



Design itself IS a process of constant education – for the people we work with and for, and for ourselves as creative professionals.



Emily Pilloton

□ *Design iconoclast, builder, social activist, and champion of industrial design as a tool to change the world.* □

Emily Pilloton fervently believes that design solutions can empower people, community, and economies, and she has set out to prove her point by challenging the design world to join her in building those solutions:

“We need to go beyond ‘going green’ and to enlist a new generation of design activists. We need big hearts, bigger business sense and the bravery to take action now.”

A Pop!Tech Social Innovation Fellow 2009, USA Network’s Character Approved Award Winner, and a guest on The Colbert Report, Emily was also chosen for The Nifty 50 in the *New York Times’* T Magazine, a list of America’s up and coming A designer on paper and high school teacher in practice, Emily works at the intersection of design and public education, believing that creative problem solving and hands-on building are an untapped opportunity within education and communities.

Founder and Executive Director, Project H Design; Industrial Designer, Architect Educator, Author.



A of the Curve

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Project H Design

Emily Pilloton is the founder and director of Project H Design (design initiatives for Humanity, Habitats, Health, and Happiness), a nonprofit design and architecture nonprofit that connects the power of design to the people who need it most, and the places where it can make a real and lasting difference. Project H has a core focus on **using design and full-scale building projects** to activate public education systems in the US and to provide a more engaged learning framework for K-12 students, particularly in rural communities. For her most recent initiative, **Studio H**, Emily is teaching a high school design/build program in the poorest county in North Carolina.

Project H has also created the **Learning Landscape**, an active educational playground that promotes more engaged outdoor learning. Other projects implemented by local Project H teams around the country include therapeutic spaces for children in foster care homes in Austin, a public school curriculum focused on local food production and waste in New York, and a homeless-run design enterprise in Los Angeles.

Eloquent and passionate about her mission, she lectures on the importance of social action and building, the design revolution, design for empowerment, low-tech, hands-on built solutions. She believes that design should not be focused on “want-driven” consumption of in luxury markets, but rather “need-driven” solutions for all demographics traditionally overlooked by the design market.

Emily is an industrial designer, architect, writer, and builder. In the past she has contributed to magazines such as *GOOD*, *FastCompany*, *ReadyMade*, *Interior Design*, *ID Magazine* and *Innovative Home*. Her work has been reported and showcased on The Colbert Report, and in *The New York Times*, *Metropolis Magazine*, *Dwell Magazine*, and *GOOD Magazine*.

Studio H

Studio H a high school design/build program in rural Bertie County, North Carolina, the poorest and most sparsely populated county in the state. Integrated into the public high school curriculum, Studio H teaches students design thinking and hands-on construction skills to build one big public project for local community benefit each year. Every project will be designed and built by students alongside their instructors.

The first projects are inspired by Bertie County's agricultural economy and high obesity rates: an open-air farmer's market plaza and public chicken coops. Studio H hopes to infuse rural public education with design activism, and in doing so, apply public education to greater community development.

• Credentials

- Founder and Executive Director, Project H Design
- Co-Founder and High School Instructor, Studio H
- Former Managing Editor, Inhabitat.com
- *Pop!Tech* Social Innovation Fellow, 2009
- Former Adjunct Professor of Designed Objects, the School of Art Institute of Chicago
- Former Adjunct Professor of Design, Illinois Institute of Art
- M.A., in Designed Objects, School of the Art institute of Chicago
- B.A. in Architecture, UC Berkeley

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