

Tasty spoons and drinkable clouds: **the art of engineering**



Wednesday
5 December 2012
5.45pm

Venue:
Royal Academy of Engineering
Prince Philip House
3 Carlton House Terrace
London SW1Y 5DG

Tasty spoons and drinkable clouds

Two engineers from both sides of the Atlantic who work at the interface between engineering and the arts show the impact creative thinking can have on our daily lives – including the ways we understand food, taste, and the dining experience.

Mark Miodownik, co-founder of the UCL Institute of Making in London, and David Edwards, founder and director of The Laboratory in Harvard University and Le Laboratoire in Paris have both dedicated their careers to promoting dialogue between the worlds of engineering, art and design. In this one-off event, they discuss their different approaches to bridging disciplines and fostering creativity, and showcase some of the tastier ideas that have emerged from their work – including cutlery that alters the flavour of meals, cocktails that come enclosed in their own skin, and treats that aren't swallowed, but inhaled.

You are invited to the Royal Academy of Engineering for an evening of stimulating discussion and futuristic food.



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Professor Mark Miodownik



Mark Miodownik is Professor of Materials and Society in the UCL Mechanical Engineering Department. He received his PhD in turbine jet engine alloys from Oxford University in 1996. His main research area is self-organising and self-healing materials on which he has published more than ninety papers. He is the Director of the Institute of Making which is a multidisciplinary research club for those interested in the made world: from makers of molecules to makers of buildings, synthetic skin to spacecraft, soup to clothes, furniture to cities. Professor Miodownik is a broadcaster and writer: he gave the 2010 Royal Institution Christmas Lectures, and presented a three-part BBC TV series on materials science called *How It Works*, which was broadcast worldwide in Spring 2012.

Professor David Edwards



David Edwards, a creator, writer, and educator, teaches at Harvard University and is founder and director of Le Laboratoire in Paris, France. His work, which spans the arts and sciences, has been featured prominently in the international media, and is at the core of a network of art and science labs in Europe, USA and Africa (ArtScience Labs).

David Edwards' work includes new approaches to treating infectious diseases, as pioneered by the pharmaceutical company Pulmatrix, and the nonprofit MEND; it includes new ways of eating, such as Le Whif, and Le Whaf, as commercially developed through the FoodLab of Le Laboratoire; and it includes new ways of cleaning the air with plants, such as Andrea, commercialised through the cultural incubator LaboGroup. David Edwards' work also includes new approaches to experimental learning through art and science creation including the ArtScience Prize, and the Idea Translation Lab.

David Edwards lives primarily in Paris, France, while he teaches at Harvard University in the School of Engineering and Applied Sciences, and is a member of the Wyss Institute for Biologically Inspired Engineering. Beyond David Edwards' scientific publications, for which he was made the youngest member of the National Academy of Engineering in 2001, and, later a member of the French National Academy of Engineering (2008), he has written widely on creativity in the arts and sciences. For his essays and novels and notably his work as founder and director of the art and design centre in Paris, Le Laboratoire, David became a Chevalier des Arts et des Lettres of the French Ministry of Culture in 2008.

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Programme

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5.45pm Registration

6.15pm Presentations by Professor Mark Miodownik and Professor David Edwards

6.55pm Discussion and audience Q&A

7.30pm Drinks reception

8.30pm Close

RSVP

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Royal Academy of Engineering

As the UK's national academy for engineering, we bring together the most successful and talented engineers from across the engineering sectors for a shared purpose: to advance and promote excellence in engineering.

