THE DISRUPTIVE DESIGN GANG

SUPERPOWER ACTIVATION KIT

FOR CHANGE MAKING CITIZENS OF THE WORLD

DEVELOPED by SUSTAINABILITY PROVOCATEUR
UNEP 2016 CHAMPION OF THE EARTH,
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ABOUT

This powerpack is all about fostering unconventional approaches
to creatively addressing the systems, rather than the symptoms, that
led to the origin of the problems that we see in the world.

EVERYONE has the capacity to affect and activate positive change, no matter
how big or small your sphere of influence is. The future is undefined; it's
written by the actions of those that exist in the present.

So let's redesign the world so it works better for all of us.

Welcome to the gang.

~ Dr. Leyla Acaroglu

WE ARE ALL CHANGING THE WORLD ANYWAY

SO LET'S DO IT WITH INTENT & THE POWER TO IMPACT POSITIVE CHANGE

We put the tools of change in the hands of the community

The Disruptive Design Gang is all about creating a global **collective of creatives** who are actively working on changing the world around them in small or massive ways so that it works better for all of us.

We are building a strong community of people just like you who want to activate their sphere of influence to **creatively contribute to solving and evolving complex social and environmental issues** in the beautiful planet we all share.

If you're tired of sitting on the sidelines, unsure of what you can do right now to see more of the **kind of world you want to live in**, then this is the place for you. If you're already active and want to supercharge **your influence**, then we have got the space for you to make it louder.

We put together this toolkit of superpowers for every active citizen of the world who wants to **participate with more purpose** in the construction of the systems around us. The 10 powers are based on a wealth of scientific data and the Disruptive Design Method.

DESIGN THE FUTURE FOR ALL OF US

Bring out your inner rebel, and get creative about changing the world.

The Disruptive Design approach to making change in the world incites intervening in the status quo. It requires a critical and flexible thinking framework, *along with a rebellious flair.*

It's all about you identifying and developing **your own way** of becoming a systems change interventionist, actively building your community muscle, and enhancing your creative capacity to **make change in the world** around you.

We **design the future** with every action or inaction that we choose to take, so let's work together to design the type of future we want to live in.

Disrupt Design **builds tools and approaches** that help people like you who are ready to participate with more purpose and intent and to think differently about our agency and capacity to make change.

The **superpowers in this pack** are distillations of things we have learnt while going about developing an **activated change-making practice**.

We constantly learn new things and are **committed to sharing** our insights on how to change the world, with the world.

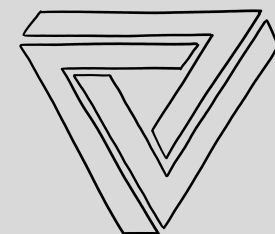Let's get right into the change-making superpowers– here are your **first 2 powers**!

SYSTEMS

THINKING
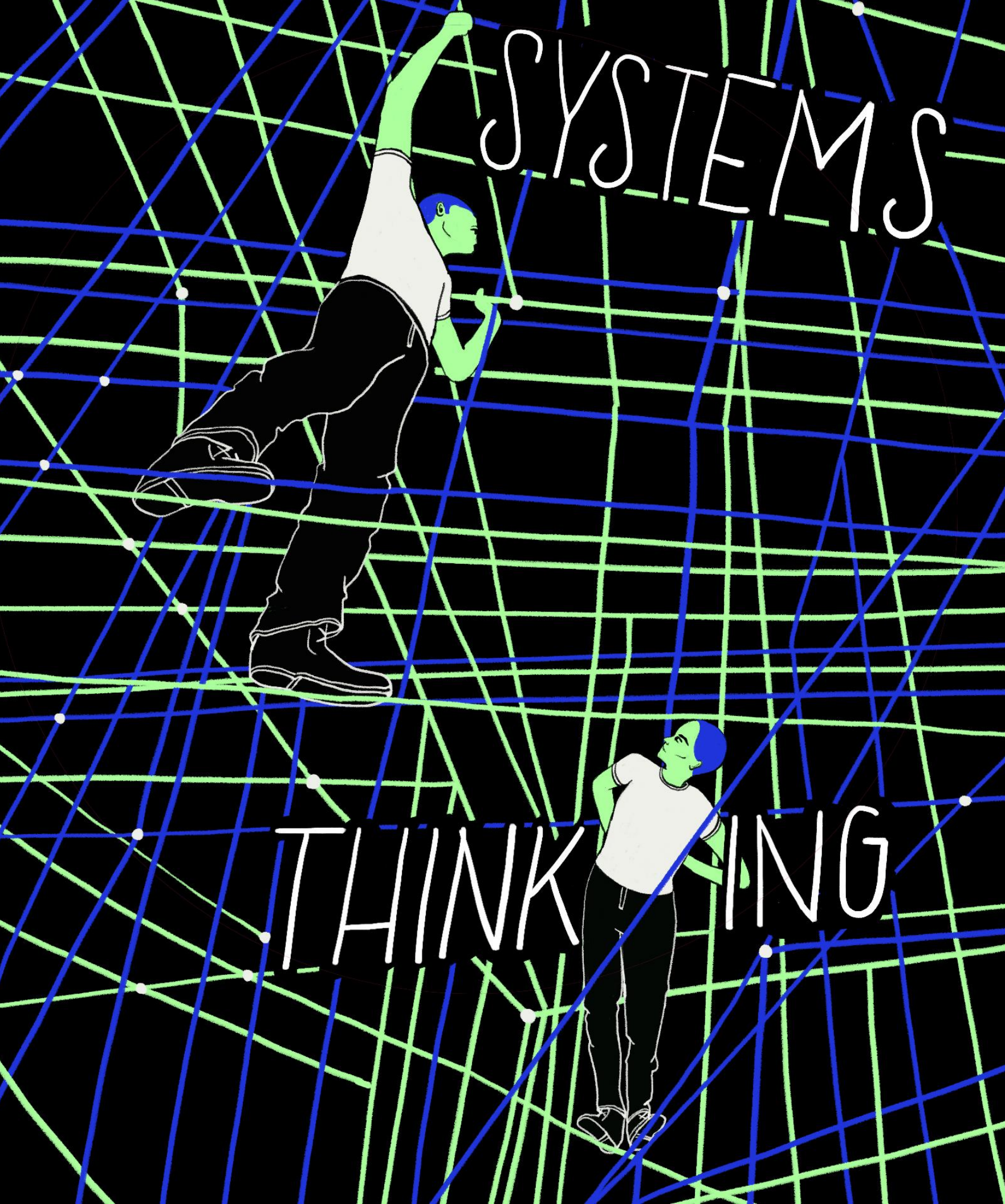
SUPER POWERS

THE POWER
OF SYSTEMS
THINKING

SUPER POWER

THE WORLD IS MADE UP OF COMPLEX, **BEAUTIFUL** INTERCONNECTED SYSTEMS.

This beautiful chaotic mess of **intertwined issues and opportunities** can often make us feel **overwhelmed** and sometimes, disabled. But the **choice** to not actively participate in changing a system is, unto itself, an act of change. So let's get active in systemc change!

Yes, it can get complicated as we learn to embrace the chaos and diversity of the **human experience**, as well as the interconnected systems at play in the world around us, but we have to find ways to see inside the systems and **find connections** to build a systems perspective of the world.

We often try to solve a problem with the **same thinking** that led to the problem to start with, which, as Einstein says, is a really ineffective way of shifting the problem to a solution.

It's time to start investing our creative capacity into **systems redesign**, rather than just ad hoc contributions to the status quo.

The Power of Systems Thinking offers a unique way of **exploring, identifying, and creating tactical interventions** that leverage systems for positive social and environmental change. We **seek** out the messy obvious parts of a problem and then **dive into the problem set** and seek to uncover all the hidden system dynamics that make it up.

This approach is designed to challenge the way we think and to re-orientate our perspectives from a linear to a systems view of the world around us. It helps you find **uniquely-you** ways of intervening and creatively challenging the status quo to then help you participate with more **intent and purpose**.

SUPER POWER
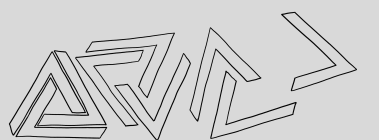
Everything is interconnected in some way. This is the most fundamental part of systems thinking. There are feedback loops and flows, all of which give insights into the ways the world works, how we we can operate within a complex whole, and how we can **activate our agency** to effect change in the world around us.

Humans have a predisposition to avoid change and seek out comfort because **change can be uncomfortable.** But, like the 500BC Greek philosopher Heraclitus said, **"The only constant in life is change."**

The word change actually means to 'make' or to 'become different' – no matter if we're talking about objects, people, or the natural world. So, we must challenge ourselves to uncover the hidden systems at play and **learn to love the problem**!

Systems explorers dive into the murkiness of materiality, social conditions, and omnipresent forces that make our lives **great and shitty at the same time**. They seek out the **hidden parts** that maintain the systems at play and find unique and **counterintuitive ways of intervening to shift the status quo** in the incredible world around us.

We can mine problems, explore systems, and build solutions in nonlinear, divergent ways. **Systems thinking is the backbone** to the Disruptive Design Approach to making change. It's also the creative approach to understanding and intervening in the world around you.

SUPER POWER

We will be honest – this is hard work! But if it were easy, then everyone would have done it by now. Everything worth doing requires work, and **from hard work comes big rewards!**

There is nothing like the payoff from the challenge of creating an incredible outcome. When have you ever met a creative who said, "That's too hard for me,"? **NEVER!**

HOW TO DO YOU DO THIS?

1. Shift your thinking from linear to circular.
2. Find ways of re-imaging the status quo.
3. Embrace complexity, challenges, tension and the uncomfortableness of not knowing the correct answer right away.
4. Identify the points of intervention that you have within your own sphere of influence.
5. Develop your own secret sauce for intervening.

Intervening in the status quo requires a **critical and flexible thinking framework** (along with a bit of **rebellious** flare!).

From a systems thinking perspective, we say today's problems were yesterday's solutions. So, let's embrace complexity in order to get to the solution that **works better for all of us**.

Together, we can make the old obsolete and the new **possible, desirable, and sustainable.**
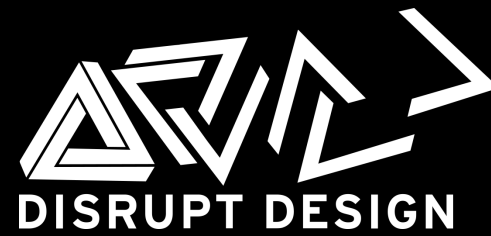
WANT MORE?

Stay tuned to collect all the superpowers!

Join the gang at disruptdesign.co

Take classes on the theories that back
up these superpowers at
www.unschools.co