CASE HISTORIES

"A COLLECTION OF SUCCESFUL AND INTERESTING EXPERIENCES IN THE INTERACTION DESIGN FIELD..."





Since the beginning of time, humans have always had this fascination for the market. Sell, buy, barter all kinds of possible trade and businesses: i give you money, you give me camel, etc. The market shaped the ancient cities, in Greece and Rome, in the Western part of the world as well as in the East. The Japanese ideogram for city comes from "market"; short circuits between different civilizations happened because of this desire and need of commerce. Marco Polo was a trader, Samarkand, Hong Kong and San Francisco were all born as trading posts. The market shapes our cities, our culture, our life. If to this universe you add the Internet and fun part of an auction, then you get 34,100,000.

What is this number? The amount of active users on the ebay platform who bid, bought, or listed over the year 2003. \neg







In the image: Jamal El Fnaa, Marrakesh, Morocco.

EBAY.COM

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PROSTHETICS

The first Terminator movie was shot in 1984. It was only 20 years ago but it looks a millennium ago. Although we thought that Arnold Schwarzenegger was a science–fiction character, we now understand he was not. Not because he became the Governor of California, but because he was making a documentary on possible applications of contemporary prosthetics.



SENSORIZED PYJAMA

These pyjamas are a great opportunity to talk (finally) about the so-called "technology transfer". What's a "technological transfer?" Easy. It is when you have an astronaut suit filled with sensors to measure the astronaut's condition (heartbeat, blood pressure, various body-generated data) and you move it into another realm. In this case, a hospital, specifically the pediatric unit. Child-sized pyjamas, with all these sensors, let you measure the condition of the child patient right away.

Space Suit–Mamagoose display. Project by ESA.



OBJECT ISMART SUITS

SPACE FUNCTION

The experiment is done how the furneral fully makes it left process environments, fully and a second fully makes in left process environments, fully and a second fully fully and environmental fully process and a second fully fully and addition procession for permitting on the second fully addition procession from permitting and second fully addition procession from permitting and a second fully fully addition for the second for permitting fully and addition of the second for permitting for addition of the second for approximation for the addition of the second for approximation for the second permitting and a second for approximation for the second during the Excernance of the second for approximation for during the Excernance of the second for approximation for the second for the second for the formation for the second during the Excernance of the second for the formation during the Excernance of the second for the formation during the Excernance of the second for the formation during the Excernance of the formation during the second during the formation for the formation during the formation of the formation during the formation during the formation during the formation during the formation of the formation during the formation of the formation during the formation

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IPOD ITUNES

We have this feeling that the iTunes/iPod system was an enormous success because of its perfect overlap between the service and the product. \neg

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If your perfect service is carried by a perfect product, you multiply their power. Apple did this great thing, of transforming a good service into an object of desire. Designing desire is always the first step to increase market share.

iPod and iTunes are projects developed by Apple.



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SEARCH 1

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RYANAIR





Alexandria, The Name of the Rose, Borges, the unaccessible libraries in the Vatican City...

A whole world shaped as a library. A whole library shaped as a world. A library that is more of a concept than a physical place. At first precious collections belonging to kings and emperors. Then to monks in the monasteries of the European Middle Ages. The concept remained, changing shape and its physical manifestation over the following centuries. The library became public, the library became synonym of collective memory. In the digital age, paradoxically enough, the finest public library is a private enterprise. For an author, to achieve recognition is no longer to be published, but rather to be in Amazon's web-based catalogue. It started with books, tapes, and little by little it is wrapping itself into an enormous collection of goods and services.

AMAZON.COM



Your wallpaper is boring.

No, wait: you do not have wallpaper in your house, not any more, precisely because it is boring. On the other hand, your house is full of large boxes that deliver exciting information when they are on, and simply take up space when they are off. What if wallpaper turned into a medium, a kind of large quiet display, quietly presenting the information of your choice?

Computer-controlled thermal plates activate a color transition in specially-treated wallpaper, turning on and off credit card-sized pixels. A greyscale image or short fragments of text can be appreciated from a distance; the same plates can also operate as touch sensors, turning the wall into an input device. This device gives you information only when you want it. And when you want to be quiet, it literally disappears into the wall.

Interaction Design Institute Ivrea 2004. Project by Dario Buzzini and Massimo Banzi.

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NOT SO WHITE WALLS





INSTANT SOUP

Making physical prototypes that can talk to a computer is tricky. Even a designer who knows how to code will rarely be familiar with the highly specific and temperamental tools that run on small, single-chip systems. Plus, the language of electronics is a combination of complex physics, engineering approximation, commercial practices and cryptic part numbers: not something that can be acquired rapidly—or pleasantly. The Instant Soup project proposes a set of friendly tools and instructions that enable interactive designers to make physical prototypes that move, blink and make noise.

The basics of electronics, programming and repurposing commercial hardware—"hacking"—are presented through a sequence of exciting, carefully crafted, canned interactive design experiences, that can be used as part of a course or as stand-alone learning material. It is our hope that at the end of the Instant Soup designers will be able to make their own soup, or at least order it in the right way.

Interaction Design Institute Ivrea 2004. Project by Yaniv Steiner, Massimo Banzi, Giorgio Olivero, Paolo Sancis, Michal

http://instantsoup.interaction-ivrea.it





LONDON SCIENCE MUSEUM

One of the natural applications of interaction design is the universe of museums. In almost every western language, 'museum' is a synonym for 'boredom'. \neg

Terrifying displays, lengthy explanatory notes, dusty artefacts. Interaction design proves that this universe is not static and can change. There are a number of institutions where you can see this process happening. The Science Museum in London is one of these. Feel free to explore the Wellcome Wing or spend a nice afternoon in the new 'Energy' section.

Interactive Gaming Tables by Durrel Bishop and Andrew Himiak at the Wellcome Wing. $\hfill \neg$





The best selling computer game in history, first released in 2000 and then supplemented with expansion packs. The Sims, in brief, allows you to play God. You build the environment where a group of artificial people live... Happily? Hatefully? Violently? You decide. There is no stated goal in the game, so people play it according to their own characters. The Sims players really like to be gods of their own pocket universe. So much that, when Maxis launched The Sims Online, a multiplayer environment where humans could interact in a Sims–like world through various themed cities, the project flopped. Not enough customers were interested: game + internet does not equal success necessarily. The Sims 2, by the way, is single–user.

The Sims is designed by Will Wright at Maxis, a division of Electronic Arts.

THE SIMS

THE METHOD O





UNDERSTANDING

Design by James Irvine and Maddalena Casadei.

F INTERACTION





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Whatever we might write, say or comment on Google is quite obvious and already stated. If you create a product, and this product becomes a verb "to google", from then on, there isn't much to say.

What fascinates us the most are Google's secondary features and functions: Google University, Google Blogger, special searches and Google Labs; and the service where you volunteer to translate all the texts in your own language; the locally-based search; the Yellow Pages search, or the product-based search. You can google on different platforms: on your palm, on your phone, then in your hard-disk. Have you tried? And the translation services, aren't they disturbing? Yes, disturbing but at the same time intriguing. Like the relationship between Google and money. Google in your own hard disk, try typing your own namethe results will be rather spooky.

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The relationship between military research and human progress has been fully explained by Manuel De Landa in his book "War in the age of intelligent machines" published in 1992. From the age of the catapult to today, technology moves forward because of military research. It was like this for Carthage, Rome, the Middle Ages and during WWII. In each case, the real money went to the real need: to fight people who do not belong to your family/clan/city/state. Of course, it is now the same. The real money goes to military research. What is left goes to porn, but that's another story.

MILITARY RESEARCH



CAR NAVIGATOR

There isn't much to say about the car navigator. What's intriguing from our point of view is to understand why we don't have a human navigator. It would be rather easy and simple. It would be very useful and handy. Still no one has one. When we drive a car it is such a relief to have someone telling you where the next gas station is, or which direction you are supposed to go. This would be even more useful when walking. Still, for some unknown reason, although such a product exists, almost no one uses it.





Imagine a super-talented and skilful surgeon. There are only two or three like him in the world. He is based in Seattle and cannot spend all his life travelling. At the same time, it is very difficult and incredibly expensive to move patients. What to do? To invest money in robotic surgery, improving the state of the art until we reach a level where the surgeon moves his hands using

instruments in Seattle, and a second pair of instruments operates on the patient in Nairobi.

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Is this science fiction? No. It's already real. Now.

The "da Vinci" surgical system by Intuitive Surgical.

ROBOTIC SURGERY

ATM

CONTROL OF

EXCHAN ATM 24

WEST

BANK OF AYUDHYA

The best interaction design is the invisible one. The one that creeps into your life and you don't even notice. When we drink a glass of water, we never think about the enormous achievement of hydraulic engineering. We simply drink a glass of water from the kitchen tap. The same applies to interaction design and ATM machines. Do you remember that we used to live in a world where ATM cards were not there?

NUDHYA

In the image, a curious mobile ATM machine.

บนา ธนาการกระกร้อยธยา



We all love Bernini and Borromini, we all love Baroque architecture. You enter a church and you get numb. The power of architecture is astonishing. Techno–baroque is similar.

We went to New York, we went to L.A. The dream of modern architecture was a positive one, to use modern technology to build fancy chairs for the working class. The chairs are still fancy, the working class became middle class and still does not sit on (or like) Mies' or Breuer's tubular stuff. Having to choose, we do prefer the decadent approach used by Koolhaas for the Prada stores. He does things for rich people and doesn't even lie about it.

Hail to the rich!

In the image: Delayed Mirror project by IDEO with OMA-AMO.

PRADA DELAYED MIRROR



In the future everybody will have a videophone, we fear. Not only we will be able to sound dull and embarrassed, we will even look dumb—with uniformly oversized noses. The third generation of phones will put us on a stage. One of the traditional solutions to the horrors of live performance on stage is playback.

And this is exactly what Phony Star does: we can be turned, on demand, into videostars, and impress our friends and lovers. Prepare your videophone call, choose an audio track from a library of songs made for seducing, impressing and terrifying your friends. At the right point of the conversation start the music and be a star!

Interaction Design Institute Ivrea 2004. Project by Søren Pors.

PHONY STAR



PROCESSING /WIRING

Designers don't like programming, they like to design, to experiment, to sketch and to try out things. Most programming environments don't lend themselves to exploration: the steep learning curve beginners must laboriously climb makes it hard to get satisfaction from what they do. "Processing", a Java–based programming language that runs under Windows, MacOSX and Linux; and "Wiring", a simple programming language that runs on a small and cheap single board computer; aim to squash that toe. Both languages provide a friendly environment, where programs are entered into an editor, compiled, debugged and executed with great simplicity.

"Processing" and "Wiring" provide both the first step into programming the PC and embedded systems, but also enable a user to engage in higher complexities "Wiring" provides a set of primitives for controlling lamps, motors and data streams based on the input from buttons and sensors.

Interaction Design Institute Ivrea 2004. Processing is a project by Casey Reas and Ben Fry. Wiring is a project by Hernando Barragán. http://processing.org | http://wiring.processing.org



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i-mode. In Japan it has been the key phenomenon for a whole generation of consumers. In Europe it really never caught on. Until now. From now on, we don't know. It might develop, it might fail. The original Japanese service was quite simple and easy. You are on a subway, endless time to commute back and forth to and from work, in a social environment where to talk is considered inpolite. Imagine that you have a cellphone through which you can reach a wide selection of services. Chit chatting with your friends, dowloading various kind of content, playing games and using it for practical purposes as well as just for leisure. The i-mode's Japanese success was because the phenomenon started with teenagers. This was the biggest difference from European WAP. While the i-mode was for the teenager, WAP was for the businessman, busy with his endless financial transactions. Teenagers versus businessmen. It looks like a stiff competition but the distance might be not as big as it looks.

I-MODE



100E

RECEIVER-TRANSMITTER, RADIO RT-654A/TRC-77

> BAG, COTTON DUCK CW-618/TRC-77

BATTERY ASSEMBLY BB-447A/TRC-77

> CABLE ASSEMBLY, POWER, ELECTRICAL CX-11127/U

ANTENNA SUPPORT (PART OF ANTEND AT-1098/TRC-77)

KEY, TYPE J-45

OVER, BATTERY BOX CW-619/TRC-77

HEADSET

SUPPORT CORD WEIGHTS (PART OF ANTENINA AT-1098/TRC-77)

INTERNET FOR WAR

Let's face it, the Internet was born for war. Its basic protocols —ignore the WWW and anything of interest to mere users: we are talking about shuffling raw bits from point A to point B— were born to cope with the occasional node ceasing operation due to overpressure, fireball or neutron shower. But now that the hoi polloi are using the Net to send each other PowerPoint presentations with cute slobbering puppies, the effusive characters from the military–industrial–academic complex have started dreaming about "a highly secure Internet, in which military and intelligence activities are fused". Or, more revealingly, "a God's eye view: and that's real power". It sounds like a combination of the UPS tracking system, Google and Amazon. Maybe it is time that the boys in green took something back from civilian systems.



CABLE ASSEMBLY, SPECIAL PURPOSE, ELECTRICAL, BRANCHED CX-11389/TRC-77A



48 / CASE HISTORIES / titolo del caso







RFID & DRUG BOTTLES

Radio Frequency ID is the new old technology from the '70s that suddenly bleeped onto everybody's radar. Privacy advocates are terrified, Wal–Mart is audibly panting in excitement, MIT has set up a research center about it. Tiny tags, readable and writable from a distance, carry just enough bytes to be useful and dangerous: a product ID, an SSN number, a crypto key. Potential applications range from the ho–hum automated check out in supermarkets, to slightly spooky Benetton scenarios where the store recognizes what sweater you

日本日期日

are wearing and proposes matching socks, different from the ones you bought two weeks ago in Sydney; to seriously scary giant interlocking databases where you, the customer/citizen/culprit/target, are pinpointed and flayed on the anatomical table of perfect identification. What is stopping them? Civil liberties? No. It is just that RFID's price curves are still over the magic red line of one eurocent apiece. Wait till it gets there, and privacy will be simply too cheap to meter.









titolo del caso / CASE HISTORIES / 49



COMMUNICATION A



EVOLUTION OF COMMUNICATION

EVOLUTION OF NETWORK

Design by James Irvine and Maddalena Casadei.

ND INTERACTION



EVOLUTION OF INTELLIGENT OBJECT

NETWORK AND FUTURE

