

Reflection



Exploring intuitive and aesthetic interaction

I was interested in this elective since I wanted to learn how aesthetics could enhance the user satisfaction while interacting with everyday life products. I expected to obtain knowledge about intuitive- and aesthetic interaction since that could improve the user experience in its rich embodiment and expression. In my development as designer I missed some understandings of the communicative qualities of materials, shape and movement. Therefore I was really enthusiastic about the way we could apply different theories in order to create rich interactions considering human intuitiveness. I believe this awareness can lead to an avoidance of miscommunication in my future designs. Since I focused a lot on the physical product I was busy with reflecting on the design its qualities constantly. This resulted in the valuable improvements for me in choosing for the best interactions possible. I think that the theories, for example the design framework of Frogger explained during class, can be applied to all designs I will make and can therefore help to realize rich interactions thereafter. Next to this I improved skills on wood crafting, since I had never build complicated small-scaled mechanisms like in this developed prototype. Whereas the interaction needed to be fluently in order to get the intended interactions, I needed extreme focus on the mechanism.

This developed skill can help me to develop sophisticated movements better in future work. This is an improvement in my designs, because I really envision my work to be as intuitive as possible in order to prevent miscommunications. These will be eliminated when considering and working out the interactions of my designs appropriately.

I do think that there were some skills that could have been developed in this course as well. In future projects I want to increase my focus on concept visualizations by means of realizing videos. This time I was too busy working on the prototype, because that had my main interest beforehand. Furthermore, I should have focused our design more on the aesthetic part. Right now we faced different problems concerning the intuitiveness of the product. Therefore there was more effort put in to improve the design on that part. For the future work I also want to consider the aesthetics more, since they now were less convincing than meant to be. This can be seen in the choice for material, which we now based on structure and relief, instead of the meaningful appearance in its look.