

WONDERFUL WASTE



Gradually everybody is becoming more aware of the amount of waste we as humans produce and the way we are dealing with this waste. Funny thing is, in nature there is no such thing as waste since every element within the various ecosystems has a function and contribution, and in such is not wasteful. We as humans should alter our perspective and become aware of the potential of what we call 'waste' nowadays. We are well on our way on this route to awareness, but I think people's creativity needs to be sparked to trigger a way of thinking; that our waste is actually wonderful and useful for a lot of things. Great examples of initiatives that stimulate this way of thinking and provide the essential materials and inspiration are *Buurman*, *Scrap* and *Superuse Studios*, all based in Rotterdam.

Buurman, located in the industrial Merwe Vierhavens, functions as a hardware shop and creative workshop space all in one. It collects useful rest materials - waste - from construction firms, festivals, musea and other big companies and organisations, from scrap wood to electrical wires, you name it. These various materials are competitively priced and for sale in the Buurman shop. Next to the shop the creative workshop is located where multiple artists design and build their creations from the waste materials available at Buurman. They organise events and offer courses to learn how to design and build your own furniture or how to deal with different types of wood. They also work together with students via workshops. Additionally, do-it-yourselfers can join and use the machines in the workshop for a small price, with an expert available to assist.

Designing with waste materials at Buurman during a student workshop (www.facebook.com/buurmanmaterialen)

“Everything is already there, we just have to see and utilise it.”

- SUPERUSE STUDIOS



Scrap stands for “**Stichting CReatief hergebruik Afval Producten**” and was founded already back in 1984. Here, they also collect all kinds of waste materials, but in general of a smaller size than at Buurman. The most amazing things are gathered in numerous boxes and shelves around the shop; from empty bottle caps, via buttons to rubber insulation strips and old flagpoles. At every visit the collection is different and full of inspiring materials available for almost no money at all. Instead of courses, Scrap hosts workshops for groups, company events or children’s parties. They also do commissioned set designs or other creations and function as supplier of creative materials to institutes, schools, artists and creative individuals.

Superuse studios is slightly different, in the sense that it is actually an architecture office instead of a shop. The firm aims to make effective use of wasted resources and energy and has become a pioneer in the field of sustainable design. It is renowned nationally and internationally for its innovative design approach as well as for providing ‘open source’ methods and tools to the design community. Their ‘oogst kaart’ for instance maps various waste materials all over the Netherlands, making it visible and available for everyone interested (<http://www.oogstkaart.nl/>). All their designs - whether at an architectural scale or object scale - are made with locally found materials. They have many inspiring projects, such as a playground of old wind turbine parts or an espresso bar made of old discarded washing machines. Have a look at their website (superuse-studios.com) to get excited and head over to Scrap or Buurman to start your own project! And do not underestimate our social media, lots of tips and trick can be found on the internet or via pinterest for interesting home ideas or practical attributes made from “waste”.

The various boxes filled with creative waste materials at Scrap. **Left:** (spottedbylocals.nl), **Right:** (scrapxl.nl)

Superuse Studios projects:

Left: A playground made of old wind turbine parts (superuse-studios.com), **Right:** The espressobar made of old washing machines (archello.com)

