

Platform21 = Repairing  
13 March–30 August 2009

Stop Recycling. Start Repairing.

The act of repairing objects serves as the rich subject of the Premsela Design Forum taking place during the Salone del Mobile. The topic is inspired by *Platform21 = Repairing*, a cultural project about mending things that has been initiated and organised by the Amsterdam design platform Platform21. With its Repair Manifesto, Platform21 celebrates repairing as the new recycling and offers an alternative to our outmoded ways of designing and consuming.

Numerous posts on international design and sustainability blogs and enthusiastic responses in their comment sections confirm that many consumers are fed up with the throwaway society.

With an exhibition, lectures, workshops, Repair Clinics, a Repair Road Show and a contest, *Platform21 = Repairing* offers a wide programme investigating ways of revaluing repairing as a contemporary activity. Emphasis is placed on creative solutions and the sharing of knowledge among designers, artists, repairpersons and the public.

#### > The Repair Manifesto

*Platform21 = Repairing* starts with the idea that repair has been underestimated as a creative, cultural and economic force. If we don't start looking at repair as a contemporary activity soon, an incredibly rich body of knowledge – one that contributes to human independence and pleasure – could be lost. The situation is especially puzzling when you consider current global interest in other ideas related to sustainability, such as recycling and the cradle-to-cradle philosophy.

*Platform21 = Repairing* aims to raise awareness of a mentality, a culture and a practice that not so long ago was completely integrated into life and the way we designed it.

#### > Repairing on display

Designers and artists have been asked to create new interactive works. This has resulted in six new mending techniques that help visitors of Platform21's exhibition space to repair beloved but broken possessions on the spot, and to rediscover the joy of repairing.

Designer Heleen Klopper has created the beautiful Wool Filler, which uses felt to mend holes in wool sweaters. Artist Jan Vormann repairs ceramic figurines using body parts from plastic action heroes. He gives visitors the chance to do the same. And designer Rachel Griffin provides new examples of repairs made with duct tape.

Visitors are asked to bring items that need fixing to the exhibition - even if repair seems impossible. In such a case, an item can be left at the exhibition with a tag attached and a request for repair, and a specialist might take pity on it.

The Repair HUB is a database of information on these repairpersons. People usually jealously guard the phone numbers of skilled Mr and Ms Fix-Its who still know the tricks of their trades. The HUB, by contrast, requires us to share hard information like names and addresses as well as positive personal experiences. The Repair HUB will grow into an on-site and online map of the extensive repair knowledge still available around us today.

The focus is on discovering inventive and creative solutions and sharing knowledge. DOEN Foundation, which values this way of working, is supporting *Platform 21 = Repairing* through a contribution from the BankGiro Loterij, because the project shows consumers a new way to use products sustainably through enabling designers to draw attention to creative mending.

### > Repair contest

Members of the public can also participate in the project through entering the Most Remarkable Repair Contest. After successfully collaborating on the popular project *Platform21 = Hacking IKEA*, Platform21 and BRIGHT magazine are holding a second design contest, this time calling for remarkable repairs. The competition is open to submissions of clever, funny, skilful or creative repairs. The best entries will appear in BRIGHT magazine and the winner will receive a special Repair Award. The entry deadline is 14 August.

### > Repair participants

Participants in *Platform21 = Repairing* include Jan Vormann, Cynthia Hathaway, Krijn Giezen, Yuri Suzuki, Rachel Griffin, Satyendra Pakhalé, Guy Keulemans and Martijn Dijkhuizen, Nienke Sybrandy and Eva Heisterkamp, Ernesto Orazi, the Lloyd Hotel, Daan van den Berg, Nina Katchadourian, 5.5 Designers, the TXT Department of the Gerrit Rietveld Academy, Helmut Smits, burobuurvrouw, Eran Nave, the Prince Claus Fund, and Heleen Klopper.

### >>> Programme

*Platform21 = Repairing*

13 March–30 August 2009

Open: Friday through Sunday, 12:00–18:00

Free entry

- Every weekend, participating designers will work in the exhibition space, continuing their research and giving open workshops.

- The Repair Road Show is a mobile unit promoting repair and the Repair Manifesto. It will visit several festivals and events around the Netherlands this summer.

### >>> Platform21

Platform21 is a design platform in Amsterdam for creative consumers, professionals and amateurs. We initiate investigative and thematic programmes that focus on current subjects and social movements and cast a new light on the products that surround us. Since 2006, a circular ex-chapel in Amsterdam's Zuidas has functioned as our public laboratory, centred around the process of making. Besides exhibitions, we organise workshops, lectures, discussions and club nights.

Platform21 is an initiative of ING Real Estate; Premsele, Dutch Platform for Design and Fashion; and the city of Amsterdam.

[www.platform21.nl](http://www.platform21.nl)

+++Note for the press:

High-res images can be downloaded at <http://www.platform21.nl/page/4698/en>.

For more information, please contact Dewi Pinatih at +31 20 344 9449 or [press@platform21.com](mailto:press@platform21.com).

Platform21's Repair Manifesto can be downloaded in English at

<http://www.platform21.nl/page/4453>.

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