

# DEDICATED TO ARCHITECTURE

## CARLO RATTI: IMPACT THROUGH RESEARCH, PLANNING AND DESIGN

At the Senseable City Lab at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology they research the new technologies that are changing the way we plan cities and live in them. We asked director Carlo Ratti to give some examples of the work done at the lab and by his design firm, carlorattiassociati.

*Interview: Carlo Ratti, Director at MIT Senseable City Lab and associated partner at Carlorattiassociati*

By Signe Kierkegaard Cain



"We look at the impact of technology on how we interact with the city," says Carlo Ratti. He is in Copenhagen to give a key note speech at the conference 'Dedicated to Architecture'. This investigation of the connection between technology and the city is done at MIT Senseable City Lab, but also at Carlo Ratti's design firm,

carlorattiassociati.

One example of a concrete design is the 'Copenhagen Wheel', which turns ordinary bikes into hybrid e-bikes. "The work that we do inspires urban planners to integrate technology in urban design, but since we also design and manufacture concrete objects what we do also has a very direct impact on urban life," says Carlo Ratti.

In general, he believes that today's architects are much more than building designers, when it comes to making an impact: "Before, as an architect, you could only have an impact by building something, but today you have many more ways of making an impact. That is a new challenge for architects."

Carlo Ratti elaborates: "In a way technology allows us to change the dimensions of the city. It directly affects the way we can design them and live in them. These new technologies are also a new field of research that is opening up. Cities used to be made of bricks, stone and concrete. Now they are also made of silicone, for example," says Carlo Ratti. One consequence of this is that different professions must increasingly work together to plan the city. "New technology means that more people work together now to plan the city. Architectural institutions should look at opening architecture up to different professions and play a role in the development of the cross disciplinary way of working and educating the public on these new ways of designing cities," says Carlo Ratti.

Examples of projects:

### **LIVE Singapore!**

LIVE Singapore! provides people with access to a range of useful real-time information about their city by developing an open platform for the collection, elaboration and distribution of real-time data that reflect urban activity. Giving people visual and tangible access to real-time information about their city enables them to make their decisions more in sync with their environment, with what is actually happening around them. The platform is not aimed at one single application, instead it rather resembles an ecosystem and a toolbox for real-time data that describe urban dynamics. Building on this platform, a community of developers can build multiple applications in a joint effort which harnesses the creative potential of citizens in extracting new value from real-time data.

The project was presented at the Singapore Art Museum in 2011.  
Read more about the [LIVE Singapore project](#)



Hub of the World

#### Ciudad Creativa Digital

The aim of Ciudad Creativa Digital (CCD) is to create a hub for the digital media industry in Mexico. CCD will be located in Guadalajara, Mexico's second largest city and the home of Mexico's Silicon Valley, and will span the creative industries from TV, cinema, and advertising to videogames, digital animation, interactive multimedia and e-learning. The city will be built over the next decade and it is expected to have a population of 50,000 people and employ some 10,000 people within digital creative industries.

Read more about [CCD](#)



Ciudad Creativa Digital

#### MAKR SHAKR - A robotic bar offering the crowd a taste of the third industrial revolution

MAKR SHAKR is a robotic bar that is able to prepare approximately one googol drink combinations based on crowd input. People will be able to design their own drinks learning from the recipes of others and leave tips for the next designer through their handheld device.

The MAKR SHAKR project was shown at the Milan Design Week 2013

Read more about the [MAKR SHAKR project](#)



The MAKR SHAKR at the Milan Design week