Open Design Workshop

GOALS:

One of the key concepts of Open Design is that it's open not only to be replicated, but also to be refined and evolved further by the community.

In this workshop, we'll look into making better (more beautiful, more useful, more creative) versions of 7 existing open design projects.

The projects have different levels of difficulty, come from a range of fields (architecture / design / gardening), use various materials (paper / electronics / plants) and were chosen along some common themes (home / animals / plants / music)

STRUCTURE:

• introduction & presentation – 30 minutes

• designing + prototyping – 1 hour

• documentation of results for open source community – 30 minutes

• presentation of results for the group – 30 minutes

• feedback and discussion – 30 minutes

Post-workshop homework: final publishing of results on open design platforms (format and media to be decided after documentation, presentation and feedback).
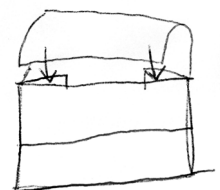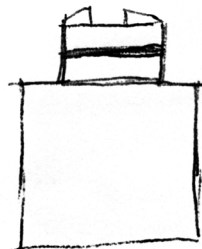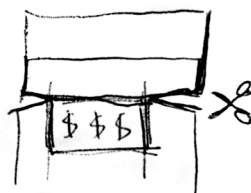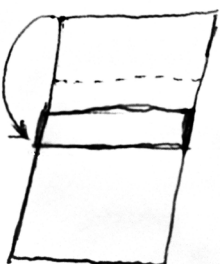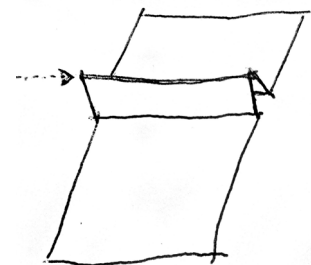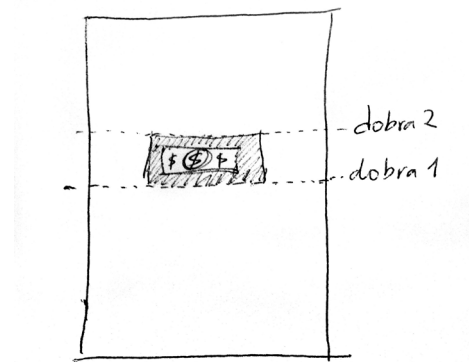
DOCUMENTATION:

Take still photographs throughout the workshop, save all files created, record the group presentations (video) and the group discussion (audio/text)

Origami Wallet

(materials: paper, tyvek)

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zRUGNt3RFXA

This wallet is folded from a single sheet of paper and has space for bills, cards and coins. The goal is to improve its design, providing extra features, test different materials for its construction, including paper, plastic and non-woven fabrics. Folding, cutting, gluing, drawing and other techniques can be used for that goal.
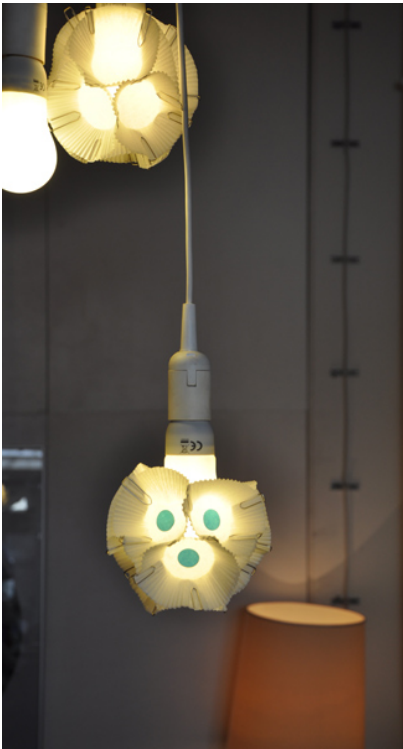
Harz IV Paper Lamp

(materials: paper, clips and staples)

http://hartzivmoebel.blogspot.com.br/p/100-sec-lamp.html

This lamp draws inspiration from famous designer lamps and aims to pay tribute to them while using cheap and humble materials like cupcake containers and paper clips, in the spirit of "Harz V" (German welfare system). The initial design is very basic, so the goal is to create more refined versions and variations, also using simple and readily available materials in a creative and innovative way.
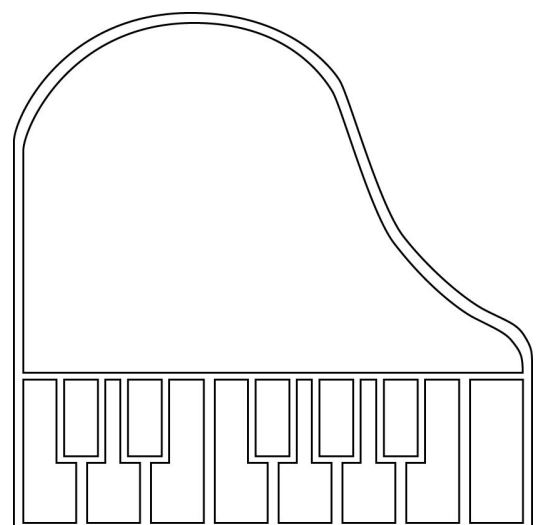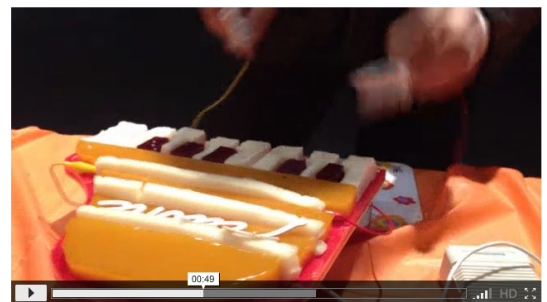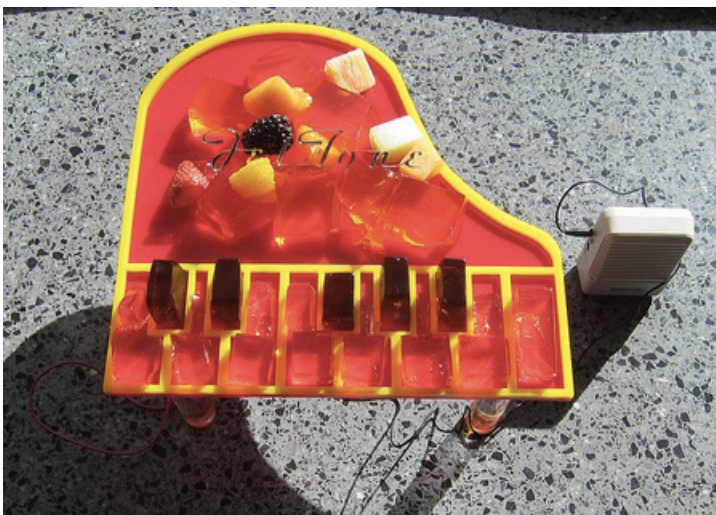
Jello Piano

(materials: circuits, acrylic, gelatin, fruit)

http://www.thingiverse.com/thing:11214

The jello piano was designed as part of an instrument-a-day challenge. The current shape imitates a grand piano, and the goal is to think about alternative shapes that can hold the jello and could lead to using the piano in creative ways. Alternative materials like foamboard can be used for rapid prototyping. For the participants that have programming skills, it is also possible to develop new versions of the piano software leading to alternative and enhanced uses. This can be done in collaboration with the piano case design group or independently.

Hydroponic Window Herb Garden

(materials: plastic bottles, tubes, pump, plants)
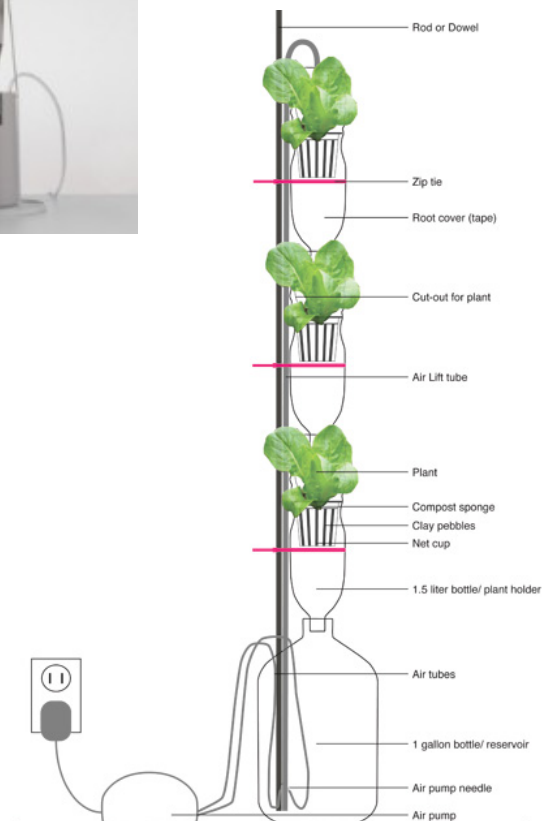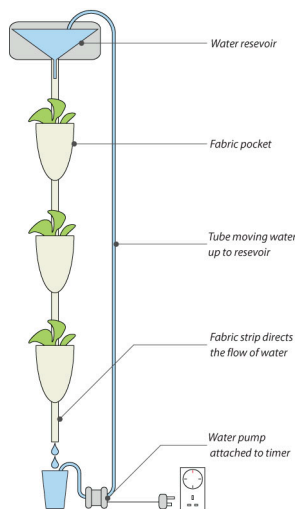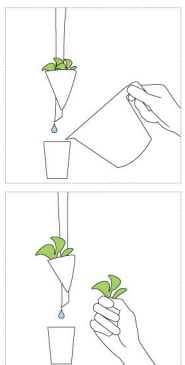
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-8shuvMGIvc
http://www.windowfarms.com/howto/3plantairliftHOWTO_20130204.pdf

This simple iteration of an indoors herb garden is built using plastic water bottles, and can definitely benefit from improvements regarding its exterior aesthetics. There's a more professional looking version that is for sale as a kit, but it's quite expensive. The goal is to create and prototype inexpensive mods that will be published as open design plans that people can download and replicate themselves to complement their window garden.

Plant Garden Postcard

(materials: cardboard, seeds, compressed earth)

The goal is to develop an open source version of a postcard that can grow a garden. There are already commercial versions built on this idea but how can it be improved? What kind of mailable garden would be interesting to develop? With a local flavor? A tribute to loved designers, artists, architects? Could it include a paper vase?
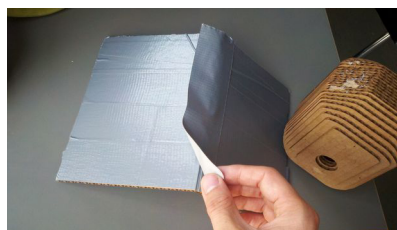
Cardboard Birdhouse

(materials: foambord, cardbord)

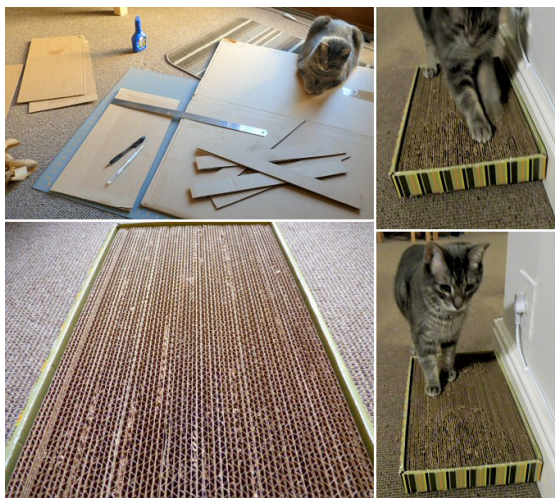http://www.instructables.com/id/Zero-to-Birdhouse-with-123D/

The aim is to create a house that will be attractive to birds and can also make its surroundings beautiful. The original design is pretty simple and minimalistic. The developments can follow the same aesthetics or go beyond, exploring further styles and incorporating new uses.

Cardboard Scratcher for Cats

(materials: cardboard)

Cats love cardboard and love to scratch their nails in corrugated cardboard. What can be designed beyond the examples already existing that can be beautiful, fun and creative and make cat lover homes beautiful? The goal is to release plans that anybody can cut and assemble for their cats to use.