

Testimonials new students

A brief introduction

The new students of the Hemp Design Factory 2018-2019

Emese Pancsa



I am an exchange student at Hanze University of Applied Sciences as a 3rd-year product design student in Minerva Art Academy. The system that I would like to create may change the way of thinking about design and can associate for design as a tool for solving the everyday life's problems. I think as a designer I have to find a way to present the world's ongoing problems as difficulties in our everyday life to make it more clear and realistic. In my point of view people think about the greenhouse effect and global warming as problems that are too far away from them, and in this case, they cannot do anything against it. In the design process that I'm working on, I would like to find the everyday examples for people to get closer to our daily decisions effects on us. It is not true anymore that my ecological footsteps may have effects on my grandchild, now we are already suffering by the previous, and the speed is increasingly fast. I want to find a way to sensitize people to their environment. If we use the expressions for instance 'family' 'health' 'diet' we could have more effect on them cause may we do not care about the health of our planet but we care about our children and our beloved friends and family. We should understand that the air that we already breathe in every day, the quality of the food that we give to our kids also depends on our decisions. A part of this system is my ongoing composting project. I have known a Dutch startup group who invented a way how they can harvest energy from plants, and they can turn this electricity to create light. The organic waste management in the world is a huge problem that we can quickly solve if we could motivate people to take part in the composting process because now we already know that methane is a 25x more poisoning gas than carbon-dioxide. We should not allow to let organic waste rot, it is a green source of energy in many ways.

After I found the Living Light company I started to think about is it possible to harvest energy from compost as well? Thanks to hemp as a material that could enrich the soil and increase the quality of compost, now I have a chance to experiment with the elements and the harvestable voltage. I started to research, and I tried many versions

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of a recipe to find the best compost combination with hemp ingredients to measure the voltage in it. I am already working on a wormy compost system, and I compared my compost results with the average soil for plants, pots with plants and with pure compost without hemp as well. The aim of the project is to find a way to create interaction between people and organic waste that we have to take care thanks to the generated light.

Evelien Zijlstra



I work on the She2pee for the Hemp Design Factory. For women festival toilets are often no joke. That is why I am graduating with the HDF. During this period I will be doing research into the wishes and demands of women and festival organizers concerning festival toilets. This information I will use to start designing a compost toilet based on the principles of the bio-economy. Compost toilets are ecological toilets which are sustainable because they make use of reusing materials and fitting this in in the natural cycle of waste. Many compost toilets have a container filled with shredded hemp, in which human waste is collected.

During the first weeks a group of students of various courses made a few trips, such as the ones to HempFlax in Pekela, Groningen, the New Institute in Rotterdam and the Groningen Hanzestad city tour. We also talked to each other a lot. This is how we got to know one another better and also the world of the innovation lab. This gave me a wider perspective on the question: how can I contribute to a healthy, livable planet and which are the steps to take in this? During this informative period I got to feel more and more that 'the sky is the limit'.

I study Human Technology, and my specialization is finding innovations and solving problems systematically. I research the requirements of (future) users in order to optimize the 'user experience' of a product. For this I use the methodology Design Thinking, in which I study an organization or a theme first, I define the problems or the objectives second, and finally I generate and test ideas.

Who is the writer of this article? My name is Evelien Zijlstra. When others describe me they mention that I am bubbly, sweet, good company, driven, a good sport and an optimist. Of course you couldn't miss my long red hair as it is one of the striking things about me. I am now 25 years old.

Henk van der Wijk



My name is Henk van der Wijk, I am a fourth year student of Facility Management at Hanze University of Applied Sciences, Groningen. For the Hemp Design Factory I work on the Hemp Villa project, a project to renovate a building made from industrial hemp in Oude Pekela, Groningen. My work is to do research into user demands of the potential users. I liked the introduction, especially the tour of HempFlax was very valuable to me and I learned a lot of fun stuff about Groningen's inner city during the

Maria Magas



I am a third year product design student at Minerva Art Academy. My main focus in the Hemp Design Factory is put on the material research without a specific product in mind yet. Using bio-gradable advantages of hemp, I'm experimenting with other natural components in order to create a sustainable medium, that can be the first step of creating an ecofriendly product.



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