

Knowledge recovered from the deep should be shared.”

National Archaeological Museum in Madrid until November. — HB



3D vision *Barcelona* [BUSINESS]

Europe's first 3D-printing and laser-cutting café has just flung open its doors in Barcelona's Eixample district and designers are already queuing up to use the complementary technology. Patrons at FabCafe can rent 3D printers and laser cutters for under €50 per hour.

Opened by Cecilia Tham this year, it is the newest addition to the MOB (Makers of Barcelona) co-working space, which the American ex-pat created in 2011. For Tham, the FabCafe is a logical addition to the space that is home to over 200 creative and design-based entrepreneurs. “People pay a membership fee and can come to use the facilities as they please,” she says.

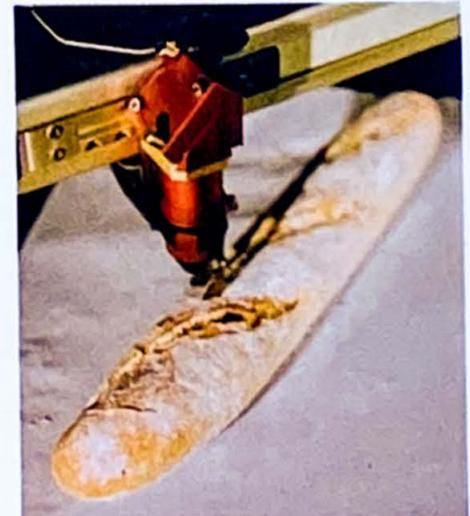
The FabCafe concept has its origins in Japan, where the company Loftwork created the concept.

Tham was inspired to bring the franchise to Europe, buoyed by the local talent pool and encouraged by Barcelona's city council.

“Barcelona is the only city in the world with plans to introduce 3D-printing workshops to every neighbourhood in town,” she says.

Visitors to FabCafe range from local design graduates to curious amateurs. Brazilian-Italian designer Bianca Cheng Costanzo is one of several entrepreneurs who is already seizing on its potential by using the café's laser cutter. It was used to design the stencils for her cashmere Bloom Blanket, which was inspired by the geometric forms found in origami. She initially planned on crowdfunding €10,300 to produce just 40 blankets. However, after just 30 days, the proposal had raised an impressive €150,000. “It has quickly become a full-time job,” she says. — LA

fabcafe.com/barcelona



Q&A.