

DOBOOKU ASSOCIATION ACTIVITIES

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1 WHO WE ARE

If you collaborate with dobooku, you build dobooku.

Dobooku is an open and permeable group of civil engineers, structural designers, architects, urban planners and public works lovers - students and professionals alike. Dobooku is a Cultural Association that fosters the Culture of Design in Public Works. Dobooku was created on April 23th 2013 with a simple aim: spread the word on public works through design, aesthetics and creativity.

Dobooku is supported by four fundamental pillars: The Association, the web-site magazine, the social media network and all the activities we promote or support in order to cultivate debate around public works. Combining these, we seek to strengthen a fresh and holistic environment that helps all public works lovers to join and share ideas.

The relationship between public works and design has a rigid correspondence but we are increasingly more people interested in diversifying and enriching this context. Both, design solutions and the culture of aesthetic reflection on public works are a growing topic that needs to be feed back through a proactive attitude to the need of sharing knowledge, information, concerns, passions, wills, and accumulated experiences on public works. Following this, dobooku takes shape in a cultural and non-lucrative Association where all public works stakeholders, people and entities, can join and interact. Anyone interested in generating opinion, debate and critics on design, aesthetic and humanistic values of public works; anyone who would like to share personal thoughts and experiences through an open attitude can be part of dobooku. The more plural dobooku is the better dobooku will be.

Dobooku publishes personal concerns through an online magazine with plural contents. Through our website (www.dobooku.com) we all express and share opinions through articles. The content of these articles is open but they should be linked to design, aesthetics and public

works.

- Design such as a project design, innovation, construction ideas, creativity ...
- Aesthetics such as theoretical reflections, historical visions, philosophy of arts, craftsmanship, beautiful works, feelings, attitudes, perceptions ...
- Public works such as infrastructure, architecture, urban planning, landscape interventions, urban spaces, ephemeral installations, public art ...

We promote public works based on criticism, dialogue and content sharing. We are critical of our own and other's activities. We can only contribute to the birth of quality public works in that way. We need to express and exchange ideas and opinions. Thus, the web-site is not only a spot to find and comment on design and aesthetics in public works, dobooku is also at the forefront of the use of social media and multiple communication channels to create new forms to interact, including social media and networking; using informal debates, meetings and collaborations.

Dobooku promotes activities where participation is the main focus. Our goal is to integrate different views in a given space in time. To teach through design-thinking, to learn through design making, to understand through collective actions.

2 WHAT WE DO

Dobooku walks through the path of education with these purposes:

- As an Association, we learn by doing common activities.
- We award design competitions for students.
- We bridge students to the professional environment.
- We collaborate with each other and with other entities.
- We create spaces where we all can share thoughts about public works.
- We cultivate collective atmospheres around personal opinions to get people in touch.
- We curate public works contents related with design, aesthetics, creativity and reflection.
- We educate our professions through interpersonal communication.
- We enjoy talking about public works. To have fun as an aim itself.
- We entertain without falling into superficiality or impersonality.
- We give voice to professionals and students alike.
- We incorporate theoretical reflection on current issues that concern design in public works.
- We internationalize contents.
- We join the means and opportunities to perceive and experience public works as cultural tools.
- We joy on Public Works.
- We look to the past and to the future.
- We manifest our idea through actions.
- We participate in all kinds of public works events.
- We promote students internships.
- We set annual targets as a collective.
- We share opinions through casual meetings and social networks.
- We stimulate debates.

- We talk about the advance of design in the broad field of contemporary world.
- We understand design as a tool to look toward the future.
- Hence, we educate by doing common activities.

3 OUR PATH

Dobooku is work in progress. Through years we have all grown together, we have all generated nice and dynamic synergies. The following is a more detailed explanation of our story.

2013, dobooku begins. Three structural engineers based in Barcelona create a web-site magazine open to all those interested in design and aesthetics in Public Works. Public Works as the main element of discussion to be inclusive and to go beyond Civil and Structural Engineering. Dobooku expands to multiple social media communications channels in order to allow interaction and social networks.

2014, dobooku educates. Dobooku takes shape as a cultural and non-lucrative Association. Dobooku's Awards are launched to award students and also the opportunity to gain practical experience in professional environments. Dobooku's design-thinking workshops start. The goal is to create a preliminary bridge between the educational environment to the professional world. We realized how basic the connection with the students and the university is in promoting the Culture of Design. This linkage will bring reward in the coming years.

2015, dobooku collaborates. Dobooku contacts and gives support to other organizations that promote similar purposes through open activities. Collaborations are set with the basic idea to share, build and shape dobooku's purposes. Dobooku collaborates with entities and companies that give support to outreach common activities, as well as scholarship programs with design practices for students.

2016, dobooku expands. Architects and urban planners join and enrich the Association. Collaborations grow strong and international interchange starts. The dobooku atom is created: the core were all partners manage and guide the Association; the satellites or those collaborators who often enrich dobooku with new and fresh ideas; and the comets or those who from time to time set a contribution or they simply have a less active attitude but they want to keep in touch with dobooku. With all of them dobooku grows in volume and, better than this, it makes sense.

2017, dobooku manifests. The dobooku Manifesto for Public Works defines dobooku's aims. In order to engage users with public works it is necessary to share our opinion. Debate is needed to learn and enjoy better Public Works. Dobooku to promote the Culture of Design in Public Works.

2018, dobooku looks far ahead. To collaborate as Digital Media Partners at the EUCEET IV International Conference on Civil Engineering in Barcelona provides a portal into International Public Works environment. Next step is to work towards the English web-site. We are working on it, seeking sponsoring.

4 HOW DO WE PROMOTE THE CULTURE OF DESIGN IN PUBLIC WORKS

In order to foster the Culture of Design in Public Works, dobooku Association is always thinking outside the box, promoting and giving support to different activities. We have called them experiences.

4.1 Experience 1: The Dobooku Awards for students.

Dobooku Association launched the Dobooku Awards on March 2014. Since then, 4 years awarding the public works projects designed by students. Until now, the Dobooku Awards are only for Civil Engineering students of BarcelonaTech University in Barcelona. Next milestone would be to extend the Awards to other universities and to promote multidisciplinary teams with other disciplines.

To take part in the Dobooku Awards it is required a public works project designed recently as part of a university program. All project graphic material and descriptive documentation needs to be synthesized in two DIN A2 panels. It is useful for the students to have the ability to choose the key points of their projects, a nice project without a direct and understandable presentation can be irrelevant. Students should not assume that the project is a finished product with many administrative formalities, projects are very much alive and undergoing an ever-changing process of creation.

From all entries of the competition, a judging panel consisting of renowned professionals of all public works areas evaluates the projects taking special value of the following bullets:

- Emphasis on design;
- Originality and innovative nature of the proposal;
- Technological quality, constructability and economic viability;
- Environmental fit;
- Sustainability and manufacturing procedures;
- Format of the presentation and;
- In general, everything that contributes to give an added value, humanistic and aesthetic to a public works project.

In addition, the panel will be able to discuss and analyse the projects with the students. Finalist young authors will have to present their projects in a public event organized by dobooku. How young designers defend their projects will be the key point to finally convince the jury to select their project as the winner. Both the winner and the finalists projects are also advertised on dobooku website.



Figure 1: In circle, we debate.

A cover letter and a curriculum vitae are also required because finalist projects will have the opportunity to obtain an internship at professional technical offices according to educational cooperation agreement between universities and companies. Six internationally recognized offices supported last Awards. Hence, the Dobooku Awards go beyond mere economic reward and design recognition; they are an opportunity to bridge students to the professional world while they are still learning. Last steps of academic education are crucial for a rewarding career from both professional and personal point of views.

The Awards event is closed with an open debate. Debate is one of the aims of dobooku, so the jury, the young designers and all the attendees use to engage into an open and friendly debate focusing the awarded projects to one topic that varies from year to year.

- 2014: Towards a new Engineering.
- 2015: Does the place make the project?
- 2016: The Culture of Design in Public Works.
- 2017: The importance of the Project.

4.2 Experience 2: The Dobooku Manifesto for Public Works.

Dobooku Association launched on April 2017 “the Dobooku Manifesto for Public Works” as a radical defence of the Culture of Design in Public Works.

The Manifesto meant a turning point for dobooku as an organization and came to respond to the need to better define ourselves. The online magazine scope needed to be overtaken and several months of collaborative reflections between sixteen collaborators of dobooku set the basis to foster the Culture of Design (the good one) in Public Works as the main aim of the Association.

1. Support and promote the culture of design in public works.
Planning, construction, management and maintenance require good design.
2. Design in accordance with social and environmental needs.
Public works requires intelligent, sensitive and responsible intervention.
3. Put your creativity and ideas to work.
Public works are more than the result of calculations and technical specifications.
4. Observe, analyse and detail.
We must analyse the bigger picture but develop details with precision.
5. Design for and with the user.
Design process must engage and empathize with the citizen.
6. Work as a team and with other disciplines.
Public works require communicative and collaborative tools.
7. Respect the intellectual work of professionals.
Awarding contracts and decision-making processes must give value to the professional.
8. Engage future designers.
Champion educational programs that foster design, planning and strategic management.
9. Get involved, be critical.
Discourse and debate are vital for education and enjoyment around public works.
10. Share the Manifesto.
;We must talk more publicly about public works!

The result was a manifesto intended to be revisited, reinterpreted and shared. A manifesto

intended to be criticized. A manifesto intended for thinking about public works from the point of view of sensitivity and good craftsmanship. A manifesto with a collaborative spirit, as a meeting point for connecting with citizens. A participatory, synthetic and proactive manifesto, because society, understanding and action are essential and identifying in public works. A manifesto as an activist framework for all of us who are interested in promoting reflection and good design in public works.

Ten synthesized and schematized ideas that pretend not only to push the boundaries of utopic and theoretical manifestos, but also to empathize with the willingness to understand and to take part in the Manifesto. To highlight that the Institution of Spanish Institution of Civil Engineers in Catalonia adhered and published the Manifesto in its magazine “Camins.cat”. Moreover, the Manifesto appeared on the front cover of the magazine and it was presented at its courtyard in Barcelona on July 5th 2017.

The Presentation was highly impressive. A contemporary dancer uncovered and taught to all attendees the Manifesto, divided into ten boards. We wanted to dance, as a symbol of joy and work in progress; as a creative and communicative process; as a reaction to enhance Public Works perspectives; and as an aesthetic response to show how to go beyond traditional Public Works environments.

We are currently working to present the Manifesto in other cities. We are on tour.



Figure 2: Contemporary dancer presenting the Dobooku Manifesto for Public Works

4.3 Experience 3: Dobooku Curatorial Activities.

Technology is driving us to contemporary culture where everything, public works in particular, can be shared from all around the world. Even this fact enables people to share personal experiences or opinions there is a lack of community conception regarding this matter. Dobooku wants to bring different public works stakeholders together in order to facilitate communication between each other. We act as a curatorial platform that offers a meeting place for all public works lovers. Main idea is to curate public works contents in order to agitate ideas

and bring opinions to the table. It might be called Public Works Activism, a cheerful but determined way to empower public works. Our commitment is not lightly, we take it in a serious and joyful way.

To date dobooku's curatorial guideline has three areas of action:

4.3.1 Editorial line.

The editorial line pretends to be simple: quality first. Quality is the motive and the main driving force in the choice and editing of content. Many authors leads to a desired variety of contents and styles and the mixture of this eclecticism with quality creates a powerful atmosphere, close to contemporary trends. Our commitment to quality contents is our biggest brand.

In five years we published 150 posts or articles in 8 different categories: news, engineering, architecture, urbanism, landscape, education and aesthetics. Also, we opened a blog where short articles are published.

Dobooku's website articles are curated through an editorial line. Even dobooku website is open and free to express own thoughts we set an editorial line in order to encourage authors to become collaborators. Interaction between authors and reviewers is a first step to know each other and to open debate to improve article contents or to talk about other subjects related with public works. This networking allows the Association to grow in renewal and fresh ideas. That was how the Dobooku Manifesto, explained above, was originated.

In addition, to set our activities or to promote those events that we give support or whose aim is related to dobooku it is necessary to record all ideas into an article. Hence, the editorial line is useful to reconnect with who we are, what we do and how we do it.

4.3.2 Conference line.

We display and arrange public works events, such as conferences, keynotes and debates.

In the field of Structural Engineering, to highlight the Conference that took place in La Coruña Spain on June 21st 2017. Thanks to an initiative of the ACHE Youth Group, the Dobooku Association, taking part of ACHE Engineering and Society Commission, had the opportunity to present the W + W + W at the VII Triennial Congress of ACHE - Spanish Scientific-Technical Association of Structural Concrete.

W + W + W was a proposal to develop a website of Spanish Structural Achievements. The goal was to create a "sexy" catalogue where all those interested in structures, professionals and user devotees alike, could have access. ACHE over the years has collected an excellent content but its visibility need to be updated using current communication channels. The W + W + W project aimed to make it possible giving emphasis to aesthetic or visual approach and synthesized data base information.

With an online catalogue where most significant structural achievements are shown, it is possible to improve Public Works prestige, heritage and future. Whether all stakeholder involve in this project, whatever is convenient, it would facilitate to approach structural field to all devotees or users interested. We are in the 21st century, the information must free, open, self-editable and must have visual impact. Current web tools allow to collaborate, to participate, to share, to link, to give opinions and the good thing is it does not take a lot of effort. Of course, impartial and independent contents are part of a successful idea. To create a win-win effect

contents must be part of a collective, must have a quality in its content and presentation.

In order to make it possible we decided to divide its management in three areas of work: T system operational management tasks, curation of contents and document management and also a complementary project using wikipedia platform. This final point will be analyzed in greater detail in another paper named “dobooku Workshops: learning by making design-thinking activities” where we dobooku workshop philosophy will be presented through general educational contents and particular workshops given in recent years.

4.3.3 Project line.

We encourage new ideas. Right now, we have 3 projects under development: Bridging Senses, Bridging Cultures and Dobooku Fusion.

Bridging Senses was originated as following up of “Sublimation (footbridge transition)” conference that one dobooku collaborator presented in Berlin at the 6th International Footbridge Conference. Since then, three structural engineers are joining efforts to move forward the conference idea into an ambitious project. The project wants to set ideas in order to design a beautiful bridge for visually impaired people. Accessibility and adaptation means are often seen as insufficient or at worst, missing from pedestrian infrastructures in our urban context. It is imperative that all users, including physically impaired deserve to enjoy the beauty of pedestrian infrastructures, such as bridges, in one way or another. Therefore, first step should be to interview those with visual disabilities to get deeper into the matter.

Bridging Cultures was created on behalf of a conference that took place at Catalan Group of the Spanish Institution of Civil Engineers on February 1st 2018. The keynote “Coordinating Cultures at the New Champlain Bridge in Montreal” had two purposes: The first - and most obvious - was to explain the project currently under construction. The second purpose, reflected in the title, was to talk about the importance of coordinating abroad mentalities. Civil Engineering is one of the most widely known as potentially reactionary, with strong roots on the construction entrepreneurial culture rather than innovation or technology itself. Each country or each construction particular market takes into account closest ecosystem-scale habits without relating with abroad linkages. It would be great to talk about each one in particular, how they interact each other in large-scale international projects. Thus, more conferences will follow. There, we also initiated contact with some cultural entities in order to move these preliminary ideas out of the sector to engage in an inclusive dialogue with the public works professionals and civil society at large.

And finally, Dobooku Fusion. This is a overall picture idea originated in an dobooku meeting that took place on the beach. Fusion because we want talk about Public Works from all perspectives and volumes. To display public works legacy, to talk about contemporary aesthetics on public works, to agitate public works devotees, to make criticism a tool to emphasize public works relevance, etc. it is not enough. We want to create new public works environments based in transversal collectivities. Other expertise, disciplines and sensitibilites are needed to go beyond public works. This could allow us expand the perspective of public works towards wider horizons. The importance of people’s participation is crucial for the empowerment of public works development.

Just as important as the creation of new ideas is the growing need of sharing them. Projects are open to new collaborators looking for new inputs.

4.4 Experience 5: Dobooku Workshops.

Good design must be taught. Good design must be expanded. That's why we organize and curate workshops. We want to introduce students and young professionals into a new way of thinking Public Works. Public Works cannot be only understood through exams, master classes and mathematical approaches. Students must refresh their ideas and understand why society requires good design on Public works.

Education is not a closed goal, education must be opened and experienced through alternative methods through all career life time. Nowadays the classical education boundaries tend to disappear. In a digital and connected world, a lot of new ways of learning will appear, in this regard the IV International Conference on Structural Engineering. Education Without Borders is paradigmatic. Dobooku wants to play a role in this context. We want to be one of the everyday more essential bridge between universities and professionals.

We do what we make because we think that we may add other ways of thinking to the theoretical and technical knowledge and it must be done through transversal education where other professions, disciplines or approached can supplement and take another look to Public Works. Indeed, transversal knowledge is what make Public Works public or even more, something public is used by people so then it can, perhaps must, be criticized. In fact, the more Public Works are used, the more they must be criticized. Students or future professionals must be aware of the importance of a continuous dialogue on this matter.

Dobooku as a Cultural Association not only manifests but takes action. Since 2014 dobooku has been making several design-thinking workshops where we show students how to create an idea using design and communication. Dobooku workshops are great:

- We awake, refresh and highlight the great significance of our profession.
- We brand workshops to bridge ideas into actions.
- We build workshops with students through design-thinking environment.
- We complement academic education.
- We challenge workshop audience with confidence.
- We create interaction opportunities between students, young professionals and experienced ones.
- We educate towards creativity using spaces and methodologies that allow students to learn in nice, close, affective, dynamic and interactive environments.
- We explore the chance of participate actively in a sort of building contests.
- We encourage students to debate, discourse and a constructive discursive frames.
- We foster holistic approach on Public Works.
- We generate opened paths for brainstorming, reflection, opinion and criticism.
- We give expertise advice to young designers.
- We help students to create their own designs.
- We integrate different views in a given space in time.
- We join and share personal thoughts.
- We link university with business.
- We make Public Works comprehensible.
- We mix students with professionals to enrich each other.
- We offer the students the possibility to learn on Public Works through real cases.
- We prepare creative and pleasant procedures to work with.

- We point key matters first.
- We promote the interaction between users, students and professionals.
- We rehearse the creative processes.
- We revise how to make a positive and active impact.
- We set references to help to decide on professional careers.
- We spread out the knowledge.
- We show how to create solid ideas.
- We teach how to design using communicative strategies.
- We wonder about Public Works education, for what purposes students are and should be educated.
- We win working in short groups.
- We work by projects, from random ideas to particular concepts.

In five years we have offered many workshops where participation is the main axis. They are classified in three areas or experiences: inside, on site and online workshops. Below listed some of them to be explained at the Congress. There is not enough space here to detail them all.

- September 9th 2014: The Marshmallow Challenge.
- April 6th 2016: Creativity on Public Works workshop.
- November 24 2016: Designing Concrete Structures workshop.
- January 11th 2017: Design-thinking workshop.
- February 21st 2017: Wikipedia workshop.
- April 4th 2017: Build a Road Challenge.
- November 4th 2017: Juan Bravo Bridge walk through.
- November 16th 2017: Ephemeral Urbanism.
- November 20th 2017: The Future of Urbanism.
- November 22nd 2017: Why do we love bridges?
- February 2nd 2018: After the End of the World Exposition walk through.
- April 11th 2018: Papercraft workshop.



Figure 3: As a result, happiness.