Workshop Hosted by the Intelligent Media Initiative

Intelligent Environments for Public Space

Role of Digital Technology in enhancing peoples' experience of public space.

Background: We are increasingly seeing the emergence of 'intelligence' embedded into places and artefacts to create environments that are responsive to the presence of people. These include embedded sensor networks and technical textiles in clothing, and electronics embedded in vehicles and buildings. These systems are creating the possibilities for different relationships and usages of space. Space will become increasingly sensitive and responsive to their users, enabling novel interaction possibilities and in the future, perception and even experiences. This workshop will explore these changes in the context of public space.

Purpose: This IMI workshop aims to bring researchers, industry and key opinion formers together for an evening to explore the impact of emergent technologies on user experience in public spaces. The event will specifically explore how technology can enhance user experience and how multi–disciplinary approaches can maximise the positive impact of those technologies.

Participants: Invitees will be from a range of backgrounds including Architecture, Electronics, Computing, Social Science, Urban Planning, Design, and Geography. The workshop will explore the potential application of emergent technology from different perspectives addressing issues of theory and practice including participative design, enhanced learning, social connectivity and play in public space. Discussion will also explore how technologies will be applied across sectors (e.g. culture and heritage) and in supporting sustainable urban communities.

Content: The workshop will map current developments in underlying technology that will make radically new applications possible including ubiquitous computing, facial and emotion recognition, active badging, wireless networks (e.g. Ultra Wide Band), signal processing, positioning technologies, tracking and monitoring systems, context awareness, AI and others.

Format: Keynote speakers will give short presentations around the twin themes of:
Enhancing the quality of peoples' experience in public space.
Providing security for people in public space.

Three guest speakers will address the key themes from their own unique perspectives.

Technology - Robin Manning, Futurologist BT: Insights into possible future scenarios related to the impact that digital technology will have on the public experience and use of public spaces. (recent article)

Security - Gloria Laycock, Director of the Jill Dando Institute: The role that technology can play in reconciling security with enhanced use and enjoyment of public space**.** (personal web page)

Experience – Usman Haque, Designer and Researcher: The role and impact of technology in enhancing user experience and community use of public space. (web site)

The presentations will introduce the two headline themes and provide insights into possible future scenarios. After the opening presentations, attendees will divide into two groups tackling one of the two headline themes. A chaired debate between invited panellists will kick-start an open discussion around issues of importance and interest as the basis for future collaboration. The drinks reception will provide further opportunities for networking.

Outcomes and Follow Up: A report of the event will be circulated to attendees. The IMI team of Business Development Managers will actively follow up project ideas/networks and will provide ongoing support in developing projects, for example facilitating future meetings or investigating funding.

Location: The workshop will be held at **RIBA on the 05 October 2006 from 5.00pm- 8.30pm.**
Participation in the workshop is free but spaces are limited and will be allocated on a "first come first serve" basis.
To book your place, please visit www.intelligent-media.org/register_ie_event.
You will receive confirmation of your place, full event details and delegates list.