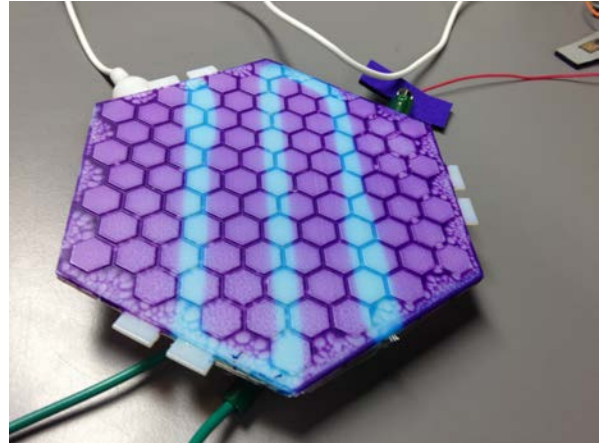# EXPERIMENTAL WORKSHOP LOG

This log documents a series of collaborative experiments and explorations that took place in February 2013 at the ArchInTex network meeting at Aalto University, Helsinki.

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EXPERIMENTAL WORKSHOP LOG

Experiment ID: *As a workshop leader I will just add some of my thoughts. Pictures from the printing workshop*

Linda Worbin, giving printing workshop (with Marjan Kooroshnia)
The Swedish School of Textiles, University of Borås
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THE PROPOSITION, QUESTION OR HYPOTHESIS:

To understand how to design dynamic textile patterns, including mix colour, design and print with heat sensitive TC (thermo chromic) pigment

- What we did was:

1. Prepared for hands on silkscreen with TC for participants to use and to mix individual, design (or use existing designs) textile patterns to be printed with TC. Activation with external analogue objects like iron, air, fan etc.
2. Print on a fabric prepared for implementing of heat segments (for participants to be able to design for their individual "dynamic textile pattern" that where digitalised, controlled by a computer program (gives a different manner to control and activate the dynamic textile patterns.

- Why we decided to do this experiment was because:

We wanted to share knowledge of:
How to print with TC
How to mix TC and "traditional" pigment
How to design a printed pattern in relation to the heat source (either analogue or digital)

- How we conducted the work – the process or sequences:

We had prepared much of "ingredients", like the colour mixing and the textile with conductive yarn integrated, something that the participants could gain much to develop / investigate them self, but then it needs to be a bit longer workshop/project.

We wanted the participants to learn much enough to be able to order, mix and print, develop own concept after the workshop and work on their own.

- The main challenges we encountered were:

To make people understand how to mix TC with pigment, so you do get an effect of the colour change and not mix with a pigment that makes a contradiction = no colour changing appears. Or not the colour changing that they planned for.
Some participants got very enthusiastic, and that is nice, still it takes some time to think and reflect on what TC gives for design opportunities that more traditional pigment don't show. We could have planned more specific tasks and more time for reflection. Still it is a matter of time; we decided to keep openness between the workshops instead of going deeper into the different specific topics/techniques (printing, embroidery and 3D printing)

- What we achieved was:

I think some participants really learned about new possibilities in TC regarding design of dynamic textile patterns, colour mixing, possibilities to conceptualize etc.

By the merging of participants from the different workshops we achieved some interesting new approaches like TC printing on 3D printed objects/structures, integration of programmable heat source in some different ways (machine embroidery and by making channels in the 3D printed objects/structures)

I am in the process of developing the soft hard ware (the textile with heat yarn integrated) so I was happy to be able to let other people/designers make designs (prints with TC) on top of this fabric. I have been thinking about how to continue and how to document this more in detail (it will be some kind of article). This set, the fabric and the soft ware is developed for a basic understanding (as a teaching tool kit), and for that I think it do really work well, so designers can grasp the major design variables and then develop them in other materials/settings etc. Still it gives an understanding for how dynamic textile patterns can be design and programmed.

- The most interesting part of the discovery was:

To work with professionals, I have been teaching most on BA and MA level before, it is quite a difference; some quite advanced result in relatively short time.

Interesting to see how this group did combine the TC print with the other techniques.

- Some ideas it gave us:

Develop the teaching/workshop tool kit further; fits both short and longer advanced approaches. Like teaching building blocks.

- Further questions/propositions that arise might be:

Applications for TC
Environmental impact by TC

In general from the workshop days and conference I have been thinking a lot of the future of textile, techniques and expressions. What do we need to prepare our future designers for, and with what?

Big changes in both expressions and techniques are taking place, how to merge and to explore and develop new materials and techniques inner qualities in a relevant manner?

- This is what we would like to do next:

On a workshop level
I think it would be interesting to develop a new set of workshops and plan for a joint collaboration on a deeper level (this time it happened with more or less improvisation/freedom on the interdisciplinary part), still it was nice to keep an open approach and see what participants could make happen.

Continue to experiment ☺