

# Designing Emergent and Self-Organized Play Space

By Randolph Oneil Naylor



RandyNaylor-Kristin Gabrielsen - ArtNode

Randy Naylor's design for the out door "play space" arena at Stavanger Forum.

The call to de-colonize in the play space can only be achieved through a deep dive into the contemporary philosophy of Self-Organization and Non-Linear models promoted by the 21st century philosophers Manuel De Landa and Michel Serres. Together they represent ecological models for Real sustainability and Real participation of inclusion and diversity.

I understand de-colonize as purging the dualistic and linear top down model of fixed rules, predesigned space and false participation of players. Real play creates its own rules in the process of playing. This

Phase-Space is open ended, form generated and nonlinear. It does not Colonize or Extract Resources. It is a Stigmergy of tactile energy and creativity that flows and complements its environment.

In this paper I will present a project for a "play space" where I was asked to present a design for Stavanger Forum. This project is a good example of a self-organized and Template Algorithm design that triggers and attracts the Multiplicity design needed for a de-colonization.

Stavanger Forum rejected the design

after several presentations to the board of directors, the leadership committee and the administration. The DNA of Stavanger Forum is ONS. This is a linear and top down business model. They pursue uniformity and old forms of nonrenewable energy. Woke culture is filtered out despite their claims toward diversity. Exponential and hybrid renewable energy platforms will soon replace their extractive colonized business model. Play is where autonomy, emergence and distributed functioning replaces control, preprogramming (digital algorithms) and centralization rule. De-Colonized play

## De-Colonization is a complexity where the multiplicity of parts exceeds the whole.

replaces Hierarchy, excellence and dominance, all of them linear limits and exclusive models.

My design for the out door "play space" arena at Stavanger Forum is base on a Rhizome and Acupuncture Algorithm. The Rhizomes are the tree root seats where the public become the designers by moving and creating the space by planting the Roots on the template. The template is organized according to the Star pattern one finds over head. The self-organization of the Root chairs on a Acupuncture plane in relationship to the cosmos creates the Stigmergy for de-colonization of the play(phase) space. The Real participation is represented by the motto, "a good designer creates a design that makes you a good designer." (Mitchel Resnick) The playing field becomes a series of Loose Parts where the Root chairs can be augmented by any Objects (OOO Parts) placed in the acupuncture Star field pattern. (tables, umbrellas, tents, ball games. etc) Stavanger Forum would become a true Market and Play Space promoting Integration, Inclusion and Connectivity by the players. The players work between the Roots and the Stars Constellation which trigger the Assemblages. A Magnetic (Magic) Field. This is Art! (Link in sources)

**The Theory of Loose Parts** (Assemblages) was developed by Simon Nicholson in 1972. "In any environment, both the degree of inventive-

ness, creativity and then possibility of discovery, are directly proportional to the number and kind of variables in it."

De-colonize represents a opportunity to deconstruct the dualistic idea of modernism where we learned that the Whole is made up of the sum of its Parts. De-Colonization is a complexity where the multiplicity of parts exceeds the whole.

The score of Colonization is based on the idea of Anthropocentric framing," One Size Fits All." (Timothy Morton). My design represents the domain of self-organization where stratifications exist not only in the world of geology, but also in the virtual, organic and human worlds. Where the "abstract machine of stratification (DeLanda) is the result of the coming together and interlocking of heterogeneous elements. Self-Organization is the sustainable practice where we navigate through cross-fertilization, complexity, heterogeneity and make a decolonized Node.

The narrative for the 21st century is Action & Invention (Serres), replacing extraction and colonization. Process design replaces hypothesis and concepts. Inclusion is an environmental Node.

### Tool Kit for De-Colonization

**Stigmergy: Is a mechanism of indirect coordination through the**

**environment, between agents or actions. Stigmergy is a form of self-organization.** It produces complex, seemingly intelligent structures, without need for any planning, control, or even direct communication between the agents.

Phase Space Quasi Casual distribution that structures a space of possibilities. Wasp to Orchid connectivity.

Emergent: Is an essential component of swarm intelligence and self-organization. Swarm Intelligence points to a new form of thinking, which may help us in our current crisis, our becoming Insect, river star." Insect societies are organized in a way that departs from anthropocentric models." (Bonabeau)

Assemblage: Assemblages supply the framework where the voices come together to form a chorus that does not harmonize its different components, but rather interlocks them while respecting their heterogeneity. (Manual DeLanda)

**Self-Organization. Is a sustainable concept where we navigate through cross-fertilization, complexity and multiplicity.** SO shows itself in participation between many stakeholders. What is in-between two objects is their ability to create flow and emerge into a new relationship, new communication nodes.



## Part 2

### De-Colonize triggers Participation

What follows is a series of Public Participation projects that I have created to establish a bottom-up Art practice and means to de-colonize linear top-down hierarchal models that dominate our culture.



Randy Naylor and Pia Myrvold. Parc de la Vilette, Paris, France 1992. A 500 meter textile installation to create the conditions for "Event Architecture"



“The score of Colonization is based on the idea of Anthropocentric framing,” One Size Fits All.”  
(Timothy Morton)

Parc de la Vilette 1992, Paris, France.



Fretex Re-Design. Public Fashion Statement .





Randy Naylor - Kristijn Gabrielsen - ArtNode

ArtNode, Randy Naylor's design for the outdoor "play space" arena at Stavanger Forum.



How many Ways to Spell "OMSTILLING".



Social sustainability, sculpture.



PEAK Oil/ KAEP (knowledge applied energy plan) Bergeland VG Skole Stavanger.



Skap 10 Mandal 100% Public Art Participation Design.



NetWork Sculpture: Self-Org- Mapping-Stigmergy Art.



Installation. Outside of Stavanger church.





Public Mapping. 180 meter long sculpture mapping, Mandal.