

FoAM & partners

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This distributed, interdisciplinary project explores the resilient aspects in European culture, which can improve quality of life in the turbulent conditions of the 21st century. The project stimulates the development of a resilient culture by researching and producing cultural forms that fuse tradition and innovation (e.g. alternate reality games, biomimetic designs, urban gardening initiatives) and by creating opportunities for participation by a wide public in interactive events and experiments.

FoAM is a transdisciplinary laboratory committed to developing a holistic culture, by actively propagating resilient cultural forms through research, experiments and creations. FoAM's activities arise from the gaps between traditional disciplines, to uncover and strengthen

Resilients

Resilience combines two qualities needed to live a fulfilling life in uncertain times – adaptability and durability. A resilient person, community or culture is flexible enough to adapt to change, while having sufficient strength to withstand and recover from turbulent conditions. Resilients are people who believe that culture can catalyze social change. They see culture as a silent force that shapes the world and profoundly influences behaviors of individuals and communities. Resilients are people driven by a common intent – to design and experiment with possible futures, today. They wish to grapple with global challenges in a creative and innovative manner, by creating and testing alternative cultural systems. This project is designed to support these people and their communities, through a program of symposia, workshops and residencies, as well as providing opportunities for research and creation of resilient cultural forms.

Designing for resilience involves embracing forward-thinking ideas and very often, risky elements of the present, while being deeply rooted in the strong traditions of the past. To help design a more resilient post-industrial culture, we look to pre-industrial and early industrial traditions, including arts & crafts, science & philosophy, hosting & storytelling, gardening & cooking. This exchange between tradition, new design, experimental science and technological engineering can give rise to rich, hybrid forms of art & design, such as responsive biomimetic crafts, augmented reality gardens or interactive storytelling environments. We focus on participatory and transdisciplinary cultural forms, which engage the public as pro-active creators, including experiences, products or services that may often be difficult to categorize or present using conventional formats. Think of real-life labs for experiments in new work-life models; performances as rehearsals of possible futures; compostable fabrics that grow on demand; aesthetic ecosystems for plants, humans and machines; alternate realities distributed in stories told by millions of people throughout gaming environments.

By enhancing resilience in contemporary culture, the project dissolves artificial boundaries between culture & nature, art & science, theory & practice. Resilients' work provides a direct experience of manifold alternatives to counteract wasteful consumerism. It integrates, rather than segregates, and embraces the complexity and unpredictability of turbulence as an opportunity for meaningful, long-term social change.

links and interdependencies between them. They include a creative research program (research initiatives and residencies), professional development (workshops and seminars) and knowledge preservation and dissemination in the field of transdisciplinary culture (publications

and documentation). FoAM is dedicated to advancing and supporting a community of generalists, people who live and work in the interstitial spaces between professional and cultural boundaries, operating under the motto 'grow your own worlds'.

↳ <http://resilients.net>

↳ <http://fo.am>

