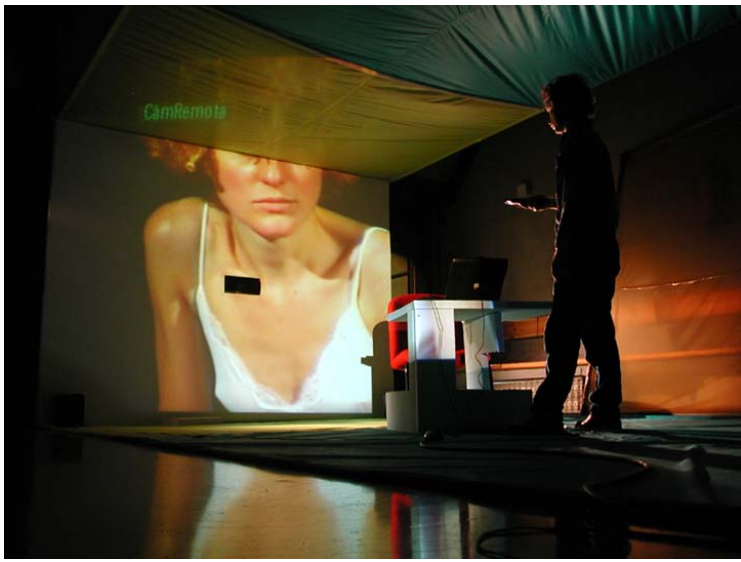


Virtual Encounters



METAPOLIS, Media house. A situation: a living room for virtual encounters.

Proposal: to use teleconference technology (currently used for meetings in a professional environment) for domestic and intimate encounters.

The new concept of living room was display as a performance: on a theatre. During several days different 'virtual encounters' in real time took place.

Fall 2001 (Sep. 27 - 28 October 4 - 5) MERCAT DE LAS FLORS, Barcelona
and Fall 2002 (Nov 22-24)
Circulo de Bellas Artes, Madrid.



"Double and Split" The living room is duplicated and split. In one location: a person, a screen, A video camera, a projector and a chair and same, displaced, 10 feet of thousand miles in another location. Two people virtually connected are free from each other presence but also lack it. Three virtual encounters took place in the constructed situation: A domestic partner- (all I need it is to be connected). A confession, secrets are shared more easily when there is not full contact (that the origin of the confessional). A sexual intercourse with an image (sex is fantasy) . All of these three made evident the convenience of technology at the same time at the same time that underline the handicapped nature of a "non-alive live".

The media house has no walls. The only remaining "cell" of our private telephonic conversations is on the name "cell" phone. In the current living "public" and "intimacy" are together while the individuals are separated. Virtual has and strategy: separation. Separation between activity and space: Intimate activity on a public space or public search from a private space. Separation between location and space, an Internet address does not have a geographical location. Together but separate, separate but together: the body is split from its activity. It is freedom or incompleteness?.

If connection with "the other" take place in front of a computer screen, if living is something that need a portable laptop and airport and not a room, what is the point of having still living rooms in our apartments? What is the meaning " living room" if the contact with "others" is not alive, if the space it is not necessary, if it doesn't have a function could still exist? If the space is gone is Architecture, also now days disappear?



MEDIA HOUSE PROJECT
LA VIVIENDA ES EL ORDENADOR
METÁPOLIS INSTITUTO DE ARQUITECTURA AVANZADA
THE CENTER FOR BITS AND ATOMS
MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
FUNDACIÓ POLITÈCNICA DE CATALUNYA
ELISAVA ESCOLA SUPERIOR DE DISSENY
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