

Research Output 1

Compound 13 Lab

<https://www.compound13.org/>

Through a series of increasingly ambitious funded research programmes involving long-term collaboration between ACORN India and an interdisciplinary team of Indian and UK based artist-researchers, the project has built scale and reach that has led to the permanent establishment of a digital learning space in a purpose-built building in the heart of Dharavi. Compound 13 Lab is a space for experimental design and learning. Through a programme of workshops, design classes, and an artist residency programme Compound 13 Lab uses the materials and resources of Mumbai's recycling industry as the starting point for learning and teaching about ecological design and living solutions.

The Lab offers access to design and media tools, audiovisual technologies, 3D design, and digital fabrication to disadvantaged, marginalised citizens who, because of their socio-economic status, do not normally have access to these resources.

From this space, which under the conditions of COVID-19 is now required to operate virtually as well as physically, the project continues to break new ground in research. It brings an experimental and ethical approach to the generation of knowledge using a wide range of digital and physical tools, from smart phones and audiovisual technologies, to 3D printing, plastic remanufacturing, and design. The learning from the project is being shared with key industry and policy partners in India, notably Imaginarium Ptv. and the Maharashtra Government, through our partnership with arts venue and urban lab G5A and Shiv Nadar University. In this way we aim to influence policy thinking around the value of an informal circular economy.