2021 Spring Design Conference
Sustainable Design for Social Innovation

DESIS Lab Forum 2021

A Bright Future for Asia

2021.06.09.Wed
Contents

1. Keynote ............................................................................. 1

2. DESIS Lab Forum ............................................................. 3
   - DSU DESIS Lab_1 .............................................................. 4
   - DSU DESIS Lab_2 .............................................................. 6
   - Tongji DESIS Lab ............................................................. 8

3. Asia DESIS Lab Network ................................................... 10
   - DSU DESIS Lab .............................................................. 11
   - Yonsei DESIS Lab ........................................................... 13
   - TZU DESIS Lab ............................................................... 15
   - Tsinghua DESIS Lab ......................................................... 17
   - HKDI DESIS Lab ............................................................. 19
   - NID DESIS Lab ............................................................... 21
   - INI DESIS Lab ............................................................... 24
Keynote

14:20 ~ 15:40 (KST)
Social innovations and design Lessons learned and perspectives

Ezio Manzini
Politecnico di Milano, Italy
ezio.manzini@gmail.com

1. Summary*

I. Design began dealing with social innovation about 15 years ago. In those years, in fact, the first signs of what would later become a great wave were observed: at the beginning they appeared as a constellation of grassroots initiatives, implemented by willing and creative people who, working collaboratively, produced unprecedented solutions. Over time many of them have evolved leading to the birth of social enterprises, to institutional changes, and to the definition of programs and policies dedicated to them. All this took place thanks to an intertwining of co-design processes to which various social actors have brought their contribution. Among them is also the design that, progressively, has begun to participate, feeding them with ideas and supporting them with its own tools and specific skills.

II. In the meantime, the world has changed a lot: the environmental and social problems, that 15 years ago were recognized by few, have become evident and tangible for everyone. And then, the pandemic crisis arrived, which made the overall picture even more dramatic.

In this new context, new forms of social innovation are emerging: an innovation characterized by a more marked tendency to connect people with the places they live in, thus creating unprecedented communities of place: groups of people active on themes that integrate, more than what has not been done in the past, the social dimension with the ecological one. And that do it by putting in place relationships of care (mutual care between people and between people and their environment) and proximity (closeness between people and everything they need in their daily life)

III. The themes of care and proximity, which were already present in many of the social innovations that we have known up to now, could become central in the new phase that is opening: an entire society that has been built around an idea of efficiency based on specialization, and therefore on the social and spatial separation of functions, is collapsing. New ideas of proximity and cosmopolitanism are emerging. In all this, the technology, which until now has helped to separate functions and increase distances, could change its sign, and contribute to bringing them closer. And the same could be done by design which, if properly addressed, could feed with ideas, creativity and skills the co-design processes necessary to transform societies built on distance and separation into societies built on proximity and care.

* The conference background are two books: Design when Everybody Designs, MIT Press, 2015 and Politics of the Everyday, Bloomsbury, 2019
DESIS Lab Forum

13:05 ~ 14:10(KST)
DSU DESIS Lab_1

Design solves local problems

Byoung-Jin Ahn
Dongseo University, Korea
bjahn@dongseo.ac.kr

1. Position Statement

Located near the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ), Haemaru village has a very unique past in world history. In 1950, the citizens of the Republic of Korea faced a sudden war known as the June 25 War, which lasted more than three years and left an indelible mark on everyone. The war ended on July 27, 1953 with the division of the peninsula into north and south.

In the process of the ceasefire, a truce line known as the Military Demarcation Line, with a length of 240km, was established as a buffer zone to prevent armed clashes. This is referred to as the DMZ and the Civilian Control Line is between 5km to 25km from the DMZ.

After the ceasefire, the Korean military took exclusive charge of the defense of the truce line according to the regulation made by the US Armed Forces. In June 1958, it was relaxed to lift the ban and allow entry-exit farming and tenant farming within the scope that did not cause disruptions to the area’s security. Henceforth, villages were established in three places in the western region with Panmunjom (where the armistice was signed) at the center. Haemaru village was the latest of the three villages and it came to house 60 families under the special measure carried out for “reclaimed and unrestored area, recovery, and preservation registration” by the city of Paju.

At present, Haemaru is a small town with 60 families (150 people) residing in it. When we first found out about this place, access to it was restricted due to its being in a situation of “voluntary isolation” and there was no school, restaurant, resting area, or grocery store. In such a situation of lack of basic living amenities, it was difficult to hope for cultural revitalization.

On a chance visit, I received a request for the design of an “art wall” from the village chief Jung Jae-Kyum. At the time, the Public Design Institute headed by me was working on Jamdong Elementary School’s “Making the School Enjoyable” project in the Songpa District of Seoul as part of a school revitalization effort and the “Regional Brand Originality Activity” for regional revitalization. In the summer of 2010, our institute planned the development of an inspiring living space for the marginalized people residing in the village; this was aside from the request made to solve the problem of cultural isolation faced by the villagers.

Such a plan was executed internally under the code name of “thoughtful journey_ friendly vacation” for a period of 11 years. Such activity could provide an environment for a spirited livelihood to not only the residents of the village but the soldiers and their families and the farmers, and the results have proven to be satisfactory to the majority of the people.

In 2020, the 11th year of the project, due to COVID-19 it was difficult to visit the village in person considering it has a lot of aged residents. A small number of presenters and four professionals in the field of urban regeneration (Professors Lee Hyun-sung, Lee Ki-ok, Jung Eun-bin, and Anh Byung-jin) along with the present village chief Kim Kyung-sook held a workshop themed “Making the DMZ’s Haemaru village a Design and Art Village.”

※ Design Process “thoughtful journey_ friendly vacation”

I. Approach : Passive Activity - Survey

The “Making a Design Art Village” project has asked questions about how to satisfy the cultural desires of the residents of Haemaru.

II. Consideration, Problem

Externally, the village looks tranquil, secluded, and with abundant natural resources. However, it has been identified that the absence of cultural elements in comparison with nearby areas becomes a factor of conflict within the region.

III. Meeting, Interview
The people residing in Haemaru village have a common hometown but they came to this village after having lived elsewhere for several decades, making it difficult for them to get along and adapt to the culture of a farming village. In such a situation, the people suffered from depression and were exposed to a variety of conflicts.

IV. Aggressive Activity I, Draw

We were able to collect predictable concerns through interviews with as many village residents as possible. Physical and mental difficulties due to isolation are appearing in various forms. To offer remedies, professors, students, corporations, and government offices created “phased organic relations” to proceed with the design for the village.

V. Aggressive Activity II, Simulation

At the start of each year, items regarding what is needed by the village at that point in time were collected through phone calls and in-person meetings with the villagers. Through consultations with professionals and the application of original ideas by students, we conducted the simulation for a design plan that caters to the wishes of the villagers. Through this process, we were able to reduce time and cost. Furthermore, through communication that increased satisfaction, we were able to induce participation by the residents, making the approach of the act of design easier and ensuring it could be practiced in daily life.

VI. Output Extraction, Execution, Result Extraction

The design that was finalized through the simulation (after consultations with residents, professionals, students, professors, corporations, etc.), was materialized, installed, and recorded for about a year. This completion process has persisted up to 11 times.

Such a process of continuous research and implementation is still under way until now. For smooth working at all times, the institute ensures that it is always in contact with the villagers and feedbacks are taken.

Due to such an activity that lasted 11 years, many residents of the three villages of the DMZ receive us as friends today despite the physical distance between them and Dongseo University.

We are also making efforts to take an interest in Panmunjeom, Haemaru village, Daeseong-ri, and Tongilchon, and the changes currently under way in the peninsula to prepare for the future. Our efforts in this direction can be accomplished through “our value” design and we hope that Design Process “thoughtful journey_friendly vacation” could be applicable to future regional (village-level) revitalization programs.
DSU DESIS Lab_2

Community design where all stakeholders co-exist

Myunghee Lee
Dongseo University, Korea
moran@dongseo.ac.kr

1. Position Statement

I have been reflecting on the idea of solving social problems with the power of design in my capacity as both, a professor and a designer, since long. I believe that it would be a wonderful opportunity for design students and local residents to experience the power of design, firsthand.

I. Meeting a mysterious, sparsely populated mountain village

Gamcheon 2-dong, Saha-gu, Busan (administrative name for Gamcheon Culture Village) is a typical mountain village and constitutes of groups of refugees who fled to Busan during the Korean War in the early 1950s. The basic structure of the village, which is visible in black-and-white pictures from those times, remains intact. As the residents had to build many houses on the hillsides, there were basics rule that had to be followed. The roads had to open at the other end without any obstruction and a house could not block the view of the house behind it. Therefore, houses were built side by side on the hillsides, as if they were built on a staircase. There are several mountain villages in Busan but no other village had similar rules. The living conditions here are not satisfactory as the size of the houses is small, and they have narrow alleys and stairways. Furthermore, the village is now super-aged and many houses are empty. However, the villagers still live together and treat their neighbors like family and even share food.

I visited the village for the first time in 2007. The next year, I wanted to apply the “power of design” and “service design,” that I had a keen interest in. I met artists, humanities scholars, and government officials in charge, and proposed a project to the head of Saha District to begin work.

II. The power of design to connect stakeholders

I perceived that relationships between people were the most important in the Gamcheon Culture Village project. That is, it was important that a healthy relationship was maintained between the villagers and the people, directly or indirectly, involved with the villagers for the project. People could be categorized as villagers, the expert group including humanities scholars, artists, and designers, and the government official’s group.

Residents are always at the center of any project. Fortunately, many villagers were interested in participating in this project. We communicated with them and they actively participated in the creation of the artworks. We made it possible for elementary school students to participate in cultural and art activities. The villagers were a part of the village association and they made critical decisions regarding the village or worked for organizations in the village.

The role of the expert group was as following: As the unique stair-like scenery of the village had various colors in harmony, the objective was to draw attention to the village by adding visual art elements. We encouraged artists to fully understand the village and create art works.

We renovated the empty houses in the village so that artists could focus on their work while residing in the village. Twenty artists live there as of now and they share the living spaces with the villagers. This gives them the opportunity to enjoy culture and art, together.

The government officials, who support the administrative processes, have a vital role which is as following: Their role involves a wide range of public works, such as, civil engineering works and is closely related to improving the life of residents in the village. We communicated with government officials, who were directly involved in projects at the village, several times. We held briefing sessions or presentations to attract the interest of officials who were outside the jurisdiction.

The designer has to clarify the role of each stakeholder and needs to connect the roles of stakeholders to create synergy. Furthermore, designers also have to visualize ideas to solve the existing problems.

III. A hub for student participation and research
Gamcheon Culture Village has become a hub for design activities and research based on the local area. Community art activities encourage villagers, artists, and visitors to interact and connect with each other. Residents in Gamcheon Culture Village have participated in creative art activities and have developed a sense of pride about their heritage. These activities have led to additional projects that have improved their living conditions, such as, cleaning up alleys or beautifying public bathrooms.

Urban renewal, to address the urban sprawl caused by the rapid expansion of cities in the modern industrialization era, aims to introduce or create new features in old city centers to revive the entire city. Urban renewal activities are being conducted in Korea and across the world, as well.

Dongseo University has a lot of students from China. At the “Service and Community Design Lab,” they develop various ideas by researching or conducting workshops in Gamcheon Culture Village. Some of them are also continuing activities to revitalize local communities in their homeland.

IV. Preparations for a restart after the pandemic

Once complaining of too many tourists, the village now has limited outsider visits. Many shops have been shut down temporarily. People are returning to the village after a year of hiatus, but it is not the same as before. Of course, reviving the vitality is important. However, what is more important is to identify the problems and find solutions for art shops, restaurants, and accommodations run by villagers and the local community, that suffered due to the large influx of tourists previously. With the support of our Leaders in Industry University Cooperation (LINC+) program, I am planning conduct a project-based course for village corporations that are run by the local community in the 2021 fall semester. In this course, as future designers, students will establish a stakeholder network, which would encompass local associations and government officials, while conducting activities for creating sustainable villages by clarifying the roles of stakeholders and enabling seamless communication.
1. DESIS Lab Introduction

Tongji DESIS Lab (Design for Social Innovation and Sustainability) is one of the important members of DESIS Network, founded in 2009, which based on the international and leading research platform College of Design and Innovation Tongji University. Together with other five leading design schools, the Lab has been the active promoter of a design culture caring about sustainability and social innovation in China, which had been then inspiring and transforming design education and related entrepreneurial practice in the decade to come. Through the “design activism”, the Lab intervene the topic of rural-urban interaction, design for urban resilience and innovative education. The Lab have achieved numerous rewards in China and global.

Over the years, Tongji DESIS Lab has developed full-scale projects with a focus on urban-rural interaction, placemaking for urban resilience, urban food sustainability: these are still critical domains of research in China, although the country had evolved from an emerging economy to a stable global player. They represent real challenges: in a fast-changing social and economic scenario, design-driven research and innovation ought inquiry at development models which seek for resilience over disruption.

Our projects testify these challenges: first, the flagship project of Design Harvests (social entrepreneurship in rural China), that emerged in 2007 as applied research, and it has developed to the current stage of social business activity. After a decade, rural-urban issues are still of significant concern and need to tackle urban resource management from the point of view of social and relational concerns, as well as to consider the very practical limitation of material sustainability within the growing urban landscape.

Then, the lab focuses on urban innovation and in particular in the role of public space within trends of commodification and gentrification of urban areas: in China, the qualification of public space includes a wide range of cultural, social, political and ecological challenges due to a necessary transfer from traditional management to innovative management. The pilot project Open Your Space (OYS) found in 2015 proposes a community-led placemaking approach in order to create the “third place”, a new paradigm of spatial and social resilience. Design is used as a driver to create collective and engaged actions to shape the public space in order to maximize the shared value for the community and support in this way the reduced resources from institutional interventions[1].

Finally, the most recent project of NICE 2035 (Neighborhood of Innovation, Creativity and Entrepreneurship towards 2035), is an experiment to make a residential neighborhood to evolve into a design-driven citizens community, aiming to produce social innovation which can inspire and orient city-making processes towards sustainable and collaborative cities, as an alternative asset to economic exploitation.

These represent the flagship projects of the lab, which comprises a series of more specific design and research interventions, fed by students’ research actions all year around. The activities include international collaboration and teaching exchanges, that allow the Lab to collect data, examples and concepts about sustainable development for mega-cities, and create a network of experts and scholars, and a continuous stream of activities to push dissemination and public conversation about sustainable cities and social innovation urban practices. Beside, a variety of professors and students are contributing to the lab work as a collector of various initiatives within College of Design and Innovation Tongji University transdisciplinary curriculum and the variety of research labs, as well as a networking agent with initiatives that happen in the city and by the civil society.

The lab is now dedicated to a possible solution to ensure resilient community by promoting social resilience in a variety of urban systems and processes, and also hope to contribute resilient community in Chinese context by facilitating the creation and activation of urban places, and encourage people to participate in the design process and public awareness social understanding[2]. Tongji DESIS Lab hopes to implement the value and significance of design strategies in solving social problems and completely construct a new sustainable and innovative local model of the community-building. Recently, the lab is working on the initiative supported by Fostering creative citizens through co-design and public makerspaces research project, funded by Arts and Humanities Research Council in UK, which in collaborating with Brunel University London. The project seeks to develop a novel and inclusive means of fostering creative citizens in China in a bottom-up manner through the co-design and connect community to emerge SLOC (small, local, open, connected) scenario and creative concepts to drive its entrepreneurship, enhance the energy levels, and inject a renewed vitality into the community[3].

Minqin Ni
Tongji University, China
nimqin@tongji.edu.cn
2. Position Statement

Social Innovation is still an unfamiliar concept in Asia for the general public. The DESIS Lab network in Asia should be work together closely to grow up the awareness, address people in the innovative programs and create their own solutions by actively participating decision-making processes towards social change.

3. Questions to the DESIS Community

How can we create more opportunities to collaborate together?
To identify the social needs for better innovation.
In the near future, more and more students and visiting scholars can get inspired from the social innovation research and practice from the Lab and DESIS Network.
We can discuss the core elements and common features of social innovation in Asian context.

4. Summary

讲座主要分享同济大学社会创新与可持续设计实验室的关注设计如何作用于都市社区建成环境的研究实践项目--四平空间创生行动。项目探讨实体空间及社会学和文化意义上的城市社区情境，激活设计因子在都市生活和建成环境中的干预和催化作用，利用公共空间的设计干预联动社会资源共同参与的主动过程，设计赋能社区营造。

References


Minqing Ni

PhD, Associate professor at the College of Design and Innovation Tongji University, executive director at Tongji DESIS Lab. Ni focuses on the research and practice link with social innovation and explores how the socially engaged placemaking strategies could modelling a resilient community.
Asia DESIS Lab Network

15:40 ~ 18:00 (KST)
DSU DESIS Lab

DEsis Lab at Dongseou Univ.

Juyoung Chang*, Myungh-hee Lee*
Dongseo University, Korea
*jychang@gdsu.dongseo.ac.kr, b)moran@gdsu.dongseo.ac.kr

1. DSU-DESIS Lab Introduction

The DSU-DESIS Lab, located in Busan, Korea is a part of the Asian Design Center for Future (ADCF) at Dongseo University (DSU). Established in 2019, DSU-DESIS Lab seeks the change of communities by design proposal and practice through the collaboration with the local communities. Students and professors at DSU are working on various community projects in cooperation with the local industries, small business owners, and local governments. It also endeavours to find a way to play a role of changemakers, which can make small differences in society by finding out the issues and problems therein, and encouraging the community to participate in the solution-finding process.

The ADCF supports design education and meta-design research on Asian and global design contexts, especially exploring the value of local culture, and presenting future alternatives.

In addition, we're participating in the UN’s SDGs and joined the SDSN(Sustainable Development Solutions Network) as a member institution to practice implementing sustainable solutions to our local communities. This will be an opportunity for thinking about 17 topics of SDGs to create a sustainable society more specifically. So students get to learn about SDGs and participate, which will lead them to reflect on the importance of sustainability in their jobs after graduation.

Our recent activities and projects include:

1) 2021: Local Small Business Design Supporters Project
2) 2021: Busan’s Buk-gu Urban Revitalization Project Gupo Beer Season 2 “NolGupo” Brand Design
3) 2021: Gamcheon Culture Village: Village Business Revitalization Project
4) 2020: Smart Tourism Dong-gu District, Metropolitan City of Busan, South Korea
5) 2020: Haeundae Happy Village Community Design
6) 2020: Buk-gu, Busan Urban Regeneration Project Brand Design for Gupo Beer
7) 2020: Building a DMZ Haemaru Design and Art village
8) 2020: Sujeong-dong Hope Village Vertical Farm

Our recent publications include:

2. Position Statement

Asia DESIS Network should dedicate itself to advancing education for sustainable development through learning partnership and the sharing of practices. Furthermore, we strive to continue supporting students and local communities in developing the knowledge, skills, and mindsets needed to solve the sustainable development challenges that Asian countries face. We will also continue inspiring our young students and local communities to take action by working closely together and sharing resources.

3. Questions to the DESIS Community

- How might we, DESIS Community in Asia build relationships that enable us to learn from each other?
- How could the Asia DESIS network be most useful to each of our labs and the region?

About the Authors:

Juyoung Chang is Associate Professor at the Graduate School of Design, Dongseo University, Director of ‘Asia Design Center for Future’, and founder of DSU-DESIS Lab in Busan, Korea. Her main research interest is ‘design in cultural context’ with a particular focus on Korea and Asian culture.

Myung-hee Lee is Associate Professor at the College of Design, Dongseo University, Deputy Director of ‘Asia Design Center for Future’, and director of DSU-DESIS Lab in Busan, Korea. Her main research interest is the design of ‘connecting people, nature and culture’ based on the region.
Yonsei DESIS Lab

Designing for Social Innovation and Sustainability

Joon Sang Baek
Yonsei University, Korea
joonsbaek@yonsei.ac.kr

1. DESIS Lab Introduction

DESIS Lab at Yonsei explores design approaches to conceive, implement and scale up social innovations for sustainable development. Our approaches focus on developing sociotechnical systems that create values for individuals, society and the environment. We promote a transdisciplinary environment where people from diverse backgrounds collaborate on tackling complex societal issues. We are a member of the DESIS international network.

Our recent projects include:

- 2021.5-2021.12: Digital social innovation support centre. Funded by the Ministry of Science and ICT. Role: PI
- 2020.5-2020.12: Digital social innovation support centre. Funded by the Ministry of Science and ICT. Role: Co-PI
- 2016.5-2019.4: Design for collaborative service based on social biomimicry. Funded by the National Research Foundation. Role: PI

Our recent publications include:


2. Position Statement

It is our responsibility as not only as design researchers but also as human beings to do everything we can to make sure that the next generations of our society have a future.

3. Questions to the DESIS Community

Questions to DESIS Community in Asia:

- What are the knowledge and skills that designers for social innovation commonly lack?
- What are the new frontiers of research and practice in design for social innovation?
Questions to Ezio:

- This tendency to connect people with their places (communities of place) is positive from the perspective of social innovation and sustainability. But from my narrow and limited perspective, it also seems associated with political localism represented by the extreme right wing. If this is true, care may exhibit discrimination and proximity may entail exclusion. How do you see it, and if this observation is valid, is this problematic?

- The pursuit of efficiency based on specialization (and distance and separation) is deeply rooted in the limitless growth of the capitalism. You have argued that it is collapsing: is this a temporary and forced tendency due to the pandemic or something bigger than that?

Joon Sang Baek:

Dr. Joon Sang Baek is an associate professor at Yonsei University in South Korea. His research areas include design for social innovation and sustainability, service design, and nature-inspired design. He is currently interested in a sociotechnical approach to designing for relational qualities, systems thinking and design for complex societal problems, and social biomimicry.
1. DESIS Lab Introduction

Tokyo Zokei University is located in Hachioji city. Hachioji, a population of 590,000, is on the west end of the greater Tokyo area. Mountains and forests cover one-third of the Hachioji area. There are 25 universities and colleges, and more than 100 thousand students live in the city. The population of 20 years olds is significantly large here, even in Japan's aging society.

2. Position Statement

I. Protecting Satoyama

Satoyama, the natural environments between Japan's mountain foothills and farming lands, were once nurtured by farmers and foresters. Satoyama, as a local common land, traditionally supports people's living by supplying nature's wealth. People get into Satoyama to collect natural resources such as firewood, wild plants. Satoyama keeps the balance of nature and human society. The Tokyo metropolitan office preserves 9 Satoyama areas in Hachioji.

However, development and urbanization have destroyed Satoyama. There was an intense struggle against the development through the 1960s - 70s. Hayao Miyazaki's STUDIO GHIBLI chose the Tamakyuryo area, including Hachioji, for their movies in the 1990s. The director of the 1994 movie "POM POKO," Isao Takahata, visited the Yugimura area and its symbolic place Yugimura Farm. The movie depicted the struggle between raccoon dogs and humans. In the movie, Raccoon dogs stand up to fight against the "Tama new town" project, which was the most extensive development in Japan's period of rapid growth. Many residents, mostly dairy farmers, fought against the "Tama new town" project in the real world. Noboru Suzuki, a dairy farmer, organized a movement that demanded to exclude the Yugimura area from the new town plan in 1966. The movement attracted social concerns at that time.

The recent topic of Yugimura Farm is "Agriculture-Welfare corporation." Toru Suzuki, the owner of Yugimura Farm, a son of Noboru Suzuki, expands his Agriculture-Welfare cooperation. Besides running his agricultural farm, he has dedicated his life to the area's environmental protection, building a welfare facility for the disabled, supporting new young farmers, and struggling a gainst environmentally indiscriminate development.

Tokyo Salamander is an endangered species, loves clear waters, and lives in Hachioji because there is a lot of spring water. The amphibians, including frogs and salamanders, lived all over the Hachioji area, but its population is dramatically decreasing. Tokyo salamander is a typical creature that lives in Satoyama, and more importantly, is an "indicator species" of the environment. Residents of the Kawaguchi area of Hachioji maintain a vast biotope to take care of Tokyo Salamanders and other wildlife.

II. Foodbank and impoverishment of society

Social disparities are widening because of the sluggish economy. The Foodbank Hachioji movement takes unique activities. Donations from local businesses that include companies, shops, restaurants, and individuals support the Foodbank.

We see regular donors in Hachioji are agricultural farms and Buddhist society. Farming and dairy, which used to be a significant industry in Hachioji, donate their surplus product. Recently, Buddhist temples established a unique donation collecting system. The funeral service provider collects donations periodically for the Foodbank when they visit temples to set a ceremony.

A large part of Foodbank's donation goes to "Kodomo Shokudo," or "Children's Cafeteria," a project to provide free or inexpensive meals to impoverished children. There are 18 Kodomo Shokudos in the city and more than 5086 all over Japan in 2020, which increased from 3718 in 2019.

"Muryojuku," or "Free tutoring school," supports children who usually stay home alone to wait for their parents to come home. The free tutoring school of Hachioji was started in 2012. Some surveys indicate that Educational inequality relates to Income inequality. Child poverty is one of the most significant national issues.
Some university students also have difficulty living and studying in the pandemic. Foodbank Hachioji supplies meals to the on-campus Foodbank at Tokyo Metropolitan University, where a pantry provides meals to students who suffer financial hardship.

III. Civic technology and Open data in pandemic

Civic technology is an efficient tool to reform the social system and enhance communication in society. Promoting Open data is a crucial element of civic technology that ensures transparency of the municipality's services, especially for advanced information processes, including machine learning. The city office is supposed to prepare machine-readable data to advance the process.

On the other hand, the citizen side also prepares open data by gathering information on every aspect of daily life. Especially in the pandemic, countless takeout maps have been made to support restaurants in difficulty all over Japan.

In class, students practice fieldwork to collect information and input data into OpenStreetMap. Map data is publicly available in various ways as open data. For example, the “WheelMap” application uses this data for its multilingual map for disabled persons. The possibilities of mapping data are enormous. In the pandemic, local programmers and designers voluntarily made applications to support people’s lives.

3. Satoyama protection

Agriculture-Welfare cooperation
Natural Energy Utilization
Eco-correctness

4. Impoverishment of Society

Foodbank
Kodomo shokudo (Children’s cafe)
Muryojuku (Free tutoring school)

5. Policymaking process for Municipality and Community

Civic Technology, Opendata, Open Government
Mapping (OpenStreetMap)
EBPM (Evidence-Based Policy Making)
Tsinghua DESIS Lab

DEISIS Lab of Academy of Arts & Design, Tsinghua University

Fang Zhong*, Xin Liu
Tsinghua University, China
*zhongfang@mail.tsinghua.edu.cn, xinl@tsinghua.edu.cn

1. THU DESIS Lab Introduction

The DESIS Lab of the Academy of Arts & Design of Tsinghua University was established in 2009. It is one of the founding members of DESIS China Network. It is attended by faculties from the Department of Industrial Design, Department of Information Art Design, Department of Environmental Art Design and many other fields. Since its establishment, the laboratory has initiated a series of teaching and research topics to discuss how to deal with current public issues such as waste treatment, innovative food networks, plastic reduction, and aging in a design way. It has established long-term cooperative relationships with international organizations and non-governmental organizations such as the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, China Foundation for Poverty Alleviation, Greenpeace, and many local communities in China.

Value: The sustainability of the environment and society is related to the welfare of each of us. As one of the driving forces of innovation, design can actively participate in sustainable problems, provide solutions, or describe the vision to call on more people to share common values.

Mission: Through multidisciplinary cooperation, we make effort to understand and involving in China's current sustainability issues with systematic design thinking, and explore feasible solutions. Tightly integrate design practice to education and research, and train young designers and researchers with environmental awareness and social mission.

Goal: Advocate sustainable values, promote the idea of sustainable design; explore theories and methods of sustainable design, and contribute to the future development of the design discipline.

2. Position Statement

Asia is a huge continent with extremely uneven geographical environment, demography and economic development. The relatively developed Japan, South Korea and Singapore, the developing China, and the less developed Bangladesh and Laos are all a part of Asia. Social innovation and sustainability issues have multiple manifestations in this Asian context, and the sustainable value under different backgrounds are diverse. Developed countries are responding to aging and promoting the use of renewable energy, meanwhile the underdeveloped countries are still struggling to solve the problem of safe drinking water and poverty. In this context, it is necessary to listen more and achieve mutual understanding, rather than using a unitary standard to evaluate. Sharing the experience and learning from each other would be the adhesive of the Asian DESIS community.

3. Questions to the DESIS Community

The biggest challenge is how to communicate with the public. Most DESIS laboratories is an institution belonging to universities, with teaching and research as their main tasks, but the theory and practice of social innovation and sustainability require in-depth interaction with different roles of society. Therefore, engaging public is an important work of social innovation and sustainable design. The joint action of Asian DESIS labs may be an efficient way of communication.

Tsinghua Laboratory is willing to actively participate in and create collective projects with partners. In the context of China's statement of the carbon neutrality task and the achievement of the poverty alleviation mission, the Tsinghua DESIS Lab also has the responsibility to contribute to a more sustainable environment and society as an innovation agency.

Compared with environmental sustainability, social sustainability is a less discussed topic, and it seems that there are no widely recognized criteria. I hope to discuss this issue with other participants.
Fang Zhong:
Fang Zhong, Co-coordinator of DESIS Lab of Tsinghua University, assistant professor. Ph.d in Design from Politecnico di Milano, Ph.d in Philosophy from Peking University. Her research interest is the community-centred design.

Xin Liu:
Xin Liu, Coordinator of DESIS Lab of Tsinghua University, full professor. Director of the Eco-design Research Institute, Ph.d in industrial design. His research focuses on the sustainable design.
HKDI DESIS Lab

Hong Kong Design Institute DESIS Lab for social design research

Daniel K.Y. CHAN
Hong Kong Design Institute, Hong Kong
adanielchan@vtc.edu.hk

1. DESIS Lab Introduction - HKDI DESIS Lab for social design research

Founded in 2013, HKDI DESIS Lab for Social Design Research is a cross-disciplinary action research group at the Hong Kong Design Institute (HKDI) part of the Vocational Training Council (VTC). Under the motto “Local Actions and Global Thinking”, the Lab initiates social design research projects in two strategic directions,

(1) **Local Actions** – HKDI DESIS Lab employs the model of applied research as a means to explore new design practices to address various issues of Hong Kong and establish HKDI as an agent of social change within local communities;

(2) **Global Thinking** – the lab collaborates with international partners and across departments within HKDI to co-create solutions for global issues.

Our aim is to set up an interdisciplinary action research platform for Hong Kong design community, and to advocate a new approach to design: “designers as enablers of social change”. HKDI DESIS Lab team is committed to interdisciplinary action research for social innovation and sustainability. Based on the principles, we developed features projects based on the categories of:

- **Design X** – Design X projects focus on the research of social design and their possibilities. In these feature projects, we employed design thinking and creative design ideas to approach the local social problem. Our research projects are mainly focusing on the major social issues of Hong Kong – land use problem and high population density. Project included design study for homeless people and self-built communities; Micro-co-living design, ‘Hot is Cool’ – design for public area; Safe house for everyone – a architecture and interior design project for domestic violence survivor, etc. Through the research projects and lens of various society stakeholders, we are able to thoroughly explore the social problem and comprehensively understand the local citizens’ difficulties, also, to offer the possibilities and creative solution to the social needs.

- **Social X** – Social X projects are also comprising with design thinking and creative approach to social problem. Compare to Design X projects, Social X projects more emphasized on increasing public awareness for certain issues and knowledge transform /transfer. In the previous projects, we focusing on creating new narrative on the traditional Asian taboo such as life and death, the aging issues for Asia and global communities, etc. Under the global pandemic circumstances, we are also developing a project of design and environment planning data visualisation for designers, students from various discipline, and the public sectors. Through the knowledge transfer and transform in local context, we hope to utilize the data and democratis the specific knowledge for publics and society.

- **Craft X** – Craft X is a newly develop project divisions that focusing on social, cultural and environmental sustainability for the local and global society. Along with the technology and urban development, traditional craft making industries are declining and some of the tangible and intangible heritage or knowledge (such as craftsmanship techniques) are vanishing. Craft X project focusing to develop project and explore up-to-date design knowledge and technology to preserve and revitalized these cultural treasures. At the same time, due to the highly urbanization and modernization, the amount of wastes and disposable increase. Our lab is now developing project to pursue the cultural sustainability and environmental sustainability, for instance The TREE Project, a project focusing on revitalize the wood-waste and develop it with local design carpenters. Through the Craft X projects, we hope to be able to develop more possibilities and diversity to the society, including urban sustainable planning, traditional and cultural sustainability, and also new-generation designers/crafters career development.

On top of the main project feature divisions, projects and research are all comprised with interdisciplinary social design components. We believe that the knowledge and professions from various disciplines could be utilized and contribute to the design and action research projects. Through the cross-disciplinary design opportunities and experiences, we hope to advance the knowledge and practices for the social good and benefit to the Hong Kong’s society and global community. With the utilisation of up-to-date knowledge of design and different disciplines and social issues awareness, we hope to achieve advancement in our contemporary life and society.

Some of Our Publications:
2. Position Statement

We believe the Asia DESIS and design community could create the stronger connection among Asia DESIS network, through project collaboration, knowledge exchange and experiences sharing, particularly for the new generations Asian design students training, modernization and urban development issues as well as the technology development and Asian/Chinese traditional craftmanship decline.

3. Questions to the DESIS Community

- What are the main difficulties for different Asia DESIS Lab?
- What way could we connect and collaborate?
1. NID DESIS Lab Introduction

DESIS Lab at the National Institute of Design (NID) Ahmedabad, India, founded in 2012, acts as the nodal centre to encourage, coordinate and facilitate students of different design disciplines with a societal dream. The institution and Lab encourage Sustainability and Social Innovation with B.des, M.des level through theme-based classroom projects and final semester Graduation projects (thesis projects).

Over the years, NID has developed some unique courses such as Environmental Perceptions, Craft research and Documentation, System Design, Social Innovation, Design for Special Needs, Indigenous Innovations, Service Design. The course curriculum encourages students to interact with society, work at the grassroots level, and develop sensitivity and respect for their surroundings and society. The research design revolved around a participatory, Codesign approach. The design intervention methodology centred around the primary objective of improving the quality of life for all the stakeholders involved.

The integrated system of design education, design research, and design promotion help the institute, and its faculty members stay in touch with industry and society and thereby gain valuable experience and understanding of the typical problems at the grassroots levels. In-depth research in specific domain areas undertaken through the sector-specific studios and design research chairs set up at the institute. DESIS lab at the institute, while working in tandem with the studios to exchange and share experiences and knowledge, will document cases of sustainable design interventions and undertake further detailed research in sustainability and social innovation in the context of India.

2. Position Statement

Vision :
Encourage Social dreams for design aspirants through Design that leads to Social Innovation and Sustainability.

Mission :
NID Desis Lab acts as a nodal centre to encourage, coordinate and facilitate different design disciplines to achieve a societal dream sensitive to a socio cultural fabric.

Core Values :
1. Practice high ethical standards of equality
2. Protect rich indigenous heritage
3. bring in importance of the earth’s natural resources
4. belief in one’s inner voice for towards peace and spiritual freedom

Strategies :
1. Practice high ethical standards of equality and diffuse the differences of all of its kind.
2. Protect rich indigenous heritage in terms of art, craft, literature, philosophy, and the Indian way of life that design can use for bringing back sustainable change and strengthen the material culture and the way of living
3. Society lives up to its best potential helps the individual realize the importance of the earth’s natural resources and inspire them to use these resources respectively and build perseverance and determination to tackle human greed.
4. One’s self-sustainability is one’s existence. Encourage self-pity and belief in one’s inner voice and further direct the user/viewer towards peace and spiritual freedom in personal endeavours
Goals & Objectives:

2. Create a repository of knowledge and information through systematic documentation of cases of Indigenous Innovations, Sustainable practices, approaches and business models, Social Innovation, cases of service design, social enterprises based on collaboration, cooperation, sharing approaches.
3. Collate cases of successful design interventions and approaches for creating sustainable livelihood opportunities for the country's large craft, micro and small enterprises.
4. To undertake exemplary design intervention projects in the field of Social Innovation and Sustainability.
5. Continuous design research projects to further refine and develop newer design approaches to enhance sustainability and social innovations in the context of India.
6. To create opportunities for student designers from different design institutes of India to together explore, undertake design projects in the domain of Social Innovation and Sustainability.
7. To create a platform for student designers and faculty members from different design institutes, professional designers and design researchers to exchange and share their experiences, knowledge and views in this specific domain.
8. To introduce service design as a concept of sustainable design practice to the design students at NID.

3. LAB Activities

NID DESIS lab is active in creating a platform for various design disciplines within NID students and faculty members, practising designers and design researchers actively involved in Social Innovation and Sustainability in India to exchange and share their experiences.

DESIS lab regularly organises workshops, conferences, seminars and offers theme-based classroom projects for the design students. Its programmes and activities centre around its important objective to inspire and ignite interests, passion and desire among the young student designers to explore and undertake Design for Social Innovation and Sustainability as part of their professional career.

1. Designing Root:blooming with culturally significant - A social innovation and sustainability project launched in collaboration with International Center for Indian Craft, NID, Ahmedabad April, 2021 https://sites.google.com/nid.edu/creativeecology/home
2. Beyond matter - A social innovation and sustainability project exploring service design in craft sector organised in collaboration with International Center for Indian Craft, NID, Ahmedabad Dec, 2020 https://sites.google.com/nid.edu/craftfuture/home
3. Design for equality - A social innovation and sustainability project exploring social entrepreneurship for smart urban living in collaboration with Lifestyle accessory design Gandhinagar December, 2019 https://sites.google.com/nid.edu/designforequity/home
5. Design for collaborative culture in indian smart cities - A social innovation and sustainability project exploring social entrepreneurship for rural urban migrants in collaboration with Lifestyle accessory design Gandhinagar December, 2018 https://sites.google.com/nid.edu/design-sustainable-cultural/home
6. ‘Service Design’ a course module introduced to the postgraduate students of Lifestyle accessory design in collaboration with Strategic Design Management at NID; December 2017
7. Understanding Indigenous and Social Innovations - a course module offered together at NID, India and COFA, UNSW, Australia; September 2012;
10. 'Design for Social Innovation and Sustainability; A Round Table Discussion' 29th September 2010; Bangalore
11. 'Creative Communities for Sustainable Lifestyle' a workshop organised in Collaboration with Politecnico de Milano, Italy; 21-24 September, 2007
12. 'Indigenous Innovations' a course module introduced to UG and PG students of Product Design at NID; October 2006
13. 'Service Design' a course module introduced to the postgraduate students of Strategic Design Management at NID; September 2003
14. 'Design for Sustainable Services, a workshop organised with The Doors of Perception, Amsterdam, The Netherlands and anchored by Prof. Ezio Manzini, Politecnico de Milano, Italy; 23-25 November, 2002

15. 'Ecodesign in Education' a workshop organised in collaboration with Delft Institute of Technology, The Netherlands, INETI, Portugal and IIT, Delhi fortune faculty members of various design and architecture institutes and practising designers and architects; 29 -30 January, 2002

NID DESIS lab will create a platform for mutual exchange and share experiences and views with various design institutes within India and international design institutes. Therefore it will be a platform for students and their faculty members, practising designers and design researchers actively involved in Sustainability and Social Innovation in India and abroad through regular workshops, conferences, seminars for the design students.

4. Questions to the DESIS Community

1. What are the most acute issues and challenges for the DESIS Network in Asia?
2. How can we increase the impact of DESIS network on government initiative projects?

With globalization social innovation challenges are looking similar and not limited to geographical boundaries. How do we see the global issues vs local issues and design approaches?

Prof. Amresh Panigrahi

Prof. Amresh Panigrahi is a Design Educator at National Institute of Design, Gandhinagar. A Design Practitioner, an avid researcher working with Nation building projects nationally and internationally to institute design as a tool for social reform.

Prof. Shashank Mehta

Prof. Shashank Mehta is a Design Educator at National Institute of Design, Ahmedabad. A Design Practitioner, an avid researcher working with technology and design fusion, sustainability, and indigenous innovation with a focus on design for development.

NID DESIS Lab website: https://sites.google.com/nid.edu/niddesislab/home
1. INI DESIS Lab Introduction

INI is a social enterprise based in Thailand. It primarily serves the social purposes and has been at the forefront of the social innovation movement in Thailand and the Southeast Asia region for more than 2 decades. INI has been experimenting the co-creation of sustainable futures and solutions based on people’s livelihood and alternatives to conventional approaches. Our mission is being an agent for change! Thus, INI facilitates operational steps based on the principle of creative space as platforms for learning by doing. This implies open communication and interaction to find effective pathways to sustainable development focusing on both individual potentiality and community building. Our common goal is a wellbeing society. It emphasizes reconnecting people with nature as respective partners. We engage in diverse kinds of collaboration with a great diversity of partners in various capacities and countries. INI co-manages complex projects involving in the articulation of innovative movement, and here are some key achievements:

I. INI Projects in Thailand : Project on Developing

Strategies for Integrated Food Program towards Scaling Impact, 2020-2021. Since 2018 INI has been partnering with the Food Program of Thai Health Promotion Foundation. The objectives of the Project on Developing Strategies was the assessment of 4 areas of work, or “nodes”, of the Food Program: 1. Healthy Food Schools node 2. Green Hospitals at District Level node 3. Producers and their Local Markets node and 4. Urban Consumers node. These nodes are implementing by 49 projects in various parts of Thailand supported by the Food Program. INI play its part in creating a platform of transversal projects towards sharing knowledge and “lessons learned” among “flagship projects” in each node. Later the platform enabled a process of drafting the next “3-year Food Plan Strategy” for the Food Program, in close collaboration with the 49 project partners. We have been facilitating food policy design approaches throughout the years. INI also has been working with Heinrich Boell Foundation Southeast Asia on Connecting the Commons Project since 2020 guided by the book of David Bollier and Silke Helfrich Free, Fair and Alive: The Insurgent Power of the Commons.

II. Regional and International Projects under School

for Wellbeing Studies and Research. We are the co-founders of the School for Wellbeing Studies and Research established in 2009 together with the Center for Bhutan & GNH Studies, Thimphu, Bhutan, and Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, Thailand. The objective of the collaborative partnership is academia – civil society action research. This is achieved through an annual Chulalongkorn University Right Livelihood Summerschool (CURLS). In the Mekong River region we work with different groups including young organic farmers. In the framework of our Towards Organic Asia alliance we organized an annual Mindful Markets Asia Forum [Hansalim consumer producer cooperative, Korea, has been invited to Thailand several times and in return Hansalim invited us to participate in their 30 years anniversary]. We are a campus of the Right Livelihood College originating in Stockholm, Sweden

Note : Innovation Network International was originally a foundation (with tax exemption) established in Amsterdam by Hans van Willenswaard in the year 1991. It was an independent continuation of the Training for Integrated Development at District-level (TIDD) programme at Zeeland University of Applied Sciences ( Hogeschool Zeeland) following his studies in rural development at Emerson College, Forest Row, U.K. In 2000 Wallapa and Hans together started a social enterprise in Thailand: a publishing house, Thai Green Market Network and informal education platform. Before 2000 Wallapa was the pioneering Director of the Spirit in Education Movement (SEM) founded by Sulak Sivaraksa upon receiving his Right Livelihood Award (Alternative Nobel Prize). She shaped her own independent career after graduating from the Faculty of Arts at Chulalongkorn University.

The initial years of INI in Thailand, starting in 2018, focused on experimentation and learning with social design based on the work of Prof. Dr. Ezio Manzini. INI Books published his 2 distinguished books: Design, When Everybody Designs in Thai language in late 2018 and Politics of the Everyday in late 2019. Activities around these 2 books, apart from book launching, included workshops and the mentoring for Young Food Projects – a co-creation of 4 organizations in Thailand – together with Prof. Dr. Manzini who has also guided the process throughout 2020 and including being advisor for the Food Program project as above mentioned in the same year.
2. Position Statement

We envision the role of social innovation in 2 key elements: one is rooted in place and its cultural capital, the other is in the dynamics of contemporary challenges of our time. And together with these essences, one should have space for different generations interaction.

A major hindrance in Asia is its authoritarian mindset. In particular in Thailand we face a hierarchical attitude and the traditional patron client system embedded for centuries in history. Young generation has been struggling in vain to distance from this old regime and the legacy of seniority in a misguided direction, only expecting the young to be obedient. Design for social innovation transcends the limits of art or industrial design within strict frameworks. Social design with transformative impact will be needed for the co-creation of a bright future for Asia.

3. Questions to the DESIS Community

How can we create a design culture that empowers young people to co-create their own future?

How can we co-design processes to ensure that innovative life design projects of young people will be well received by traditional society?