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Art 385

Project 3 Food Machine

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Project Summary

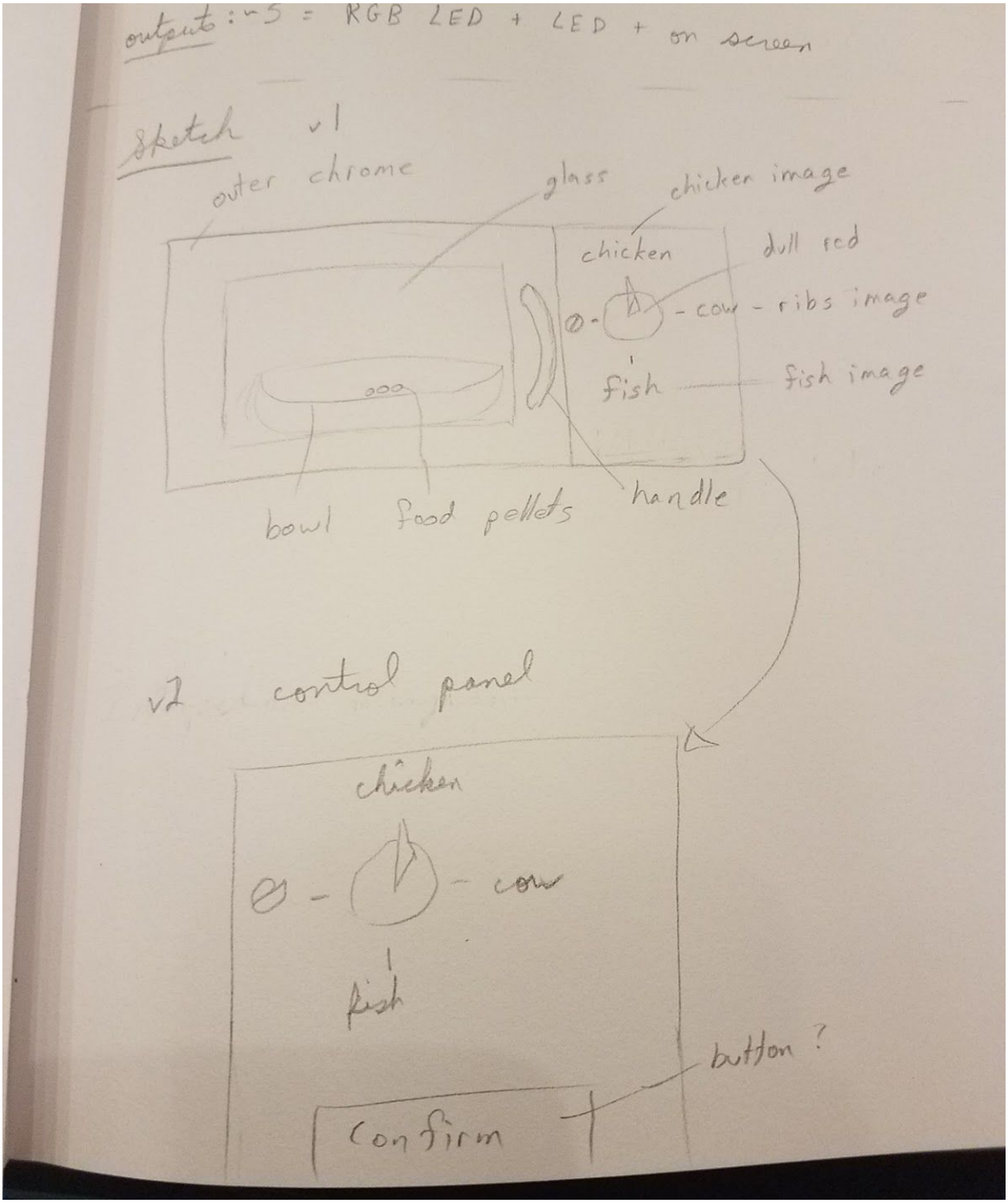
In this project I'm attempting to emulate a fictional machine from the movie The Fifth Element. This fictional device works similarly to the microwave but differs in that it actually creates and cooks the food based off of small nutrition balls the user would shake on a plate or into a bowl. Once the door is opened and the cooking vessel inserted, the user pushes a few buttons and in seconds a full meal is ready made and waiting to be eaten.

For my take on the machine, I'm illustrating the change on screen through the view of the 'microwave' door and adding a meal choice option of chicken or fish. The meal choice is decided using a potentiometer and an LED will light up corresponding to that choice. A push of the button confirms the choice and starts the 'cooking' seen on screen. A third push opens the door to show you the meal before prompting the user to close the door, resetting the machine.

Audience

This was made for a general audience to provide a cheap and easy way to ensure access to good food is available to everyone, especially those of low income. This device could either be installed in the home or at a food bank and is intended for easy and minimal interaction with the device.

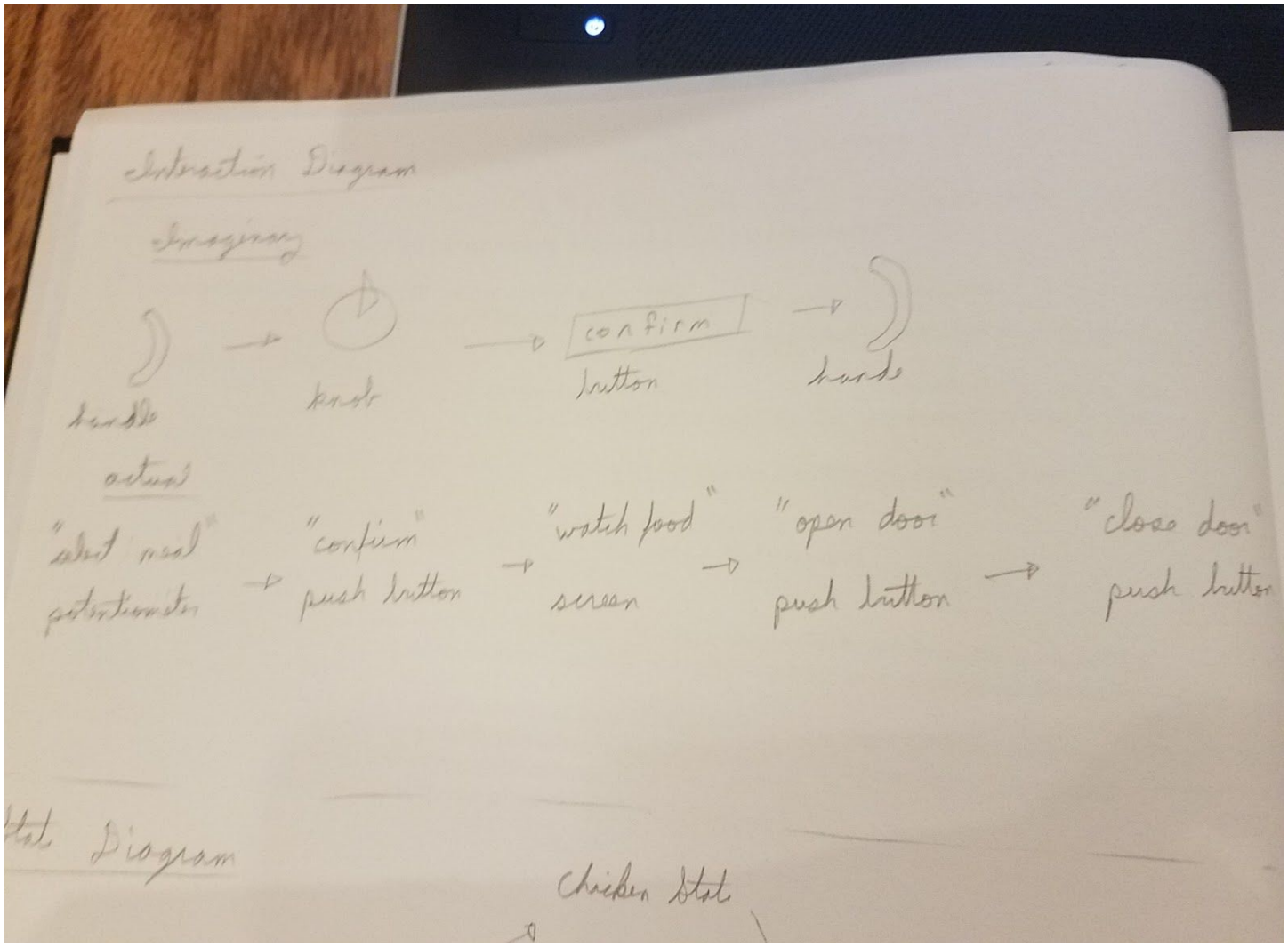
Sketch


outputs: ~5 = RGB LED + LED + on screen
Sketch v1
outer chrome
glass
chicken image
chicken
dull red
- cow - ribs image
fish
fish image
bowl
food pellets
handle
v2 control panel
chicken
- cow
fish
button ?
Confirm

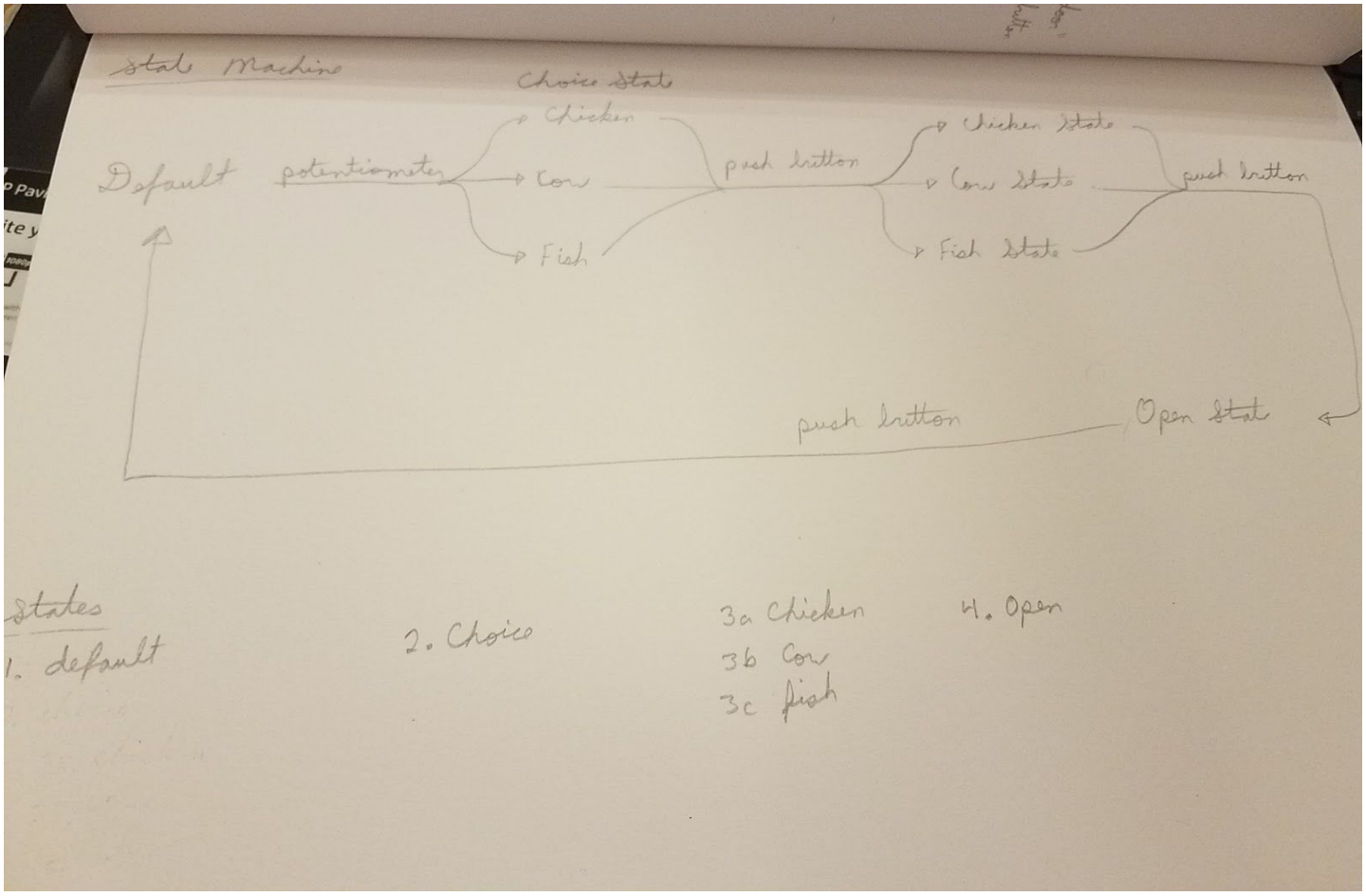
Aesthetic

For this design, I went with a minimalist, clean aesthetic to go with the futuristic theme of the project. The user should have a simple, easy to understand and use interface and I reflected that in the chromatic base and brightly colored icons indicating what step the user was on when making their meal. Since this imaginary machine would be an independent interactive unit, this prototype has only interactive inputs through the hardware components.

Interaction Map



State Machine



Real life Implementation

To actually implement this prototype (assuming conversion of mass and meal associated nutritional value was accomplished) government funding to kickstart installation at food banks and schools would probably be needed. Electrical outlets would need to be accessible to power the device and nutrition balls would have to be mass produced to keep up.