Cradle to Cradle

Remaking the Way We Make Things

Summary

- Cradle to Cradle instead of Cradle to Grave
- Consumers actually use very little; the rest is thrown away—but there is no "away"
- Waste is Food

•"Biomemetic"s- Example of Ants

Key Words

- Technical Nutrients: Synthetic product that, although not part of the natural world, can be reused infinitely and thus do not contribute waste.
- Biological Nutrients: Organic matter that, even if it is waste, contributes nutrients, food, etc. to the natural world.
- Downcyling: recycling materials into lesser products, with each iteration less useful and more wasteful

Examples

- Eating utensils made out of non-toxic, organic, completely biodegradable materials that "you can feel good about throwing away" (instead of guilty)
- Shoes made out of 2 parts: Sole of rubber ("technical nutrient") and upper of biodegradeable material ("biological nutrient") that you rent instead of buy; when it is worn out, you return it to the manufacturer, who disposes of upper and reuses sole

5 Steps

- Get Free of Known Culprits
- Follow Informed Personal Preferences
- Create lists of materials according to their safety level
  - X List – known hazardous materials that must be phased out
  - Gray List – unknown or somewhat problematic materials
  - P List – known non toxic or safe materials
- Activate the list (keep P, remove X, study Gray)
- Reinvent-redesign of the former system

Text directly from the book

Questions!

- Cradle to Cradle mentions the example of creating carpeting out of recycled plastic containers. What could be the downside of such a project?

Questions!

- What is the difference between upcycling and downcycling? Pros? Cons?

Questions!

- What is the difference between efficiency and effectiveness, especially when pertaining to eco-friendly design?

Questions!

- Where can we get inspiration for waste-free, or nearly waste free, cycling of materials?

Questions!

- What is the danger of mixing technical and biological nutrients?

Questions!

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Questions!

- If a cherry tree would design a building, what would it be like?

EC.720J / 2.722J D-Lab II: Design

Spring 2010