

World #205

Clothing Library

A world where clothing is like water: it has no owner, but everyone is responsible for caring for it.

The Clothing Library.

Sutatausa, Cundinamarca

A community-based clothing circulation system.

Clothing belongs to no one, but it is everyone's responsibility to care for it.

Like water that never stagnates, garments circulate among members, promoting conscious and collective use. Following a herd mentality, where the community moves in unison, the Clothing Library fosters a sense of belonging through collaboration and shared commitment. It is a conscious and situated production system, where the dynamics are driven by use, practices, culture, and the region's unique characteristics, encouraging member participation in processes that interest them or with which they feel connected. In this case, Sutatausa.

The sheep, as an essential part of the system, belong to everyone, and working with wool creates bonds that strengthen the social fabric.

The materials used come from the local context, with wool being the main resource due to its durability and efficiency in the development of the clothing library. However, the need to integrate other materials through knowledge and service exchanges with other material systems is recognized. Once a base of garments is established for the operation of the material library, these are categorized according to the occasion of use, allowing for their continuous movement within the system.

The community actively participates in the spaces of production, transformation, and operation, accumulating points that grant them access to unique opportunities in the circulation of garments, such as extended return periods or access to new pieces. Beyond individual benefits, this system fosters collective participation and community commitment.

The system respects the community's principles of privacy, with short circulation periods that promote continuous exchange, even with other regions, leading to constant creative renewal. The cleaning system is centralized and sustainable, utilizing rainwater and solar energy, in harmony with the regional context.

Furthermore, the creation of a collective memory allows each garment to tell its story through creative interventions and repairs, promoting detachment and the continuous evolution of the pieces.

In this world, bonds of trust and close relationships are forged, facilitating the transfer of knowledge. Thus, the Predateca transforms the act of dressing into a collective and constantly evolving experience, like a flock moving in rhythm with the community.

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A collaborative environment is evident, where people shear sheep, hang the wool to dry, and perform various activities in shared spaces. The open structure of the dwellings and the arrangement of the tools suggest a system based on cooperation, where resources are not individually owned but rather worked collectively. "The process begins with the communal production of wool, where labor is shared and resources belong not to a single person but to the community. From shearing to drying and processing the fiber, each step is part of a collaborative cycle that strengthens the bond between those who participate."

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This system recalls the tradition of washerwomen, who throughout history have worked in public spaces such as rivers, communal washhouses, and fountains, transforming the act of washing into a social practice. In many cultures, these places were not only workplaces but also spaces for meeting, exchanging, and transmitting knowledge. In the context of this community, the work of washing wool maintains that collaborative essence, where knowledge is shared and the process is enriched by everyone's participation.

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The production process for these garments arises from a dialogue between the community and external perspectives. Each piece is constructed from shared concepts and explanations that emerge from collective experience. Interaction with external viewpoints enriches the process, generating knowledge and exploring new ways of dressing that combine tradition and innovation.

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The garment library is an exchange system that fosters collaboration and sharing. Here, clothing is reused and categorized according to materials, occasions for use, and level of alteration. Newer or trendier pieces have shorter loan periods, as more people are interested in using them. This space allows garments to circulate, transform, and acquire new meanings over time.

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At La Prendateca, garments are neither static nor definitive objects. They are constantly reinvented through collective design processes driven by the community. Each piece carries a story that is transformed in the hands of those who work on it, mixing techniques, materials, and concepts that give it a new character.

The renewal process is based on four fundamental principles: adding, disassembling, taking apart, and reassembling. Garments can be broken down into parts, reconfigured with new elements, or enriched with details and accessories that make them unique. This methodology not only extends their lifespan but also fosters community creativity, transforming each piece into a reflection of shared identity.

Furthermore, the blending of traditional and contemporary techniques gives rise to hybrid creations that enrich La Prendateca's aesthetic repertoire.

In this way, garments constantly evolve, adapting to new narratives and uses. More than mere objects, they are symbols of collaboration and transformation that circulate organically, carrying with them fragments of collective histories and shared memories.

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A Community-Based and Sustainable Washing System

Washing clothes is not an individual task, but a centralized community service that optimizes resources and ensures the proper care of each item. The system harnesses collected rainwater and uses solar energy to power the process, promoting a sustainable practice in harmony with the environment.

Furthermore, the system recovers the water used for pre-washing certain items, replicating ancestral and efficient practices already in use in the region, such as using wastewater from textile washing to pre-wash fleece.

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Each garment receives treatment according to its material and intended use. The community shares and compiles knowledge about specific washing techniques, ensuring that even the most delicate pieces remain in optimal condition. By integrating local knowledge and modern methods, a robust cleaning protocol is created that respects the essence of each textile.

The garments are also in constant motion, renewing and adapting over time. The washing process is not only a practical action but also a way to revitalize the garment for its next life.

Shared care strengthens community bonds and fosters a sense of collective responsibility. In this way, clothing remains alive, changing and adapting as part of a cycle in which everyone contributes to the constant flow of materials and stories.

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Day 150 : Process of re.invention - transformation of garments

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This garment is more than just an object: it is a living reflection of the community's history and its capacity for collective transformation. Originally, it was a shawl woven by Doña Luz María, used in celebrations and community gatherings. Over time, in new hands, the garment acquires a new character through the process of building and creating.

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Through a co-creation process, young and experienced hands, new and traditional techniques, and crochet pieces were combined. This intervention not only extended the garment's lifespan but also transformed it into a symbol of renewal and continuity. The result

is a hybrid object that honors the past while celebrating the present, demonstrating that collaborative design transforms not only materials but also stories and community bonds.

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The result is a starry skirt, a collective creation that shines with the stories of those who transformed it. Each stitch and each added fragment tells a part of its journey within the community, now renewed and ready to propose new ways of wearing it. With its fluid and enveloping design, the skirt continues its circular path, passing from hand to hand and accompanying new stories, like a sparkle that never fades.

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We want to express our deepest gratitude to the Sutatausa community for their dedication, commitment, and creativity in building the Prendateca (clothing library). Every contribution, every exchange of knowledge, and every act of care has allowed this community system to come to life and grow stronger every day. In particular, we want to recognize Stella Agaton Rodríguez, Luz María Rodríguez, and Josefina Bello Infante, whose dedication, experience, and warmth have been fundamental in transmitting ancestral knowledge of weaving and wool care. Thanks to them and all the members of the community, the Prendateca is now a vibrant space where the act of dressing becomes a collective and meaningful experience. Thank you for being part of this transformation!

[The above text taken from the original World#205 Prendateca document, created by Carolina UpeguÍ, Cristina Jaramillo, Luis Miguel Rodas and Clara Forero Lesmes, has been translated from Spanish to English using Google Translate. Any errors in the text are not attributable to the original authors]