Self Assessment

The project I'm planning to do is called Augmented Reality MAPS, as the definition says, Augmented Reality (AR) is "a technology that superimposes a computer-generated image on a user's view of the real world, thus providing a composite view". From an academic point of view, the idea to develop this project was decided due to my inclination towards the computer graphics field. I always wanted to explore and learn more about how the three-dimensional model can somehow improve our lives.

Here at the University of Cincinnati, there are not many courses that allow a student to learn about video-gaming, rendering, animation, and graphics. My dad is an architect and I have been always passionate about his work with CAD software in buildings creations. With the Introduction and development of the AR and VR technologies, I feel like the line between human and machine is getting narrower with time, and present this is project now, can be the beginning of something important, a potential landmark when these technologies will be introduced as courses in the Computer Science Academic program in the years ahead.

Going into my Senior Year, there are not courses that are really guiding me in developing this project better. Probably CS4033 (Artificial Intelligence) thought by professor Bhatnagar by the end of this terms might give me some tools to make the environment of my project more user-friendly.

However, during these years, I had the occasion to follow a User Interface (CS5167) and a Computer Graphics-OpenGL (CS5160) class thought by Professor Han and create a solid relationship with him. During these classes, I learned graphics from a pure coding point of view, without the shortcuts of the simple click or CAD software, and most of all, how the interface is such an important element to help the users to achieve their goals. From a co-op point view I have been working as UC IT at Career and Development Center, taking care of the website through the CMS system, so I have to deal with Web design issues more than 3D dimensional ones, but I increased my User-Interface and Javascript knowledge.

As a preliminary approach for my project, I had to find somebody that was sharing my vision and Benjamin Porter which I had several classes with, for the past 2 years of school was interested in creating something related to Augmented Reality. As a group, we are totally diving ourselves into an unexplored field. This is the future, and knowing what application our project can be used for, if successful keep us motivated,

The expected Result is a simple map system able to guide the user to the destination without following a GPS elevated point of view based on a virtual map, but the real view of the streets, giving information about everything that gets in touch with the user through the device. We will call it done when the result will be somehow functional but due to the area we are working it will never be considered completed.