

Report from RIHA Mediating Presence Workshop – On Place, Stockholm 14-16 March 2012

120404/Charlie Gullström, Activity Lead



The EIT ICT Labs Presence Lab 2012, KTH Campus

1. INVITATION

The date for the workshop was communicated in November 2011 and again in January 2012. An invitation was distributed across the ICT Labs network, on the project testbed, and to all who have previously shown interest in RIHA Mediating Presence. The workshop attracted 20 participants.



INVITATION TO WORKSHOP “Mediating Presence – On Place”
in the EIT ICT Labs Presence Lab at KTH, Stockholm 14-16 March

Dear colleagues,

We are writing to inform you about an upcoming workshop within the "Mediating Presence" activity of EIT ICT Labs.

This first workshop explores the concept of place in relation to Mediating Presence. The workshop takes place in Stockholm 14-16 March and launches the **EIT ICT Labs Presence Lab**, a disused reactor hall on KTH campus.

The first workshop day focuses the theoretical body of knowledge relating to shared mediated spaces, while the following days are devoted to prototyping in the Presence Lab. You can find a draft agenda here, on the project testbed: <http://www.being-here.net/page/5516/en>.

In the workshop, theoretical engagement is interwoven with rapid prototyping. A special focus will be given to the concept of transparency, and to the role of im/materiality in mediating presence. Invited guest speakers will contribute to this topic and discuss its relation to innovative glass craft and artistic research.

The number of participants at the workshop is limited. If you have related research interests and would like to contribute, please send an introductory email to Charlie Gullström (charlieg@kth.se) and Caroline Nevejan (nevejan@xs4all.nl) by 15 February and we will let you know if we can offer you a place at the workshop.

Dr Charlie Gullström (Activity Lead)
KTH Royal Institute of Technology
Dept. Architecture

Dr Caroline Nevejan
TU Delft
Dept. Systems Foundations

The research programme Mediating Presence is part of ICT Labs of the European Institute of Technology (EIT), through its research action line ICT-Mediated Human Activity (<http://eit.ictlabs.eu/research/research-action-lines/ict-mediated-human-activity/>)
The Mediating Presence activity develops throughout 2012, consisting of four workshops and one experience lab: the EIT ICT Presence Lab (<http://www.r1.kth.se>).
The workshop on Place takes place in Stockholm 14-16 March.
The workshop on Time takes place in Delft/Eindhoven 18-20 June.
The workshop on Relation takes place in Stockholm 18-20 September.
The workshop on Action takes place in Delft/Eindhoven 21-23 November 2012.
Please see the project testbed for more information: <http://www.being-here.net/page/4802/en>

2. PARTICIPANTS

The following people participated, representing the following institutions:

KTH:

Charlie Gullström - host and organizer: mobile: 0707153425

Leif Handberg

Ann Lantz

Anders S Christensson

Jesper Olson

Joakim Lööv

SICS:

Magnus Boman

Luleå U:

Peter Parnes

TU Delft:
Caroline Nevejan
Karen Lancel
Tjerk de Greef
Catholijn Jonker

University of Cambridge
Satinder Gill, Research Affiliate, Centre for Music and Science, Faculty of Music, University of Cambridge <http://legacy.mus.cam.ac.uk/external/research/CMS.html> (no lactose, no porc)

University of Leiden
Frans Willem Korsten, Professor in Literature, University of Leiden
<http://www.eshcc.eur.nl/korsten/>

Konstfack
Rolf Hughes, Professor in Design Theory and Practice-based Research Dept. of Ceramics and Glass/The Experience Design Group/Konstfack <http://www.designingtime.se/who/> Senior Professor in Design Research, Sint-Lucas School of Architecture, Brussels/Ghent
Reino Björk
Charlie Stern, Glass artist <http://vimeo.com/26760133> (will participate Thursday until 4pm)

Artist & Designers
Anna Carlgren, Glass artist www.carlgren.com/ (Anna needs to be absent a little Thursday afternoon)
Hermen Maat, Artist and designer <http://lancelmaat.nl/>

3. PROGRAMME

It was decided that this first workshop would take place in Stockholm to launch the EIT ICT Labs Presence Lab at KTH, a disused reactor hall on campus. In line with what the work group had agreed at its initial workshop in Eindhoven, November 2011, the first workday would focus the theoretical body of knowledge relating to shared mediated spaces (theme Place), and what may be said to constitute "A conceptual toolbox for presence design" while the following days were to be devoted to prototyping in the Presence Lab.

In this way theoretical engagement was interwoven with rapid prototyping.

Our four workshops in 2012 also serve to develop the BeingHere testbed. The plan, as agreed at a preparatory workshop in Eindhoven 2011, is that the work group uses the BeingHere testbed to write and comment on texts and ideas (both before, during and after the workshops) in such a way that new texts, ideas, presence demonstrators, applications and co-authored papers are generated throughout 2012.

A special focus was given to the concept of transparency, and to the role of im/materiality in mediating presence. Invited guest speakers contributed to this topic and discussed its relation to innovative glass craft and artistic research.

The programme is seen below:

Wednesday 14 March:

(e.g. 7AM flight from Amsterdam to Stockholm)

11.30 Bag-drop at Hotel Birger Jarl (www.birgerjarl.se). 15-minute walk to KTH main campus, Charlie will meet you by reception 11.30 and accompany you)

12.00 Lunch in the The Presence Lab - our EIT ICT Labs experience lab (Use the stairs on Osquldas väg 9, see directions by email)

-Welcome and introductions by Charlie Gullström & Caroline Nevejan

-The origins of the reactor hall, by Leif Handberg

13.30 Talk 1: Caroline Nevejan: Witnessed Presence & the Being Here testbed

-Discussions

15.00 Talk 2: Franz Willem Korsten: Address of attention & Address of expression

-Discussions

16.30 Video loop exercise and leg stretcher

17.00 Talk 3: Charlie Gullström: A conceptual toolbox for Presence Design

-Discussions

18.00 Final discussions

19.30 Dinner, Restaurant Buco Nero, Roslagsgatan 4 (quite near the hotel) <http://www.nerostockholm.se/nerostockholm-buconero.php>

Thursday 15th March:

8.15 Meet in reception, walk to tube, take tube to Telefonplan

9.00 Workshop at Konstfack University College of Arts, Crafts and Design (on the topic of im/materiality, hosted by Professor Rolf Hughes and with contributions from glass artists Anna Carlgren and Charlie Stern.

Detailed programme:

Time: 9.00-12.30

Place: Glass Workshop, Konstfack

Theme: Material Matters: the im/material hinge in contemporary making practices & artistic research

9.00: Welcome + Opening remarks on Im/materiality in Artistic Research by Rolf Hughes, Professor of Design Theory and Practice-based Research, Konstfack.

9.30: Anna Carlgren (directeur, VRIJ GLAS Foundation): Glass art and/as artistic research: on starting a glass laboratory for artists who wish to undertake artistic glass research.

www.vrijglas.org

10.45 Coffee break

11.00-12.00 Charlie Stern: Charlie Stern's presentation will sketch im/materiality in terms of the material culture of glass craft with reference to Småland, the industrial glass area of Sweden. This will be contrasted with the practice of 3D visualisation and designing with digital tools. These associations will be presented as opposing forces but also as linked and layered frameworks when related to interaction design and digital fabrication. Charlie's presentation will

be accompanied by a glass-making demonstration by Reino Björk, glass artist and lecturer at the Department of Ceramics and Glass, Konstfack. In this combination, the im/material hinge in contemporary making practices will be staged for participants.

12.00-12.30: Open discussion of core themes/areas of potential research development.

12.30: End.

12.30 Tube back to Tekniska Högskolan for lunch

13.00 Lunch in the 1930s station building 'Östra Station'

14.00 Two parallel prototype sessions will take place (we form two groups):

Inspirational talk by Satinder Gill on Body Moves

Inspiration talk provided by Catholijn Jonker on the Pocket Negotiator

Inspirational filmclip by Microsoft research <http://youtu.be/ewmw8fUTa0Y>

Prototype 1: "Shared negotiation space", chair: Charlie Gullstrom

Prototype 2: "Octagonal Hang-out", chair: Leif Handberg

17.00 Groups share what they have produced

18.00 Continued prototyping & Dinner (catered to us)

22.00 Sleep

Friday 16th March:

9-11 Prototyping, continued.

11-13 Identify next steps: framework for co-authored papers, demonstrators and applications

13.00 Lunch (a salad on the premises) & departures

4. DOCUMENTATION OF THE WORK PROCESS

Participants co-authored notes from the different sessions, in real time using google-docs: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1qLjLgjbLwogPFO5vIM_yCvftdE21UOLa757JDE3qdAE/edit

Two students from the KTH media technology programme documented all sessions using video camera and still camera. The footage will be made available shortly via the project testbed.

A panorama shot from the prototyping is already available via <http://photosynth.net/view.aspx?cid=1810965d-5f0e-4ce5-be19-a0b2e8ea8b21> (Peter Parnes)



A report of the workshop and its outcome was made by Charlie Gullström at the RIHA meeting regarding project formulation 2013, in Eindhoven 4 April.

Below are some snapshots from the Workshop on Place 14-16 March:

Handing out the Collection of our Starting Body of Knowledge in Presence Design



Initial build-up A Collection and Documentation of our starting Body of Knowledge



Nevejan C. 2007. *Presence and the Design of Trust*. Doctoral thesis. University of Amsterdam.
This dissertation explores how the design of presence and the design of trust affect one another. In this study 2 networked events in the early days of Internet have been analyzed, the Galactic Hacker Party in 1989 on the Scroopositive Ball in 1990. To better understand how presence and trust are intertwined, the YUTPA framework is developed suggesting that 4 dimensions of time, place, action and relation define how people perform presence and establish trust as result.



Gullström, C. 2010. *Presence Design: Mediated Spaces Extending Architecture*. Doctoral thesis. KTH Royal Institute of Technology
This dissertation explores mediating presence from an architectural perspective. In juxtaposing the tools of the designer (e.g. drafting, prototyping, visual/textual/spatial forms of montage) with those of architectural theory, it seeks to extend the disciplinary boundaries of architecture by observing its assimilation of other media practices.



AI & Society, Special Issue 2012: *Witnessed Presence* (guest editors: Nevejan, C., Gill, S.)
In this special issue of AI & Society, Journal for Knowledge, Culture and Communication, published by Springer, 11 scientists and academics explore the notion of Witnessed Presence.



Witnessing You. *Artistic Research into Being and Bearing Witness* (forthcoming 2012).
In this book, edited by Caroline Nevejan, 13 artists share artwork and reflections on human experience of being and bearing witness in a networked world. For the development of sustainable social structures in future networked societies, witnessing is fundamental. It is key to establishing trust; it is key to a human being's potential to take responsibility for one's own life and another's; and it is key to emerging social structures at large.

All participants were given a box with the above documentation, which was made possible from initial funding the the activity, in 2011.



Handing out 'the Collection' Inaugurating the EIT ICT Labs Presence Lab



Inauguration of the Presence Lab

The EIT ICT Labs Presence Lab was formally inaugurated by a Welcome Dinner.

Presentations by experts

Invited speakers addressed central issues relating to Mediating Presence in order to establish common ground among participants:



The im/material hinge in contemporary making practices & artistic research

An incredible and skilful demonstration of virtual and real glass-blowing took place on Thursday 15 March 2012 at Konstfack University College of Arts, Crafts and Design in Stockholm. The event was part of the workshop and attracted 20 additional researchers, designers and artists from Konstfack, KTH and TU Delft.

The glass-blowing session was entitled: 'the im/material hinge in contemporary making practices & artistic research'



Rapid prototyping and theoretical discussions

- Material matters: the im/material hinge in contemporary making practices and artistic research
(Konstfack University College of Arts, Craft and Design: Rolf Hughes, Charlie Stern, Anna Carlgren)



A short filmclip from the mind-blowing glass-blowing session at Konstfack is available here:
http://youtu.be/IrJ0of_WOUE

Rolf Hughes, Professor of Design Theory and Practice-based Research, Konstfack and acting Head of the department of Ceramic and Glass, spoke on the topic of Im/materiality in Artistic Research.

He was followed by Anna Carlgren (directeur, VRIJ GLAS Foundation): Glass art and/as artistic research: on starting a glass laboratory for artists who wish to undertake artistic glass research. www.vrijglas.org

After this, glass artist Charlie Stern's presentation sketched im/materiality in terms of the material culture of glass craft with reference to Småland, the industrial glass area of Sweden. It was contrasted with the practice of 3D visualisation and designing with digital tools. As seen in the filmclip, Charlie Stern's presentation was accompanied by a glass-making demonstration by Reino Björk, glass artist and lecturer at the Department of Ceramics and Glass, Konstfack. Several master students also contributed.

In this combination, the im/material hinge in contemporary making practices was staged for participants.

(For more on Charlie Stern, see World of No Craft <http://vimeo.com/26760133>)

5. SNAPSHOTS FROM PROTOTYPING



Rapid prototyping and theoretical discussions

- Shared negotiation spaces: The Mediated Sketching Table





Rapid prototyping and theoretical discussions

- Shared negotiation spaces: The Mediated Corridor – The Crossroads – Octagonal Hangout

