

TRANSITIONAL PARTICIPATION DEVICE

ASSESSMENT DESIGN CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT

OBJECTIVES

A transitional participation device is a micro-installation that acts as a visible marker of an ongoing dynamic. It has both a practical value (storing materials, serving as a work table, serving drinks, etc.) and a symbolic one as a broader communication tool for the project, and can be moved from site to site according to the project's activities.



VALUE

When no specific workshop is being held, it acts as a signal and opens up people's imagination about the future transformation of a space. It also serves to test new functions and assess potential risks. This can reveal positive aspects, such as a new proposed practice, as well as negative ones — for example, theft of resources or deterioration.

TIPS

Since it serves as a test, do not hesitate to take risks in terms of uses: this is the moment to validate or invalidate operational hypotheses that may be deployed in the project. Equally, it is worth thinking of this device through its multiple possible functions: as a communication support or for collective events, in addition to its capacity to host meetings and exchanges.

PREPARATION

requires ☐ hours ☒ days ☐ weeks

cost ☐ € ☒ €€ ☐ €€€

prepared by ☒ architect ☐ designer

made by ☒ local artisans

Designing such a device requires a clear set of specifications addressing both needs and the robustness constraints required of a structure installed in public space. An understanding of locally available materials and skills, as well as budget and implementation timeline constraints, is equally necessary.

FACILITATION

requires ☐ hours ☒ days ☐ weeks

cost ☒ € ☐ €€ ☐ €€€

facilitated by ☒ the whole team



As a support device, its use depends on the activity being conducted. When expressing needs, consider all the situations the device will need to serve: organised settings such as workshops or cultural events, but also more spontaneous situations in which the device must function autonomously.



A REAL-WORLD EXAMPLE

The **Urban Fabric Initiative in Antananarivo** implemented a transitional participation device called *the Kiosk*. It was designed to be fixed but dismantlable, so that it could be relocated from site to site as projects progressed. Its aesthetic allowed it to prefigure what future developments might look like, and many activities took place around it.

This initiative also served as a signal and a tool for communication in the neighborhoods where the project was carried out. In addition, it provided an opportunity for the project team to test co-design methods, while identifying artisans capable of creating this type of micro-architecture.

LESSONS LEARNED

As one goal was to test uses, lockers were installed to store equipment and assess whether this option was viable in public space. The lockers were broken into, which led to the solution of building changing rooms instead. Testing therefore proved its worth!

FURTHER READING

More photos and details:
<https://pepinieres-urbaines.org/fr/actualites/antananarivo-inaugure-le-kianja-andraisoro-un-espace-public-pense-avec-les-habitantes/>