

## Summary

### **ANNA PŁAZOWSKA / The Second Victor Papanek Symposium. “Emerging and Alternative Economies of Design. The Social Imperative of Global Design”, Vienna (14–15 November 2013)**

The Victor J. Papanek Symposium takes place every two years and serves analysing contemporary design practice which continues the legacy of the author of *Design for the Real World*. The meetings are held by The Victor Papanek Foundation and the Vienna University of Applied Arts.

The topic of the second symposium referred to the well-known aspect of Papanek’s activity – his inspirations with solutions deriving from cultures other than Western European ones and his long-term engagement in designing for benefit of the developing countries. Alison J. Clarke, the event’s curator, decided to focus the attention on the globally growing importance of design in economies of China and India and the potential of alternative design praxis developing in these two countries. The guest-speakers from Asia, Europe and the United States made up not only interdisciplinary but also multicultural overview of this issue.

The report discusses Frugal Digital initiative presented by Vinay Venkatraman, which was organised within CIID (Copenhagen Institute of Interactive Design). The work of this small team of designers focuses on cheap, experimental solutions that provide access to new technologies in the developing countries in socially important areas, e.g. health service and education. An interesting aspect of their activity is spotting and benefitting from the possibilities which are related to the culture of “technological craft” characteristic for the developing countries.

The paper by Makiko Taniguchi concerning shanzhai culture, and a polemic paper by Lucy Norris have also been covered in details. The latter one started with the analysis of mode of operation of clothing recycling industry in an Indian city of Panipat, it revealed inconsistency of the Western beliefs and practices related to ethic consumption of clothing.

In the conclusion the author wonders why, despite the interesting topic and the excellent speakers, the event itself hardly inscribes in Papanek’s ethos; she ironically suggests that perhaps the formula of an academic conference is not the best idea for the promotion of this designer’s views.