

WASTE AGE

From 5 December 2023 to 1 September 2024
at the Cité des Sciences et de l'Industrie

“The consumer society has a hidden side which has long been ignored. It is inseparable from the prevailing phenomenon of production and the accumulation of huge volumes of waste, some of it highly toxic. Seriously contributing to the deterioration of our environment and incompatible with the need to decarbonise human activities, waste is an awkward, undesirable presence for modern humanity. Therefore, it is both vital and urgent to adopt a different model, requiring a change in our outlook. That is the message of the Waste Age exhibition, which examines the cost of waste, ways of avoiding its production and the possibility of optimising its management, especially thanks to the extraordinary creativity of designers. Alongside the Climate Emergency and City of Tomorrow exhibitions on display at the Cité des sciences et de l'industrie, Waste Age outlines the potential for a life free from waste, squaring efficient productive activity with heightened awareness of our planet's limits.”

Bruno Maquart, Chairman and CEO of Universcience

Each year, more than 2 billion tonnes of trash are produced worldwide. With only 15% of that volume processed in 2021, humanity is drowning in waste. Our current way of planning, producing and consuming is leaving an ineradicable toxic legacy for future generations. Indeed, many types of rubbish – from electronic waste to plastic packaging – are poisoning our planet's land, water and air.

Waste Age – which opens at the Cité des Sciences et de l'Industrie on 5 December – encourages us to think about the mountain of waste produced by our productivity-focused economies and argues for a sharp reduction in its volume. It presents a new generation of designers who are rethinking our relationship with everyday items. Giving a second life to waste does not rule out aesthetics or innovation – far from it. The exhibition refutes the popular misconception that durable materials and objects must necessarily be tasteless or ugly, and reveals the formerly overlooked value of waste.

The exhibition consists of three parts:

- **Peak waste**, the scale of the problem
- **Precious waste**, changing our minds about value
- **Post waste**, new ways of living



Trilingual exhibition (French, English, Spanish)
From age 15.

Waste Age (original title, *Waste Age: What Can Design Do?*) is an exhibition created by the London Design Museum.

Presented in London from 23 October 2021 to 20 February 2022, it then travelled to Hong Kong before reaching Paris and the Cité des Sciences et de l'Industrie in an enhanced version.

the
DESIGN
MUSEUM

Reflecting both Universcience's sustainability commitments and the Design Museum's intention to develop an exhibition with a low carbon footprint, the items displayed in *Waste Age* are transported exclusively by sea and land. The exhibition furniture has been designed and produced onsite by the teams of the Cité des Sciences et de l'Industrie in compliance with eco-design principles (reuse of previous exhibitions, choice of long-lasting materials, minimal transport, the recycling and reuse of the exhibition's modules when dismantled, etc.).

THE EXHIBITION

● Peak waste

Intensive use of plastic items, everyday objects designed for single use, planned obsolescence: our waste production has increased continually over the last two centuries, especially since the mid-20th Century. This first part of the exhibition throws light on the mechanisms of **mass production and consumerism**. Visitors discover the effects of overconsumption of plastics and other materials, and the resulting waste.

With the aid of data visualisation, photographs and disposable items, the exhibition reveals the extent of waste problems on a global scale and the **urgent need to radically change our ways of thinking and consuming**.

● Precious waste

The excesses of our all-disposable economy produce huge quantities of waste: **90% of raw materials used to manufacture objects have become waste before they even leave the factory and 80% of the items produced are thrown away before they are six months old**. Objects taken to dumps, plastic products collected from our oceans, clothing, food products, construction materials, electrical components... What if our trash were valuable?

In this second part, visitors are encouraged to look at waste differently through many projects such as the Adidas X Parley range, clothing made from vegetable matter and recycled plastic (such as Stella McCartney's fashion) or the renovation of social housing in the Cité du Grand Parc, Bordeaux, by architects Anne Lacaton and Jean-Philippe Vassal. Through their achievements, **designers reveal the value of certain kinds of waste**. By changing our view of their appearance and use, they show that **recycled materials are precious resources**.

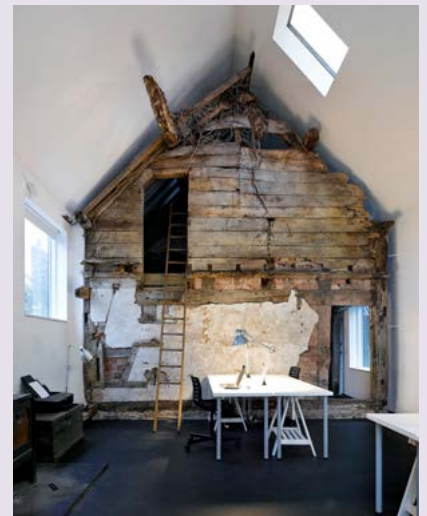
● Post waste

New soluble polymers for packaging, clothes made from algae and orange pulp, buildings constructed using sustainable materials or designed with eventual deconstruction in mind... Is a waste-free future possible?

Today, designers, engineers and scientists are questioning our dependency on consumption and systematic appetite for novelty. In this third, final part, visitors learn about the **new ways of thinking that visionary designers such as Samuel Tomatis and Tanguy Mélinand are exploring**. Their approaches contribute to the **elimination of waste, promote regenerative design and comply with the principles of the circular economy**.

Thanks to the efforts of designers working with materials such as mycelium, rice husks or agricultural waste, it is now possible to plan a future in which resources are managed in the long term and waste vanishes.

Waste Age is part of the "Sociétésience" editorial line, which brings together exhibitions that look at scientific and technological progress and its impact on our individual and collective lives. They provide a special arena for the social sciences and major societal issues.



Project: Croft Lodge Studio. Designed by Kate Darby and David Connor.
© James Morris



MR.84, 2016, materials: agar. Designed by Samuel Tomatis.
© Marin Avram

AROUND THE EXHIBITION

Interactive show

Hyper Conso Show

→ *Saturday 2 and Sunday 3 December 2023*

This participatory show by the Caribou Company asks visitors to question today's overproduction of disposable food packaging.

Event

1 Engineer 1 Project

A "Waste, water: engineers' solutions" weekend

→ *Saturday 20 and Sunday 21 January 2024*

Throughout the weekend, engineers from the waste and/or water sectors explain to visitors the projects they are working on.

ALSO AT THE CITÉ DES SCIENCES ET DE L'INDUSTRIE



Climate Emergency, the permanent exhibition

Climate Emergency provides an overall view of the mechanisms that could enable decarbonisation linked to the adaptation of our societies. It aims to show that the battle against climate warming must involve all of society's players to have any hope of achieving a decarbonised world by the second half of this century.

[Click here](#) to find out more.



City of Tomorrow, an exploration of 1000+ solutions, temporary exhibition

Until 7 January 2024, the Cité des Sciences et de l'Industrie is hosting *City of Tomorrow, an exploration of 1000+ solutions*, developed by the Solar Impulse Foundation. Echoing *Climate Emergency*, the exhibition focuses on ecological transition issues in urban environments, encouraging visitors to explore the many innovative approaches enabled by today's technologies, initiatives that can protect the environment while facilitating economic development.

[Click here](#) to find out more.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Cité des Sciences et de l'Industrie

30, avenue Corentin-Carou -75019 Paris
M Porte de la Villette T 3b

Opening hours

Every day except Monday from 10 am to 6 pm and until 7 pm on Sunday

cite-sciences.fr

Admission

→ €13, €10 (reduced rate for the under 25s, students, over 65s, teachers, large families)
→ €12 ("sustainable mobility" rate for cyclists or users of equivalent means of transport: scooter, Segway, etc.)
→ Free for the under 2s, jobseekers and those receiving minimum social benefits, the disabled and those accompanying them.

Admission includes access to Levels 1 and 2, the *Argonaute* and the planetarium.

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