

Riereta.net

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A small dark techworkshop in the Raval, Barcelona's old town – or: ...a human trusted network that owes very much to the model of free software communities, both for the software used, and for the internal organisation, based on spontaneity, curiosity and cooperation: <http://riereta.net>

What riereta is not?

we say we are not a collective because we have all known the kind of organisation based purely around a few shared ideas or projects. we start from the concept that projects and shared ideas spring from the simple contact of humans being together. from life itself.

What riereta is?

Riereta is a physical space used by people that feel as good or better there than in their own houses. Most of the people work in human technologies applications/tools. Using free tools and providing it to the social movements framework.

The idea

The idea of this article is to present an open ended project about shared space & time. To share a few ideas that have emerged from our 2 years and a half of experience ; hoping it could be useful for others and, as is usual in environments where knowledge is freely shared, publishing releases or beta ideas.

The magnetism of sharing spaces

Almost every kind of non-material work is based on free knowledge-sharing.

We are human, so we need physical meetings. Especially in a highly-connected environment of networks of people & locations, the physical nodes ground the ideas, a hug makes you happy & real. In Mediterranean culture most topics are talked over around a table: eating, talking, drinking; sharing smells, uses, recipes,...

If culture is everywhere, then let's practise!

The size is important!

The physical space limitations in "our" cities is a war that we are losing: property speculation on the hazy border between public & private spaces is a dangerous monster for urban citizens.

The advantage of these limitations is that we cannot grow up endlessly. The nodes must be small, multiple & well-connected. The multitude must be a non-quantic continuous spectrum, with people as the minimum unit.

From nature comes the idea of sustainability, we just try to catch it and apply it, so, the size is important.

About organisation & rules

At the beginning we looked like hackers, specially for visitors, and even now some people put that label on Riereta crew.

Here are some filtered hints that have emerged from our spontaneous practise :

- Temporary rules increase solutions to small problems and make your imagination useful, so, they make you feel more free.
- A lot of communication and casual talk simplify long assemblies to take decisions. When a topic is introduced in a meeting most of the people have already thought about their opinion.
- Some people need a minimum of quietness when they are working. Riereta produces a working sphere around itself that collapses at about 8:00 pm and the doorbell rings all evening. If you know that occurs, you can predict it or you can use headphones.
- The timetable is easy to remember, 24 hours per day. Everybody can choose when he/she needs to be there, maybe working, maybe cooking, maybe....
- The output connetions: Media vocation

Most of the projects around riereta are related to independent media, the standard areas for hacklabs and media activism: video, audio, streaming, wireless. The tools we use are free software licenced open code and we contribute mainly in Pure Data, streaming servers and web applications.

r23.cc

Maybe the most participative project in riereta. The r23.cc is a multichannel audio and video, opened to social movements or open-info projects. Live streaming in a multichannel way, with a repository for a la carte option.

We are proud to announce some technical aspects from the radio. The stream server is icecast2, and a remote Pure Date mixer sits between the streamer client and the streaming server. We can control the radio real time with a local Pure Data patch or from a browser.

Lazy Time Line

2001. december: 4 people start riereta. 2002. Building home year 2003. Opening doors year 2004. Networks catalysis year 2005. Video streaming year

Last notes

Obviously, riereta doesn't want to be a so-called fashionable model or prototype to follow up. It's easier to think of it as a normal real life project based in Barcelona but forming part of a diffuse network of people and localisations.

come visit us ! ... just email to cosanostra_AT_riereta.net

And remember: think tools for revolution,... please(!)

Barcelona - CAT