,\n00:17:01.000 they will lose all their soil and burn all their coal.\n00:17:04.000 They'll have cities with no energy and no food.\n00:17:06.000 We signed a Memorandum of Understanding --\n00:17:08.000 here's Madam Deng Nan, Deng Xiaoping's daughter --\n00:17:10.000 for China to adopt cradle to cradle.\n00:17:12.000 Because if they toxify themselves, being the lowest-cost producer,\n00:17:16.000 send it to the lowest-cost distribution -- Wal-Mart -- \n00:17:18.000 and then we send them all our money, what we'll discover is that\n00:17:21.000 we have what, effectively, when I was a student,\n00:17:24.000 was called mutually assured destruction.\n00:17:27.000 Now we do it by molecule. These are our cities.\n00:17:30.000 We're building a new city next to this city; look at that landscape.\n00:17:33.000 This is the site.\n00:17:35.000 We don't normally do green fields, but this one is about to be built,\n00:17:39.000 so they brought us in to intercede.\n00:17:41.000 This is their plan.\n00:17:43.000 It's a rubber stamp grid that they laid right on that landscape.\n00:17:46.000 And they brought us in and said, "What would you do?"\n00:17:49.000 This is what they would end up with, which is another color photograph.\n00:17:53.000 So this is the existing site, so this is what it looks like now,\n00:17:56.000 and here's our proposal.\n00:17:58.000 (Applause)\n00:18:02.000 So the way we approached this\n00:18:04.000 is we studied the hydrology very carefully.\n00:18:06.000 We studied the biota, the ancient biota,\n00:18:08.000 the current farming and the protocols.\n00:18:10.000 We studied the winds and the sun to make sure everybody in the city\n00:18:12.000 will have fresh air, fresh water and direct sunlight\n00:18:18.000 in every single apartment at some point during the day.\n00:18:21.000 We then take the parks and lay them out as ecological infrastructure.\n00:18:25.000 We lay out the building areas.\n00:18:28.000 We start to integrate commercial and mixed use\n00:18:29.000 so the people all have centers and places to be.\n00:18:32.000 The transportation is all very simple,\n00:18:34.000 everybody's within a five-minute walk of mobility.\n00:18:37.000 We have a 24-hour street, so that there's always a place that's alive.\n00:18:42.000 The waste systems all connect.\n00:18:44.000 If you flush a toilet, your feces will go to the sewage treatment plants,\n00:18:49.000 which are sold as assets, not liabilities.\n00:18:51.000 Because who wants the fertilizer factory that makes natural gas?\n00:18:55.000 The waters are all taken in to construct the wetlands for habitat restorations.\n00:19:00.000 And then it makes natural gas, which then goes back into the city\n00:19:04.000 to power the fuel for the cooking for the city.\n00:19:08.000 So this is -- these are fertilizer gas plants.\n00:19:10.000 And then the compost is all taken back\n00:19:13.000 to the roofs of the city, where we've got farming,\n00:19:15.000 because what we've done is lifted up the city,\n00:19:19.000 the landscape, into the air to -- to restore the native

landscape\n00:19:26.000 on the roofs of the buildings.\n00:19:28.000 The solar power of all the factory centers\n00:19:31.000 and all the industrial zones with their light roofs powers the city.\n00:19:34.000 And this is the concept for the top of the city.\n00:19:36.000 We've lifted the earth up onto the roofs.\n00:19:40.000 The farmers have little bridges to get from one roof to the next.\n00:19:44.000 We inhabit the city with work/live space on all the ground floors.\n00:19:48.000 And so this is the existing city, and this is the new city.\n00:19:53.000 (Applause)\n\nThe file is too long and its contents have been truncated.\n", "cloud_doc_url": null}, {"matched_text": "\u301012\u2020source\u3011", "start_idx": 1599, "end_idx": 1610, "alt": null, "type": "file", "name": "tactiq-free-transcript-IoRjz8iTVoo.txt", "id": "file-QAdtwx5q5xmFsPgGvYJdRiuF", "source": "my_files", "snippet": "# tactiq.io free youtube transcript\n# Cradle to cradle design | William McDonough\n# https://www.youtube.com/watch/IoRjz8iTVoo\n\n00:00:26.000 In 1962, with Rachel Carson's "Silent Spring,"\n00:00:30.000 I think for people like me in the world of the making of things,\n00:00:35.000 the canary in the mine wasn't singing.\n00:00:39.000 And so the question that we might not have birds\n00:00:42.000 became kind of fundamental to those of us wandering around\n00:00:45.000 looking for the meadowlarks that seemed to have all disappeared.\n00:00:48.000 And the question was, were the birds singing?\n00:00:51.000 Now, I'm not a scientist, that'll be really clear.\n00:00:55.000 But, you know, we've just come from this discussion of what a bird might be.\n00:00:59.000 What is a bird?\n00:01:00.000 Well, in my world, this is a rubber duck.\n00:01:04.000 It comes in California with a warning --\n00:01:06.000 "This product contains chemicals known by the State of California\n00:01:09.000 to cause cancer and birth defects or other reproductive harm."\n00:01:16.000 This is a bird.\n00:01:19.000 What kind of culture would produce a product of this kind\n00:01:22.000 and then label it and sell it to children?\n00:01:27.000 I think we have a design problem.\n00:01:30.000 Someone heard the six hours of talk that I gave\n00:01:35.000 called "The Monticello Dialogues" on NPR, and sent me this as a thank you note --\n00:01:41.000 "We realize that design is a signal of intention,\n00:01:43.000 but it also has to occur within a world,\n00:01:46.000 and we have to understand that world in order to\n00:01:50.000 imbue our designs with inherent intelligence,\n00:01:53.000 and so as we look back at the basic state of affairs\n00:01:58.000 in which we design, we, in a way, need to go to the primordial condition\n00:02:03.000 to understand the operating system and the frame conditions of a planet,\n00:02:08.000 and I think the exciting part of that is the good news that's there,\n00:02:13.000 because the news is the news of abundance,\n00:02:16.000 and not the news of limits,\n00:02:18.000 and I think as our culture tortures itself now\n00:02:23.000 with tyrannies and concerns over limits and fear,\n00:02:28.000 we can add this other dimension of abundance that is coherent,\n00:02:33.000 driven by the sun, and start to imagine\n00:02:35.000 what that would be like to share."\n00:02:42.000 That was a nice thing to get.\n00:02:44.000 That was one sentence.\n00:02:48.000 Henry James would be proud.\n00:02:50.000 This is -- I put it down at the bottom,\n00:02:52.000 but that was extemporaneous, obviously.\n00:02:55.000 The fundamental issue is that, for me,\n00:02:58.000 design is the first signal of human intentions.\n00:03:00.000 So what are our intentions, and what would our intentions be --\n00:03:04.000 if we wake up in the morning, we have designs on the world --\n00:03:07.000 well, what would our intention be as a species\n00:03:09.000 now that we're the dominant species?\n00:03:11.000 And it's not just stewardship and dominion

debate,\n00:03:14.000 because really, dominion is implicit in stewardship --\n00:03:20.000 because how could you dominate something you had killed?\n00:03:22.000 And stewardship's implicit in dominion,\n00:03:24.000 because you can't be steward of something if you can't dominate it.\n00:03:26.000 So the question is, what is the first question for designers?\n00:03:32.000 Now, as guardians -- let's say the state, for example,\n00:03:35.000 which reserves the right to kill, the right to be duplicitous and so on --\n00:03:40.000 the question we're asking the guardian at this point is\n00:03:43.000 are we meant, how are we meant,\n00:03:45.000 to secure local societies, create world peace\n00:03:47.000 and save the environment?\n00:03:49.000 But I don't know that that's the common debate.\n00:03:52.000 Commerce, on the other hand, is relatively quick,\n00:03:56.000 essentially creative, highly effective and efficient,\n00:03:58.000 and fundamentally honest, because we can't exchange\n00:04:01.000 value for very long if we don't trust each other.\n00:04:05.000 So we use the tools of commerce primarily for our work,\n00:04:07.000 but the question we bring to it is,\n00:04:09.000 how do we love all the children of all species for all time?\n00:04:13.000 And so we start our designs with that question.\n00:04:16.000 Because what we realize today is that modern culture\n00:04:18.000 appears to have adopted a strategy of tragedy.\n00:04:21.000 If we come here and say, "Well, I didn't intend\n00:04:23.000 to cause global warming on the way here,"\n00:04:24.000 and we say, "That's not part of my plan,"\n00:04:26.000 then we realize it's part of our de facto plan.\n00:04:29.000 Because it's the thing that's happening because we have no other plan.\n00:04:32.000 And I was at the White House for President Bush,\n00:04:34.000 meeting with every federal department and agency,\n00:04:36.000 and I pointed out that they appear to have no plan.\n00:04:40.000 If the end game is global warming, they're doing great.\n00:04:42.000 If the end game is mercury toxification of our children\n00:04:45.000 downwind of coal fire plants as they scuttled the Clean Air Act,\n00:04:48.000 then I see that our education programs should be explicitly defined as,\n00:04:52.000 "Brain death for all children. No child left behind."\n00:04:54.000 (Applause)\n00:04:58.000 So, the question is, how many federal officials\n00:05:02.000 are ready to move to Ohio and Pennsylvania with their families?\n00:05:05.000 So if you don't have an endgame of something delightful,\n00:05:09.000 then you're just moving chess pieces around,\n00:05:11.000 if you don't know you're taking the king.\n00:05:12.000 So perhaps we could develop a strategy of change,\n00:05:15.000 which requires humility. And in my business as an architect,\n00:05:18.000 it's unfortunate the word "humility" and the word "architect"\n00:05:22.000 have not appeared in the same paragraph since "The Fountainhead."\n00:05:25.000 So if anybody here has trouble with the concept of design humility,\n00:05:30.000 reflect on this -- it took us 5,000 years\n00:05:33.000 to put wheels on our luggage.\n00:05:37.000 So, as Kevin Kelly pointed out, there is no endgame.\n00:05:42.000 There is an infinite game, and we're playing in that infinite game.\n00:05:46.000 And so we call it "cradle to cradle,"\n00:05:48.000 and our goal is very simple.\n00:05:49.000 This is what I presented to the White House.\n00:05:51.000 Our goal is a delightfully diverse, safe, healthy and just world,\n00:05:54.000 with clean air, clean water, soil and power --\n00:05:57.000 economically, equitably, ecologically and elegantly enjoyed, period.\n00:06:01.000 (Applause)\n00:06:04.000 What don't you like about

this?\n00:06:07.000 Which part of this don't you like?\n00:06:09.000 So we realized we want full diversity,\n00:06:11.000 even though it can be difficult to remember what De Gaulle said\n00:06:14.000 when asked what it was like to be President of France.\n00:06:16.000 He said, "What do you think it's like trying to run a country with 400 kinds of cheese?"\n00:06:20.000 But at the same time, we realize that our products are not safe and healthy.\n00:06:23.000 So we've designed products\n00:06:25.000 and we analyzed chemicals down to the parts per million.\n00:06:27.000 This is a baby blanket by Pendleton that will give your child nutrition\n00:06:30.000 instead of Alzheimer's later in life.\n00:06:32.000 We can ask ourselves, what is justice,\n00:06:34.000 and is justice blind, or is justice blindness?\n00:06:38.000 And at what point did that uniform turn from white to black?\n00:06:43.000 Water has been declared a human right by the United Nations.\n00:06:46.000 Air quality is an obvious thing to anyone who breathes.\n00:06:48.000 Is there anybody here who doesn't breathe?\n00:06:51.000 Clean soil is a critical problem -- the nitrification, the dead zones\n00:06:54.000 in the Gulf of Mexico.\n00:06:56.000 A fundamental issue that's not being addressed.\n00:06:58.000 We've seen the first form of solar energy\n00:07:00.000 that's beat the hegemony of fossil fuels in the form of wind\n00:07:03.000 here in the Great Plains, and so that hegemony is leaving.\n00:07:06.000 And if we remember Sheikh Yamani when he formed OPEC,\n00:07:09.000 they asked him, "When will we see the end of the age of oil?"\n00:07:12.000 I don't know if you remember his answer, but it was,\n00:07:15.000 "The Stone Age didn't end because we ran out of stones."\n00:07:19.000 We see that companies acting ethically in this world\n00:07:23.000 are outperforming those that don't.\n00:07:24.000 We see the flows of materials in a rather terrifying prospect.\n00:07:29.000 This is a hospital monitor from Los Angeles, sent to China.\n00:07:32.000 This woman will expose herself to toxic phosphorous,\n00:07:35.000 release four pounds of toxic lead into her childrens' environment,\n00:07:38.000 which is from copper.\n00:07:40.000 On the other hand, we see great signs of hope.\n00:07:42.000 Here's Dr. Venkataswamy in India, who's figured out\n00:07:45.000 how to do mass-produced health.\n00:07:47.000 He has given eyesight to two million people for free.\n00:07:51.000 We see in our material flows that car steels don't become car steel again\n00:07:54.000 because of the contaminants of the coatings --\n00:07:56.000 bismuth, antimony, copper and so on.\n00:07:58.000 They become building steel.\n00:07:59.000 On the other hand, we're working with Berkshire Hathaway,\n00:08:01.000 Warren Buffett and Shaw Carpet,\n00:08:04.000 the largest carpet company in the world.\n00:08:05.000 We've developed a carpet that is continuously recyclable,\n00:08:08.000 down to the parts per million.\n00:08:11.000 The upper is Nylon 6 that can go back to caprolactam,\n00:08:14.000 the bottom, a polyolephine -- infinitely recyclable thermoplastic.\n00:08:17.000 Now if I was a bird, the building on my left is a liability.\n00:08:21.000 The building on my right, which is our corporate campus for The Gap\n00:08:24.000 with an ancient meadow, is an asset -- its nesting grounds.\n00:08:29.000 Here's where I come from. I grew up in Hong Kong,\n00:08:31.000 with six million people in 40 square miles.\n00:08:33.000 During the dry season, we had four hours of water every fourth day.\n00:08:37.000 And the relationship to landscape was that of farmers who have been\n00:08:40.000 farming the same piece of ground for 40 centuries.\n00:08:44.000 You can't farm the same piece of ground for 40 centuries\n00:08:46.000 without understanding nutrient flow.\n00:08:49.000 My childhood summers were in the Puget Sound of

Washington,\n00:08:52.000 among the first growth and big growth.\n00:08:54.000 My grandfather had been a lumberjack in the Olympics,\n00:08:56.000 so I have a lot of tree karma I am working off.\n00:09:01.000 I went to Yale for graduate school,\n00:09:03.000 studied in a building of this style by Le Corbusier,\n00:09:05.000 affectionately known in our business as Brutalism.\n00:09:09.000 If we look at the world of architecture,\n00:09:12.000 we see with Mies' 1928 tower for Berlin,\n00:09:15.000 the question might be, "Well, where's the sun?"\n00:09:17.000 And this might have worked in Berlin, but we built it in Houston,\n00:09:20.000 and the windows are all closed. And with most products\n00:09:23.000 appearing not to have been designed for indoor use,\n00:09:25.000 this is actually a vertical gas chamber.\n00:09:28.000 When I went to Yale, we had the first energy crisis,\n00:09:31.000 and I was designing the first solar-heated house in Ireland\n00:09:33.000 as a student, which I then built --\n00:09:35.000 which would give you a sense of my ambition.\n00:09:37.000 And Richard Meier, who was one of my teachers,\n00:09:39.000 kept coming over to my desk to give me criticism,\n00:09:41.000 and he would say, "Bill, you've got to understand- --\n00:09:43.000 solar energy has nothing to do with architecture."\n00:09:51.000 I guess he didn't read Vitruvius.\n00:09:53.000 In 1984, we did the first so-called "green office" in America\n00:09:57.000 for Environmental Defense.\n00:09:58.000 We started asking manufacturers what were in their materials.\n00:10:01.000 They said, "They're proprietary, they're legal, go away."\n00:10:03.000 The only indoor quality work done in this country at that time\n00:10:05.000 was sponsored by R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Company,\n00:10:08.000 and it was to prove there was no danger\n00:10:09.000 from secondhand smoke in the workplace.\n00:10:12.000 So, all of a sudden, here I am, graduating from high school in 1969,\n00:10:16.000 and this happens, and we realize that "away" went away.\n00:10:19.000 Remember we used to throw things away, and we'd point to away?\n00:10:23.000 And yet, NOAA has now shown us, for example --\n00:10:25.000 you see that little blue thing above Hawaii?\n00:10:27.000 That's the Pacific Gyre.\n00:10:28.000 It was recently dragged for plankton by scientists,\n00:10:30.000 and they found six times as much plastic as plankton.\n00:10:34.000 When asked, they said, "It's kind of like a giant toilet that doesn't flush."\n00:10:39.000 Perhaps that's away.\n00:10:40.000 So we're looking for the design rules of this --\n00:10:42.000 this is the highest biodiversity of trees in the world, Irian Jaya,\n00:10:44.000 259 species of tree, and we described this\n00:10:48.000 in the book, "Cradle to Cradle."\n00:10:49.000 The book itself is a polymer. It is not a tree.\n00:10:53.000 That's the name of the first chapter -- "This Book is Not a Tree."\n00:10:56.000 Because in poetics, as Margaret Atwood pointed out,\n00:10:59.000 "we write our history on the skin of fish\n00:11:01.000 with the blood of bears."\n00:11:04.000 And with so much polymer, what we really need\n00:11:05.000 is technical nutrition, and to use something\n00:11:08.000 as elegant as a tree -- imagine this design assignment:\n00:11:11.000 Design something that makes oxygen, sequesters carbon,\n00:11:13.000 fixes nitrogen, distills water, accrues solar energy as fuel,\n00:11:17.000 makes complex sugars and food, creates microclimates,\n00:11:21.000 changes colors with the seasons and self-replicates.\n00:11:27.000 Well, why don't we knock that down and write on it?\n00:11:29.000 (Laughter)\n00:11:35.000 So, we're looking at the same criteria\n00:11:37.000 as most people -- you know, can I afford it?\n00:11:39.000 Does

it work? Do I like it?\n00:11:41.000 We're adding the Jeffersonian agenda, and I come from Charlottesville,\n00:11:43.000 where I've had the privilege of living in a house designed by Thomas Jefferson.\n00:11:47.000 We're adding life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.\n00:11:53.000 Now if we look at the word "competition,"\n00:11:54.000 I'm sure most of you've used it.\n00:11:56.000 You know, most people don't realize it comes from\n00:11:57.000 the Latin competere, which means strive together.\n00:12:00.000 It means the way Olympic athletes train with each other.\n00:12:03.000 They get fit together, and then they compete.\n00:12:06.000 The Williams sisters compete -- one wins Wimbledon.\n00:12:08.000 So we've been looking at the idea of competition\n00:12:11.000 as a way of cooperating in order to get fit together.\n00:12:15.000 And the Chinese government has now --\n00:12:16.000 I work with the Chinese government now --\n00:12:18.000 has taken this up.\n00:12:20.000 We're also looking at survival of the fittest,\n00:12:22.000 not in just competition terms in our modern context\n00:12:24.000 of destroy the other or beat them to the ground,\n00:12:27.000 but really to fit together and build niches\n00:12:29.000 and have growth that is good.\n00:12:31.000 Now most environmentalists don't say growth is good,\n00:12:33.000 because, in our lexicon, asphalt is two words: assigning blame.\n00:12:38.000 But if we look at asphalt as our growth,\n00:12:41.000 then we realize that all we're doing is destroying\n00:12:43.000 the planetary's fundamental underlying operating system.\n00:12:47.000 So when we see E equals mc squared come along, from a poet's perspective,\n00:12:52.000 we see energy as physics, chemistry as mass,\n00:12:54.000 and all of a sudden, you get this biology.\n00:12:56.000 And we have plenty of energy, so we'll solve that problem,\n00:12:59.000 but the biology problem's tricky, because as we put through\n00:13:02.000 all these toxic materials that we disgorge,\n00:13:05.000 we will never be able to recover that.\n00:13:07.000 And as Francis Crick pointed out, nine years\n00:13:09.000 after discovering DNA with Mr. Watson,\n00:13:12.000 that life itself has to have growth as a precondition --\n00:13:16.000 it has to have free energy, sunlight\n00:13:18.000 and it needs to be an open system of chemicals.\n00:13:21.000 So we're asking for human artifice to become a living thing,\n00:13:24.000 and we want growth, we want free energy from sunlight\n00:13:26.000 and we want an open metabolism for chemicals.\n00:13:29.000 Then, the question becomes not growth or no growth,\n00:13:31.000 but what do you want to grow?\n00:13:34.000 So instead of just growing destruction,\n00:13:36.000 we want to grow the things that we might enjoy,\n00:13:38.000 and someday the FDA will allow us to make French cheese.\n00:13:41.000 So therefore, we have these two metabolisms,\n00:13:45.000 and I worked with a German chemist, Michael Braungart,\n00:13:47.000 and we've identified the two fundamental metabolisms.\n00:13:49.000 The biological one I'm sure you understand,\n00:13:51.000 but also the technical one, where we take materials\n00:13:53.000 and put them into closed cycles.\n00:13:55.000 We call them biological nutrition and technical nutrition.\n00:13:58.000 Technical nutrition will be in an order of magnitude of biological nutrition.\n00:14:02.000 Biological nutrition can supply about 500 million humans,\n00:14:05.000 which means that if we all wore Birkenstocks and cotton,\n00:14:07.000 the world would run out of cork and dry up.\n00:14:10.000 So we need materials in closed cycles,\n00:14:12.000 but we need to analyze them down to the parts per million\n00:14:14.000 for cancer, birth defects, mutagenic effects,\n00:14:17.000 disruption of our immune systems, biodegradation,

persistence,\n00:14:20.000 heavy metal content, knowledge of how we're making them\n00:14:23.000 and their production and so on.\n00:14:25.000 Our first product was a textile where we analyzed 8,000 chemicals\n00:14:29.000 in the textile industry.\n00:14:30.000 Using those intellectual filters, we eliminated [7,962.]\n00:14:35.000 We were left with 38 chemicals.\n00:14:37.000 We have since databased the 4000 most commonly used chemicals\n00:14:40.000 in human manufacturing, and we're releasing this database into the public in six weeks.\n00:14:45.000 So designers all over the world can analyze their products\n00:14:47.000 down to the parts per million for human and ecological health.\n00:14:52.000 (Applause)\n00:14:57.000 We've developed a protocol so that companies can send\n00:15:00.000 these same messages all the way through their supply chains,\n00:15:03.000 because when we asked most companies we work with -- about a trillion dollars\n00:15:06.000 -- and say, "Where does your stuff come from?" They say, "Suppliers."\n00:15:08.000 "And where does it go?"\n00:15:10.000 "Customers."\n00:15:11.000 So we need some help there.\n00:15:12.000 So the biological nutrients, the first fabrics --\n00:15:14.000 the water coming out was clean enough to drink.\n00:15:16.000 Technical nutrients -- this is for Shaw Carpet, infinitely reusable carpet.\n00:15:20.000 Here's nylon going back to caprolactam back to carpet.\n00:15:23.000 Biotechnical nutrients -- the Model U for Ford Motor,\n00:15:26.000 a cradle to cradle car -- concept car.\n00:15:28.000 Shoes for Nike, where the uppers are polyesters, infinitely recyclable,\n00:15:32.000 the bottoms are biodegradable soles.\n00:15:35.000 Wear your old shoes in, your new shoes out.\n00:15:37.000 There is no finish line.\n00:15:39.000 The idea here of the car is that some of the materials\n00:15:41.000 go back to the industry forever, some of the materials go back to soil --\n00:15:44.000 it's all solar-powered.\n00:15:46.000 Here's a building at Oberlin College we designed\n00:15:48.000 that makes more energy than it needs to operate and purifies its own water.\n00:15:52.000 Here's a building for The Gap, where the ancient grasses\n00:15:54.000 of San Bruno, California, are on the roof.\n00:15:58.000 And this is our project for Ford Motor Company.\n00:16:00.000 It's the revitalization of the River Rouge in Dearborn.\n00:16:02.000 This is obviously a color photograph.\n00:16:06.000 These are our tools. These are how we sold it to Ford.\n00:16:10.000 We saved Ford 35 million dollars doing it this way, day one,\n00:16:13.000 which is the equivalent of the Ford Taurus\n00:16:15.000 at a four percent margin of an order for 900 million dollars worth of cars.\n00:16:19.000 Here it is. It's the world's largest green roof, 10 and a half acres.\n00:16:22.000 This is the roof, saving money,\n00:16:25.000 and this is the first species to arrive here. These are killdeer.\n00:16:29.000 They showed up in five days.\n00:16:32.000 And we now have 350-pound auto workers\n00:16:34.000 learning bird songs on the Internet.\n00:16:38.000 We're developing now protocols for cities --\n00:16:40.000 that's the home of technical nutrients.\n00:16:42.000 The country -- the home of biological. And putting them together.\n00:16:45.000 And so I will finish by showing you a new city\n00:16:47.000 we're designing for the Chinese government.\n00:16:49.000 We're doing 12 cities for China right now,\n00:16:52.000 based on cradle to cradle as templates.\n00:16:54.000 Our assignment is to develop protocols for the housing\n00:16:57.000 for 400 million people in 12 years.\n00:16:59.000 We did a mass energy balance -- if they use brick,\n00:17:01.000 they will lose all their soil and burn all their coal.\n00:17:04.000 They'll have cities with no energy and no food.\n00:17:06.000

We signed a Memorandum of Understanding --\n00:17:08.000 here's Madam Deng Nan, Deng Xiaoping's daughter --\n00:17:10.000 for China to adopt cradle to cradle.\n00:17:12.000 Because if they toxify themselves, being the lowest-cost producer,\n00:17:16.000 send it to the lowest-cost distribution -- Wal-Mart --\n00:17:18.000 and then we send them all our money, what we'll discover is that\n00:17:21.000 we have what, effectively, when I was a student,\n00:17:24.000 was called mutually assured destruction.\n00:17:27.000 Now we do it by molecule. These are our cities.\n00:17:30.000 We're building a new city next to this city; look at that landscape.\n00:17:33.000 This is the site.\n00:17:35.000 We don't normally do green fields, but this one is about to be built,\n00:17:39.000 so they brought us in to intercede.\n00:17:41.000 This is their plan.\n00:17:43.000 It's a rubber stamp grid that they laid right on that landscape.\n00:17:46.000 And they brought us in and said, "What would you do?"\n00:17:49.000 This is what they would end up with, which is another color photograph.\n00:17:53.000 So this is the existing site, so this is what it looks like now,\n00:17:56.000 and here's our proposal.\n00:17:58.000 (Applause)\n00:18:02.000 So the way we approached this\n00:18:04.000 is we studied the hydrology very carefully.\n00:18:06.000 We studied the biota, the ancient biota,\n00:18:08.000 the current farming and the protocols.\n00:18:10.000 We studied the winds and the sun to make sure everybody in the city\n00:18:12.000 will have fresh air, fresh water and direct sunlight\n00:18:18.000 in every single apartment at some point during the day.\n00:18:21.000 We then take the parks and lay them out as ecological infrastructure.\n00:18:25.000 We lay out the building areas.\n00:18:28.000 We start to integrate commercial and mixed use\n00:18:29.000 so the people all have centers and places to be.\n00:18:32.000 The transportation is all very simple,\n00:18:34.000 everybody's within a five-minute walk of mobility.\n00:18:37.000 We have a 24-hour street, so that there's always a place that's alive.\n00:18:42.000 The waste systems all connect.\n00:18:44.000 If you flush a toilet, your feces will go to the sewage treatment plants,\n00:18:49.000 which are sold as assets, not liabilities.\n00:18:51.000 Because who wants the fertilizer factory that makes natural gas?\n00:18:55.000 The waters are all taken in to construct the wetlands for habitat restorations.\n00:19:00.000 And then it makes natural gas, which then goes back into the city\n00:19:04.000 to power the fuel for the cooking for the city.\n00:19:08.000 So this is -- these are fertilizer gas plants.\n00:19:10.000 And then the compost is all taken back\n00:19:13.000 to the roofs of the city, where we've got farming,\n00:19:15.000 because what we've done is lifted up the city,\n00:19:19.000 the landscape, into the air to -- to restore the native landscape\n00:19:26.000 on the roofs of the buildings.\n00:19:28.000 The solar power of all the factory centers\n00:19:31.000 and all the industrial zones with their light roofs powers the city.\n00:19:34.000 And this is the concept for the top of the city.\n00:19:36.000 We've lifted the earth up onto the roofs.\n00:19:40.000 The farmers have little bridges to get from one roof to the next.\n00:19:44.000 We inhabit the city with work/live space on all the ground floors.\n00:19:48.000 And so this is the existing city, and this is the new city.\n00:19:53.000 (Applause)\n\nThe file is too long and its contents have been truncated.\n", "cloud_doc_url": null}, {"matched_text": "\u301012\u2020source\u3011", "start_idx": 2042, "end_idx": 2053, "alt": null, "type": "file", "name": "tactiq-free-transcript-IoRjz8iTVoo.txt", "id": "file-QAdtwx5q5xmFsPgGvYJdRiuF", "source": "my_files", "snippet": "# tactiq.io free youtube transcript\n# Cradle to cradle design | William McDonough\n#

https://www.youtube.com/watch/IoRjz8iTVoo\n\n00:00:26.000 In 1962, with Rachel Carson's "Silent Spring,"\n00:00:30.000 I think for people like me in the world of the making of things,\n00:00:35.000 the canary in the mine wasn't singing.\n00:00:39.000 And so the question that we might not have birds\n00:00:42.000 became kind of fundamental to those of us wandering around\n00:00:45.000 looking for the meadowlarks that seemed to have all disappeared.\n00:00:48.000 And the question was, were the birds singing?\n00:00:51.000 Now, I'm not a scientist, that'll be really clear.\n00:00:55.000 But, you know, we've just come from this discussion of what a bird might be.\n00:00:59.000 What is a bird?\n00:01:00.000 Well, in my world, this is a rubber duck.\n00:01:04.000 It comes in California with a warning --\n00:01:06.000 "This product contains chemicals known by the State of California\n00:01:09.000 to cause cancer and birth defects or other reproductive harm."\n00:01:16.000 This is a bird.\n00:01:19.000 What kind of culture would produce a product of this kind\n00:01:22.000 and then label it and sell it to children?\n00:01:27.000 I think we have a design problem.\n00:01:30.000 Someone heard the six hours of talk that I gave\n00:01:35.000 called "The Monticello Dialogues" on NPR, and sent me this as a thank you note --\n00:01:41.000 "We realize that design is a signal of intention,\n00:01:43.000 but it also has to occur within a world,\n00:01:46.000 and we have to understand that world in order to\n00:01:50.000 imbue our designs with inherent intelligence,\n00:01:53.000 and so as we look back at the basic state of affairs\n00:01:58.000 in which we design, we, in a way, need to go to the primordial condition\n00:02:03.000 to understand the operating system and the frame conditions of a planet,\n00:02:08.000 and I think the exciting part of that is the good news that's there,\n00:02:13.000 because the news is the news of abundance,\n00:02:16.000 and not the news of limits,\n00:02:18.000 and I think as our culture tortures itself now\n00:02:23.000 with tyrannies and concerns over limits and fear,\n00:02:28.000 we can add this other dimension of abundance that is coherent,\n00:02:33.000 driven by the sun, and start to imagine\n00:02:35.000 what that would be like to share."\n00:02:42.000 That was a nice thing to get.\n00:02:44.000 That was one sentence.\n00:02:48.000 Henry James would be proud.\n00:02:50.000 This is -- I put it down at the bottom,\n00:02:52.000 but that was extemporaneous, obviously.\n00:02:55.000 The fundamental issue is that, for me,\n00:02:58.000 design is the first signal of human intentions.\n00:03:00.000 So what are our intentions, and what would our intentions be --\n00:03:04.000 if we wake up in the morning, we have designs on the world --\n00:03:07.000 well, what would our intention be as a species\n00:03:09.000 now that we're the dominant species?\n00:03:11.000 And it's not just stewardship and dominion debate,\n00:03:14.000 because really, dominion is implicit in stewardship --\n00:03:20.000 because how could you dominate something you had killed?\n00:03:22.000 And stewardship's implicit in dominion,\n00:03:24.000 because you can't be steward of something if you can't dominate it.\n00:03:26.000 So the question is, what is the first question for designers?\n00:03:32.000 Now, as guardians -- let's say the state, for example,\n00:03:35.000 which reserves the right to kill, the right to be duplicitous and so on --\n00:03:40.000 the question we're asking the guardian at this point is\n00:03:43.000 are we meant, how are we meant,\n00:03:45.000 to secure local societies, create world peace\n00:03:47.000 and save the environment?\n00:03:49.000 But I don't know that that's the common debate.\n00:03:52.000 Commerce, on the other hand, is relatively quick,\n00:03:56.000 essentially creative, highly effective and efficient,\n00:03:58.000 and fundamentally

honest, because we can't exchange\n00:04:01.000 value for very long if we don't trust each other.\n00:04:05.000 So we use the tools of commerce primarily for our work,\n00:04:07.000 but the question we bring to it is,\n00:04:09.000 how do we love all the children of all species for all time?\n00:04:13.000 And so we start our designs with that question.\n00:04:16.000 Because what we realize today is that modern culture\n00:04:18.000 appears to have adopted a strategy of tragedy.\n00:04:21.000 If we come here and say, "Well, I didn't intend\n00:04:23.000 to cause global warming on the way here,"\n00:04:24.000 and we say, "That's not part of my plan,"\n00:04:26.000 then we realize it's part of our de facto plan.\n00:04:29.000 Because it's the thing that's happening because we have no other plan.\n00:04:32.000 And I was at the White House for President Bush,\n00:04:34.000 meeting with every federal department and agency,\n00:04:36.000 and I pointed out that they appear to have no plan.\n00:04:40.000 If the end game is global warming, they're doing great.\n00:04:42.000 If the end game is mercury toxification of our children\n00:04:45.000 downwind of coal fire plants as they scuttled the Clean Air Act,\n00:04:48.000 then I see that our education programs should be explicitly defined as,\n00:04:52.000 "Brain death for all children. No child left behind."\n00:04:54.000 (Applause)\n00:04:58.000 So, the question is, how many federal officials\n00:05:02.000 are ready to move to Ohio and Pennsylvania with their families?\n00:05:05.000 So if you don't have an endgame of something delightful,\n00:05:09.000 then you're just moving chess pieces around,\n00:05:11.000 if you don't know you're taking the king.\n00:05:12.000 So perhaps we could develop a strategy of change,\n00:05:15.000 which requires humility. And in my business as an architect,\n00:05:18.000 it's unfortunate the word "humility" and the word "architect"\n00:05:22.000 have not appeared in the same paragraph since "The Fountainhead."\n00:05:25.000 So if anybody here has trouble with the concept of design humility,\n00:05:30.000 reflect on this -- it took us 5,000 years\n00:05:33.000 to put wheels on our luggage.\n00:05:37.000 So, as Kevin Kelly pointed out, there is no endgame.\n00:05:42.000 There is an infinite game, and we're playing in that infinite game.\n00:05:46.000 And so we call it "cradle to cradle,"\n00:05:48.000 and our goal is very simple.\n00:05:49.000 This is what I presented to the White House.\n00:05:51.000 Our goal is a delightfully diverse, safe, healthy and just world,\n00:05:54.000 with clean air, clean water, soil and power --\n00:05:57.000 economically, equitably, ecologically and elegantly enjoyed, period.\n00:06:01.000 (Applause)\n00:06:04.000 What don't you like about this?\n00:06:07.000 Which part of this don't you like?\n00:06:09.000 So we realized we want full diversity,\n00:06:11.000 even though it can be difficult to remember what De Gaulle said\n00:06:14.000 when asked what it was like to be President of France.\n00:06:16.000 He said, "What do you think it's like trying to run a country with 400 kinds of cheese?"\n00:06:20.000 But at the same time, we realize that our products are not safe and healthy.\n00:06:23.000 So we've designed products\n00:06:25.000 and we analyzed chemicals down to the parts per million.\n00:06:27.000 This is a baby blanket by Pendleton that will give your child nutrition\n00:06:30.000 instead of Alzheimer's later in life.\n00:06:32.000 We can ask ourselves, what is justice,\n00:06:34.000 and is justice blind, or is justice blindness?\n00:06:38.000 And at what point did that uniform turn from white to black?\n00:06:43.000 Water has been declared a human right by the United

Nations.\n00:06:46.000 Air quality is an obvious thing to anyone who breathes.\n00:06:48.000 Is there anybody here who doesn't breathe?\n00:06:51.000 Clean soil is a critical problem -- the nitrification, the dead zones\n00:06:54.000 in the Gulf of Mexico.\n00:06:56.000 A fundamental issue that's not being addressed.\n00:06:58.000 We've seen the first form of solar energy\n00:07:00.000 that's beat the hegemony of fossil fuels in the form of wind\n00:07:03.000 here in the Great Plains, and so that hegemony is leaving.\n00:07:06.000 And if we remember Sheikh Yamani when he formed OPEC,\n00:07:09.000 they asked him, "When will we see the end of the age of oil?"\n00:07:12.000 I don't know if you remember his answer, but it was,\n00:07:15.000 "The Stone Age didn't end because we ran out of stones."\n00:07:19.000 We see that companies acting ethically in this world\n00:07:23.000 are outperforming those that don't.\n00:07:24.000 We see the flows of materials in a rather terrifying prospect.\n00:07:29.000 This is a hospital monitor from Los Angeles, sent to China.\n00:07:32.000 This woman will expose herself to toxic phosphorous,\n00:07:35.000 release four pounds of toxic lead into her childrens' environment,\n00:07:38.000 which is from copper.\n00:07:40.000 On the other hand, we see great signs of hope.\n00:07:42.000 Here's Dr. Venkataswamy in India, who's figured out\n00:07:45.000 how to do mass-produced health.\n00:07:47.000 He has given eyesight to two million people for free.\n00:07:51.000 We see in our material flows that car steels don't become car steel again\n00:07:54.000 because of the contaminants of the coatings --\n00:07:56.000 bismuth, antimony, copper and so on.\n00:07:58.000 They become building steel.\n00:07:59.000 On the other hand, we're working with Berkshire Hathaway,\n00:08:01.000 Warren Buffett and Shaw Carpet,\n00:08:04.000 the largest carpet company in the world.\n00:08:05.000 We've developed a carpet that is continuously recyclable,\n00:08:08.000 down to the parts per million.\n00:08:11.000 The upper is Nylon 6 that can go back to caprolactam,\n00:08:14.000 the bottom, a polyolephine -- infinitely recyclable thermoplastic.\n00:08:17.000 Now if I was a bird, the building on my left is a liability.\n00:08:21.000 The building on my right, which is our corporate campus for The Gap\n00:08:24.000 with an ancient meadow, is an asset -- its nesting grounds.\n00:08:29.000 Here's where I come from. I grew up in Hong Kong,\n00:08:31.000 with six million people in 40 square miles.\n00:08:33.000 During the dry season, we had four hours of water every fourth day.\n00:08:37.000 And the relationship to landscape was that of farmers who have been\n00:08:40.000 farming the same piece of ground for 40 centuries.\n00:08:44.000 You can't farm the same piece of ground for 40 centuries\n00:08:46.000 without understanding nutrient flow.\n00:08:49.000 My childhood summers were in the Puget Sound of Washington,\n00:08:52.000 among the first growth and big growth.\n00:08:54.000 My grandfather had been a lumberjack in the Olympics,\n00:08:56.000 so I have a lot of tree karma I am working off.\n00:09:01.000 I went to Yale for graduate school,\n00:09:03.000 studied in a building of this style by Le Corbusier,\n00:09:05.000 affectionately known in our business as Brutalism.\n00:09:09.000 If we look at the world of architecture,\n00:09:12.000 we see with Mies' 1928 tower for Berlin,\n00:09:15.000 the question might be, "Well, where's the sun?"\n00:09:17.000 And this might have worked in Berlin, but we built it in Houston,\n00:09:20.000 and the windows are all closed. And with most products\n00:09:23.000 appearing not to have been designed for indoor use,\n00:09:25.000 this is actually a vertical gas chamber.\n00:09:28.000 When I went to Yale, we had the first energy crisis,\n00:09:31.000 and I was designing the first

solar-heated house in Ireland\n00:09:33.000 as a student, which I then built --\n00:09:35.000 which would give you a sense of my ambition.\n00:09:37.000 And Richard Meier, who was one of my teachers,\n00:09:39.000 kept coming over to my desk to give me criticism,\n00:09:41.000 and he would say, "Bill, you've got to understand- --\n00:09:43.000 solar energy has nothing to do with architecture."\n00:09:51.000 I guess he didn't read Vitruvius.\n00:09:53.000 In 1984, we did the first so-called "green office" in America\n00:09:57.000 for Environmental Defense.\n00:09:58.000 We started asking manufacturers what were in their materials.\n00:10:01.000 They said, "They're proprietary, they're legal, go away."\n00:10:03.000 The only indoor quality work done in this country at that time\n00:10:05.000 was sponsored by R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Company,\n00:10:08.000 and it was to prove there was no danger\n00:10:09.000 from secondhand smoke in the workplace.\n00:10:12.000 So, all of a sudden, here I am, graduating from high school in 1969,\n00:10:16.000 and this happens, and we realize that "away" went away.\n00:10:19.000 Remember we used to throw things away, and we'd point to away?\n00:10:23.000 And yet, NOAA has now shown us, for example --\n00:10:25.000 you see that little blue thing above Hawaii?\n00:10:27.000 That's the Pacific Gyre.\n00:10:28.000 It was recently dragged for plankton by scientists,\n00:10:30.000 and they found six times as much plastic as plankton.\n00:10:34.000 When asked, they said, "It's kind of like a giant toilet that doesn't flush."\n00:10:39.000 Perhaps that's away.\n00:10:40.000 So we're looking for the design rules of this --\n00:10:42.000 this is the highest biodiversity of trees in the world, Irian Jaya,\n00:10:44.000 259 species of tree, and we described this\n00:10:48.000 in the book, "Cradle to Cradle."\n00:10:49.000 The book itself is a polymer. It is not a tree.\n00:10:53.000 That's the name of the first chapter -- "This Book is Not a Tree."\n00:10:56.000 Because in poetics, as Margaret Atwood pointed out,\n00:10:59.000 "we write our history on the skin of fish\n00:11:01.000 with the blood of bears."\n00:11:04.000 And with so much polymer, what we really need\n00:11:05.000 is technical nutrition, and to use something\n00:11:08.000 as elegant as a tree -- imagine this design assignment:\n00:11:11.000 Design something that makes oxygen, sequesters carbon,\n00:11:13.000 fixes nitrogen, distills water, accrues solar energy as fuel,\n00:11:17.000 makes complex sugars and food, creates microclimates,\n00:11:21.000 changes colors with the seasons and self-replicates.\n00:11:27.000 Well, why don't we knock that down and write on it?\n00:11:29.000 (Laughter)\n00:11:35.000 So, we're looking at the same criteria\n00:11:37.000 as most people -- you know, can I afford it?\n00:11:39.000 Does it work? Do I like it?\n00:11:41.000 We're adding the Jeffersonian agenda, and I come from Charlottesville,\n00:11:43.000 where I've had the privilege of living in a house designed by Thomas Jefferson.\n00:11:47.000 We're adding life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.\n00:11:53.000 Now if we look at the word "competition,"\n00:11:54.000 I'm sure most of you've used it.\n00:11:56.000 You know, most people don't realize it comes from\n00:11:57.000 the Latin competere, which means strive together.\n00:12:00.000 It means the way Olympic athletes train with each other.\n00:12:03.000 They get fit together, and then they compete.\n00:12:06.000 The Williams sisters compete -- one wins Wimbledon.\n00:12:08.000 So we've been looking at the idea of competition\n00:12:11.000 as a way of cooperating in order to get fit together.\n00:12:15.000 And the Chinese government has now --\n00:12:16.000 I work

with the Chinese government now --\n00:12:18.000 has taken this up.\n00:12:20.000 We're also looking at survival of the fittest,\n00:12:22.000 not in just competition terms in our modern context\n00:12:24.000 of destroy the other or beat them to the ground,\n00:12:27.000 but really to fit together and build niches\n00:12:29.000 and have growth that is good.\n00:12:31.000 Now most environmentalists don't say growth is good,\n00:12:33.000 because, in our lexicon, asphalt is two words: assigning blame.\n00:12:38.000 But if we look at asphalt as our growth,\n00:12:41.000 then we realize that all we're doing is destroying\n00:12:43.000 the planetary's fundamental underlying operating system.\n00:12:47.000 So when we see E equals mc squared come along, from a poet's perspective,\n00:12:52.000 we see energy as physics, chemistry as mass,\n00:12:54.000 and all of a sudden, you get this biology.\n00:12:56.000 And we have plenty of energy, so we'll solve that problem,\n00:12:59.000 but the biology problem's tricky, because as we put through\n00:13:02.000 all these toxic materials that we disgorge,\n00:13:05.000 we will never be able to recover that.\n00:13:07.000 And as Francis Crick pointed out, nine years\n00:13:09.000 after discovering DNA with Mr. Watson,\n00:13:12.000 that life itself has to have growth as a precondition --\n00:13:16.000 it has to have free energy, sunlight\n00:13:18.000 and it needs to be an open system of chemicals.\n00:13:21.000 So we're asking for human artifice to become a living thing,\n00:13:24.000 and we want growth, we want free energy from sunlight\n00:13:26.000 and we want an open metabolism for chemicals.\n00:13:29.000 Then, the question becomes not growth or no growth,\n00:13:31.000 but what do you want to grow?\n00:13:34.000 So instead of just growing destruction,\n00:13:36.000 we want to grow the things that we might enjoy,\n00:13:38.000 and someday the FDA will allow us to make French cheese.\n00:13:41.000 So therefore, we have these two metabolisms,\n00:13:45.000 and I worked with a German chemist, Michael Braungart,\n00:13:47.000 and we've identified the two fundamental metabolisms.\n00:13:49.000 The biological one I'm sure you understand,\n00:13:51.000 but also the technical one, where we take materials\n00:13:53.000 and put them into closed cycles.\n00:13:55.000 We call them biological nutrition and technical nutrition.\n00:13:58.000 Technical nutrition will be in an order of magnitude of biological nutrition.\n00:14:02.000 Biological nutrition can supply about 500 million humans,\n00:14:05.000 which means that if we all wore Birkenstocks and cotton,\n00:14:07.000 the world would run out of cork and dry up.\n00:14:10.000 So we need materials in closed cycles,\n00:14:12.000 but we need to analyze them down to the parts per million\n00:14:14.000 for cancer, birth defects, mutagenic effects,\n00:14:17.000 disruption of our immune systems, biodegradation, persistence,\n00:14:20.000 heavy metal content, knowledge of how we're making them\n00:14:23.000 and their production and so on.\n00:14:25.000 Our first product was a textile where we analyzed 8,000 chemicals\n00:14:29.000 in the textile industry.\n00:14:30.000 Using those intellectual filters, we eliminated [7,962.]\n00:14:35.000 We were left with 38 chemicals.\n00:14:37.000 We have since databased the 4000 most commonly used chemicals\n00:14:40.000 in human manufacturing, and we're releasing this database into the public in six weeks.\n00:14:45.000 So designers all over the world can analyze their products\n00:14:47.000 down to the parts per million for human and ecological health.\n00:14:52.000 (Applause)\n00:14:57.000 We've developed a protocol so that companies can send\n00:15:00.000 these same messages all the way through their supply chains,\n00:15:03.000 because when we asked most companies we work with -- about a

trillion dollars\n00:15:06.000 -- and say, "Where does your stuff come from?" They say, "Suppliers."\n00:15:08.000 "And where does it go?"\n00:15:10.000 "Customers."\n00:15:11.000 So we need some help there.\n00:15:12.000 So the biological nutrients, the first fabrics --\n00:15:14.000 the water coming out was clean enough to drink.\n00:15:16.000 Technical nutrients -- this is for Shaw Carpet, infinitely reusable carpet.\n00:15:20.000 Here's nylon going back to caprolactam back to carpet.\n00:15:23.000 Biotechnical nutrients -- the Model U for Ford Motor,\n00:15:26.000 a cradle to cradle car -- concept car.\n00:15:28.000 Shoes for Nike, where the uppers are polyesters, infinitely recyclable,\n00:15:32.000 the bottoms are biodegradable soles.\n00:15:35.000 Wear your old shoes in, your new shoes out.\n00:15:37.000 There is no finish line.\n00:15:39.000 The idea here of the car is that some of the materials\n00:15:41.000 go back to the industry forever, some of the materials go back to soil --\n00:15:44.000 it's all solar-powered.\n00:15:46.000 Here's a building at Oberlin College we designed\n00:15:48.000 that makes more energy than it needs to operate and purifies its own water.\n00:15:52.000 Here's a building for The Gap, where the ancient grasses\n00:15:54.000 of San Bruno, California, are on the roof.\n00:15:58.000 And this is our project for Ford Motor Company.\n00:16:00.000 It's the revitalization of the River Rouge in Dearborn.\n00:16:02.000 This is obviously a color photograph.\n00:16:06.000 These are our tools. These are how we sold it to Ford.\n00:16:10.000 We saved Ford 35 million dollars doing it this way, day one,\n00:16:13.000 which is the equivalent of the Ford Taurus\n00:16:15.000 at a four percent margin of an order for 900 million dollars worth of cars.\n00:16:19.000 Here it is. It's the world's largest green roof, 10 and a half acres.\n00:16:22.000 This is the roof, saving money,\n00:16:25.000 and this is the first species to arrive here. These are killdeer.\n00:16:29.000 They showed up in five days.\n00:16:32.000 And we now have 350-pound auto workers\n00:16:34.000 learning bird songs on the Internet.\n00:16:38.000 We're developing now protocols for cities --\n00:16:40.000 that's the home of technical nutrients.\n00:16:42.000 The country -- the home of biological. And putting them together.\n00:16:45.000 And so I will finish by showing you a new city\n00:16:47.000 we're designing for the Chinese government.\n00:16:49.000 We're doing 12 cities for China right now,\n00:16:52.000 based on cradle to cradle as templates.\n00:16:54.000 Our assignment is to develop protocols for the housing\n00:16:57.000 for 400 million people in 12 years.\n00:16:59.000 We did a mass energy balance -- if they use brick,\n00:17:01.000 they will lose all their soil and burn all their coal.\n00:17:04.000 They'll have cities with no energy and no food.\n00:17:06.000 We signed a Memorandum of Understanding --\n00:17:08.000 here's Madam Deng Nan, Deng Xiaoping's daughter --\n00:17:10.000 for China to adopt cradle to cradle.\n00:17:12.000 Because if they toxify themselves, being the lowest-cost producer,\n00:17:16.000 send it to the lowest-cost distribution -- Wal-Mart --\n00:17:18.000 and then we send them all our money, what we'll discover is that\n00:17:21.000 we have what, effectively, when I was a student,\n00:17:24.000 was called mutually assured destruction.\n00:17:27.000 Now we do it by molecule. These are our cities.\n00:17:30.000 We're building a new city next to this city; look at that landscape.\n00:17:33.000 This is the site.\n00:17:35.000 We don't normally do green fields, but this one is about to be built,\n00:17:39.000 so they brought us in to intercede.\n00:17:41.000 This is their plan.\n00:17:43.000 It's a rubber stamp grid that they laid right on that landscape.\n00:17:46.000 And they brought us

in and said, "What would you do?"\n00:17:49.000 This is what they would end up with, which is another color photograph.\n00:17:53.000 So this is the existing site, so this is what it looks like now,\n00:17:56.000 and here's our proposal.\n00:17:58.000 (Applause)\n00:18:02.000 So the way we approached this\n00:18:04.000 is we studied the hydrology very carefully.\n00:18:06.000 We studied the biota, the ancient biota,\n00:18:08.000 the current farming and the protocols.\n00:18:10.000 We studied the winds and the sun to make sure everybody in the city\n00:18:12.000 will have fresh air, fresh water and direct sunlight\n00:18:18.000 in every single apartment at some point during the day.\n00:18:21.000 We then take the parks and lay them out as ecological infrastructure.\n00:18:25.000 We lay out the building areas.\n00:18:28.000 We start to integrate commercial and mixed use\n00:18:29.000 so the people all have centers and places to be.\n00:18:32.000 The transportation is all very simple,\n00:18:34.000 everybody's within a five-minute walk of mobility.\n00:18:37.000 We have a 24-hour street, so that there's always a place that's alive.\n00:18:42.000 The waste systems all connect.\n00:18:44.000 If you flush a toilet, your feces will go to the sewage treatment plants,\n00:18:49.000 which are sold as assets, not liabilities.\n00:18:51.000 Because who wants the fertilizer factory that makes natural gas?\n00:18:55.000 The waters are all taken in to construct the wetlands for habitat restorations.\n00:19:00.000 And then it makes natural gas, which then goes back into the city\n00:19:04.000 to power the fuel for the cooking for the city.\n00:19:08.000 So this is -- these are fertilizer gas plants.\n00:19:10.000 And then the compost is all taken back\n00:19:13.000 to the roofs of the city, where we've got farming,\n00:19:15.000 because what we've done is lifted up the city,\n00:19:19.000 the landscape, into the air to -- to restore the native landscape\n00:19:26.000 on the roofs of the buildings.\n00:19:28.000 The solar power of all the factory centers\n00:19:31.000 and all the industrial zones with their light roofs powers the city.\n00:19:34.000 And this is the concept for the top of the city.\n00:19:36.000 We've lifted the earth up onto the roofs.\n00:19:40.000 The farmers have little bridges to get from one roof to the next.\n00:19:44.000 We inhabit the city with work/live space on all the ground floors.\n00:19:48.000 And so this is the existing city, and this is the new city.\n00:19:53.000 (Applause)\n\nThe file is too long and its contents have been truncated.\n", "cloud_doc_url": null}, {"matched_text": "\u301012\u2020source\u3011", "start_idx": 2571, "end_idx": 2582, "alt": null, "type": "file", "name": "tactiq-free-transcript-IoRjz8iTVoo.txt", "id": "file-QAdtwx5q5xmFsPgGvYJdRiuF", "source": "my_files", "snippet": "# tactiq.io free youtube transcript\n# Cradle to cradle design | William McDonough\n# https://www.youtube.com/watch/IoRjz8iTVoo\n\n00:00:26.000 In 1962, with Rachel Carson's "Silent Spring,"\n00:00:30.000 I think for people like me in the world of the making of things,\n00:00:35.000 the canary in the mine wasn't singing.\n00:00:39.000 And so the question that we might not have birds\n00:00:42.000 became kind of fundamental to those of us wandering around\n00:00:45.000 looking for the meadowlarks that seemed to have all disappeared.\n00:00:48.000 And the question was, were the birds singing?\n00:00:51.000 Now, I'm not a scientist, that'll be really clear.\n00:00:55.000 But, you know, we've just come from this discussion of what a bird might be.\n00:00:59.000 What is a bird?\n00:01:00.000 Well, in my world, this is a rubber duck.\n00:01:04.000 It comes in California with a warning --\n00:01:06.000 "This product contains chemicals known by the State of California\n00:01:09.000 to cause cancer and birth defects or other reproductive

harm."\n00:01:16.000 This is a bird.\n00:01:19.000 What kind of culture would produce a product of this kind\n00:01:22.000 and then label it and sell it to children?\n00:01:27.000 I think we have a design problem.\n00:01:30.000 Someone heard the six hours of talk that I gave\n00:01:35.000 called "The Monticello Dialogues" on NPR, and sent me this as a thank you note --\n00:01:41.000 "We realize that design is a signal of intention,\n00:01:43.000 but it also has to occur within a world,\n00:01:46.000 and we have to understand that world in order to\n00:01:50.000 imbue our designs with inherent intelligence,\n00:01:53.000 and so as we look back at the basic state of affairs\n00:01:58.000 in which we design, we, in a way, need to go to the primordial condition\n00:02:03.000 to understand the operating system and the frame conditions of a planet,\n00:02:08.000 and I think the exciting part of that is the good news that's there,\n00:02:13.000 because the news is the news of abundance,\n00:02:16.000 and not the news of limits,\n00:02:18.000 and I think as our culture tortures itself now\n00:02:23.000 with tyrannies and concerns over limits and fear,\n00:02:28.000 we can add this other dimension of abundance that is coherent,\n00:02:33.000 driven by the sun, and start to imagine\n00:02:35.000 what that would be like to share."\n00:02:42.000 That was a nice thing to get.\n00:02:44.000 That was one sentence.\n00:02:48.000 Henry James would be proud.\n00:02:50.000 This is -- I put it down at the bottom,\n00:02:52.000 but that was extemporaneous, obviously.\n00:02:55.000 The fundamental issue is that, for me,\n00:02:58.000 design is the first signal of human intentions.\n00:03:00.000 So what are our intentions, and what would our intentions be --\n00:03:04.000 if we wake up in the morning, we have designs on the world --\n00:03:07.000 well, what would our intention be as a species\n00:03:09.000 now that we're the dominant species?\n00:03:11.000 And it's not just stewardship and dominion debate,\n00:03:14.000 because really, dominion is implicit in stewardship --\n00:03:20.000 because how could you dominate something you had killed?\n00:03:22.000 And stewardship's implicit in dominion,\n00:03:24.000 because you can't be steward of something if you can't dominate it.\n00:03:26.000 So the question is, what is the first question for designers?\n00:03:32.000 Now, as guardians -- let's say the state, for example,\n00:03:35.000 which reserves the right to kill, the right to be duplicitous and so on --\n00:03:40.000 the question we're asking the guardian at this point is\n00:03:43.000 are we meant, how are we meant,\n00:03:45.000 to secure local societies, create world peace\n00:03:47.000 and save the environment?\n00:03:49.000 But I don't know that that's the common debate.\n00:03:52.000 Commerce, on the other hand, is relatively quick,\n00:03:56.000 essentially creative, highly effective and efficient,\n00:03:58.000 and fundamentally honest, because we can't exchange\n00:04:01.000 value for very long if we don't trust each other.\n00:04:05.000 So we use the tools of commerce primarily for our work,\n00:04:07.000 but the question we bring to it is,\n00:04:09.000 how do we love all the children of all species for all time?\n00:04:13.000 And so we start our designs with that question.\n00:04:16.000 Because what we realize today is that modern culture\n00:04:18.000 appears to have adopted a strategy of tragedy.\n00:04:21.000 If we come here and say, "Well, I didn't intend\n00:04:23.000 to cause global warming on the way here,"\n00:04:24.000 and we say, "That's not part of my plan,"\n00:04:26.000 then we realize it's part of our de facto plan.\n00:04:29.000 Because it's the thing that's happening because we have no other plan.\n00:04:32.000 And I was at the White House for President Bush,\n00:04:34.000 meeting with every federal department

and agency,\n00:04:36.000 and I pointed out that they appear to have no plan.\n00:04:40.000 If the end game is global warming, they're doing great.\n00:04:42.000 If the end game is mercury toxification of our children\n00:04:45.000 downwind of coal fire plants as they scuttled the Clean Air Act,\n00:04:48.000 then I see that our education programs should be explicitly defined as,\n00:04:52.000 "Brain death for all children. No child left behind."\n00:04:54.000 (Applause)\n00:04:58.000 So, the question is, how many federal officials\n00:05:02.000 are ready to move to Ohio and Pennsylvania with their families?\n00:05:05.000 So if you don't have an endgame of something delightful,\n00:05:09.000 then you're just moving chess pieces around,\n00:05:11.000 if you don't know you're taking the king.\n00:05:12.000 So perhaps we could develop a strategy of change,\n00:05:15.000 which requires humility. And in my business as an architect,\n00:05:18.000 it's unfortunate the word "humility" and the word "architect"\n00:05:22.000 have not appeared in the same paragraph since "The Fountainhead."\n00:05:25.000 So if anybody here has trouble with the concept of design humility,\n00:05:30.000 reflect on this -- it took us 5,000 years\n00:05:33.000 to put wheels on our luggage.\n00:05:37.000 So, as Kevin Kelly pointed out, there is no endgame.\n00:05:42.000 There is an infinite game, and we're playing in that infinite game.\n00:05:46.000 And so we call it "cradle to cradle,"\n00:05:48.000 and our goal is very simple.\n00:05:49.000 This is what I presented to the White House.\n00:05:51.000 Our goal is a delightfully diverse, safe, healthy and just world,\n00:05:54.000 with clean air, clean water, soil and power --\n00:05:57.000 economically, equitably, ecologically and elegantly enjoyed, period.\n00:06:01.000 (Applause)\n00:06:04.000 What don't you like about this?\n00:06:07.000 Which part of this don't you like?\n00:06:09.000 So we realized we want full diversity,\n00:06:11.000 even though it can be difficult to remember what De Gaulle said\n00:06:14.000 when asked what it was like to be President of France.\n00:06:16.000 He said, "What do you think it's like trying to run a country with 400 kinds of cheese?"\n00:06:20.000 But at the same time, we realize that our products are not safe and healthy.\n00:06:23.000 So we've designed products\n00:06:25.000 and we analyzed chemicals down to the parts per million.\n00:06:27.000 This is a baby blanket by Pendleton that will give your child nutrition\n00:06:30.000 instead of Alzheimer's later in life.\n00:06:32.000 We can ask ourselves, what is justice,\n00:06:34.000 and is justice blind, or is justice blindness?\n00:06:38.000 And at what point did that uniform turn from white to black?\n00:06:43.000 Water has been declared a human right by the United Nations.\n00:06:46.000 Air quality is an obvious thing to anyone who breathes.\n00:06:48.000 Is there anybody here who doesn't breathe?\n00:06:51.000 Clean soil is a critical problem -- the nitrification, the dead zones\n00:06:54.000 in the Gulf of Mexico.\n00:06:56.000 A fundamental issue that's not being addressed.\n00:06:58.000 We've seen the first form of solar energy\n00:07:00.000 that's beat the hegemony of fossil fuels in the form of wind\n00:07:03.000 here in the Great Plains, and so that hegemony is leaving.\n00:07:06.000 And if we remember Sheikh Yamani when he formed OPEC,\n00:07:09.000 they asked him, "When will we see the end of the age of oil?"\n00:07:12.000 I don't know if you remember his answer, but it was,\n00:07:15.000 "The Stone Age didn't end because we ran out of stones."\n00:07:19.000 We see that companies acting ethically in this world\n00:07:23.000 are outperforming those that don't.\n00:07:24.000 We see the

flows of materials in a rather terrifying prospect.\n00:07:29.000 This is a hospital monitor from Los Angeles, sent to China.\n00:07:32.000 This woman will expose herself to toxic phosphorous,\n00:07:35.000 release four pounds of toxic lead into her childrens' environment,\n00:07:38.000 which is from copper.\n00:07:40.000 On the other hand, we see great signs of hope.\n00:07:42.000 Here's Dr. Venkataswamy in India, who's figured out\n00:07:45.000 how to do mass-produced health.\n00:07:47.000 He has given eyesight to two million people for free.\n00:07:51.000 We see in our material flows that car steels don't become car steel again\n00:07:54.000 because of the contaminants of the coatings --\n00:07:56.000 bismuth, antimony, copper and so on.\n00:07:58.000 They become building steel.\n00:07:59.000 On the other hand, we're working with Berkshire Hathaway,\n00:08:01.000 Warren Buffett and Shaw Carpet,\n00:08:04.000 the largest carpet company in the world.\n00:08:05.000 We've developed a carpet that is continuously recyclable,\n00:08:08.000 down to the parts per million.\n00:08:11.000 The upper is Nylon 6 that can go back to caprolactam,\n00:08:14.000 the bottom, a polyolephine -- infinitely recyclable thermoplastic.\n00:08:17.000 Now if I was a bird, the building on my left is a liability.\n00:08:21.000 The building on my right, which is our corporate campus for The Gap\n00:08:24.000 with an ancient meadow, is an asset -- its nesting grounds.\n00:08:29.000 Here's where I come from. I grew up in Hong Kong,\n00:08:31.000 with six million people in 40 square miles.\n00:08:33.000 During the dry season, we had four hours of water every fourth day.\n00:08:37.000 And the relationship to landscape was that of farmers who have been\n00:08:40.000 farming the same piece of ground for 40 centuries.\n00:08:44.000 You can't farm the same piece of ground for 40 centuries\n00:08:46.000 without understanding nutrient flow.\n00:08:49.000 My childhood summers were in the Puget Sound of Washington,\n00:08:52.000 among the first growth and big growth.\n00:08:54.000 My grandfather had been a lumberjack in the Olympics,\n00:08:56.000 so I have a lot of tree karma I am working off.\n00:09:01.000 I went to Yale for graduate school,\n00:09:03.000 studied in a building of this style by Le Corbusier,\n00:09:05.000 affectionately known in our business as Brutalism.\n00:09:09.000 If we look at the world of architecture,\n00:09:12.000 we see with Mies' 1928 tower for Berlin,\n00:09:15.000 the question might be, "Well, where's the sun?"\n00:09:17.000 And this might have worked in Berlin, but we built it in Houston,\n00:09:20.000 and the windows are all closed. And with most products\n00:09:23.000 appearing not to have been designed for indoor use,\n00:09:25.000 this is actually a vertical gas chamber.\n00:09:28.000 When I went to Yale, we had the first energy crisis,\n00:09:31.000 and I was designing the first solar-heated house in Ireland\n00:09:33.000 as a student, which I then built --\n00:09:35.000 which would give you a sense of my ambition.\n00:09:37.000 And Richard Meier, who was one of my teachers,\n00:09:39.000 kept coming over to my desk to give me criticism,\n00:09:41.000 and he would say, "Bill, you've got to understand- --\n00:09:43.000 solar energy has nothing to do with architecture."\n00:09:51.000 I guess he didn't read Vitruvius.\n00:09:53.000 In 1984, we did the first so-called "green office" in America\n00:09:57.000 for Environmental Defense.\n00:09:58.000 We started asking manufacturers what were in their materials.\n00:10:01.000 They said, "They're proprietary, they're legal, go away."\n00:10:03.000 The only indoor quality work done in this country at that time\n00:10:05.000 was sponsored by R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Company,\n00:10:08.000 and it was to prove there was no danger\n00:10:09.000 from

secondhand smoke in the workplace.\n00:10:12.000 So, all of a sudden, here I am, graduating from high school in 1969,\n00:10:16.000 and this happens, and we realize that "away" went away.\n00:10:19.000 Remember we used to throw things away, and we'd point to away?\n00:10:23.000 And yet, NOAA has now shown us, for example --\n00:10:25.000 you see that little blue thing above Hawaii?\n00:10:27.000 That's the Pacific Gyre.\n00:10:28.000 It was recently dragged for plankton by scientists,\n00:10:30.000 and they found six times as much plastic as plankton.\n00:10:34.000 When asked, they said, "It's kind of like a giant toilet that doesn't flush."\n00:10:39.000 Perhaps that's away.\n00:10:40.000 So we're looking for the design rules of this --\n00:10:42.000 this is the highest biodiversity of trees in the world, Irian Jaya,\n00:10:44.000 259 species of tree, and we described this\n00:10:48.000 in the book, "Cradle to Cradle."\n00:10:49.000 The book itself is a polymer. It is not a tree.\n00:10:53.000 That's the name of the first chapter -- "This Book is Not a Tree."\n00:10:56.000 Because in poetics, as Margaret Atwood pointed out,\n00:10:59.000 "we write our history on the skin of fish\n00:11:01.000 with the blood of bears."\n00:11:04.000 And with so much polymer, what we really need\n00:11:05.000 is technical nutrition, and to use something\n00:11:08.000 as elegant as a tree -- imagine this design assignment:\n00:11:11.000 Design something that makes oxygen, sequesters carbon,\n00:11:13.000 fixes nitrogen, distills water, accrues solar energy as fuel,\n00:11:17.000 makes complex sugars and food, creates microclimates,\n00:11:21.000 changes colors with the seasons and self-replicates.\n00:11:27.000 Well, why don't we knock that down and write on it?\n00:11:29.000 (Laughter)\n00:11:35.000 So, we're looking at the same criteria\n00:11:37.000 as most people -- you know, can I afford it?\n00:11:39.000 Does it work? Do I like it?\n00:11:41.000 We're adding the Jeffersonian agenda, and I come from Charlottesville,\n00:11:43.000 where I've had the privilege of living in a house designed by Thomas Jefferson.\n00:11:47.000 We're adding life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.\n00:11:53.000 Now if we look at the word "competition,"\n00:11:54.000 I'm sure most of you've used it.\n00:11:56.000 You know, most people don't realize it comes from\n00:11:57.000 the Latin competere, which means strive together.\n00:12:00.000 It means the way Olympic athletes train with each other.\n00:12:03.000 They get fit together, and then they compete.\n00:12:06.000 The Williams sisters compete -- one wins Wimbledon.\n00:12:08.000 So we've been looking at the idea of competition\n00:12:11.000 as a way of cooperating in order to get fit together.\n00:12:15.000 And the Chinese government has now --\n00:12:16.000 I work with the Chinese government now --\n00:12:18.000 has taken this up.\n00:12:20.000 We're also looking at survival of the fittest,\n00:12:22.000 not in just competition terms in our modern context\n00:12:24.000 of destroy the other or beat them to the ground,\n00:12:27.000 but really to fit together and build niches\n00:12:29.000 and have growth that is good.\n00:12:31.000 Now most environmentalists don't say growth is good,\n00:12:33.000 because, in our lexicon, asphalt is two words: assigning blame.\n00:12:38.000 But if we look at asphalt as our growth,\n00:12:41.000 then we realize that all we're doing is destroying\n00:12:43.000 the planetary's fundamental underlying operating system.\n00:12:47.000 So when we see E equals mc squared come along, from a poet's perspective,\n00:12:52.000 we see energy as physics, chemistry as mass,\n00:12:54.000 and all of a sudden, you get this biology.\n00:12:56.000 And we

have plenty of energy, so we'll solve that problem,\n00:12:59.000 but the biology problem's tricky, because as we put through\n00:13:02.000 all these toxic materials that we disgorge,\n00:13:05.000 we will never be able to recover that.\n00:13:07.000 And as Francis Crick pointed out, nine years\n00:13:09.000 after discovering DNA with Mr. Watson,\n00:13:12.000 that life itself has to have growth as a precondition --\n00:13:16.000 it has to have free energy, sunlight\n00:13:18.000 and it needs to be an open system of chemicals.\n00:13:21.000 So we're asking for human artifice to become a living thing,\n00:13:24.000 and we want growth, we want free energy from sunlight\n00:13:26.000 and we want an open metabolism for chemicals.\n00:13:29.000 Then, the question becomes not growth or no growth,\n00:13:31.000 but what do you want to grow?\n00:13:34.000 So instead of just growing destruction,\n00:13:36.000 we want to grow the things that we might enjoy,\n00:13:38.000 and someday the FDA will allow us to make French cheese.\n00:13:41.000 So therefore, we have these two metabolisms,\n00:13:45.000 and I worked with a German chemist, Michael Braungart,\n00:13:47.000 and we've identified the two fundamental metabolisms.\n00:13:49.000 The biological one I'm sure you understand,\n00:13:51.000 but also the technical one, where we take materials\n00:13:53.000 and put them into closed cycles.\n00:13:55.000 We call them biological nutrition and technical nutrition.\n00:13:58.000 Technical nutrition will be in an order of magnitude of biological nutrition.\n00:14:02.000 Biological nutrition can supply about 500 million humans,\n00:14:05.000 which means that if we all wore Birkenstocks and cotton,\n00:14:07.000 the world would run out of cork and dry up.\n00:14:10.000 So we need materials in closed cycles,\n00:14:12.000 but we need to analyze them down to the parts per million\n00:14:14.000 for cancer, birth defects, mutagenic effects,\n00:14:17.000 disruption of our immune systems, biodegradation, persistence,\n00:14:20.000 heavy metal content, knowledge of how we're making them\n00:14:23.000 and their production and so on.\n00:14:25.000 Our first product was a textile where we analyzed 8,000 chemicals\n00:14:29.000 in the textile industry.\n00:14:30.000 Using those intellectual filters, we eliminated [7,962.]\n00:14:35.000 We were left with 38 chemicals.\n00:14:37.000 We have since databased the 4000 most commonly used chemicals\n00:14:40.000 in human manufacturing, and we're releasing this database into the public in six weeks.\n00:14:45.000 So designers all over the world can analyze their products\n00:14:47.000 down to the parts per million for human and ecological health.\n00:14:52.000 (Applause)\n00:14:57.000 We've developed a protocol so that companies can send\n00:15:00.000 these same messages all the way through their supply chains,\n00:15:03.000 because when we asked most companies we work with -- about a trillion dollars\n00:15:06.000 -- and say, "Where does your stuff come from?" They say, "Suppliers."\n00:15:08.000 "And where does it go?"\n00:15:10.000 "Customers."\n00:15:11.000 So we need some help there.\n00:15:12.000 So the biological nutrients, the first fabrics --\n00:15:14.000 the water coming out was clean enough to drink.\n00:15:16.000 Technical nutrients -- this is for Shaw Carpet, infinitely reusable carpet.\n00:15:20.000 Here's nylon going back to caprolactam back to carpet.\n00:15:23.000 Biotechnical nutrients -- the Model U for Ford Motor,\n00:15:26.000 a cradle to cradle car -- concept car.\n00:15:28.000 Shoes for Nike, where the uppers are polyesters, infinitely recyclable,\n00:15:32.000 the bottoms are biodegradable soles.\n00:15:35.000 Wear your old shoes in, your new shoes out.\n00:15:37.000 There is no finish line.\n00:15:39.000 The idea here of the car is that some of the materials\n00:15:41.000 go back to the

industry forever, some of the materials go back to soil --\n00:15:44.000 it's all solar-powered.\n00:15:46.000 Here's a building at Oberlin College we designed\n00:15:48.000 that makes more energy than it needs to operate and purifies its own water.\n00:15:52.000 Here's a building for The Gap, where the ancient grasses\n00:15:54.000 of San Bruno, California, are on the roof.\n00:15:58.000 And this is our project for Ford Motor Company.\n00:16:00.000 It's the revitalization of the River Rouge in Dearborn.\n00:16:02.000 This is obviously a color photograph.\n00:16:06.000 These are our tools. These are how we sold it to Ford.\n00:16:10.000 We saved Ford 35 million dollars doing it this way, day one,\n00:16:13.000 which is the equivalent of the Ford Taurus\n00:16:15.000 at a four percent margin of an order for 900 million dollars worth of cars.\n00:16:19.000 Here it is. It's the world's largest green roof, 10 and a half acres.\n00:16:22.000 This is the roof, saving money,\n00:16:25.000 and this is the first species to arrive here. These are killdeer.\n00:16:29.000 They showed up in five days.\n00:16:32.000 And we now have 350-pound auto workers\n00:16:34.000 learning bird songs on the Internet.\n00:16:38.000 We're developing now protocols for cities --\n00:16:40.000 that's the home of technical nutrients.\n00:16:42.000 The country -- the home of biological. And putting them together.\n00:16:45.000 And so I will finish by showing you a new city\n00:16:47.000 we're designing for the Chinese government.\n00:16:49.000 We're doing 12 cities for China right now,\n00:16:52.000 based on cradle to cradle as templates.\n00:16:54.000 Our assignment is to develop protocols for the housing\n00:16:57.000 for 400 million people in 12 years.\n00:16:59.000 We did a mass energy balance -- if they use brick,\n00:17:01.000 they will lose all their soil and burn all their coal.\n00:17:04.000 They'll have cities with no energy and no food.\n00:17:06.000 We signed a Memorandum of Understanding --\n00:17:08.000 here's Madam Deng Nan, Deng Xiaoping's daughter --\n00:17:10.000 for China to adopt cradle to cradle.\n00:17:12.000 Because if they toxify themselves, being the lowest-cost producer,\n00:17:16.000 send it to the lowest-cost distribution -- Wal-Mart --\n00:17:18.000 and then we send them all our money, what we'll discover is that\n00:17:21.000 we have what, effectively, when I was a student,\n00:17:24.000 was called mutually assured destruction.\n00:17:27.000 Now we do it by molecule. These are our cities.\n00:17:30.000 We're building a new city next to this city; look at that landscape.\n00:17:33.000 This is the site.\n00:17:35.000 We don't normally do green fields, but this one is about to be built,\n00:17:39.000 so they brought us in to intercede.\n00:17:41.000 This is their plan.\n00:17:43.000 It's a rubber stamp grid that they laid right on that landscape.\n00:17:46.000 And they brought us in and said, "What would you do?"\n00:17:49.000 This is what they would end up with, which is another color photograph.\n00:17:53.000 So this is the existing site, so this is what it looks like now,\n00:17:56.000 and here's our proposal.\n00:17:58.000 (Applause)\n00:18:02.000 So the way we approached this\n00:18:04.000 is we studied the hydrology very carefully.\n00:18:06.000 We studied the biota, the ancient biota,\n00:18:08.000 the current farming and the protocols.\n00:18:10.000 We studied the winds and the sun to make sure everybody in the city\n00:18:12.000 will have fresh air, fresh water and direct sunlight\n00:18:18.000 in every single apartment at some point during the day.\n00:18:21.000 We then take the parks and lay them out as ecological infrastructure.\n00:18:25.000 We lay out the building areas.\n00:18:28.000 We start to integrate commercial and mixed use\n00:18:29.000 so the people all have centers and

places to be.\n00:18:32.000 The transportation is all very simple,\n00:18:34.000 everybody's within a five-minute walk of mobility.\n00:18:37.000 We have a 24-hour street, so that there's always a place that's alive.\n00:18:42.000 The waste systems all connect.\n00:18:44.000 If you flush a toilet, your feces will go to the sewage treatment plants,\n00:18:49.000 which are sold as assets, not liabilities.\n00:18:51.000 Because who wants the fertilizer factory that makes natural gas?\n00:18:55.000 The waters are all taken in to construct the wetlands for habitat restorations.\n00:19:00.000 And then it makes natural gas, which then goes back into the city\n00:19:04.000 to power the fuel for the cooking for the city.\n00:19:08.000 So this is -- these are fertilizer gas plants.\n00:19:10.000 And then the compost is all taken back\n00:19:13.000 to the roofs of the city, where we've got farming,\n00:19:15.000 because what we've done is lifted up the city,\n00:19:19.000 the landscape, into the air to -- to restore the native landscape\n00:19:26.000 on the roofs of the buildings.\n00:19:28.000 The solar power of all the factory centers\n00:19:31.000 and all the industrial zones with their light roofs powers the city.\n00:19:34.000 And this is the concept for the top of the city.\n00:19:36.000 We've lifted the earth up onto the roofs.\n00:19:40.000 The farmers have little bridges to get from one roof to the next.\n00:19:44.000 We inhabit the city with work/live space on all the ground floors.\n00:19:48.000 And so this is the existing city, and this is the new city.\n00:19:53.000 (Applause)\n\nThe file is too long and its contents have been truncated.\n", "cloud_doc_url": null}, {"matched_text": "\u301012\u2020source\u3011", "start_idx": 2960, "end_idx": 2971, "alt": null, "type": "file", "name": "tactiq-free-transcript-IoRjz8iTVoo.txt", "id": "file-QAdtwx5q5xmFsPgGvYJdRiuF", "source": "my_files", "snippet": "# tactiq.io free youtube transcript\n# Cradle to cradle design | William McDonough\n# https://www.youtube.com/watch/IoRjz8iTVoo\n\n00:00:26.000 In 1962, with Rachel Carson's "Silent Spring,"\n00:00:30.000 I think for people like me in the world of the making of things,\n00:00:35.000 the canary in the mine wasn't singing.\n00:00:39.000 And so the question that we might not have birds\n00:00:42.000 became kind of fundamental to those of us wandering around\n00:00:45.000 looking for the meadowlarks that seemed to have all disappeared.\n00:00:48.000 And the question was, were the birds singing?\n00:00:51.000 Now, I'm not a scientist, that'll be really clear.\n00:00:55.000 But, you know, we've just come from this discussion of what a bird might be.\n00:00:59.000 What is a bird?\n00:01:00.000 Well, in my world, this is a rubber duck.\n00:01:04.000 It comes in California with a warning --\n00:01:06.000 "This product contains chemicals known by the State of California\n00:01:09.000 to cause cancer and birth defects or other reproductive harm."\n00:01:16.000 This is a bird.\n00:01:19.000 What kind of culture would produce a product of this kind\n00:01:22.000 and then label it and sell it to children?\n00:01:27.000 I think we have a design problem.\n00:01:30.000 Someone heard the six hours of talk that I gave\n00:01:35.000 called "The Monticello Dialogues" on NPR, and sent me this as a thank you note --\n00:01:41.000 "We realize that design is a signal of intention,\n00:01:43.000 but it also has to occur within a world,\n00:01:46.000 and we have to understand that world in order to\n00:01:50.000 imbue our designs with inherent intelligence,\n00:01:53.000 and so as we look back at the basic state of affairs\n00:01:58.000 in which we design, we, in a way, need to go to the primordial condition\n00:02:03.000 to understand the operating system and the frame conditions of a planet,\n00:02:08.000 and I think the exciting part of that is the good news that's there,\n00:02:13.000 because the news is the

news of abundance,\n00:02:16.000 and not the news of limits,\n00:02:18.000 and I think as our culture tortures itself now\n00:02:23.000 with tyrannies and concerns over limits and fear,\n00:02:28.000 we can add this other dimension of abundance that is coherent,\n00:02:33.000 driven by the sun, and start to imagine\n00:02:35.000 what that would be like to share."\n00:02:42.000 That was a nice thing to get.\n00:02:44.000 That was one sentence.\n00:02:48.000 Henry James would be proud.\n00:02:50.000 This is -- I put it down at the bottom,\n00:02:52.000 but that was extemporaneous, obviously.\n00:02:55.000 The fundamental issue is that, for me,\n00:02:58.000 design is the first signal of human intentions.\n00:03:00.000 So what are our intentions, and what would our intentions be --\n00:03:04.000 if we wake up in the morning, we have designs on the world --\n00:03:07.000 well, what would our intention be as a species\n00:03:09.000 now that we're the dominant species?\n00:03:11.000 And it's not just stewardship and dominion debate,\n00:03:14.000 because really, dominion is implicit in stewardship --\n00:03:20.000 because how could you dominate something you had killed?\n00:03:22.000 And stewardship's implicit in dominion,\n00:03:24.000 because you can't be steward of something if you can't dominate it.\n00:03:26.000 So the question is, what is the first question for designers?\n00:03:32.000 Now, as guardians -- let's say the state, for example,\n00:03:35.000 which reserves the right to kill, the right to be duplicitous and so on --\n00:03:40.000 the question we're asking the guardian at this point is\n00:03:43.000 are we meant, how are we meant,\n00:03:45.000 to secure local societies, create world peace\n00:03:47.000 and save the environment?\n00:03:49.000 But I don't know that that's the common debate.\n00:03:52.000 Commerce, on the other hand, is relatively quick,\n00:03:56.000 essentially creative, highly effective and efficient,\n00:03:58.000 and fundamentally honest, because we can't exchange\n00:04:01.000 value for very long if we don't trust each other.\n00:04:05.000 So we use the tools of commerce primarily for our work,\n00:04:07.000 but the question we bring to it is,\n00:04:09.000 how do we love all the children of all species for all time?\n00:04:13.000 And so we start our designs with that question.\n00:04:16.000 Because what we realize today is that modern culture\n00:04:18.000 appears to have adopted a strategy of tragedy.\n00:04:21.000 If we come here and say, "Well, I didn't intend\n00:04:23.000 to cause global warming on the way here,"\n00:04:24.000 and we say, "That's not part of my plan,"\n00:04:26.000 then we realize it's part of our de facto plan.\n00:04:29.000 Because it's the thing that's happening because we have no other plan.\n00:04:32.000 And I was at the White House for President Bush,\n00:04:34.000 meeting with every federal department and agency,\n00:04:36.000 and I pointed out that they appear to have no plan.\n00:04:40.000 If the end game is global warming, they're doing great.\n00:04:42.000 If the end game is mercury toxification of our children\n00:04:45.000 downwind of coal fire plants as they scuttled the Clean Air Act,\n00:04:48.000 then I see that our education programs should be explicitly defined as,\n00:04:52.000 "Brain death for all children. No child left behind."\n00:04:54.000 (Applause)\n00:04:58.000 So, the question is, how many federal officials\n00:05:02.000 are ready to move to Ohio and Pennsylvania with their families?\n00:05:05.000 So if you don't have an endgame of something delightful,\n00:05:09.000 then you're just moving chess pieces around,\n00:05:11.000 if you don't know you're taking the king.\n00:05:12.000 So perhaps we could develop a strategy of change,\n00:05:15.000

which requires humility. And in my business as an architect,\n00:05:18.000 it's unfortunate the word "humility" and the word "architect"\n00:05:22.000 have not appeared in the same paragraph since "The Fountainhead."\n00:05:25.000 So if anybody here has trouble with the concept of design humility,\n00:05:30.000 reflect on this -- it took us 5,000 years\n00:05:33.000 to put wheels on our luggage.\n00:05:37.000 So, as Kevin Kelly pointed out, there is no endgame.\n00:05:42.000 There is an infinite game, and we're playing in that infinite game.\n00:05:46.000 And so we call it "cradle to cradle,"\n00:05:48.000 and our goal is very simple.\n00:05:49.000 This is what I presented to the White House.\n00:05:51.000 Our goal is a delightfully diverse, safe, healthy and just world,\n00:05:54.000 with clean air, clean water, soil and power --\n00:05:57.000 economically, equitably, ecologically and elegantly enjoyed, period.\n00:06:01.000 (Applause)\n00:06:04.000 What don't you like about this?\n00:06:07.000 Which part of this don't you like?\n00:06:09.000 So we realized we want full diversity,\n00:06:11.000 even though it can be difficult to remember what De Gaulle said\n00:06:14.000 when asked what it was like to be President of France.\n00:06:16.000 He said, "What do you think it's like trying to run a country with 400 kinds of cheese?"\n00:06:20.000 But at the same time, we realize that our products are not safe and healthy.\n00:06:23.000 So we've designed products\n00:06:25.000 and we analyzed chemicals down to the parts per million.\n00:06:27.000 This is a baby blanket by Pendleton that will give your child nutrition\n00:06:30.000 instead of Alzheimer's later in life.\n00:06:32.000 We can ask ourselves, what is justice,\n00:06:34.000 and is justice blind, or is justice blindness?\n00:06:38.000 And at what point did that uniform turn from white to black?\n00:06:43.000 Water has been declared a human right by the United Nations.\n00:06:46.000 Air quality is an obvious thing to anyone who breathes.\n00:06:48.000 Is there anybody here who doesn't breathe?\n00:06:51.000 Clean soil is a critical problem -- the nitrification, the dead zones\n00:06:54.000 in the Gulf of Mexico.\n00:06:56.000 A fundamental issue that's not being addressed.\n00:06:58.000 We've seen the first form of solar energy\n00:07:00.000 that's beat the hegemony of fossil fuels in the form of wind\n00:07:03.000 here in the Great Plains, and so that hegemony is leaving.\n00:07:06.000 And if we remember Sheikh Yamani when he formed OPEC,\n00:07:09.000 they asked him, "When will we see the end of the age of oil?"\n00:07:12.000 I don't know if you remember his answer, but it was,\n00:07:15.000 "The Stone Age didn't end because we ran out of stones."\n00:07:19.000 We see that companies acting ethically in this world\n00:07:23.000 are outperforming those that don't.\n00:07:24.000 We see the flows of materials in a rather terrifying prospect.\n00:07:29.000 This is a hospital monitor from Los Angeles, sent to China.\n00:07:32.000 This woman will expose herself to toxic phosphorous,\n00:07:35.000 release four pounds of toxic lead into her childrens' environment,\n00:07:38.000 which is from copper.\n00:07:40.000 On the other hand, we see great signs of hope.\n00:07:42.000 Here's Dr. Venkataswamy in India, who's figured out\n00:07:45.000 how to do mass-produced health.\n00:07:47.000 He has given eyesight to two million people for free.\n00:07:51.000 We see in our material flows that car steels don't become car steel again\n00:07:54.000 because of the contaminants of the coatings --\n00:07:56.000 bismuth, antimony, copper and so on.\n00:07:58.000 They become building steel.\n00:07:59.000 On the other hand, we're working with Berkshire Hathaway,\n00:08:01.000 Warren Buffett and Shaw Carpet,\n00:08:04.000 the largest

carpet company in the world.\n00:08:05.000 We've developed a carpet that is continuously recyclable,\n00:08:08.000 down to the parts per million.\n00:08:11.000 The upper is Nylon 6 that can go back to caprolactam,\n00:08:14.000 the bottom, a polyolephine -- infinitely recyclable thermoplastic.\n00:08:17.000 Now if I was a bird, the building on my left is a liability.\n00:08:21.000 The building on my right, which is our corporate campus for The Gap\n00:08:24.000 with an ancient meadow, is an asset -- its nesting grounds.\n00:08:29.000 Here's where I come from. I grew up in Hong Kong,\n00:08:31.000 with six million people in 40 square miles.\n00:08:33.000 During the dry season, we had four hours of water every fourth day.\n00:08:37.000 And the relationship to landscape was that of farmers who have been\n00:08:40.000 farming the same piece of ground for 40 centuries.\n00:08:44.000 You can't farm the same piece of ground for 40 centuries\n00:08:46.000 without understanding nutrient flow.\n00:08:49.000 My childhood summers were in the Puget Sound of Washington,\n00:08:52.000 among the first growth and big growth.\n00:08:54.000 My grandfather had been a lumberjack in the Olympics,\n00:08:56.000 so I have a lot of tree karma I am working off.\n00:09:01.000 I went to Yale for graduate school,\n00:09:03.000 studied in a building of this style by Le Corbusier,\n00:09:05.000 affectionately known in our business as Brutalism.\n00:09:09.000 If we look at the world of architecture,\n00:09:12.000 we see with Mies' 1928 tower for Berlin,\n00:09:15.000 the question might be, "Well, where's the sun?"\n00:09:17.000 And this might have worked in Berlin, but we built it in Houston,\n00:09:20.000 and the windows are all closed. And with most products\n00:09:23.000 appearing not to have been designed for indoor use,\n00:09:25.000 this is actually a vertical gas chamber.\n00:09:28.000 When I went to Yale, we had the first energy crisis,\n00:09:31.000 and I was designing the first solar-heated house in Ireland\n00:09:33.000 as a student, which I then built --\n00:09:35.000 which would give you a sense of my ambition.\n00:09:37.000 And Richard Meier, who was one of my teachers,\n00:09:39.000 kept coming over to my desk to give me criticism,\n00:09:41.000 and he would say, "Bill, you've got to understand- --\n00:09:43.000 solar energy has nothing to do with architecture."\n00:09:51.000 I guess he didn't read Vitruvius.\n00:09:53.000 In 1984, we did the first so-called "green office" in America\n00:09:57.000 for Environmental Defense.\n00:09:58.000 We started asking manufacturers what were in their materials.\n00:10:01.000 They said, "They're proprietary, they're legal, go away."\n00:10:03.000 The only indoor quality work done in this country at that time\n00:10:05.000 was sponsored by R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Company,\n00:10:08.000 and it was to prove there was no danger\n00:10:09.000 from secondhand smoke in the workplace.\n00:10:12.000 So, all of a sudden, here I am, graduating from high school in 1969,\n00:10:16.000 and this happens, and we realize that "away" went away.\n00:10:19.000 Remember we used to throw things away, and we'd point to away?\n00:10:23.000 And yet, NOAA has now shown us, for example --\n00:10:25.000 you see that little blue thing above Hawaii?\n00:10:27.000 That's the Pacific Gyre.\n00:10:28.000 It was recently dragged for plankton by scientists,\n00:10:30.000 and they found six times as much plastic as plankton.\n00:10:34.000 When asked, they said, "It's kind of like a giant toilet that doesn't flush."\n00:10:39.000 Perhaps that's away.\n00:10:40.000 So we're looking for the design rules of this --\n00:10:42.000 this is the highest biodiversity of trees in the world, Irian Jaya,\n00:10:44.000 259 species of tree, and we described this\n00:10:48.000 in the

book, "Cradle to Cradle."\n00:10:49.000 The book itself is a polymer. It is not a tree.\n00:10:53.000 That's the name of the first chapter -- "This Book is Not a Tree."\n00:10:56.000 Because in poetics, as Margaret Atwood pointed out,\n00:10:59.000 "we write our history on the skin of fish\n00:11:01.000 with the blood of bears."\n00:11:04.000 And with so much polymer, what we really need\n00:11:05.000 is technical nutrition, and to use something\n00:11:08.000 as elegant as a tree -- imagine this design assignment:\n00:11:11.000 Design something that makes oxygen, sequesters carbon,\n00:11:13.000 fixes nitrogen, distills water, accrues solar energy as fuel,\n00:11:17.000 makes complex sugars and food, creates microclimates,\n00:11:21.000 changes colors with the seasons and self-replicates.\n00:11:27.000 Well, why don't we knock that down and write on it?\n00:11:29.000 (Laughter)\n00:11:35.000 So, we're looking at the same criteria\n00:11:37.000 as most people -- you know, can I afford it?\n00:11:39.000 Does it work? Do I like it?\n00:11:41.000 We're adding the Jeffersonian agenda, and I come from Charlottesville,\n00:11:43.000 where I've had the privilege of living in a house designed by Thomas Jefferson.\n00:11:47.000 We're adding life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.\n00:11:53.000 Now if we look at the word "competition,"\n00:11:54.000 I'm sure most of you've used it.\n00:11:56.000 You know, most people don't realize it comes from\n00:11:57.000 the Latin competere, which means strive together.\n00:12:00.000 It means the way Olympic athletes train with each other.\n00:12:03.000 They get fit together, and then they compete.\n00:12:06.000 The Williams sisters compete -- one wins Wimbledon.\n00:12:08.000 So we've been looking at the idea of competition\n00:12:11.000 as a way of cooperating in order to get fit together.\n00:12:15.000 And the Chinese government has now --\n00:12:16.000 I work with the Chinese government now --\n00:12:18.000 has taken this up.\n00:12:20.000 We're also looking at survival of the fittest,\n00:12:22.000 not in just competition terms in our modern context\n00:12:24.000 of destroy the other or beat them to the ground,\n00:12:27.000 but really to fit together and build niches\n00:12:29.000 and have growth that is good.\n00:12:31.000 Now most environmentalists don't say growth is good,\n00:12:33.000 because, in our lexicon, asphalt is two words: assigning blame.\n00:12:38.000 But if we look at asphalt as our growth,\n00:12:41.000 then we realize that all we're doing is destroying\n00:12:43.000 the planetary's fundamental underlying operating system.\n00:12:47.000 So when we see E equals mc squared come along, from a poet's perspective,\n00:12:52.000 we see energy as physics, chemistry as mass,\n00:12:54.000 and all of a sudden, you get this biology.\n00:12:56.000 And we have plenty of energy, so we'll solve that problem,\n00:12:59.000 but the biology problem's tricky, because as we put through\n00:13:02.000 all these toxic materials that we disgorge,\n00:13:05.000 we will never be able to recover that.\n00:13:07.000 And as Francis Crick pointed out, nine years\n00:13:09.000 after discovering DNA with Mr. Watson,\n00:13:12.000 that life itself has to have growth as a precondition --\n00:13:16.000 it has to have free energy, sunlight\n00:13:18.000 and it needs to be an open system of chemicals.\n00:13:21.000 So we're asking for human artifice to become a living thing,\n00:13:24.000 and we want growth, we want free energy from sunlight\n00:13:26.000 and we want an open metabolism for chemicals.\n00:13:29.000 Then, the question becomes not growth or no growth,\n00:13:31.000 but what do you want to grow?\n00:13:34.000 So instead of just growing destruction,\n00:13:36.000 we want to grow the things that we might

enjoy,\n00:13:38.000 and someday the FDA will allow us to make French cheese.\n00:13:41.000 So therefore, we have these two metabolisms,\n00:13:45.000 and I worked with a German chemist, Michael Braungart,\n00:13:47.000 and we've identified the two fundamental metabolisms.\n00:13:49.000 The biological one I'm sure you understand,\n00:13:51.000 but also the technical one, where we take materials\n00:13:53.000 and put them into closed cycles.\n00:13:55.000 We call them biological nutrition and technical nutrition.\n00:13:58.000 Technical nutrition will be in an order of magnitude of biological nutrition.\n00:14:02.000 Biological nutrition can supply about 500 million humans,\n00:14:05.000 which means that if we all wore Birkenstocks and cotton,\n00:14:07.000 the world would run out of cork and dry up.\n00:14:10.000 So we need materials in closed cycles,\n00:14:12.000 but we need to analyze them down to the parts per million\n00:14:14.000 for cancer, birth defects, mutagenic effects,\n00:14:17.000 disruption of our immune systems, biodegradation, persistence,\n00:14:20.000 heavy metal content, knowledge of how we're making them\n00:14:23.000 and their production and so on.\n00:14:25.000 Our first product was a textile where we analyzed 8,000 chemicals\n00:14:29.000 in the textile industry.\n00:14:30.000 Using those intellectual filters, we eliminated [7,962.]\n00:14:35.000 We were left with 38 chemicals.\n00:14:37.000 We have since databased the 4000 most commonly used chemicals\n00:14:40.000 in human manufacturing, and we're releasing this database into the public in six weeks.\n00:14:45.000 So designers all over the world can analyze their products\n00:14:47.000 down to the parts per million for human and ecological health.\n00:14:52.000 (Applause)\n00:14:57.000 We've developed a protocol so that companies can send\n00:15:00.000 these same messages all the way through their supply chains,\n00:15:03.000 because when we asked most companies we work with -- about a trillion dollars\n00:15:06.000 -- and say, "Where does your stuff come from?" They say, "Suppliers."\n00:15:08.000 "And where does it go?"\n00:15:10.000 "Customers."\n00:15:11.000 So we need some help there.\n00:15:12.000 So the biological nutrients, the first fabrics --\n00:15:14.000 the water coming out was clean enough to drink.\n00:15:16.000 Technical nutrients -- this is for Shaw Carpet, infinitely reusable carpet.\n00:15:20.000 Here's nylon going back to caprolactam back to carpet.\n00:15:23.000 Biotechnical nutrients -- the Model U for Ford Motor,\n00:15:26.000 a cradle to cradle car -- concept car.\n00:15:28.000 Shoes for Nike, where the uppers are polyesters, infinitely recyclable,\n00:15:32.000 the bottoms are biodegradable soles.\n00:15:35.000 Wear your old shoes in, your new shoes out.\n00:15:37.000 There is no finish line.\n00:15:39.000 The idea here of the car is that some of the materials\n00:15:41.000 go back to the industry forever, some of the materials go back to soil --\n00:15:44.000 it's all solar-powered.\n00:15:46.000 Here's a building at Oberlin College we designed\n00:15:48.000 that makes more energy than it needs to operate and purifies its own water.\n00:15:52.000 Here's a building for The Gap, where the ancient grasses\n00:15:54.000 of San Bruno, California, are on the roof.\n00:15:58.000 And this is our project for Ford Motor Company.\n00:16:00.000 It's the revitalization of the River Rouge in Dearborn.\n00:16:02.000 This is obviously a color photograph.\n00:16:06.000 These are our tools. These are how we sold it to Ford.\n00:16:10.000 We saved Ford 35 million dollars doing it this way, day one,\n00:16:13.000 which is the equivalent of the Ford Taurus\n00:16:15.000 at a four percent margin of an order for 900 million dollars worth of cars.\n00:16:19.000 Here it is. It's the world's largest green roof, 10 and a half