



"Future Gallery"



"Future Gallery" on site at Siemens Industrial Turbomachinery, Lincoln, © public works

2004 - 2006
Great Britain

Locations

Siemens Management Forum in Nottingham, Siemens Communication Partners in Hitching, Siemens Energy Services Limited and Siemens Power Generation in Newcastle, Siemens Heads of Finance in Oxford, Siemens Automation and Drives and Siemens Power Transmission and Distribution in Manchester, Siemens Automation and Drives in Congleton, Siemens Power Generation in Harrogate, Siemens Magnet Technology in Eynsham/Oxford, Siemens Rooke Manor Research in Romsey, Siemens Industrial Turbomachinery in Lincoln, Siemens Financial Services in Harrow, Siemens Headquarters UK in Bracknell

Cooperating Partners

Siemens Corporate Communications UK and Siemens Arts Program

Artists

public works (Kathrin Böhm, Andreas Lang, Stefan Saffer)

Project initiative and realisation

Karolin Timm-Wachter (Siemens Arts Program)

Publication

"Future Gallery" complete with reproductions of the drawings and interdisciplinary articles, ed. by Siemens Arts Program, Siemens CC UK, and public works, published in English in spring 2007



Participant in the "Future Gallery" workshop at Siemens Automation and Drives, Congleton, © public works

For some years the London based artists and architects group public works has devised platforms, situations and participatory projects aimed at communication and exchange. Since October 2004, Kathrin Böhm, Andreas Lang and Stefan Saffer have worked on the invitation of Siemens Arts Program and Siemens Corporate Communications in Great Britain on the in-house project "Future Gallery". The project, which has been running at thirteen locations in the UK with the active participation of Siemens employees, explores people's personal expectations as to how the company will develop in the future.

Initially the public works group devised a mobile exhibition and drawing tool which enables employees from different fields to formulate and visualize their own picture of Siemens' future, quite independently of



Employees analysing their drawings at the "Future Gallery" exhibition at Siemens Energy Services, Newcastle, © public works



Employees drawing their Future ideas at Siemens Financial Services, Harrow, © public works



Artist and manager talking about the future at Siemens Headquarters UK, Bracknell, © public works

the "official" vision presented by the company itself. In a series of workshops, Siemens staff members and artists worked closely together to produce drawings, collages and texts.

The compact, multi-functional tool enabled an extensive exchange of cultural information: by functioning as a place for discussions, as an exhibition space, and as an open workshop, the "Future Gallery" regularly came up with new, informal approaches for examining topics from private and working life. The resulting drawings reflect the special possibilities for communications involved, and the professional backgrounds of the individual work groups. The drawings and comments from each specific workshop remained with the exhibition tool and served as creative input and inspiration for the subsequent groups. In some cases they reflect a number of conflicting topics, such as corporate identity, personal expression and teamwork, professional and personal communication and social interaction.

An integral part of the project will be a concluding publication. Experts from various professions will be invited to make a selection of the around 500 drawings, to comment on them and to respond to the project as a whole. In this way the works that have been amassed by the "Future Gallery" will be analyzed and interpreted from differing standpoints, allowing a multi-faceted picture of the company to emerge.

In June 2006, "Future Gallery" received the Arts & Business Employees Award. Presented on an annual basis, it is regarded as the most prestigious prize for projects in Great Britain conducted as partnerships between business and the arts; in this category, it is conferred specifically on projects that involve the employees. The organization "Arts & Business", which has now existed for 30 years, sees itself as a creative network that promotes the dialog between art and business.



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