UPCYCLING.
Environment Future.

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DESIS TONGJI Lab
China
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Promoters.
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Context.
Industry leftovers are not often given a second life even if they have great potentialities. Shanghai Hongkou District Liangcheng Community is striving to become a Demonstrative Low-Carbon Community thanks to its sustainable behaviours. This is a project to let them be connected.
The project. Workshop in China’s industry cluster districts to promote low carbonization of design, as well as recycling and utilizing of resources by using industry leftovers. A collaborating with local communities, 6 UK universities and 6 Chinese universities to find out unexplored sinergies and unexpected results.
The design process.
Smaller groups made by 1 Chinese student 1 English student and 1 professors worked for 2 weeks with given materials by exploring their design potentialities and by using a community centred approach.
Guangzhou Low Carbon Industry Association has built the low-carbon bridge for “government-industry-university-research cooperation”, maintained the extensive contact with universities and research institutions. Tongji University and Hongkou district agreed on focusing on Liancheng community as one of the more virtuous for sustainable lifestyle.
Liancheng community is one of the few in Shanghai to keep attention to the environmental issues (garbage separated collection, recycling materials). Further they have a collaborative behaviour by organizing social activities such as handicraft workshops, games, speeches.
The products/service/spatial solutions generated by the workshops have been tested by the people from the community. Most of the solutions included DIY toolkits to enable them to build the design output by themselves so to increase the potentialities highlighted during the on-filed research.
Liancheng Community is one of the best practices of the Hongqiao district in Shanghai, promoting green actions. It mirrors the tendency in China to develop new urban contexts through an environmental friendly approach.
By using leftovers materials and by giving DIY toolkits, most of the products could be easily produced by the people of the community during some of their workshop. The object could work for internal use and for selling.
Working teams were done by different design background members who developed several toolkit to upcycle leftovers by enabling people to do it by themselves according to their everyday life needs.
Job Creation

Upcycling allow to use leftovers at zero cost to give them further possibilities to be put put in the market with new functions, shapes and use. Most of the developed objects have this chances by connecting the Low Carbon Industries and local (community) involvement.

From handicraft to mass (or local?) production
Storytelling and Visualisation

How storytelling and visualisation are used to describe the project: the stories design tells and the tools/formats it uses, the aims and the target of the communication.