

TACTICS FOR THE

SPATIAL APPROPRI-ACTION

SPATIAL APPROPRI-ACTION

is a post-industrial method for performing democracy, claiming everyone's right to the city, as well as shaping and reimagining public spaces in ways that are meaningful to each one of us. I* dedicate the role of the post-industrial designer to you. And everyone else.

CONTENT:

Tactics for the post-industrial designer.

Collaborative, imaginary mapping of Copenhagen.

Visual documentation of spatial appropri-action in h&m

Inspired by skaters' ability to re-interpret architecture and make use of objects in different ways than they're designed for, the tactics suggest ways of transcending the limitations of the industrial society and appropriate spaces to fit you own needs and desires. Instead of accepting the limitations they encourage you to imagine "what if..?"

The map of Copenhagen does not work with the logic of efficiency, it can't guide you from place A to B. Instead it can guide us towards an imagined and desired future(s). The method used to create the map, can be applied in other contexts, to mediate between lived realities and inspire a collective process of world making.

*Alien Potato

Work for collective sharing

Skateboarding is so much more than a sport. It is a community, where people gladly share their knowledge, both in terms of teaching tricks and revealing their favorite spots to skate. Sharing the experience and hyping each other is a main aspect of skating. When it comes to change-making, a single person can't do it alone either. Reach out when you need help and share your knowledge and your work for others to make use of. Believe that collective sharing will pay off.

Avoid pre-defined meanings of things
Sliding on handrails, jumping down staircases, grinding on benches or jumping up curbs. Skaters are masters in finding alternative way of using objects for different purposes than they are intentionally designed for. Instead of strictly defining how we should behave and use things, we can be inspired by skaters to set our minds free and realize that there is not just one "right" way of doing things. The way we chose to use things is also a part of designing the purpose of them. By refusing to predefine a purpose, we release our imagination and creativity, and we'll start seeing endless possibilities rather than limitations.

Use time as your friend. The 'post-' can also happen in between

Analyze time and rhythm of others to understand where and when it's the right moment for a post-industrial design intervention. Skaters know exactly which places they can skate during daytime, or nighttime, by considering the flow and rhythm of other people. Likewise, consciously observing places and crowds is a tool for knowing when to act. You will quickly find that there's lots of spaces either totally abandoned, or partly unused.

Don't let fear stop you

Dealing with fear is a big part of skateboarding! Whether it's about trying out a new trick, or skating in a place guarded by security or angry neighbors. When it comes to changing things for the better, we can't either sit around and wait for someone to "approve" of it.

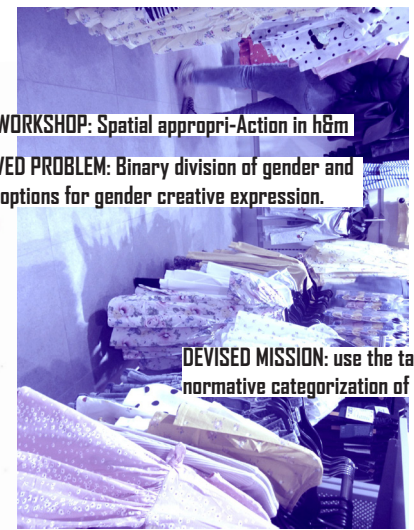
WORKSHOP: Spatial appropri-Action in h&m

OBSERVED PROBLEM: Binary division of gender and limited options for gender creative expression.

DEvised MISSION: use the tactics to challenge the normative categorization of genders through clothing

ACTIONS:

- Placing a dress from the "girls" department onto a mannequin in the "boys" department.
- Taking a GAMER hoodie from "boys" department and putting it onto a mannequin in the "girls" department.
- Moving "female" accessories such as handbags and colored scarfs and putting them in the "mens" department.



TACTICS IN USE: don't let fear stop you, embrace the process and continue re-iterating, make room for diversity and multitude of uses.

Chose creative labour over market driven

Forget about capitalism, efficiency and money. Who cares!? In skateboarding it's not about winning or getting from A to B the fastest. It's about being creative, finding new ways of moving and most importantly: enjoying it. Create for the sake of creating.

Make use of what is already existent and give a new context or a new purpose

Like skaters, jumping over holes in the asphalt or down the curbs, it is about making use of what is available and creating new meaning from the mundane. Who says that a bench is only for sitting on, or that your old drapes can't become a new skirt? If we make use of all the things around us, we don't have to invent new stuff, or produce tons of shit all the time.

Make room for diversity and multitude of uses
Allowing things to have multiple purposes and serve different needs for different people. Instead of categorizing things and predefining one specific use, we should be able to choose ourselves how our surroundings can be valuable for each one of us. Skaters often do small DIY appropriations to fit their spatial desires, such as adding a bit of cement to a curb to adjust the curve. Small adjustments or appropriations can actually benefit by including groups who are otherwise excluded, while still maintaining the predetermined purpose.

Embrace the process and continue re-iterating

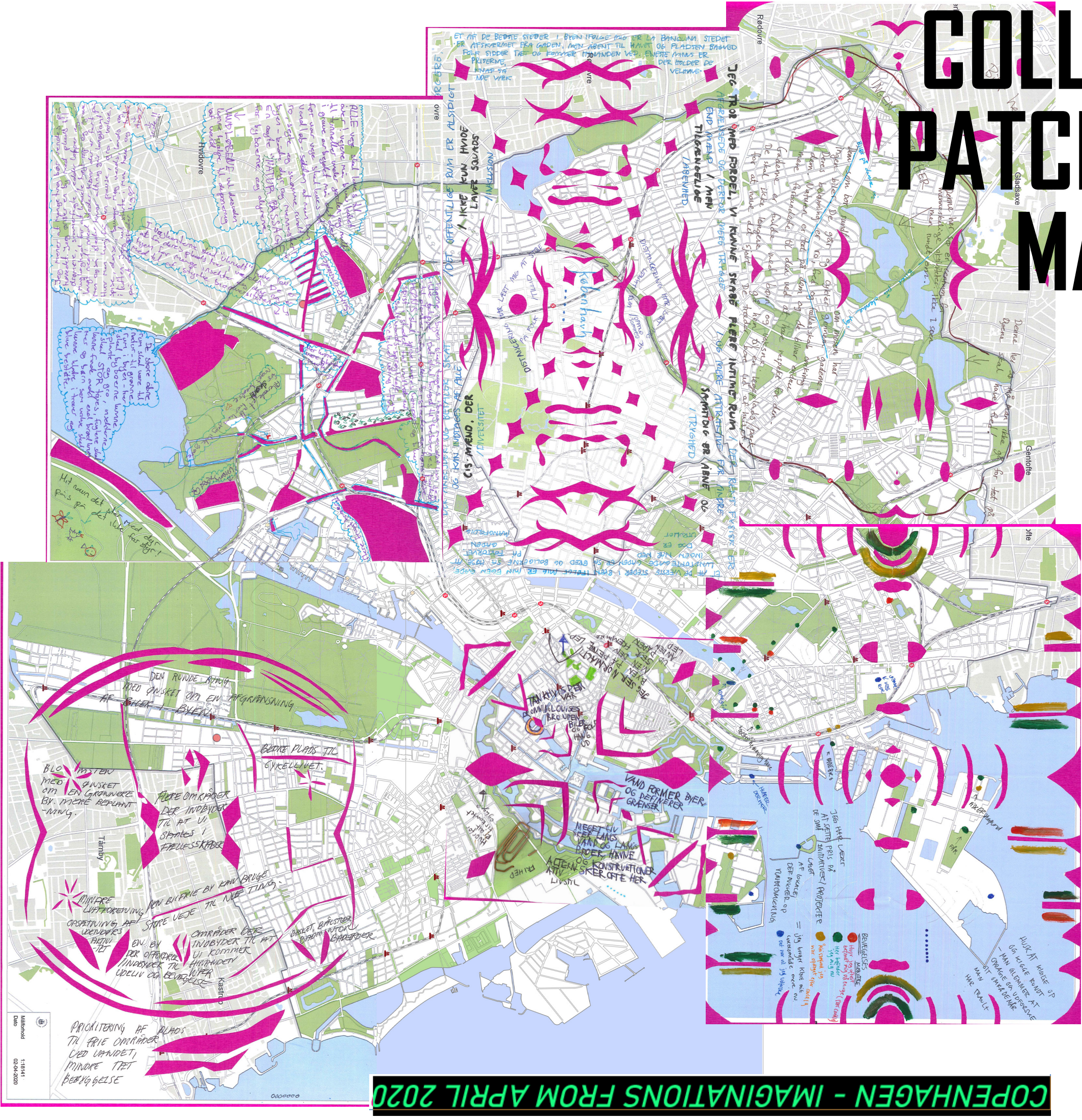
Skaters spend way more time failing their tricks than landing them. Trying and failing, trying and failing is an important part of a process that you can't or shouldn't try to escape. Moreover, in skating there is never a stage of completion, and there are endless variations to do within the same trick. No matter how good you are, there will always be a next level to progress to, as there will always be another variation or alternative to try out. By continuously imagining new improvements and adjustments, we can keep accommodating our needs and desires.

*PK BOHMER
OK BOHMER
Many people view these spatial appropriations as vandalism, but small adjustments or appropriations can actually benefit by including groups who are otherwise excluded, while still maintaining the predetermined purpose.

DESIGNER

COLLECTIVE PATCHWORK MAPPING

A METHOD TO START A COLLECTIVE PROCESS OF
REIMAGINING SHARED SPACES AND MEDIATE
BETWEEN THE LIVED REALITIES OF THE CITY



COPENHAGEN - IMAGINATIONS FROM APRIL 2020

COLLECTIVELY:

Cut a map of your city into smaller pieces and divide them amongst the participants.

INDIVIDUALLY:

Fold the map as you like.
Cut in the city to free your mind from the constructed idea of the city as a defined space. The cutout shapes give space for new imaginations of what could be.
While cutting, reflect on questions such as:

What is important for you to be able to use the city for?

If everything was possible, how would you organize the city?
How would we live and move around? How would we use the public spaces?

Which values do you wish to become more present? And how can they be manifested physically?

INDIVIDUALLY:

Note down or draw your thoughts and reflections onto the map.

COLLECTIVELY:

Scan and collect all pieces of the map into a gathered patchwork map of your shared space. Use the map as a base for engaging conversations about reshaping and appropriating the spaces to suit your individual, yet collective, wishes. Distribute the map further to engage the greater community in the ongoing discussion.

BECAUSE RIGHT NOW, AND EVERY OTHER MOMENT, IS THE RIGHT TIME TO DISSECT AND REFLECT UPON THE WORLD OUTSIDE