

KAYAGOMORI: Private Space for Withdrawing into One's Shell and Landscape Diary to Refresh Oneself in Mind

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1 Introduction

KAYAGOMORI is a space for withdrawing into one's shell and landscape diary to refresh oneself in mind. The user in *KAYAGOMORI* will be able to interact with himself and the landscape. The content name comes from *Kaya*: Japanese mosquito net and *Hikikomori*: a social problem in Japan.

The structure of *KAYAGOMORI* is a cubic frame with layered fabrics which is called "KAYA SCREENS". User can control the clarity of KAYA SCREEN freely. KAYA SCREEN enables the private time with controlling the level of interruption from outside. The main function of *KAYAGOMORI* is "landscape diary". *KAYAGOMORI* memorize the landscapes that the user had experienced in past time, and it projects them on KAYASCREENS.

For the future, *KAYAGOMORI* will be located everywhere: in one's yard or roof, sightseeing spots and the middle of a vast wilderness. The user can interact with himself in the past time by using "landscape diary" without using Weblog, BBS, analog diary and other literature tools.



Figure1: KAYAGOMORI mock-up Image

2 Social Background

The Structure of *KAYAGOMORI* adopts "withdrawing (*hikikomori*) style". In Japan, The number of young people, who stay in one's room for a long time and cutoff his or her contact with the society, is increasing. This is called "*Hikikomori* problem (social withdrawal problem)". Private time or spaces, such as reading, studying, sleeping, watching TV or movie and more, are very important things for anyone in order to refresh one's mind. But sometimes the private time in a closed room causes anxious and lonely feelings. *KAYAGOMORI* offers a new private time with the adjustable connection to outside world, landscape, persons and more.

3 Structure

KAYAGOMORI has KAYA SCREENS, some microphones, speakers, projectors, and more. KAYA SCREENS contains 2

or 3-layered fabrics: normal lace, lighttight lace fabric and lighttight and sound insulation fabric. User chooses the level of interruption from outside (the clarity of KAYA SCREENS), KAYA SCREENS changes or adds the screens flexibly. When user feels "I would never be caught dead by anybody! But I want to see outside.", the projector shows the current scene to the screens. In addition, when user wants to remember the past day, *KAYAGOMORI* projects the scene of that day to the screen.

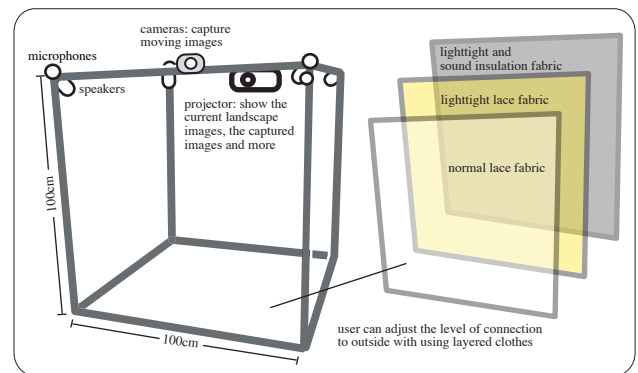


Figure2: KAYAGOMORI structure Image

4 Conclusion

At present, *KAYAGOMORI* is only a concept model. If it is realized, user will be able to get a new private time with fresh air and landscape. Additionally, the user will have the time to look back the past with the memory of the landscape then. In earlier studies, many scholars (such as Aadil Mamuji, 2004 [1] and Steelcase inc., 1998 [2]) suggested new office environments or working spaces. However the aim of our project is to suggest the new private time for regular people (not for office workers). In the future, we will create the working prototype of *KAYAGOMORI* and design the human interface to interact with landscape (for example the controller to operate it). Additionally, we will research the actual experience in using *KAYAGOMORI* and the influence in people and on society.

References

- [1] Aadil Mamuji, Roel Vertegaal, Connor Dickie, Changuk Sohn and Maria Danninger. 2004. Attentive Office Cubicles: Mediating Visual and Auditory Interactions Between Office Co-Workers, *UbiComp2004*.
- [2] Steelcase Inc., IDEO. 1998. Q for Steelcase, Mobile workstation concept. <http://www.ideo.com/portfolio/re.asp?x=12378>
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