

MASTABA: The Household Shrine in The Future Archived Digital Pictures

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1 Designing Future Family Shrines

Recently, the styles of gravestones in Japan are changing. For example, someone made a sculpture of piano, which was his hobby, as his grave.[ZENYUSEKI] In another case, someone made a compact plate made of remains of the deceased, instead of making his grave.

These phenomena show that the meaning of a grave in Japan is changing. The traditional Japanese graves have been eternal places where ancestors sleep. Some modern Japanese graves are the things or places for their family and posterity to remember and hand down the memory of ancestors. These show, today, that many Japanese people think that archiving dead's memories is more important than the place where dead lies itself. And we think that these modern graves should be called "family shrines".

We designed MASTABA as the future family shrine. We suppose that the future family shrine will be consist of digital memories of ancestors with a wooden physical structure. Digital memories are eternal, but a physical shape of MASTABA is not eternal.

2 MASTABA

MASTABA is a household shrine in the future where families including some generations hands down their memories through digital pictures. In MASTABA user can see the pictures when they were at the same age side by side. And user can select the age when the picture was taken, with lighting the caracole consists of 100 steps indicating age 0 to 99 years.

In MASTABA user can remember the life of human, by the ages as the average scale, including the memories in usual day in addition to significant memories in life. "I Photograph to Remember" [Meyer 1994] is a prior work about human memories including whole life and death with using digital pictures. But, user can see this work in his PC only. And so, it is not suitable for many people to experience this work at a time. While MASTABA was designed as the place that family use and experience daily, not to be stashed on a shelf.



Figure 1: Appearance of MASTABA

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3 Design and Structure

MASTABA is the building of the shape of octagon prism whose diameter of about 3m, and a height of about 2m. It is surrounded by the spiral stairway consists of each 100 steps of cube 10cm on a side. Each steps have compartments incorporating CDS light sensors with doors. Each doors are printed 0 to 99 numbers and indicate the age of human. User takes a light in the door and can see appropriate pictures taken at the selected age.

At a floor in MASTABA, there is a table on which shows the pictures by the projector set on a ceiling. RFID antenna is mounted with its tabletop and a rotary board is set in the table. User puts a cup including RFID tag on the table and MASTABA can identify whose cup is here. And the user can change and see a number of pictures with turning the rotary board.

The software operating MASTABA administrates the digital pictures with the shooting date, the owner of picture and the birth date of users. It calls the picture from a file server and shows them with referencing to the shooting date from stairway, the user information from the tabletop and the information of changing the pictures by the rotary board.

4 Vision

We wish families over the world hand down to their posterity the memory of their days of life, and recollect memory of them each other on a daily basis. Now we can only commit our ancestors at most three or four generations ago. Today, our memory can be saved semipermanently because we can record something by digital. And also MASTABA is a digital medium. So, Even if MASTABA will decay and be rebuilt over and over, the memories saved in the digital photographs will not deteriorate and will be handed down forever.

Moreover, we think MASTABA will be received by people over the world. It is very difficult to create a shrine suitable for everybody in the world, because there are a lot of people with difference races, cultural backgrounds or religion etc. But MASTABA is designed for families. Nobody does not have family and hand down to posterity his or his family's memories. We wish that MASTABA spread around the world and keep the memories of you and your families forever.

5 Acknowledgment

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References

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