

Performing Architecture

As ‘affordability’ translates to ‘smaller’ in cities such as London and ‘3×4 metre’ plots in the most radical resettlement colonies in Delhi, it is necessary to expand our dialogue regarding possible futures. Squeezing space to a minimum is producing intensively concentrated architectural forms. It is also creating a need for dialogue on the experiential aspects of micro living particularly as digital platforms create new types of blended living environments.

Performance architecture is a transaction between artist and audience that exposes the permeability between subject and space. Public audiences were invited to create and perform within a third space — to use Edward Soja’s 1996 term of the conflation of real and imagined spaces — using the open source principles of universal access, digital distribution and modification of designs for living. A telematic installation connected two 3×4 metre structures at the Southbank Centre in London with Khōj International Artists’ Association (12-14 December 2014) and India Habitat Centre (15-25 May and 28-31 May 2015) in Delhi, and invited audiences in both cities to co-create the environments they playfully coexisted within.

Reference

Edward Soja, *Thirdspace: Expanding the Geographical Imagination* (Oxford: Blackwell, 1996).

Biography

Claire McAndrew is Senior Research Associate and Director of Research at UCL Institute for Digital Innovation in the Built Environment, The Bartlett. Paul Sermon is Professor of Visual Communication at University of Brighton. The AHRC 3×4 exploring metaspace platforms for inclusive future cities (3x4m.org) project was a collaboration with architect Swati Janu and documentary photographer Vivek Muthuramalingam.

Images



Caption 1. The suspension of designed objects in the air is a critical visual provocation on contested space that challenges existing power relations and government control of housing supply. Photo by Claire McAndrew



Caption 2. Embodiment can be used to defy the rules and conventions of physical space through a re-embodied sense of touch. Photo by Vivek Muthuramalingam



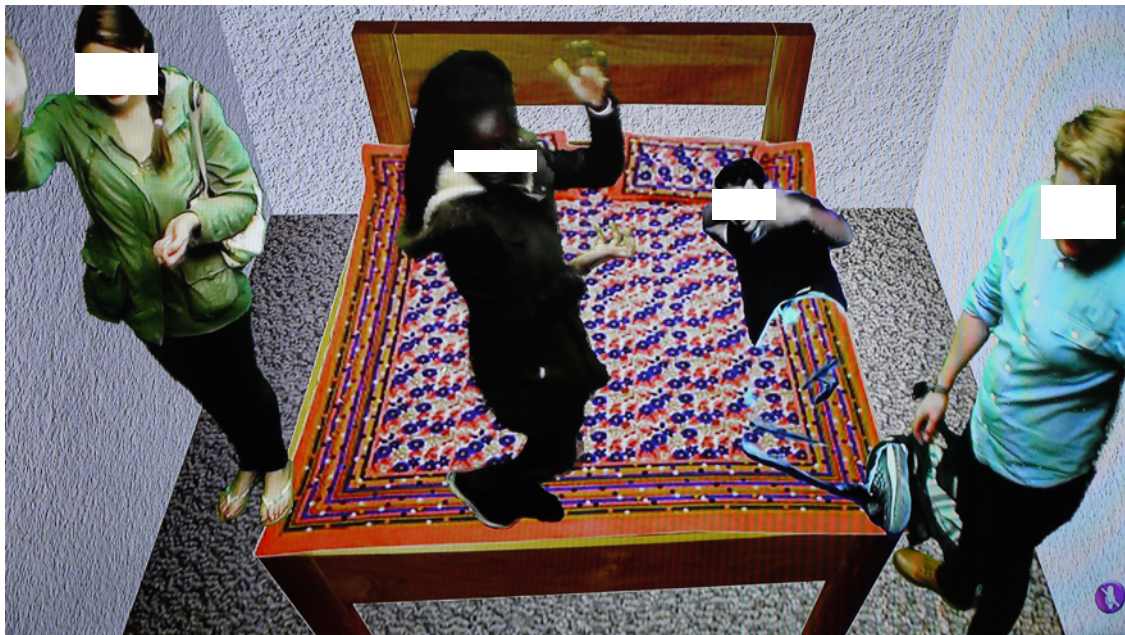
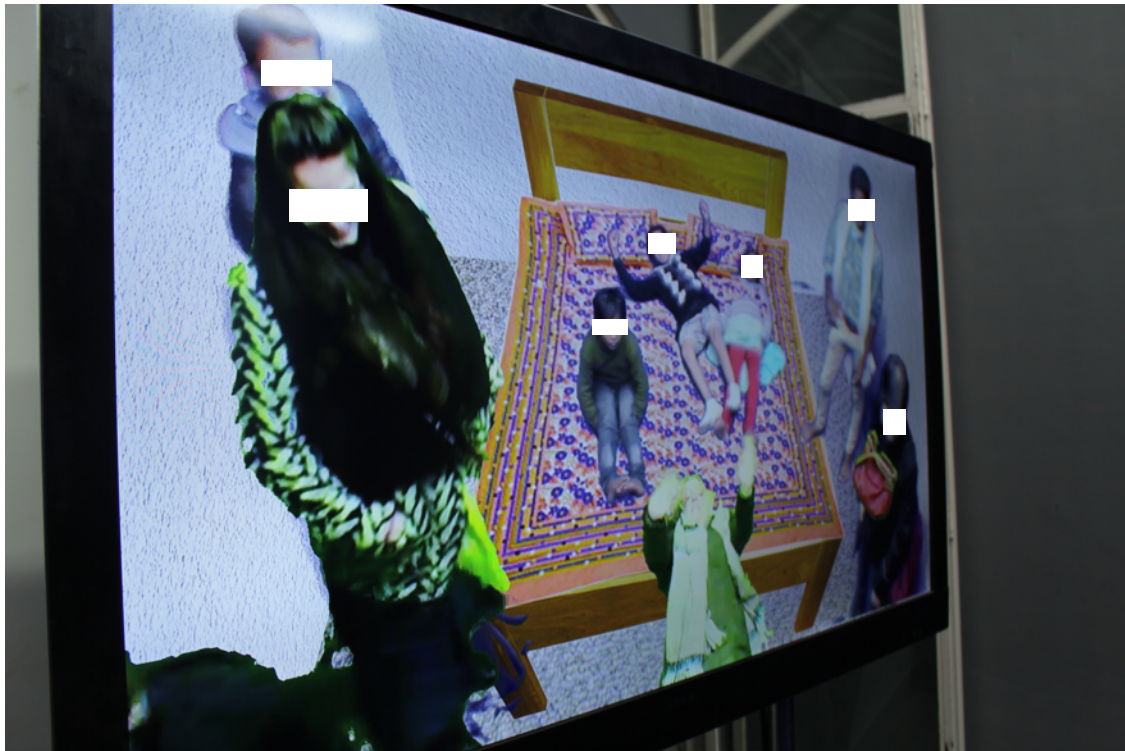
Caption 3. The privacy of the mirror is manifested publically and with a global connected consequence, becomes a public mirror stage. Photos by Vivek Muthuramalingam



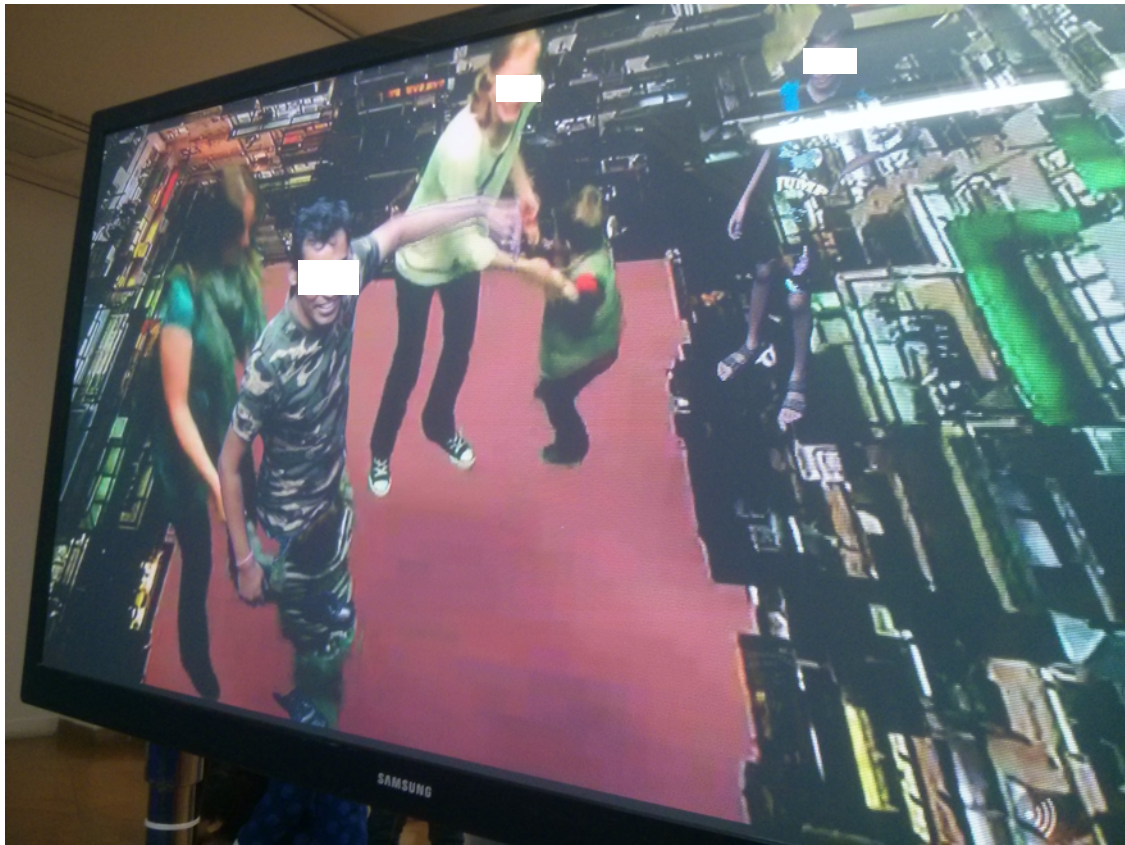
Caption 4. The forced compression of micro-economies within living spaces point toward the ways DIY and self-made solutions can fuel counter movements and future metaspace platforms. Photo by Claire McAndrew



Caption 5. Digital platforms can extend the psychological experience of living space. Photo by Claire McAndrew



Caption 6. Blended living spaces can provide a sense of connectedness to globally distributed others through a contraction of distance. Photos by Claire McAndrew and Paul Sermon



Caption 7. Third spaces produced by the conflation of real and imagined futures can envision new forms of exchange and co-creation. Photos by Swati Janu and Harriet Halpin