

Living and Sustainability: An Environmental Critique of Design and Building Practices, Locally and Globally

1. Paper / Proposal Title:

Retrofitting the architect: designing with (sustainable) users' practices in mind

2. Format:

Written paper

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4. University or Company Affiliation:

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5. Abstract (300 words):

Buildings operations and the building industries account for around thirty to forty per cent of all energy consumption and GHG emissions. It is therefore of the utmost importance that all those involved in designing, constructing and maintaining them try to reduce the immense amounts of energy and materials consumed. But architects, their primary designers, are still taught that it is mostly ideas in the form of shapes that should guide them in their activity; the only alternative offered seems to be engineering parameters and technological "solutions". But users don't want either shapes or measurements: they

want to be able to carry on their living practices. Architects have the chance to reimagine sustainability as a deep engagement with the way people live and can learn to live in a light-footed world. We translate practice theoretical insights (see Shove, 2014; Vlasova & Gram-Hanssen, 2014) and tease out what they mean for sustainable architectural practice and education in the context of ecological constraints. In particular, we address how social research empirical insights can become part of innovative design; how a reflective and sustainable visual culture can be developed that embraces anomalies and defects (and we provide an empirical survey on how this works in practice); and the alternative representations of the user in a "timescape", where architectural boundaries do not define experiential limits. User practices must be conceived of as continuous, coordinated with others, materially rooted, and "bundled"; designers' decisions must be disconnected from a purely visual imagination, and reconnected to ways of living together with humans and non-humans.

6. Author(s) Biography (200 words each):

Izaskun Chinchilla

Izaskun Chinchilla holds a Ph.D. in Architecture from Escuela Técnica Superior de Arquitectura, Universidad Politécnica de Madrid (Spain). She has a long and deep experience in research, education and public engagement. She is Senior Teaching Fellow, Senior Research Associate and Public Engagement Fellow at the Bartlett School of Architecture (UCL London) where she has run Unit 22 together with Carlos Jimenez Cenamor for the last 6 years. She has also taught in a range of schools in Paris, Geneva, Alicante, Madrid and Segovia. As researcher she has been a visiting scholar in Columbia University in New York, Ecole de Mines de Paris and Princeton University in New Jersey and also to the Institut d'Arquitectura Avançada de Catalunya (Barcelona), in a Postgraduate Master. She has just ended directing Garcimuñoz Castle Media Library for the Spanish Ministry of Public Works, ARCOMadrid 2016 VIP Room, a stand for G'Vine and a Coworking Space in Madrid and she is developing the Execution Projects, prototypes and site supervisions for several coworking spaces in Madrid and Barcelona for the company UTOPIC US, for pop up instalations for HAY festival in Segovia and for IKEA, for whom she is designing a lounge and social lab space in Madrid.

Emilio Luque

Emilio Luque holds a Ph.D. in Sociology from Universidad Complutense de Madrid, a Sociology of Consumption Specialist Degree in Qualitative Research (also UCM), and a Diploma in Social Anthropology from the University of Kent at Canterbury. He has been a Visiting Scholar in Harvard University, the École de Mines de Paris (Centre de Sociologie de l'Innovation) and the University of Michigan. From 2000 he teaches at the National Distance Education University in Madrid, where he is Assistant Professor of Environment

and Society, and teaches the Structures, Frames and Models in Public Communication in the Masters Degree in Communication, Culture, Sociology and Politics. Since 2005 he has directed ten major qualitative and quantitative surveys on architecture students and professionals. He has been invited to teach in several architecture schools all over Spain, and has advised on the introduction of sustainability in the curriculum of UEM and CEU. He has participated in five European- and national-level research projects, such as ATACD - A Topological Approach to Cultural Dynamics (NEST – 043415). He is a member of the Scientific Committee of ASA, Association of Sustainability in Architecture.