

BIX. perform();

Kunsthhaus Graz
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BIX PERFORM

RESPONSIVE ART IN PUBLIC REALM
A PILOT PROJECT FOR ADRIART:
MASTER OF MEDIA ARTS AND PRACTICES

Intro

Commenting on different communication strategies between the public, the city and the Kunsthhaus, a group of students of the international master in "Advancing Digitally Renewed Interactions in Art Teaching" (ADRIART) present their findings—experiments on participation for the BIX façade. Four interactive performance pieces transform the city surface by adding sensible discourses and refreshing the spatial relations with the context around the friendly alien.

The BIX concept was initiated, developed and finished in 2002 by John Dekron and realities:united especially for this architecture venture of Peter Cook and Colin Fournier. „BIX is a matrix of 930 fluorescent lamps integrated into the eastern Plexiglas facade of the Kunsthhaus Graz. Through the possibility to individually adjust the lamps' brightness at an infinite variability with 20 frames/second images, films and animations can be displayed. (...where) the low image resolution imposes strong limitations.“

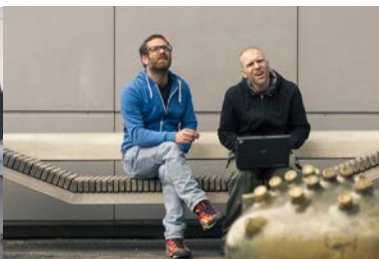
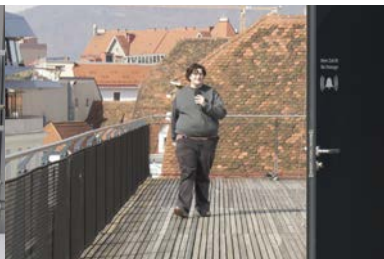
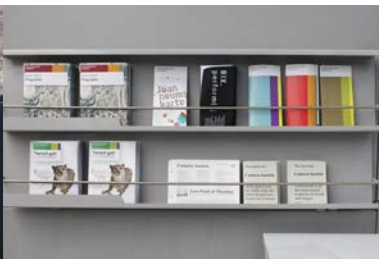
in >> <http://www.realities-united.de/#PROJECT,69,1>

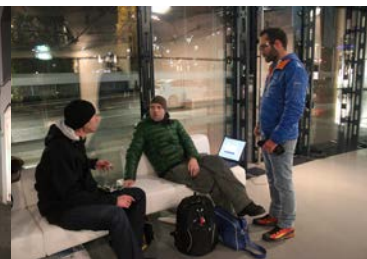
Students were invited to create projects that fostered public participation in a way that the interaction - whatever it was - had to be captured by a non-conventional input device capable of sending electronic signals via network. Those interactions were then transformed into algorithmically generated ever-changing imagery displayed on the BIX façade. In this way, they were confronted with the challenge of using analogue strategies to engage the public and at the same time the experience to program the façade with open source software.

This one week workshop was highly complex due to the intertwining of the importance to Graz and the central position of this building in the city, the different perspectives - both on educational and cultural background of participants, as well as the mediation from the Institute of Architecture and Media, the Institute of Contemporary Art of the TU Graz, together with the curatorial line of the Kunsthhaus. On a preview presentation at the end of the workshop week, the four projects were shown. The intervention „Making off public space“ was re-played over the following two weeks.

Workshop

presenting the on-line preparations, discussing ideas;
walking around the city center, examining possible locations
for the projects; getting to know the Kunsthhaus and its façade....

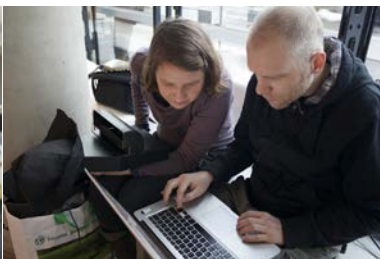
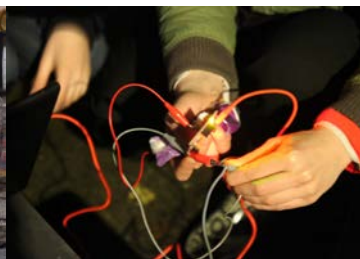




Making Of

conceiving, building, experimenting and rebuilding the devices in the university, in the museum and in the city





Projects

MISTAKE +

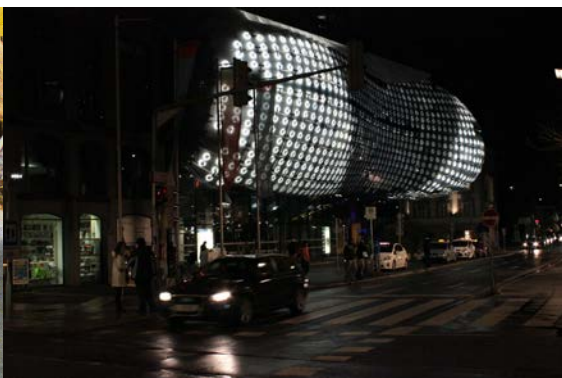
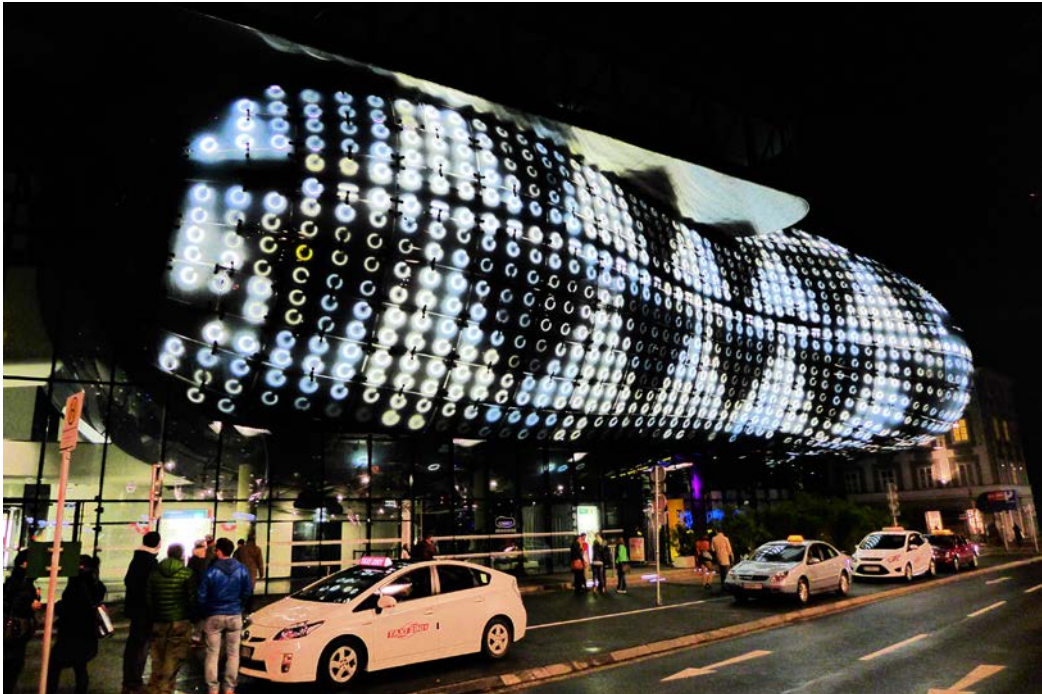
ARNOLD VERDERBER • LAVOSLAVA BENČIĆ • MARK BIZILJ

Meandering around the city involves constant unconscious actions. This work comments on the small mistakes that appear in this travelling through space, where some city artifacts appear to be used in ways different from how they were conceived. This public misuse runs parallel to the intrinsic mistakes of the city structure.

The intervention focuses on a common mistaken activation of the acoustic signal guiding pedestrians over a crossing; each useless interaction with the device is translated into visualizations of another mistake of the city: the jumping pixel on the BIX-façade.

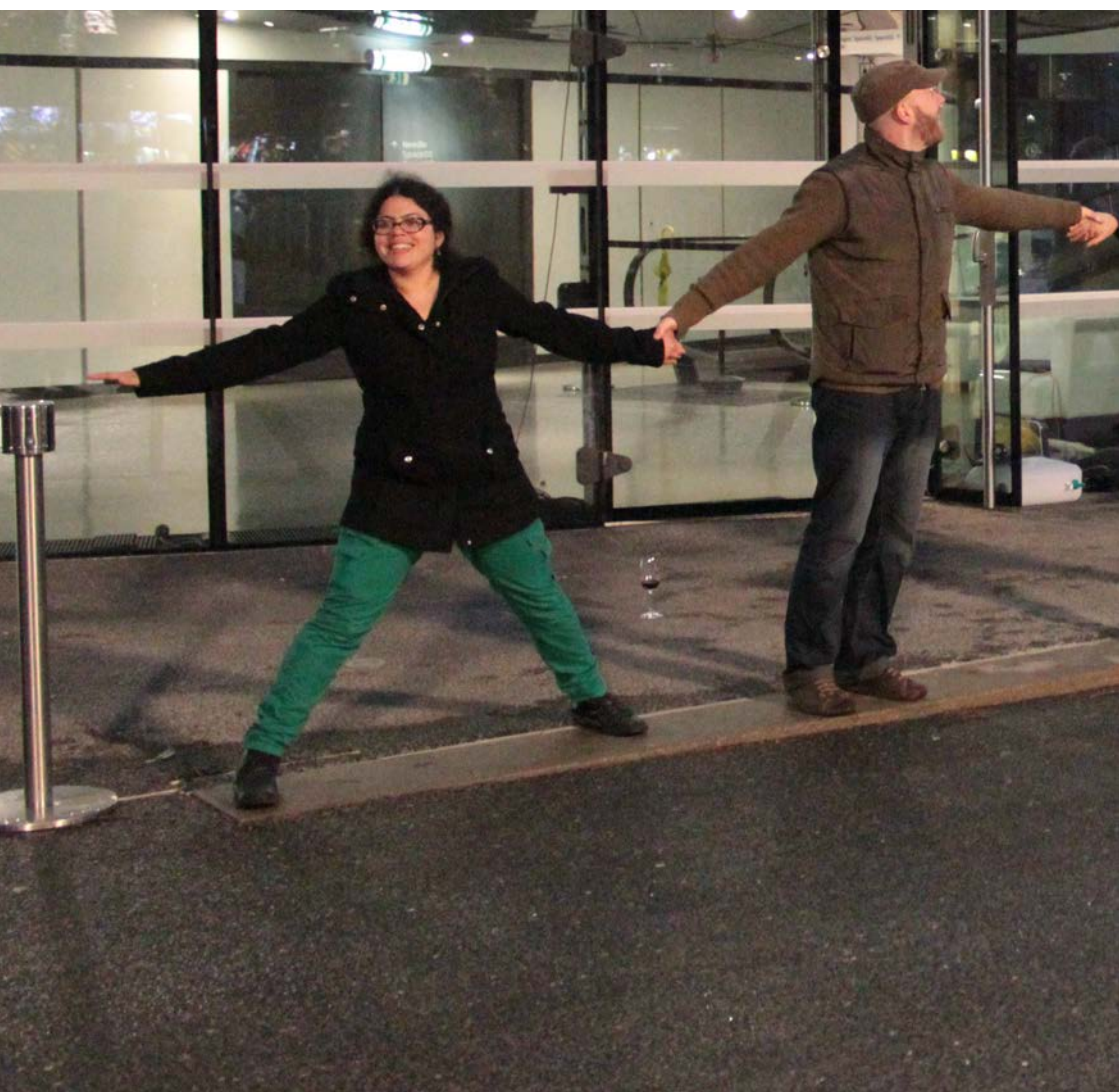






MAKING OFF: PUBLIC SPACE

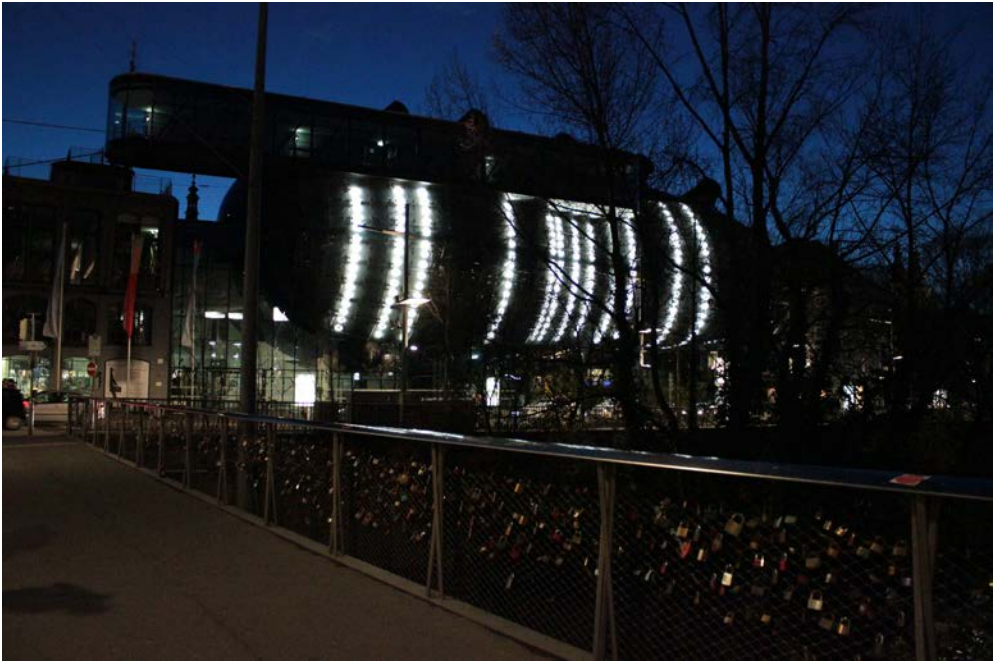
LIBERTA MIŠAN • MICHAEL TASCH • SARA SALAMON





The public is invited to activate the BIX façade by creating a human chain that connects two electrical contact points mounted in front of the Kunsthau. The image incorporates on the one hand a self-organizing method for creating emotional and physical contact; and on the other hand, the complete communion between participants and museum.

This simultaneity comments on the role of the author, transforming the collective experience into a visual response on public space.





CITY VOYEUR

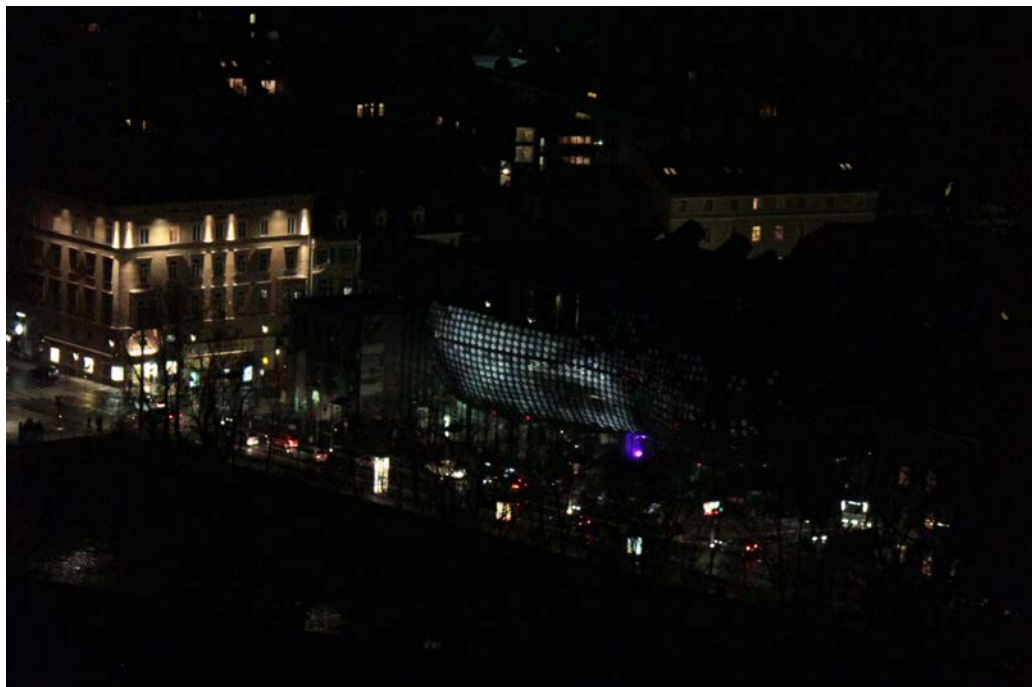
POLONA ZUPAN

It seems that surveillance of all kinds and levels is continuously taking place around us. Voyeurism is one of the most important dynamics inside cities. This intervention reflects on urban movements by using a playful device that invites the passer-by to interact with the idea of aerial observation. In the process of participating the user discovers that he/she is part of the immense mechanism of visual control.

A black device, resembling a portable telescope was offered to passersby to monitor the Kunsthaus. Yet, the one observed was the person him/herself. A hidden webcam tracked the images and movement of the person's eyes, feeding that signal back to the facade. Thus, by spying through the device, one got examined by his/her own visual apparatus.







LIFE STREAM

EMINA KEFELJA • MARLEEN LEITNER • MIA VUČEMILOVIĆ

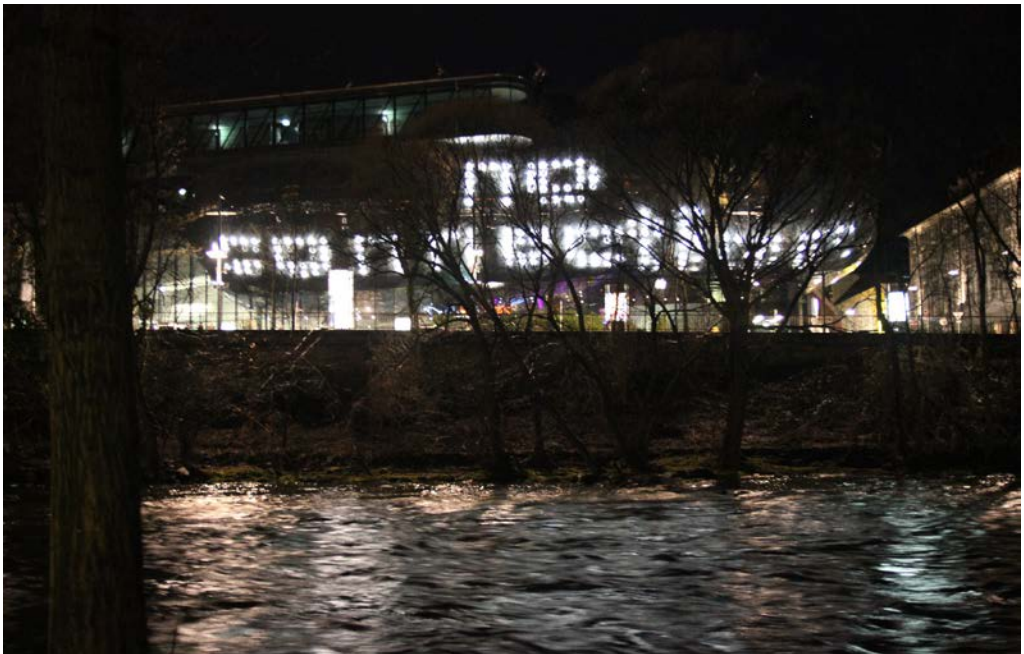


The river Mur flows from Austria, passing through Slovenia, Hungary and Croatia. The water that goes inexorably from city to city keeps a vibrating union alive. This intervention, on the benches of the Mur promenade in Graz, lets the user metaphorically interrupt the connection between countries, by collapsing within a minimal act, the subtle bridge that unifies the route.

The system was activated by pulling a small stone, with a hole drilled through the middle, which interrupted the water connection between to cables installed at each end of the aquarium. Its materiality and handcraft character contrasted with the digital installation aside, which was capturing the moments of the interruption. When connected on view on the façade was a video of the rapidly streaming Mur waters; opposed when interrupted, the expression “no connection” “mur, mura” appeared on the façade screen.







This project was realized in the framework of ADRIART - pilot projects for the Master of Media Arts and Practices, in cooperation with the Kunsthhaus Graz.

The works documented here are the outcomes of the course „Responsive Art in the Public Realm“ (a 9-week course, with on-line preparation and post-production phases), realized by the Institute of Architecture and Media and the Institute of Contemporary Art - Architecture Faculty, Graz University of Technology, Austria in the summer semester of 2013.

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all photos of this booklet were taken by the project participants

disclaimer:

Responsibility for the information and views set out in this report lies entirely with the authors.



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