Be more sustainable with open source

Build-to-order furniture

Leading interior design into a greener future with Fiction Factory

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About: Fiction Factory

Fiction Factory was founded in 1989 and started out as a two-man business. Today, the company consists of more than forty employees. Based in Amsterdam, Fiction Factory prides itself on being a creative interior design company for offices, stores, restaurants and museums, with sustainability at the center of their creations. Fiction Factory has large workshops for wood, steel, upholstery and painting, where the goal is to produce everything as "green" as possible. The company seeks to implement open-source standards in order to change the future of individual production and drive the circular use of wood factory waste – not just in their own facility, but also as a best-practice model for the whole industry.

The Challenge

At Fiction Factory, approximately 80 pct of the total waste is wood. Of this, approximately 40 pct comes from the CNC Machines (Computerized Numerical Control) and 50 pct from manual cutting. The company wants to reduce its wood waste to an absolute minimum. But they realise that rather than try and solve the problem themselves, they need the best ideas available worldwide.

The current production process produces many small wooden parts for which there was previously no use for. Together with OPEN!NEXT, as well as many creative makers and researchers, they are developing a collaborative open-source hardware project focusing on repurposing the excess parts of the wood. In the process, they also want to learn how open source hardware businesses work, to create value in co-ownership, and to enable communities through value creation.

Open Source Implementation

Fiction Factory tries to both reduce and reuse wood waste in all areas. The company has tried several tools for community interaction, documenting the project on the Wikifactory platform along the way. Together with WAAG they also launched an open call and invited creatives, researchers and more to co-develop and discuss new ideas for making wood waste more sustainable.

The early experiments included a chair made from a minimum of wooden parts. The idea was to continuously add parts to the CNC nesting and thus be able to build a chair in a minimal amount of time. A design feature of the chair is that it can be easily disassembled and therefore no glue, screws, nails or staples need to be used to put it together.

To find connections with others interested in wood waste and sustainability, Fiction Factory hosted a live CNC milling event. Outside designers were challenged to come up with products to fill the leftover space of a Wikkelhouse sheet. Fiction Factory also holds internal feedback meetings with it's staff members to find solutions to reduce waste, creates networks with designers, SMEs and institutions, and participates in a variety of events. The company is now focusing its attention on B2B interactions with external companies that want to develop a sustainable product.

Fiction Factory wants to take further steps with the development of a self-manufactured open-source device or connector, which will be made from CNC leftovers. It is also looking to develop both an open source software to increase production efficiency and connectivity, as well as an open source toolkit that enables digital wood production to reduce its waste.

LINKS

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Wikifactory

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