

DESIGNERS & MAKERS

in the creative neighbourhoods of Riga

Creative neighbourhoods are a unique community-building phenomenon in Latvia. Having originated in the midst of the financial crisis as a creative response to constriction, they have grown to be as essential an element of Riga as music, theatre and historic architecture. Hundreds of grassroots initiatives – from courtyard clean-ups to art projects reclaiming abandoned buildings – have sprung up there compelling the city to adjust its development plans. The map of Riga has now acquired new creative business zones and the calendar of Riga's culture events has filled with new content, unparalleled in terms of density and diversity.

The residents of the creative neighbourhoods are as varied as the activities happening there but, even against this rich and creative background, there are a few that stand out, a few whose energy exceeds the boundaries of their neighbourhoods and their city. They are the designers and makers who give birth to fresh ideas and design products from scratch. The spectrum of Riga-born ideas is extraordinary – from fitness equipment, to shoes, to international art publications, to robots and social entrepreneurship projects. Some are just starting; others – having grown confidence and muscles – are already selling their products all over the world. The youngest designers and makers are still at school and the oldest is pushing a hundred, the creative neighbourhoods accommodate them all and let them flourish.

Follow the events in Riga's creative neighbourhoods
riga2014.org

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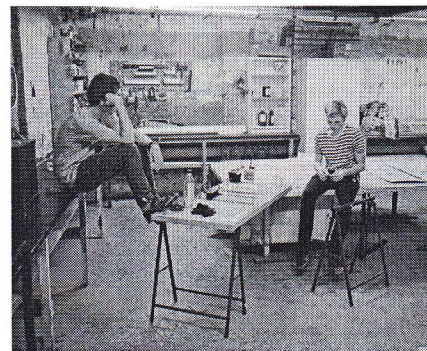
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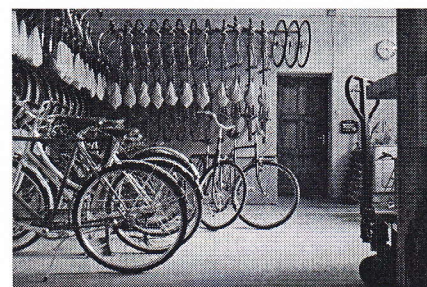
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kuš! comic magazine



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