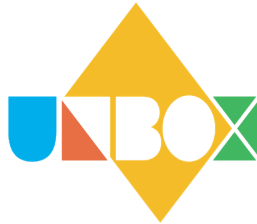




Design Thinking for Prison Industries:

Exchanging design tools, methods and processes with prisons in London and Ahmedabad to build inmate resilience



THE PROBLEM

"At present, inmates who work for 'prison industries' across the globe do not learn new skills, just odd jobs. They aren't taught skills that could make them resilient in the workplace once they leave. This is because education and work are disconnected."

Prof. Lorraine Gamman, Design Against Crime Research Centre
Central Saint Martins, University of the Arts London
quoted in The Times of India, 7th March 2014

HOW THE PROJECT HAPPENED

Professor Lorraine Gamman's research fellowship at Unbox Festival in 2014, Ahmedabad led to collaboration with Praveen Nahar of National Institute of Design (NID) on the AHRC-funded 'Design Thinking for Prison Industries' project which aims to break the cycle of repeat offending by equipping inmates with skills and thinking processes to help them find employment on release.

The ambition of the project was to work with jails in UK and India to provide "purposeful learning activity" (a UK government requirement) that fosters creativity and wellbeing for inmates. The focus of this activity was the design and manufacture of anti-theft bags to be sold under the 'Makeright' label in Sue Ryder charity shops.

WHERE THE PROJECT HAPPENED

Principal Investigator, Prof. Lorraine Gamman with Co-Investigator Prof. Adam Thorpe of the Design Against Crime Research Centre, led the UK team in the creation and application of design education materials for HMP Thameside, the project's UK prison industry partner.



The team ran workshops with inmates to build their future resettlement and employment prospects, whilst additionally helping to reframe inmates' previous behaviour in a positive manner by enabling them to engage with design processes and skills, and make a contribution to society through the design of anti-theft bags aimed at preventing crime.

PROJECT AIMS

To create and trial teaching material for workshops with inmates in the UK and India that will help inmates understand their own design potential and 'design thinking' by creating anti-theft bags for everyday use.

To find out how design can improve inmate prison experience, by teaching inmates:

- how to design a bag for another that will help keep a person and their possessions safe and sound
- help inmates understand the business case for the designs they generate
- experience a new learning process 'thinking through doing' that they could apply to other areas of their lives

To help inmates:

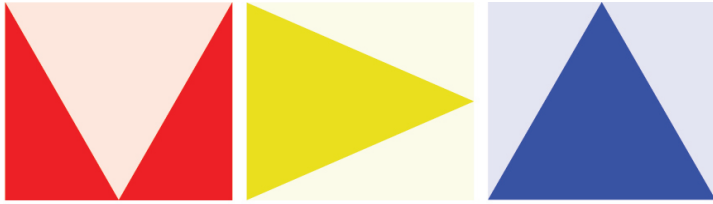
- turn ideas into detailed designs
- co-design and make bag prototypes
- engage with customer profiling
- understand crime data (particularly perpetrator techniques) and translate it into design for anti-theft bags

To generate **new learning approaches** ('design thinking') to engage with inmates in ways that previous education initiatives had not reached.



Makeright Textile Design Studio opened at HMP Thameside in October 2015.





MAKERIGHT

MAKERIGHT COURSE

Over the course of eight weeks, Gamman and her team drew on many participatory and theatre design activities to develop inmate creative learning and to help create humanizing prison experiences because:

"some prisoners develop an unrevealing and impenetrable prison mask and simultaneously risk alienation from themselves and others."
(Travis and Waul, 2003).

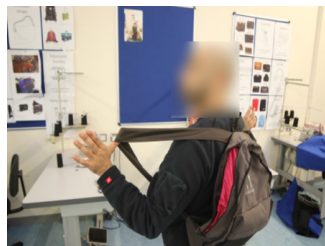


PROTOTYPES

By the end of the first week 10 inmates had created a persona and ideation for a bag they thought this person could carry and would protect against crime.



By the end of the final week inmates had learned to sew (some for the first time) and create anti-theft bag designs, as well as understand some market objectives.



All profits from the UK 'Makeright' project will go back to HMP Thameside and Sue Ryder charity who already provide employment opportunities to inmates.

COLLABORATION WITH NID

Project team based at NID and led by Praveen Nahar, collaborated with Sabarmati Central Jail in Ahmedabad to test the creative research materials/ design brief generated by the UK team and observe its efficacy.



Faculty, Design Associates and students from NID reiterated the teaching and learning materials, customised it as per the local context and also added few assignments unique to NID design thinking/ systems thinking processes.

The co-design workshop with inmates was subsequently held at Sabarmati Jail as well as a seminar with stakeholders to present workshop findings.



"It is a great course, worthwhile and productive. I like the idea that somewhere in the next six months there might be one or two designs that make it on the high street and people like the products, and find them useful."

"At Makeright you can express yourself in creative ways. It is relaxing and frees your mind."

Feedback about Makeright from inmates at HMP Thameside

NEXT STEPS

Next steps will involve:

- (i) in both countries - to develop the quality of the bag designs;
- (ii) in the UK - to embed government requirements (certification, evaluation, student volunteers and other sustainable goals) within the system design and management of the project, in order to scale up ambitions;
- (iii) to review the potential for prisons both in the UK and India to generate 'Fab Lab', a creative hub where inmates and others engage.



HMP THAMESIDE MAKERIGHT FIRST BAG PROTOTYPES (NOV 2015)



LAPTOP CASE

A laptop case cushioned with foam padding to protect laptops. Each case is constructed with a unique serial number which can be registered in case of loss by the owner upon purchase.

Anti-theft element: traceable unique serial number under the Makeright label.



ARM LOCKED DAY BAG

This over the shoulder day bag is worn by putting your arm through both handles which also closes the main compartment. It has an inner lined 'hidden' zip pocket which is held against the body to keep money, keys and other valuables safe.

Anti-theft element: arm through handle and body-facing internal zip pocket.



DECOY MESSENGER BAG

This messenger bag has a deep main pocket accessed by a zip. A pocket for valuables is hidden in the flap which if accessed incorrectly forces the hand through the main zip opening.

Anti-theft element: deep main compartment cover and decoy valuables pocket.



HOLSTER BAG

A man's 'holster' style bag for passport, wallet and keys. The bag sits under an outer jacket and is held close to the body to prevent dipping or concealed hands gaining access.

Anti-theft element: bag is held close to the body under outer jacket.



FESTIVAL BAG

This bag is for use at festivals, picnics or outdoor events. It's geometric folding design creates separate internal compartments for holding food and beverages. Made from waterproof material, when the bag is not in use it can be unzipped to form a ground cover for seating.

Anti-theft element: zip pockets form arm handles to seal bag.



CLOTH/CANVAS BAG

A general use cloth bag which has a folding flap to the main compartment to prevent dipping. The flap is locked in place with velcro. When worn over the shoulder the arm also secures the flap.

Anti-theft element: folding flap locked by velcro.

NID/ SABARMATI COLLABORATION BAG PROTOTYPES (MARCH 2016)

WOMEN'S SNATCH PROOF BAG

This bag is a snatch-proof bag. The outer cover sticks to the bag with velcro. Hence when the thief attempts to snatch the bag, the only thing that the thief gets is the outer cover, while the bag remains with the owner. These bags are generally carried by women for shopping purposes.



BAG WITH A NOOSE

These bags could be used as school bags or laptop bags. Usually if the bag is slung on the shoulders on the back side, thieves very silently open the front chain and steal valuables from it. Now these bags have another bag inside with a noose on top to tighten.

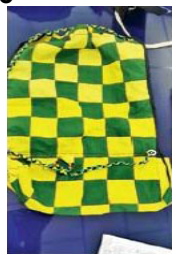
Hence the thief will not be able to steal valuables even after opening the upper chain because the valuables would be in the inside bag with the noose tightened.



BOTTLE HOLDER PREVENTS THEFT ON THE GO

In occurrences of theft on a public transport system, in order to steal valuables thieves generally put a cut below the bag so that the valuables slide outside.

To avoid that, a special bottle holder is designed at the bottom of the bag so that the cut is rendered useless.



BAG JOINED WITH LOOP AT THE BELT

This bag could be used as office bag. These bags have loops attached to them. The loops could be buckled to the waist belt so that thieves are not able to snatch the bag away.



Some of the bag concepts were further developed and improved by the NID students with participants. This bag is one of the further developed prototypes.

