

Manufacturing machines of the future near you

NEW MOVEMENT IN MINI-FACTORIES DESIGNING THEIR OWN DESKTOP TOOLS



Rachael Turner of Madlab attended Fab12 in Shenzhen

TALKING DIGITAL

with Rachael Turner, Director of Manchester Digital Laboratory (MadLab)

WE'VE been in China for the last fortnight, introducing some of our local digital 'making' community to Chinese manufacturers.

Each year, members of more than 1,000 worldwide Fab Labs gather for a conference to share, collaborate, explore and, of course, fabricate!

This year, for the 'Fab12' conference, we met in Shenzhen, a historically important city for manufacturing and making.

China has recently embarked on a major programme to foster innovation and technology, so the focus was on producing the manufacturing machines of the future.

Makerspaces like MadLab are all about learning, sharing skills, and inventing new things. In Shenzhen, we talked about 'what's next?'

And the answer is 'machines of the future,' which will allow us to do some of the work that factories do today, in our own workshops, labs and spaces. There's a huge movement, of smaller organisations or even individuals who are becoming

their own mini-factories - designing the desktop tools they need to manufacture products.

People like Manchester resident Rachael Moat, a music teacher who taught herself electronics, because she saw an opportunity to help enhance the lives of the young disabled people she works with.

Rachael wanted to use low-cost technology to create musical devices that would encourage her pupils to interact more with the world - including those who can't manipulate a traditional musical instrument. So she started to make

prototypes, using mainly free 'open-source' tech, which worked really well.

Then she set about figuring out how to put those components together herself - to make a smaller, cheaper version that more people could use - as the prototypes cost more than £100 to make.

Rachael needed to find a manufacturer, but found that most didn't want to produce in 'low volumes', as it's not economical for them. So we introduced Rachael to Seed Studio in China - a unique studio which works to bridge the gap between

makers and manufacturers. Which brings us back to theme of the Fab12 conference. It's great that Rachael is now able to bring her products to manufacture, but we want to make sure that in the future, she doesn't need to go to China to make it happen. We want to see more small-scale localised 'factories' here in Manchester - and we need to help more people learn how to make it happen too. MadLab is a grass-roots community tech 'makerspace', based in Manchester city centre.

To find out more, visit www.madlab.org.uk.

WIN YOUR DREAM BEDROOM WORTH £3,500!

This year Betta Living celebrates their 50 year anniversary, and to commemorate Betta Living and Manchester Evening News are giving away a free bespoke fitted bedroom worth £3,500. One lucky reader will win the bedroom of their dreams and with over 90 designs for the winner to choose from there really is something for everyone.

To win this amazing prize, simply collect six tokens over the next two weeks which can be found on the coupon opposite and drop off your answer to a member of staff at any one of the Betta Living Showrooms listed above between 10am - 5pm. You can enter as many times as you like with a complete coupon. All valid entries will be included in a raffle and the winner drawn at random. Postal entries will not be accepted. **Entries must be received by 5pm on Monday 29th August.** Any entries received after this date will not be counted.

Barton Square - Betta Living, Unit 2A
Barton Square, The Trafford Centre,
Manchester, M17 8AS - 0161 974 0639

Stockport - Betta Living,
204 Wellington Road, Stockport
SK1 3UF - 0161 476 1380



TODAY'S TOKEN

COLLECT SIX FOR A CHANCE TO WIN!



full name

address

postcode

tel

email

M.E.N Media and Betta Living may contact you by email, phone or letter with details of goods and services you may be interested in. If you would prefer for your information to not be passed on to selected partners please tick here



Terms and Conditions: The competition opens from Monday 8th August and closes on Saturday 20th August. The closing date for entries for this competition is 5pm Monday 29th August. All entries must be given to a member of staff at one of the Betta Living Showrooms listed above. Postal entries will not be accepted. The prize is a fitted bedroom worth £3,500 and includes a champagne reception at Betta Living's showroom to take a look at the designs available, followed by a home design consultation with one of their interior designers. Using their photo realistic CAD design system the winner will be able to see exactly how their new fitted bedroom will look. Betta Living will provide the furniture as per your agreed design. Survey and fitting fees are included. The winner will be contacted within 14 days of the closing date. The prize is non-transferable with no cash alternative. By accepting the prize the winner consents to take part in all publicity. Standard Trinity Mirror terms and conditions apply. See manchestereveningnews.co.uk/rules