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**DORI RECOMMENDS**  
02.03.2008 - WRITER  
**SEAN MCMANUS**  
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## CHRISTMAS MARKET IN DESIGN CENTRE

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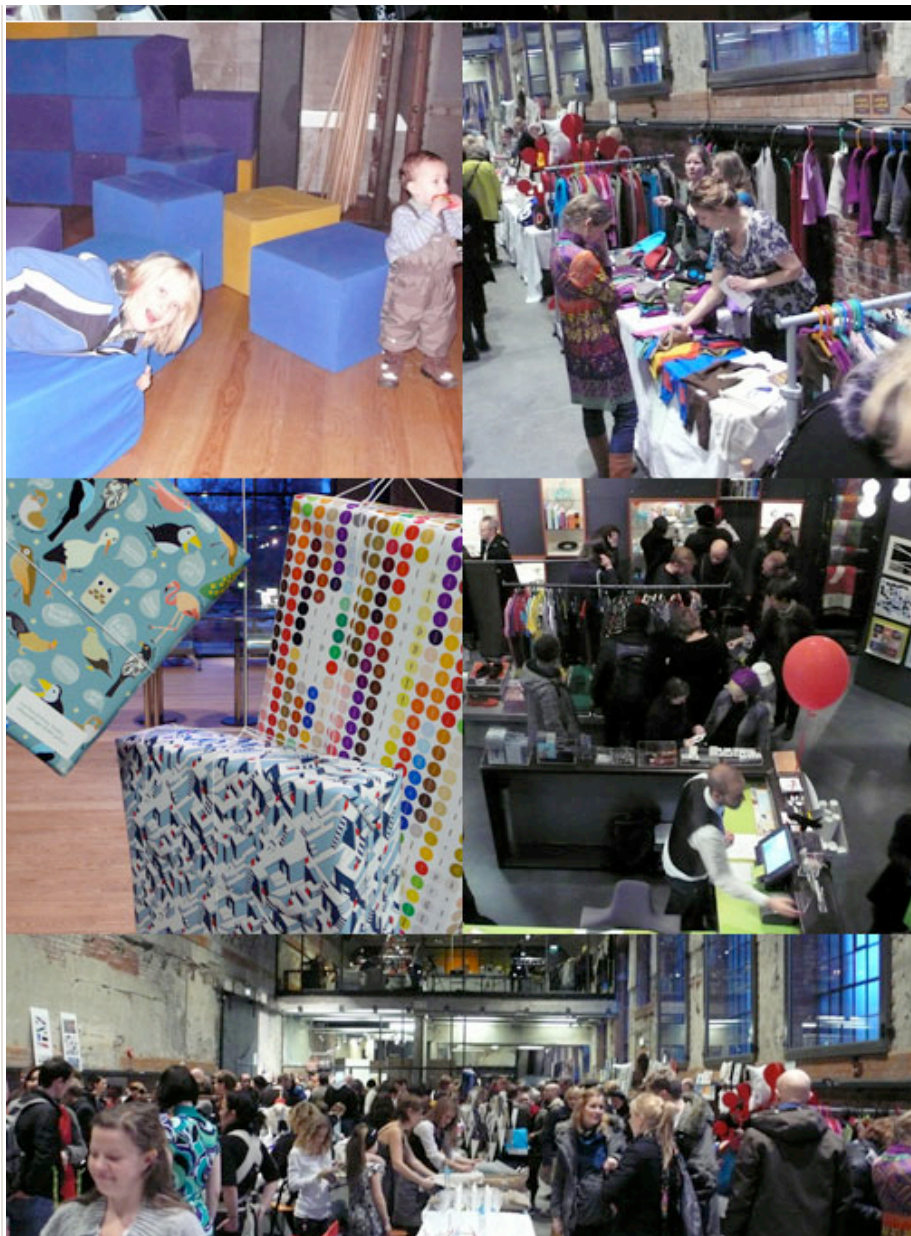
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 Design Business  
 Business and Design  
 Stockholm Preparation  
 END OF YEAR  
 PONDERINGS  
 Christmas Market in Design  
 Centre  
 Myalgic Encephalopathy

We went to the Christmas Market that is held every year in [DogA](#) , the centre for Design and Architecture here in Oslo. The Centre houses [Norsk Form](#) and [The Norwegian Design Council](#). The Centre is in a new location in central Oslo where it opened three years ago. The Building is a redesign/rehab done by very competent Norwegian architectural practice [Jensen Skodvin](#). This Christmas Market represented the interest people have to craft based practice (kunstfag) in Oslo where the applaudable local production and tradition prevails. I have never been to DogA with so many people at the same time. Not even when we opened our 'End of the Year' show last spring. Usually this centre is rather empty and the [Elvebredden Restaurant](#) always with plenty of free tables. It is great when design centres can attract people in this way and design becomes part of every-day-life rather than an elitist institute. My impression is that the effort of the centre to attract the public is high while it still has a kind of a prestigious attitude towards its surroundings. This might be due to the architecture rather than the people in there but hopefully over time this place will become a must for all people in Oslo, not only for the design and innovation freaks.

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My reflection after the visit, (we did actually buy some nice Christmas presents) is:

Where are the innovative people ?

Where are the creative innovative designers with new solutions?

Yes, true! Our students run their own Christmas Market in an other location and we did actually also visit private Christmas Markets in private flats in town. Those visits are pleasant with chat about production and methods while at the same time helping young people (often students) to make some money towards their flat-rent.

I know that there are young innovative and creative people in Oslo. They include my students and many many more. So, my reflection might come to these conclusions:

- a) The young people do not want to be associated with DogA because they think it non-cool.
- b) It might be too expensive to take part in this market, and if that is true the government support for design is not used for the young people but for middle aged people with good financial circumstances.
- c) DogA does not invite younger innovative designers to their market.

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I have not researched for the reasons, but will ask. This does though reflect little the comments that I have heard around town from various designers like: "When we got the design recognition price, it was five years too late. When we were starting out we really needed support, applied and got nothing. We did not really want the recognition from them when we at last were offered it."

Are there two design groups in Oslo? Those that like the Design Centre and those that do not want to be associated with it? How can that issue be addressed? Or should we just assume that this is normal state of things?

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## USER COMMENTS AND FEEDBACK

No comments posted.

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