

## The Peripatetic Institute of Praxiology and Anthropology

PIPA is a portable lab/workstation/exhibition space designed as a platform for public interaction that temporarily appears in public spaces around the city. The peripatetic lab exhibits and documents self-made objects promoting an attitude of conspicuous moderation. In the lab the team films interviews with locals to add to a growing archive of design solutions and strategies. Working closely with local communities the lab collaborates on edupunk<sup>i</sup> projects and seeks to uncover bricoleurs<sup>ii</sup> and alternative strategists. PIPA has shared knowledge and collected stories in Berlin Germany, Tournai Belgium, Bellingen Australia and Hong Kong The People's Republic of China.

Utopian visions seem impossible in contemporary democracies, in highly individualised societies, yet Micro-utopian visions based on individual fashioning of personal living spaces can create cells of self-sufficiency dotted around the community that could be infectious.

The PIPA website enables the resources to be available to all. The hub includes documentation of hand made or refashioned objects, recordings of traditional techniques and creative ideas, links to related sites for relevant information about sustainable practices, and acts as an ongoing site to connect like-minded people and continue the project when the lab moves to another city.

In 1967 Alan Watts speaking at the Houseboat Summit said:

*"Our educational system, in its entirety, does nothing to give us any kind of material competence. In other words, we don't learn how to cook, how to make clothes, how to build houses, how to make love, or to do any of the absolutely fundamental things of life. The whole education that we get for our children in school is entirely in terms of abstractions. It trains you to be an insurance salesman or a bureaucrat, or some kind of cerebral character."*

Not much has changed, except now there are also ecological reasons as to why we should reskill society with traditional techniques before they are forgotten. By creating their own objects people can feel less dependant on the corporations that manufacture and distribute most of the products we consume in our daily lives. This project is about revaluing skills that are being lost in consumer dependant societies, learning to fix



things rather than throwing them away, sewing, repairing, modifying clothing rather than buying new clothes, using creative thinking to come up with unique and individual design solutions and aesthetic objects, reclaiming materials for reuse and developing critical thinking communities with an eco-friendly attitude.

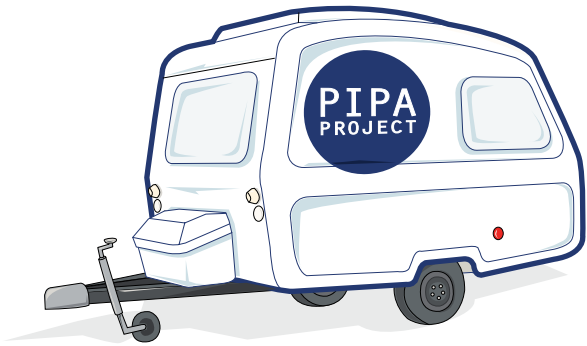
The team is interested in discovering or at least discussing ways that people can and are making things themselves in order to save money, to customise goods or to suit their exact needs and interests. This is a kind of do-it-yourself punk ethic as a rejection of the need to purchase items or use the existing systems or processes.

[i] Stephen Downes describes three aspects of the edupunk approach: Reaction against commercialization of learning; do-it-yourself attitude and; thinking and learning for yourself. Cohen, David (2008-06-16). "Nevermind the pedagogues, here's edupunk". The Guardian (London). Accessed 6th Oct. 2011

[ii] Bricoleur: a person who engages in bricolage. Bricolage: construction or creation from a diverse range of available things.







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