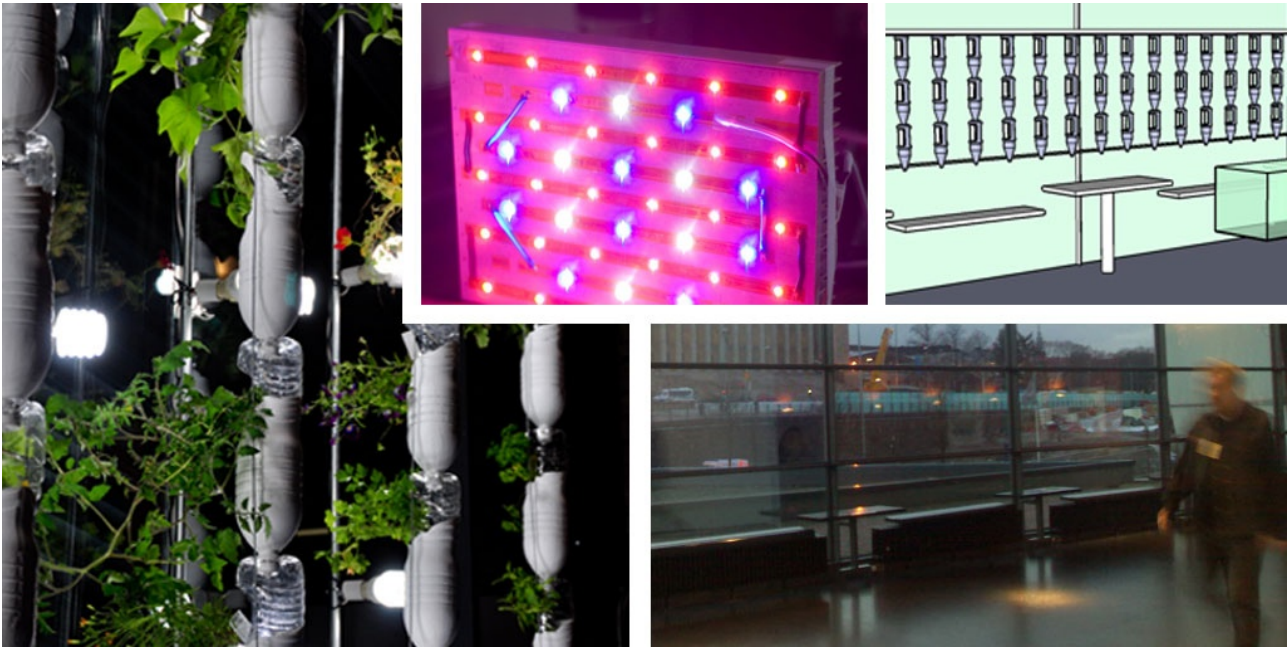


WINDOWFARMS FINLAND INSTALLATION IN KIASMA TAKA-IKKUNA



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'Window Farms' are vertical, hydroponic, modular, low-energy, high-yield edible window gardens built using low-impact or recycled local materials.

The project was initiated by New York-based Britta Riley and Rebecca Bray in 2009, as part of their shared collaborative work exploring **collaborative distributed 'R&DIY' (Research & Do-It-Yourself)** solutions related to environmental issues. Their goals were to start a 'window-farming craze' in New York City and other dense urban areas, helping people grow some of their food year-round in their apartment windows, and give people a means to collaborate on research and development via their community web-pages. Their inspiration for community involvement derives from concepts of local production, mass customisation, and crowd-sourcing. This project has now evolving into the Windowfarms Project, a non-profit organisation led by Britta Riley, but also blossoming beyond New York and USA. For further information and documentation see: <http://www.windowfarms.org/>

Within the spirit of DIY culture and open-source production of Pixelache Festival in Helsinki, the Windowfarms Project offers an ideal case for exploring the transferability of such 'R&DIY' information-sharing and modelling, but also how they manifest in different national contexts. What is involved for the inventors to facilitate, and the makers to learn, when each are remote from each other?

Finnish makers **Mikko Laajola** and **Niko Punin** are working in collaboration with artist-producers Andrew Gryf Paterson and Ulla Taipale/Capsula to create a new localised manifestation of the Window Farms project, using local specialist (hydroponic and LED growing technologies) and recycled materials (plastic bottles). The plants grown will be used in participatory workshops during Pixelache Festival.

The project will be installed between 20-21.2, and be exhibited/growing in **Kiasma 'taka-ikkuna' for 1 month between 22.2-28.3.2010,** with the aim to grow 81 plants in total, to be harvested for herbologies workshops. The selection of plants are curated by artists and botanists.

This installation forms part of Herbologies/Foraging Networks -programme in Finland and Latvia, exploring the encounter of cultural traditions and knowledge of herbs, edible and medicinal plants, with online networks, open information-sharing and emerging technology.

Windowfarms Finland development has been supported by an Art and Culture Production grant from **Kultur Kontakt Nord**, and **AVEK** (The Promotion Centre for Audiovisual Culture). Inkind support is given by the **University of Helsinki Botanical Gardens** to incubate the seeds, nurturing their growth until their transfer to the Window Farms installation.

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For more information about Herbologies/Foraging Networks programme:
<http://www.pixelache.ac/helsinki/herbologies-foraging-networks/>

Biography statements of Windowfarm Finland makers:

Mikko Laajola (FI)

Lead developer of Windowfarms Finland

Mikko Laajola is an artist-gardener and maker based in Turku and Helsinki. In the last years he has been organising electronic workshops within the collective KoKoMYs, and is a member of Piknik Frequency ry (organisers of Pixelache Festival). He is interested in open-source practices and exploring open-hardware technologies. In the previous year, Laajola has been actively working with current lo-tech gardening systems, including hydroponics, and hacking household appliances to create more sustainable solutions. He is working towards social change and the development of self-organised education.

<http://kokomys.org/>

Niko Punin (FI)

Co-developer of Windowfarms Finland

Niko Punin is a designer based in Kemiö. He has a background in new media, development of award winning digitally enhanced spaces and digital communities. Since moving to the island of Kemiö in 2007, he has been researching possibilities and developing systems for self-sufficiency, off-the-grid living and alternative models for small-scale communities. He is in the process of starting an open distributed horticultural research community, that combines the use of low-cost DIY LED plant lights and the power of the distributed research model to accelerate the progress of empiric plant research.

<http://www.punin.com/>



Window Farm installation by Britta Riley & Rebecca Bray, Eyebeam Centre for Art &Technology, NYC, USA, June 2009. Photo credit – Nicholas R. Clark.

* 4-photo header credits - Windowfarms Project: Nicholas R. Clark, LEDs: Niko Punin, Sketchup model: Mikko Laajola, Kiasma taka-ikkuna: Andrew Gryf Paterson.