Indian American-led Team Creates 'Buddy' Robot that Wins Innovation Challenge

Pavithra Ramamurthy (right) and Tingyu Li pitch their "Buddy" speech therapy robot for children with cleft lip and palate.

A team of Indiana University graduate students, including Indian American Pavithra Ramamurthy, April 11 was named the winner of the third annual Cheng Wu Innovation Challenge.

Ramamurthy and teammate Tingyu Li created "Buddy," a robot that encourages children with a cleft lip and palate to undergo speech therapy in the form of storytelling in their homes, among friends and family, the university said in a news release.

For claiming the top prize, the graduate students beat out seven other entries and won $7,500. Children born with a cleft lip and palate experience social stigmas because of their physical differences, the university said.

Both Ramamurthy and Li are second-year master's degree students in Human-Computer Interaction Design at Indiana University's School of Informatics, Computing and Engineering.

Excerpted from the story at http://www.indiawest.com/news/global_indian/indian-american-led-team-creates-buddy-robot-that-wins-innovation/article_087bec6c-4747-11e8-b3e7-5f4a927c636a.html

Most Important Information Designer Will Burtin

Will Burtin, a German information designer who pioneered human-centered design principles before they were a buzzword. Now, this new book, 'Journey to understanding' about Burtin's work hopes to give him his due.

Read more at fastcodesign.com

Opera launches a new mobile browser

Opera today announced a new mobile browser, Opera Touch, that shows that there's still plenty of room for a competitor in the mobile browsing world. Opera Touch takes some ideas from the company's experimental Opera Neon desktop browser and packages it into a highly usable package for Android, with an iOS version coming soon.

Read more at https://techcrunch.com/2018/04/25/opera-launches-a-new-mobile-browser/

New York's User-Centered Design Experiment Gains Traction

Ariel Kennan worked for Apple in those early retail years, and she became a convert to what the company called "service design." "Apple Stores are incredibly designed experiences," she says, "the look, the feel and how people interact with customers. Apple thought through all of this."

Now Kennan is putting her Apple experience to work in a dramatically different context. She is in New York City, running the new Service Design Studio at the Mayor's Office for Economic Opportunity.

Excerpted from the story at https://nextcity.org/features/view/bicycle-urbanism-by-design

Chrome's Canary reveals UI refresh

Read more at https://www.computerworld.com/article/3269115/web-browsers/chromes-canary-reveals-ui-refresh.html

High Design: The Growing Role of Design in the Cannabis Industry

Read more at http://www.core77.com/posts/65384/High-Design-The-Growing-Role-of-Design-in-the-Cannabis-Industry

3D Housing at Milan Design Week

https://www.nytimes.com/2018/04/24/t-magazine/design/salone-internazionale-del-mobile-highlights.html

Tech4home Wins Red Dot Award for Innovative Design

https://www.broadcastingcable.com/post-type-the-wire/tech4home-wins-red-dot-award-for-innovative-design

Gmail's biggest redesign is now live

Today, Google is making official the changes we saw leaked earlier this month, with email snoozing, nudging, and confidential mode making their debut alongside a substantial visual redesign for Gmail on the web.

Read more on theverge.com

Georgia's Path to Better Design

Georgia Chief Digital Officer Nikhil Deshpande compared the way his state's website looked in 2002 versus 2012, and the difference was clear. "The problem is that [the 2002] website was designed without the user in mind," he explained.

In designing that older site, the state worked under the assumption that anyone trying

to access state information goes to ga.gov, and the site then sends them to the appropriate page they need. But when looking at the example of a Georgia resident trying to register a business, for example, what became apparent was that person needed to visit at least three separate Web pages, or more if they initially mis-navigated the state site.

So in the 2012 version, Georgia took those three main sites for business registrationand designed around what was going to be most useful for the end user.

Excerpted from the post at http://www.govtech.com/civic/nascio-midyear-3-states-take-on-user-centered-design.html

NID students solve space debris issue, develop int'l space law

Conscious of the fact that dealing with space debris is a global issue, students of National Institute of Design, Ahmedabad, are working on a project to address the problem through design intervention. Post-graduate students Christopher Richard, Neel Mehta, Shubham Raut of Product Design department are looking at the issue as part of their Systems Design project.

The team is looking to come up with viable solutions for salvaging space debris and preventing the creation of more besides developing a robust space law that gives necessary guidelines to settle international disputes. The main focus is on how to make common man relate and empathise to such an entity which is out of sight, and hence out of mind.

The 10-week-long project that began in February this year involved students spending considerable time on understanding the topic, the stakeholders and different pain-points in the area.

Excerpted from the story at http://www.dnaindia.com/ahmedabad/report-ahmedabad-nid-students-set-to-solve-space-debris-issue-develop-robust-int-l-space-law-2608312