FRESH CATCH FOR SPRING

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- Earth to Table: Home design with the elements
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THE DESIGN ISSUE
SPRING 2012
Children's Museum of Pittsburgh has partnered with Carnegie Mellon's Entertainment Technology Center (ETC) and the University of Pittsburgh Center for Learning in Out-of-School Environments (UPCLOSE) to create MakeShop, a space within the Children's Museum dedicated to nurturing and furthering informal learning opportunities and research-based understanding fit the intersection of the digital and the physical. As a collaborative project among the fields of research, design and practice, MakeShop is a laboratory for curiosity, creativity, exploration, and innovation that is focused on providing kids, their families, interest-driven, hands-on learning experiences.

MakeShop is a new, 1,800 square foot permanent exhibit in the Children's Museum staffed by a team of makers—crafters, inventors, hackers, educators and artists—with expertise in a range of informal learning spheres, including making, woodworking, metalwork, electronics, interaction design and digital media. As a physical and conceptual expansion of the Museum's philosophy, MakeShop will engage in the process of designing, exploring, tinkering, sharing ideas, iterating and building with old and new technologies. In this open-ended experience, visitors are encouraged to investigate how things work, consider materials and techniques fit, play, and develop interests and valuable skills that may extend beyond their museum experience.

MakeShop was conceived as space for the Museum's older child, ages 8-12, who is developing fluency with emerging and transitional technologies, and might be inclined to engage in a deeper, sustained and extendible informal learning experience with knowledge, peers, parents and teachers.

What Do You Want to Make?