

Archi-phone

We live in a time with two different worlds, a real and the virtual world, with no barriers separating them, we never know where one ends and another begins, they are always communicating with each other, and we often mediate this communication.

The architecture will always have a part in the real universe, a physical, tangible, built part. But each day, architecture has become more virtual. A clear example of this is the creation process, that each time more often, makes use of computers to create forms previously unimaginable. However, once built, most of the buildings do not have a rich virtuality, only some few functions, such as controlling the HVAC system.

Humans, by contrast, are all the time connected to the virtual universe. We become totally dependent on our mobile phones and computers. And most of the time we use them to communicate, either by exchange of direct messages, writing a post to express themselves, or seeing things that other people have produced. The point is that one of the most interesting aspects of virtuality is the ease of communication due to lack of distance or people range limit. And it is based on this dependence that humans have on their mobile phones, and their interest to communicate that this project creates a new type of relationship, a virtual relationship between people and architecture.

Our mobile phones have a really interesting characteristic that we often do not realize, despite the amount of time we spent with them. It may seem kind of silly that phrase, but as long as a mobile phone is on, it is working. In other words, even when in a pocket or on the table, without showing notifications or anything like that, they are still working, sending and receiving waves, transmitting data. So, considering our dependence on mobile phones, and their ability to communicate all the time, a great way to make that communication between people and buildings would be through them.

The project will work so that the building sensors detect the presence of a person through their mobile phone, and give a feedback to let the person know that their presence was noted. This feedback will be given by emitting a colored light signal, and each person will be assigned with its own color. Next to the light signal will be written the phrase "Download the Archi-phone app to know more."

The idea is that the Archi-phone app is a communication platform between the building and the people, and also between people and other people in the building. In it you can see from instantaneous data, such as how many people are in the building or what the internal temperature is, to information about the architecture and history of the building. And also information about the person itself in relation to the building, like how much time was spent on it. Although is not a direct conversation between a building and a person, is the beginning of creating a relationship between them through a virtual media. And the irony is that this relationship can only start if the person is attentive enough to the real world to notice the light signal.