

splitconnect travellab

travellab.net is run by an informal association of artists, scientists and cultural networkers. travellab takes on the challenge of researching different cultural environments in order to develop skills and (electronic) tools for collaboration. With an interest in transdisciplinary workflow, travellab engages in the development of sustainable cultural structures and modular spaces. Within these environments, people can meet face to face and intertwine their activities in new workflows, while knowledge and skill-based collaborative activities and public representation are shared.

A main aim of such spaces is to connect to a local socio-cultural area and function as a communicative hot spot, providing users with fertile ground for growing cultural content and creating knowledge. The development is handled in cooperation with partners on location and is guided by an International Advisory Board, that helps to develop a model for sustainable collaboration and self-sufficient maintenance.

The most recent space initiated by travellab is located in Split, Croatia. splitconnect is dedicated to developing a platform that becomes part of local culture and continues to exist after the installation period during which travellab left its initial impulses, and is no longer directly involved.

splitconnect on location



Split, on the Croatian Adriatic Coast and the capital city of the Dalmatian region, was chosen as the location for travellab's current project after researching various geographic areas. The city is host to institutions engaged in cultural production as well as a vivid local scene of young entrepreneurs interested in collaboration.

A three-storey house located within Diocletian's palace grounds in the old town of Split, acts as a communicative hot spot. It will host presentations, discussions, lectures and workshops, while providing open zones for networked communication and mutual exchange. It is therefore positioned to become an engaged and integral part of contemporary urban culture within the city of Split, and a model for knowledge-based social collaboration, as it manifests itself regularly through a dedicated program.

Besides its regular activities, the program of splitconnect will feature bi-monthly experimental laboratories, set-up by international guests. They will be asked to engage themselves as mentors for local students and practitioners and to participate in events and venues produced in cooperation with local partner organisations.



splitconnect will collaborate closely with local cultural institutions and initiatives: UMAS (Art Academy at the University of Split), the Film Club Split, the Multimedia Cultural Institute Split, the platform 9.81, the initiative Romb, the realityTV-AdriaticaTV, the Split Festival of New Film and Video and other networking partners. In the region, splitconnect is cooperating with a.network, a regional coordination of new media culture initiatives, the Goethe Institute and the Multimedia Institute / net.culture club M.a.M.a. (all located in Zagreb). splitconnect will be supported by travellab's network, ranging from individuals to international art laboratories and institutions in the field of education, i.e. the new Media Theory Institute at the Humboldt University in Berlin, the ZKM in Karlsruhe or Hull Time Based Arts in Great Britain.



splitconnect motivation and aims

Cultural production is currently undergoing a period of paradigm shifts, within which splitconnect is dedicated to research models for combining local practices with global flows. In its telematic network, knowledge and know-how are not handled isolated or individual, but

- rather positioned in the context of a shared resource development.

- splitconnect was initiated with the following aims in mind:

- To create contexts for activities in cultural exchange and knowledge based collaboration.
- To maintain the interdisciplinary development of a trans-local community space.
 - To establish a space for mediation of contemporary cultural content.
 - To develop a shared resource-base for cultural/artistic practice.
- To create contexts for meetings between practitioners & scholars.
 - To demonstrate media and communication practices, with a commitment to public participation and to collaborate with non-elite and neighbourhood media activists.
 - To promote non-proprietary cultural practice for web based initiatives and e-learning.



By exploring the singularity of differing cultural methods, processes and aesthetic principles, a focus of splitconnect is set around contemporary artistic practice and active participation in society's changing demands from the arts. As a link between research, practical application and reflection in a cross-section of time, splitconnect will address contemporary issues (also concerned with identity, networking and economy) and will present results in its publications. splitconnect is furthermore dedicated to prototyping a knowledge base, to collecting and developing tools for networked collaboration, and to issuing a collection of resources for cross-cultural exchange.

advisory board

Cross-cultural exchange and the installation of trans/local spaces carries the risks of implementing, per chance, a post-industrial hegemony of a cyberculture with colonizing effects, emerging through the unconsidered consequences of imported routines. To reduce these risks and enable splitconnect to develop its self-sufficient maintenance, the advisory board will be asked to trace contemporary discussion and development in the fields of arts, science, curation, education, technology, resource management and ethics. Experts from different fields with a commitment to participate in the development of a model for trans/local networking and the development of appropriate context-specific routines, will be asked to act as honorary board members. The board will nominate speakers to attend meetings at splitconnect and to locally represent the agendas of the online-participants.



splitconnect and the modules

For splitconnect 2k4, different spaces in the splitconnect house are transformed into modules that act as cultural infrastructure for the activities taking place within. These modules promote research into contemporary practices related to the creation of environments and the exploration of cultural contexts and surroundings. Each module is a complex, mobile unit, allowing for flexibility and variety in use.

The modules are designed for networked conditions, and are specific to certain fields of interest and engagement in cultural/ artistic production. The modules bring together knowledge, skills and content for particular tasks, aiming to integrate trans-disciplinary workflow, research and easy-to-use technology.

the modules

the local task laboratory

supports the workflow of projects being developed on-site. It is an access point for local activities, conditions and developments.

the display space engages

in art and knowledge transfer. The aim is to incite interest in contemporary art and related debates.

the edu_zone

develops educational programs and material for on-site and online distribution.

the media library

gathers audiovisual media and reference material and acts as a cultural resource. It is open to the public and supports research activities.

the tech_zone

is a research space committed to innovation and experimentation. It supports the development and integration of custom tools, procedures and environments.

splitconnect

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