More intimate

SM<3

PHONE

A CATALOG

~ of ~

PROVOCATIONS

www.cottageindustries.com
I LIVE
AN ALWAYS-CONNECTED LIFE.
I FLUIDLY MOVE BETWEEN
DIGITAL AND PHYSICAL WORLDS,
NAVIGATING MY RELATIONSHIPS
WITH INTERFACES AND
FUNCTIONS. I’VE COME TO EXPECT
EASE AND EFFICIENCY FROM
ALL INTERACTIONS. APPS ARE
CROWDING OUT THE EMOTIONAL
ASPECTS OF HOW I ENGAGE
WITH MY FRIENDS. I DO NOT LIKE
COMPROMISE. I CAN IMAGINE A
CURIOUS, MORE DELIGHTFUL PATH.

I AM INSPIRED TO SPIN TALES
OF “WHAT ELSE?” AND “WHAT IF?”
TO ENTERTAIN WHAT COULD BE
AND WHAT SHOULD BE. HERE
I EXPLORE THE RANGE OF
POSSIBILITIES TO AMPLIFY OUR
HUMANITY; FOR BRIDGING THE
FEELING GAP; AND ENABLING
HEART-CENTRIC CONVERSATION.
I DON’T LIKE THE TERM SMARTPHONE. THERE’S NOTHING SMART ABOUT AN APPLIANCE THAT CANNOT TELL THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN MY CAR MECHANIC AND MY MOM BECAUSE I HAVE THEM BOTH ON SPEED DIAL. I TALK WITH MY MECHANIC DAILY, WHILE MOM IS LUCKY TO HEAR FROM ME ONCE A WEEK. BLAME MY FAILING EXHAUST SYSTEM.

I THINK “SMART” SHOULD INCLUDE MORE HEART. A “SM<3ER” PHONE COULD BE MY ALLY WHEN IT COMES TO DEVOTING MY TIME AND ATTENTION TO THE PEOPLE I LIKE BEST. AND I KNOW ITS SMARTS WON’T COME FROM RANKING MY LOVED ONES LIKE NETFLIX MOVIES.
PULSE

Pulse is not a push-button rating system. It is a place for the openhearted to show devotion to a few so companion apps will be more responsive to conversational intentions. Add feeling data to ensure Pulse knows a relationship is cherished by visiting a person’s page when thinking of her. It takes time, but contact with your hand virtually warms the page and opens a feeling channel between you and your friend. If that friend is practicing the same devotion towards you at the same time, then you will feel each other’s heartbeat.

Technical requirements
context-aware smartphone; free time; heartbeat or voice recording

Emotional requirements
patience; ritualistic tendencies; empathy; open-heartedness

Cognitive requirements
understanding of cause and effect; impulse control; knowing who is special; belief that computers can aid in decisions of the heart
I SUSPECT THAT A LITTLE PIECE OF MY HEART DIES EACH TIME I SEND A FRIEND ONE OF THOSE TEXTS THAT SAYS, “CU IN 3” OR “ALMOST THERE, PARKING...” THOSE MEANINGLESS FRAGMENTS CLOG THE ARTERIES THROUGH WHICH VOICE AND FEELING TRAVEL. YET, I OFFER CONTINUOUS UPDATES INSTEAD OF SHOWING UP WHERE AND WHEN I SAY. SO MY FRIEND WAITS. AND I CAN’T BLAME HER WHEN SHE REACHES OUT TO OTHERS WHO ARE MORE IMMEDIATELY AVAILABLE.

I DESPISE THAT MOMENT WHEN I WALK UP TO FIND HER ENGAGED ELSEWHERE, FINISHING HER DIGITAL THOUGHT. SHE IS NEARLY WITHIN REACH, BUT THE DISTANCE BETWEEN US COULD NOT BE GREATER.
On we march till we meet the dawn. We will light our way with our lanterns on.

FETTIFÊTE

Fettifête is like having fairy dust in your pocket. Swing your phone wildly to send a glittery, fluttery animation of your choice to any nearby cherished friends. Fettifête casts a spell on their phones, turns their attention away from their other communication activities and tells your friends how excited you are to see them.

Technical requirements
- Pulse; context-aware smartphone;
- friends with context aware smartphones

Cognitive requirements
- Understanding of cause and effect; decisiveness, clear conversational intentions

Emotional requirements
- Impulsivity; enthusiasm;
- Glenda; likes being noticed;
- passive-aggressiveness;
- sneakiness; sensitivity

Justification: Comparing connecting to conversing
I KNOW
MY ACTIONS DON’T ALWAYS MATCH MY INTENTIONS. WHILE I AIM TO GIVE CLOSE FRIENDS ATTENTION WHEN WE HANG OUT, THE EVER-PRESENT SOCIAL NETWORK BECKONS. ITS SIREN SONG LURES ME FROM MY BEST INTENTIONS.

I WISH BEING “HERE” MEANT FRIENDS HAVE MY UNDIVIDED ATTENTION, NOT ONLY UNTIL THE NEXT PUSH NOTIFICATION. MY FEAR OF MISSING OUT IS A HARD HABIT TO BREAK.

I NEED A MOMENT.
I NEED THE SEAMS BETWEEN MY SOCIAL WORLDS TO BE BEAUTIFUL AND APPARENT. I WANT TO PUSH THE STREAM OF TALK ASIDE AND CONTROL ITS FLOW; TO BE FREE TO DEVOTE MYSELF TO THE PERSON I CAME TO SEE.

JUSTIFICATION: MINDLESS OPERATIONS
MUFFLER

*Muffler* shows a companion (and proves to you) that you are devoted to a conversation by pushing distant others to the periphery. If you forget your intent to be present, *Muffler* gently nudges you when it senses a cherished friend is near. *Muffler* demands elaborate and deliberate interaction when first engaged, but your phone demands less attention once muffled. To reactivate a muffled phone when that friend is present, you must perform the elaborate interaction in reverse. Otherwise, the smartphone eases you back into a connected state once you leave your cherished friend, carefully delivering any waiting messages according to emotional priority.

**Technical requirements**
- *Pulse*; context-aware smartphone

**Cognitive requirements**
- Context-awareness; lack of impulse control; understanding of cause and effect; clear conversational intentions; decisiveness until faced with temptation

**Emotional requirements**
- Confidence; patience; desire to do no harm; eagerness to please; straightforwardness

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I WORRY
TOO MUCH ABOUT WHAT I WRITE.
I EDIT MYSELF AS I TEXT,
STOPPING SHORT OF VOICING
MY FEELINGS. I FEAR BEING
MISUNDERSTOOD OR REJECTED
BY THE PERSON I CAN’T SEE.

I DON’T HEAR MY FRIENDS’
VOICES ENOUGH. IT’S THE THINGS
FRIENDS SAY—SPONTANEOUSLY
AND WITHOUT THINKING TOO
HARD—that I WANT TO REMEMBER.
WHETHER BREATHELESSLY
DESCRIBING THE BEST NIGHT
OF HER BEACH TRIP OR DELIVERING
A FANATICAL DIATRIBE ON HIS
LATEST MUSIC OBSESSION,
MY FRIENDS’ STORIES ARE BETTER
WHEN I HEAR THEM.

SOMETIMES A FRIEND SIMPLY
SAYS THE RIGHT THING
TO LIFT MY SPIRITS AND I WANT
TO HOLD ONTO THAT GOOD FEELING
A LITTLE LONGER.

MY WORK: THE THESIS TERRITORY
Loved our chat today. It’s so nice to talk with someone who gets me like you do. I miss you Sis!

**LOCK-IT**

Conversation becomes memento when you wear a friend’s voice close to your heart. *Lock-it* helps with voice matching by visualizing your friend’s voice. Imprinting occurs when you repeat the meaningful portion—in unison—with the recording of your friend. Hear your friend’s voice anytime by holding an open *Lock-it* close to your ear. Feel when your friend is near from the jewelry’s quiet pulse.
I REMEMBER
WHEN THERE WAS NO WORD
FOR UNFRIENDING. WHEN
BREAKING UP MEANT WE STOPPED
TALKING, THEN I GATHERED THE
REMNANTS OF HIM LITTERING
MY APARTMENT TO SET ABLAZE
OR SEAL IN A BOX DESTINED
FOR THE ATTIC.

ENDING A RELATIONSHIP
IS MESSY. IT FEELS DISHONEST
AND UNSATISFYING TO
DISENTANGLER OUR PROFILES AND
ERASE OUR HISTORY INSTANTLY.

MY RELATIONSHIPS CHANGE,
YET APPS CANNOT SENSE WHEN
I NO LONGER WANT SOMEONE IN MY
LIFE. THE DELETE BUTTON DOESN’T
UNDERSTAND WHAT IT MEANS
TO LOSE A PERSON. I FEEL
WOUNDED AND EMPTY.
DISPOSSESSING
The *Relic* makes it possible to dispossess all traces of a relationship from digital life. Resting the *Relic* on the surface of a formerly cherished friend’s page pulls every mark of his or her presence out of your digital life and into the object. Place the *Relic* in the *Forgetting Box* for seven days to dispossess the person forever. Though, if you change your mind, just remove the *Relic* from its box and keep the relationship preserved, but at a safe distance.

Technical requirements
The Internet of Things; *Pulse*; RFID-tagged *Relic*; RFID-tagged *Forgetting Box*; smartphone; nemesis

Cognitive requirements
Lack of impulse control; understanding of cause and effect; awareness of tendency to overreact

Emotional requirements
Confidence; passion; conviction; heartbreak; tendency to overreact; outrage; patience; imagination; desire to deliberate
I HATE
THAT MY FRIENDS VOICES
ARE FRAGMENTED. BITS AND
PIECES OF CONVERSATIONS
ARE SCATTERED ACROSS SO MANY
DIGITAL SPACES, ORGANIZED
BY DEFAULT ACCORDING TO WHICH
PORTAL I USE TO ACCESS THEM.
WHY NOT BY THE PERSON
WHOSE VOICE I HEAR?

REVISITING WHAT WE SHARE
MAKES ME FEEL GOOD ABOUT
MY FRIENDSHIPS. I SUSPECT THESE
FRAGMENTS WOULD BE MORE
MEANINGFUL IF I COULD LOOK AT
THEM TOGETHER, BUT I’M AFRAID
TO MOVE THEM. I DON’T WANT
TO FORFEIT THE HISTORY ACQUIRED
FROM THEIR HOSTS.

OUR VOICES BELONG TO US. I DON’T
WANT TO LOSE MY MEMORIES
WHEN COLLECTING THEM STOPS
BEING GOOD BUSINESS.
LUUM

Grab elements from conversation to weave into Luum. Curate, remix and mash-up words, sound, video and voice into a tapestry for each friend, ready revisit or link back into a conversation. Each thread retains its history and continues to collect digital patina as long as its host survives. Elements within the Luum do require maintenance or they'll degrade (but never disappear).

Restore degraded content by meeting a friend face-to-face or sharing a thread again. You’ll know when that friend is looking at threaded content, because that piece of the fabric comes alive. Gently turn Luum to ask it to remind you of a piece you may have forgotten.

Technical requirements
Context-aware smartphone; social networking system memberships; Pulse

Cognitive requirements
Decisiveness

Emotional requirements
Sentimentality; patience; dabbles in melancholy; private; open-heartedness; ritualistic tendencies
I DON’T LIKE MANAGING MY REPUTATION ONLINE. I SHOULD BE ABLE TO BE SOMEWHERE IN PERSON WITHOUT HAVING TO BE “THERE”—FOREVER—ONLINE.

YET OPTING OUT OF EVER-PRESENT SOCIAL MEDIA IS HARD TO DO AND JUSTIFY. I SEE THE FILTERING THAT’S POSSIBLE ONCE I’M ONLINE, BUT I DON’T WANT TO RETROACTIVELY UNTAG MYSELF FROM EVERY PHOTO OR CHECK-IN. MY PRESENCE IS MY CHOICE, NOT SOMEONE ELSE’S.

I’VE SEEN THOSE PEOPLE WHO WEAR PIXELATED MASKS TO AVOID CCTV CAMERAS. I ADMIRE THEIR SPIRIT, THOUGH I WOULD PREFER SOMETHING LESS ATTENTION GRABBING AND MORE WEARABLE.
JEWELRY OBSCURA

*Jewelry Obscura* is for a punk who wants to interrupt the functions of the machine, but not kill the party. You know the difference between being a sm<3 phone user and being used, so you assert your presence when it feels right to you. *Jewelry Obscura* does not prevent a friend from taking your picture, but it does prevent that friend from broadcasting your face to people who weren’t there, or who you don’t know. Your friend retains the original photo—duck lips and all—though the jewelry constructs an alternate version for public sharing with the charm or message you choose.

Technical requirements
- RFID tag with unique signal (attached to jewelry);
- RFID tag-reading camera or smartphone;
- Subject’s head dimensions;

Cognitive requirements
- Intent to assert degrees of presence;
- Context-awareness;
- Personal style

Emotional requirements
- Counter-culture attitude;
- Confidence;
- Hacker mentality;
- Desire to do no harm

MY WORK: IMAGINING HOW
I Wonder
What are the possibilities to extend and enhance meaningful conversation in interfaces and experiences designed for networked young women?

Extending and Enhancing Meaningful Conversation (available at www.cottageindustriesdesign.com) inquires into today’s social networking experiences from a critical perspective with a hypothesis that closeness may be represented more substantially in these spaces as people engage in meaningful conversation.

The proposals in this companion to Extending and Enhancing Meaningful Conversation are rhetorical. They rely on social psychologists’ findings that feeling close escalates intimacy and results in more meaningful conversation. The proposals question the means by which we connect and converse today, and provide principles (called mandates) for designing more affective networked experiences.

The mandates focus on the activities of constant talk, the gradient of “here” and methods for cherishing conversation explored in detail in Extending and Enhancing Meaningful Conversation. Opportunities exist to design alternative experiences for young women, interfaces and functions that create conditions where meaningful conversation is more likely to occur.

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~ WEIGHT ~
to
irReversible

/// destruction ///

/// Make 
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