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Dec 11, 2008

Nifty ideas at Siggraph Asia

By Serene Luo

SO WHAT if not everything is ready to be marketed and sold?

The geeks visiting Siggraph Asia 2008 just lapped up the ideas demonstrated at the Emerging Technologies showcase in the computer graphics and interactive media exhibition.

VIDEO



Ideas from Siggraph
(0:43)

This segment of the show, which is on till Saturday, is always 'one of the focal points' of the North America version of the Siggraph, said Mr Tomoe Moriyama, the chairman of the committee, and the curator of the University of Tokyo's Museum of Contemporary Art.

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'Attendees seek to keep abreast of new and experimental ideas in the field,' he said. This time round, there is a collection of 'high quality works', a large part of which is from Asia, he said.

The Straits Times highlights some of the interesting ones on display:

- The Orb

What it is: An art piece by father-and-son team Ron and James Sears.

What it does: The flat object with dozens of lights on it rotates at 750 times a minute, and shows a fully-lit, coloured globe display. The pictures can be programmed to change.

Possibilities: Used for art installations, interactive 3D billboards, advertising.

-The World Inside Mirrors

What it is: A Masters student hobby- turned-fascination with mirror distortions

What it does: In one scenario, mirrors which fold can cause multiple reflections. Similarly, Mr Seunghyun Woo made the layers of tunes played by a music box in front of the folding mirror increase as the number of reflections increased.

In another scenario, as a mirror turns at an angle, a flat surface seems to tilt. Mr Woo used magnetics to make objects on the flat surface roll around as if it is tilting.

Possibilities: In projects for carnival fun houses, interactive displays.

- Flaneur Digital See-Through Telescope

What it is: Keio University researchers created a handheld computer or phone with Global Positioning System capabilities and directional sensors.

What it does: The computer pulls down pictures off photo-sharing sites such as Flickr and places the landmarks in relation to your current location. You can 'see' which buildings are around you, even if you are enclosed by four walls.

Possibilities: Navigational tools, particularly in cities, tourist guides.

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- Tabletop video game which uses pinching technique

What it is: A flatscreen TV lies on its back, while a camera overhead recognises pinching hand movements.

What it does: When users make pinching movements in the game, the movement causes the character in the game to shoot bullets to kill off the villains.

Possibilities: Interactive video games, billboards, or any type of communication.

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