



Lotta Muurinen, project planner

# LIBRARY IS A VERB!

The Urban Workshop in Helsinki City Library



HELSINGIN KAUPUNGINKIRJASTO  
HELSINGFORS STADSBIOTEK  
HELSINKI CITY LIBRARY

3.3.2017



## HELSINKI CITY LIBRARY

- 600 000 inhabitants
- 36 libraries
- 16 loans/inhabitant
- 11,3 visits/inhabitant

### FINLAND:

- 5,5 million inhabitants
- 836 libraries
- 18 loans/inhabitant
- 10 visits/inhabitant



# library urban workshop

- Low threshold maker space & laboratory for pilot projects, thinking & testing services. Situated in the center of Helsinki. Opened in 2013.
- The customers and partners were and are involved in planning the service.



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## BUT WHY IN THE LIBRARY?

### LISTENING TO THE VOICE OF THE PEOPLE

- The service was wished by the citizens in **participatory budgeting project**. The residents decided in workshops which pilot projects would be launched. The maker space was one of the projects they wanted to come true.

### EQUALITY & LEARNING

- **A low threshold place** to get familiar with new technology previously only available for very few. Like the Internet in the 90's.
- Libraries are **easy** to access and the service is **free** of charge. Only material costs are asked for. (E.g. 40 cents for a 3D print)
- You don't have to learn and do it alone: the **staff is there to help**.

### SUPPORTING LOCAL ECONOMY

- By supporting small scale entrepreneurs, library **helps to boost the city economy**. Library is a business hub for everyone, not just those who attended business school.





OUR GOAL: THE NEW CENTRAL LIBRARY,  
WILL BE OPENED IN DECEMBER 2018



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The 3<sup>rd</sup> floor will be for books & other collection...



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...the 1st floor will be great for getting inspired & meeting people...



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... and the whole 2nd floor will be a big, well-equipped maker space and lots of raw working space for people.



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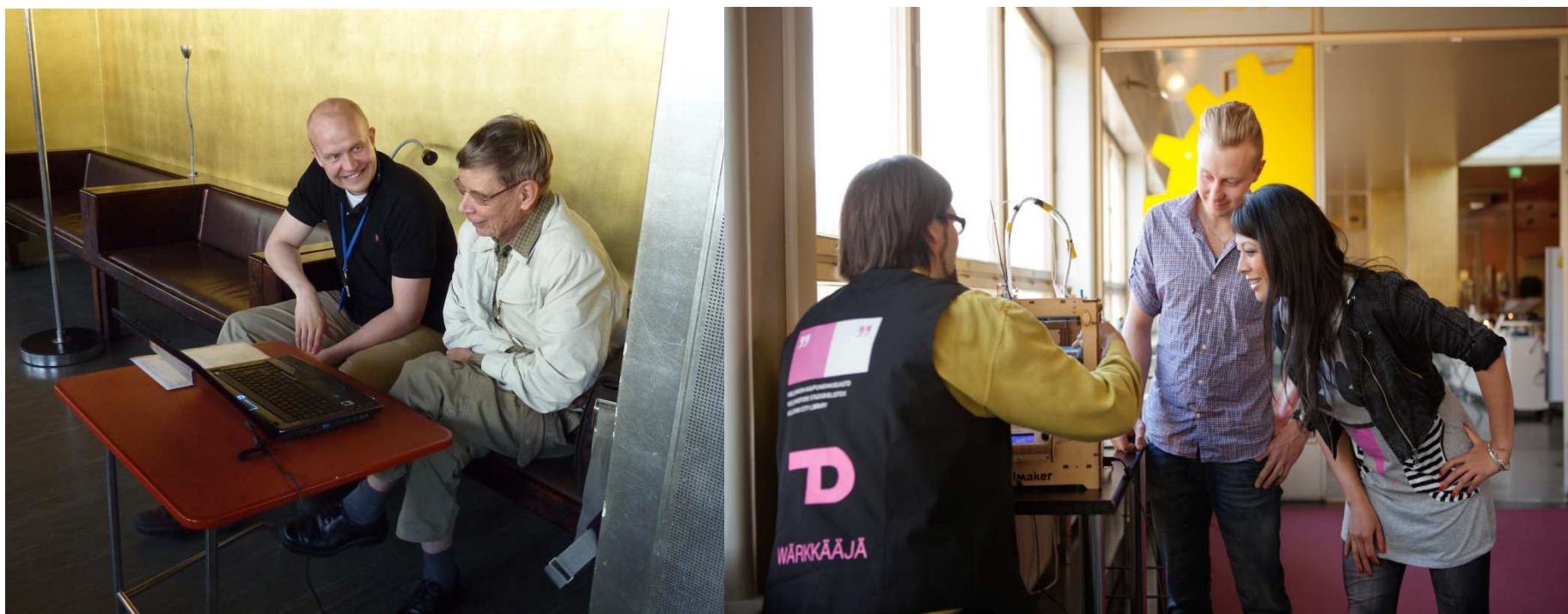
## SERVICES IN URBAN WORKSHOP

- Equipment: 3D printers, 3D scanner, vinyl cutter, 3D cutter, graphics station, badge maker, sewing machines + video editing, digitizing station and multimedia computers.





- Assistance in using all the available equipment - no prior experience needed.
- Help and tuition with IT-problems.





## THE STAFF: HELPING THE CUSTOMERS TO DO IT THEMSELVES

- Mainly media workers and IT-specialists - there's five of us altogether.
- Competence in technology matters but most important is the *“Let's find out together”*-attitude.
- Active role in developing the service.





## SHARING THE SPACE: FROM OFFICE AREA TO OVERNIGHT MAKER WORKSHOPS

- 300 m2 of space that has to be easily converted according to the customers needs.
- Working in a protected building sets limitations - but provides a beautiful background for learning and creating!





## THE CUSTOMERS AND PARTNERS

- A wide range of customers from young, small scale entrepreneurs to old age pensioners - and everything in between.



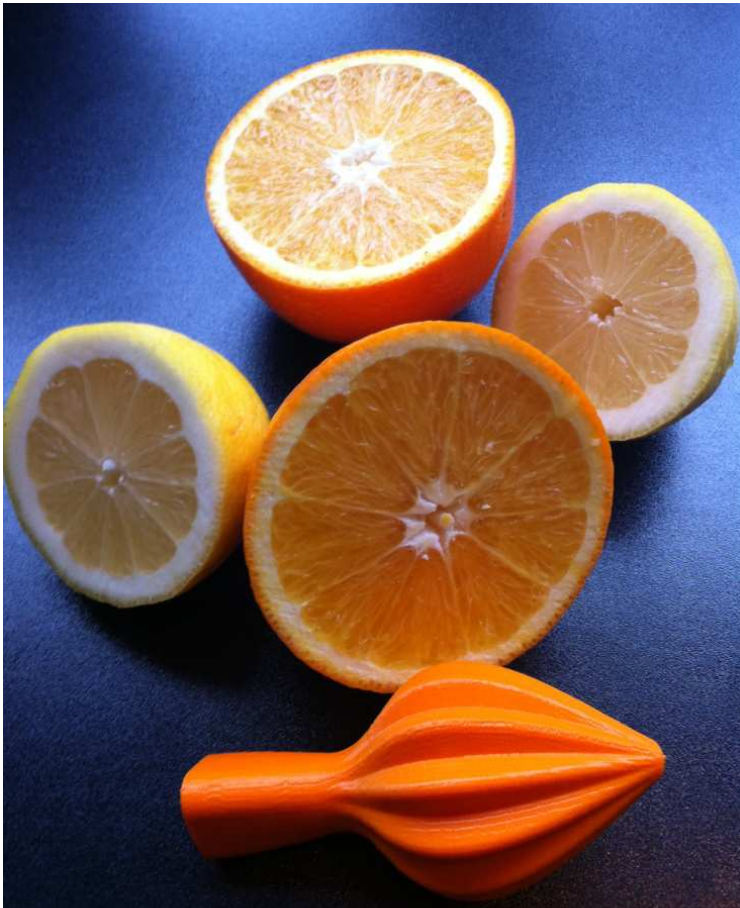




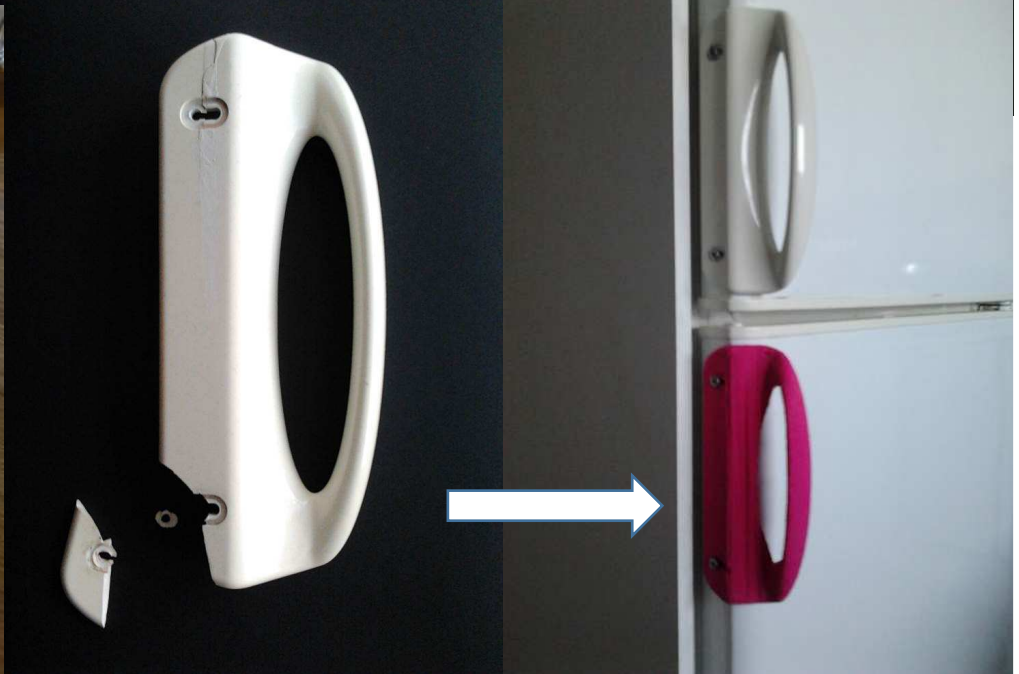
## THE PROJECTS: EVERYONE CAN BE A DESIGNER

- Prototypes, spare parts, art, gifts, promotional material for small companies - and of course just fun & pretty things too!











## WORKING TOGETHER WITH FRIENDS & PARTNERS

- Most of the events and workshops are organised by the users themselves, we help and facilitate.







## WHAT HAVE WE GAINED & LEARNED?

- More customers, new customers, **new kinds of customers**: "urban activists", small scale entrepreneurs, designers, artists...
- Designing, making and creating is for **everyone**.
- Not all the information has to be learned from the books - even in the library. You can learn also by **doing**. (Books are still great, too!)
- Giving the **ownership** of the space and facilities to its users is well worth the risks.
- Machines are fun and enable lots of things. But the most important, creative and complex gadget of any maker space is the **human being** - on both sides of the library desk.



# THIS IS YOUR SPACE!

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28.04



(K) 30.04 !!!

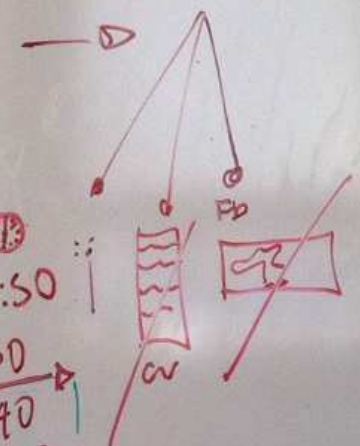
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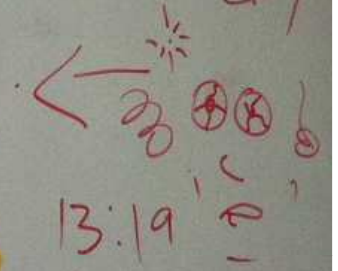
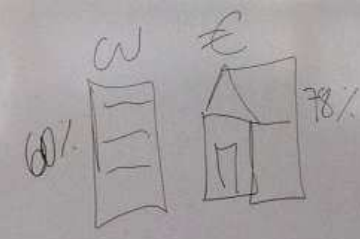
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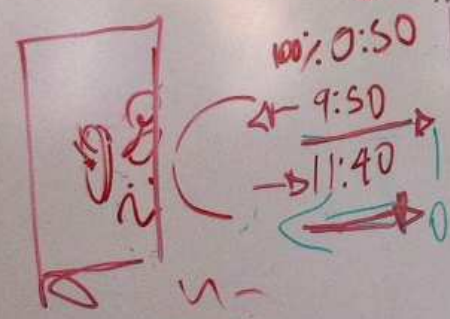
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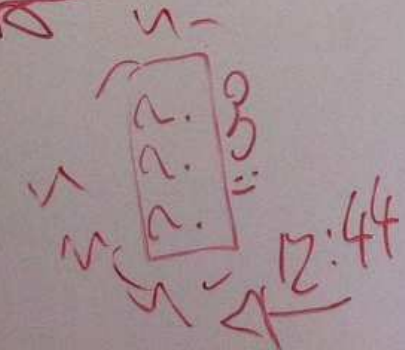
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THANK YOU! QUESTIONS?

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