
Abstract

2 messages

Jeremy Eichenbaum <jeichenbaum@inside.artcenter.edu>

To: [REDACTED] jeremyeichenbaum@gmail.com, jermwarfare82@yahoo.com

Existing in a Dual Consciousness
A Personal Account...

It's hard to make sense of how I fit into today's world of emerging technologies and the ever changing landscape. I have come to realize that my physical existence has a virtual counterpart and that it is starting to have a greater impact on my life and those around me. Existing in a dual consciousness I can't help but pay attention to how I've been directed toward the networked space. Through our decentralized environment, social behavior, emotional attachment to personal computing devices and the illusion perpetuated by representation, the shift from the physical being to the virtual presence has become seamless and inevitable. This constant back and forth, arrival and departure influence and alter our sense of identity, how we function and our perception of time, place and everything in between. Hopefully with the constant advances in technology and ubiquitous computing we don't lose what makes us human and our sense of reality.

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Jeremy Eichenbaum <jeremyeichenbaum@gmail.com>

To: Jeremy Eichenbaum <jeichenbaum@inside.artcenter.edu>, jermwarfare82@yahoo.com

Existing in a Dual Consciousness
A Personal Account...

More and more I have moments where I feel like I'm losing my grip on reality. I keep trying to establish my sense of balance with one foot in the physical world and the other in the world of ubiquitous computing. I've been conditioned to adopt a way of functioning so that my physical existence and my virtual presence are symbiotically networked. This augmented reality influences almost every aspect of my life--my real time, sense of place, my relationships, and my work. And it's disorienting sometimes to be everywhere all at once and have accessibility to almost everything when one cannot always verify what's real and what's an illusion.

I realized that I am extremely dependent on pervasive computing in my lifestyle. I rely on the virtual to communicate with just about everyone I know and to reinforce my sense of self. Four months ago I broke my right wrist and for the first two months of my recovery I was unable to use a computer. The only way I could compute was to have my phone in the palm of my left hand while using my thumb to work the interface. Relatively speaking, two months is not that long a period of time. But if you can't function on a daily and sometimes, minute to minute basis in the world of computing, it is infinitely distancing and isolating. It definitely affected me psychologically because I couldn't communicate easily with people, express myself clearly,

and I felt frustrated and disoriented in terms of time and space.

I decided to take the opportunity to conduct some personal research, experiments and observations during my physical/virtual break. I wanted to understand how my life is impacted by the virtual and the physical cross over. I turned towards the writings of three important thinkers for insight. French anthropologist, Marc Augé, enlightened me on how we define our sense of space and place, Supermodernity, and ideas of non-place. Adam Greenfield, a user experience consultant and critical futurist reinforced my understanding of ubiquitous computing and emerging technologies and how they shape our behavior. Jean Baudrillard, a post modernist thinker helped me focus on the real and transparent world in which we live. Each of these men provided an intellectual context and perspective that helped me in my predicament.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marc_Augé

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Adam_Greenfield

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jean_Baudrillard

Attached is a collection of e-mails that I sent to myself to document and record my thoughts, findings, and personal experiences at various points during my recovery—(my hand permitting.)

[Quoted text hidden]

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hand_n_hand.jpg
125K





Virtual Illusions

1 message

jeremy eichenbaum <jermwarfare82@yahoo.com>

To: jeremyeichenbaum@gmail.com, jeichenbaum@inside.artcenter.edu

Virtual Illusions

I'll bet that the recognition of the physical and the perception of the virtual stem from the same physiological starting point in the brain. I read in *Scientific American Mind* that neuroscientists have proven that if while looking at an optical illusion and one perceives motion, the part in the brain that is stimulated is the same part that is stimulated if one had been physically moving. I think this relationship between physical reality and subjective perception is what has my brain in a permanent **e-cloud*.

<http://www.scientificamerican.com/>

<http://www.ecloudproject.com/>

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● Art Center College of Design

Jeremy Eichenbaum <jeichenbaum@inside.artcenter.edu>

Re: Mikolaj Called (again)

1 message

jeremy eichenbaum <jermwarfare82@yahoo.com>

To: Jeremy Eichenbaum <jeremyeichenbaum@gmail.com>, jeremy@icanbomb.com, Jeremy Eichenbaum <jeichenbaum@inside.artcenter.edu>

Mikolaj has known about my broken wrist from day one. He always asks me how I'm doing in my recovery and processing of emotions. "Are you able to use a computer yet?" he asked. "Yes, the whole goal of healing is be able to compute," I explained to him. The smallest of physical acts, pressing keyboard and interface buttons, moving and clicking a mouse, or gliding across a touch pad or screen is essential to my ability to communicate, express myself, access info and tap into the greater **networkscape*. Strap a mouse to the broken hand, tie strings to our finger tips and let our virtual selves play the puppet master.

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From: Jeremy Eichenbaum <jeremyeichenbaum@gmail.com>

To: jermwarfare82@yahoo.com; jeremy@icanbomb.com; Jeremy Eichenbaum <jeichenbaum@inside.artcenter.edu>

Subject: Mikolaj Called

Mikolaj called.

It's always good talking to Mikolaj. He was in the neighborhood at Melrose Mac weighing his options. Should he repair his busted computer or get a new one - an imac or a macbook pro? Portable or stationary? Either way, he had to get something because he said without a computer he was shit out of luck. He couldn't finish his projects or communicate with clients while he was unplugged. He was telling me that for the last couple of days while he was computerless he started getting back to drawing with pencil to paper. When he needed to reference something for his illustrations he would just look them up on his phone instead of his computer. Back in the physical but drawing from the virtual.

From: Jeremy Eichenbaum (jeremyeichenbaum@gmail.com)
To: jeichenbaum@inside.artcenter.edu;
Date: [REDACTED]
Cc: jermwarfare82@yahoo.com; jeremy@icanbomb.com;
Subject: networkedscape

Networkedscape is the infinite platform set forth by ubiquitous and pervasive computing.

[REDACTED] Jeremy Eichenbaum <jeichenbaum@inside.artcenter.edu> wrote:

Is it whenever I create a digital image or video of myself? Is it because my virtual self can exist in any time or in any place or intangible form? Or is it any time I play an rpg? Or when I create an avatar? Any time I plug into my devices? Is my virtual self present even when I'm just thinking about the networkedscape? Am I accessing the virtual self when I use language specific to digital computing? Any time I recognize an audible prompt that redirects my train of thought to the networkedscape? Anytime I think of something designed for digital computing? There infinite channels of connection to my virtual self.



● Art Center College of Design

Jeremy Eichenbaum <jeichenbaum@inside.artcenter.edu>

Conditioning Comfort

3 messages

Jeremy Eichenbaum <jeichenbaum@inside.artcenter.edu> [REDACTED]
To: jeremyeichenbaum@gmail.com, jermwarfare82@yahoo.com

Our computing devices are becoming our objects of comfort—no matter the user's age. Soon little kids won't need their security blankets. All parents will need to do is wrap them in sensors and plug them right on into some euphoria network. I asked myself how are these emerging technologies like personal computing devices affecting children's individual sense of self and their view of the world? I think these adopted objects represent a child's first 'not me' possession. This early understanding of 'me' 'not me' helps establish children's singular personal identity. I predict that these digital comfort devices will become a child's first 'not me' possession and when they are old enough it will shape their singular identity made up of multiple selves.

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jeremy eichenbaum <jermwarfare82@yahoo.com>

To: Jeremy Eichenbaum <jeichenbaum@inside.artcenter.edu>, jeremyeichenbaum@gmail.com

Wherever I go I see young children using their parent's touch-screen devices as if its second nature to them. I heard this story about a baby who had used his Mom's iphone and later that day was staring at himself in a mirror swiping his fingers across his reflection. Is there a disconnect between the real and the reflective and how devices condition us to engage? Are devices capable of causing emotional comfort and creating habitual behavior?

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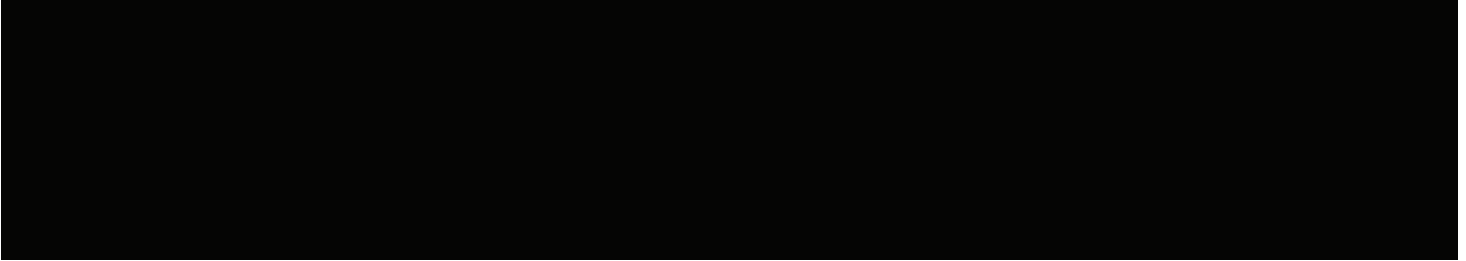
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From: Jeremy Eichenbaum <jeichenbaum@inside.artcenter.edu>

To: jeremyeichenbaum@gmail.com; jermwarfare82@yahoo.com

Subject: Conditioning Comfort



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Jeremy Eichenbaum <jeremyeichenbaum@gmail.com>

To: jeremy eichenbaum <jermwarfare82@yahoo.com>

Cc: Jeremy Eichenbaum <jeichenbaum@inside.artcenter.edu>

We are rats in the maze of an infinite network--turning corners in search of emotional rewards and self validation.

[Quoted text hidden]

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From: Jeremy Eichenbaum (jeremyeichenbaum@gmail.com)

To: jeichenbaum@inside.artcenter.edu;

Cc: jermwarfare82@yahoo.com; jeremy@icanbomb.com;

Subject: Re: Multi_self

The real me can only *shape shift* to take on multiple forms and can't exist in multiple forms simultaneously. To think of the real as multiples is to think of the self as fragmented.

[REDACTED], Jeremy Eichenbaum <jeichenbaum@inside.artcenter.edu> wrote:

Plugged in or not, our avatars are fixed yet temporary representations of ourselves. They exist for any length of time that we choose, until we decide to change how we want to be perceived or how we want to perceive ourselves. We can have multiple representations of ourselves, each unique in code existing everywhere at once. This can substantially compromise and alter one's identity and self image. Is my virtual self made up of characteristics of the real me or am I taking on the qualities of my multiple virtual selves? Am I believing my own hype of what I'm projecting about myself?



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Jeremy Eichenbaum <jeichenbaum@inside.artcenter.edu>

Current Dislocation

1 message

jeremy eichenbaum <jermwarfare82@yahoo.com>

To: jeremyeichenbaum@gmail.com, jeichenbaum@inside.artcenter.edu, jeremy@icanbomb.com

Current Dislocation

Our decentralized urban environment with its massive infrastructure and varied architecture seems to me to be creating a greater sense of dislocation than of "current location." How can I be centered when I have no epicenter? And I live in Los Angeles. With no epicenter there is no point of reference and everything seems shaky. It's not my fault that I'm always in motion. It's the way the foundation has shifted.

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From: Jeremy Eichenbaum (jeichenbaum@inside.artcenter.edu)
To: jermwarfare82@yahoo.com; jeremyeichenbaum@gmail.com; jeremy@icanbomb.com;
Date: [REDACTED]
Cc:
Subject: It's all the same

It's all the same

Take our corporate stores and fast food chains. They all duplicate the same interior and exterior decor and ignore the geography and history of a given time and place. They are devoid of distinguishing characteristics and individual trace. If I'm ordering a #5—at McDonalds in Brooklyn, it would be the same as if I'm ordering one in Burbank - The food tastes the same, the place looks the same. I sometimes forget where I am because I can be anywhere. I'm a victim of homogenization of destination.

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From: Jeremy Eichenbaum (jeremyeichenbaum@gmail.com)
To: jermwarfare82@yahoo.com;
Date: [REDACTED]
Cc: jeichenbaum@inside.artcenter.edu; jeremy@icanbomb.com;
Subject: Skew it

Skew it

Digital skeumorphs are a last attempt to phase out the older generations of technologies and their users. The emerging generation of users will be so far removed from the aesthetics referenced, that new interaction can evolve simultaneously with the disappears of the physical.

[REDACTED] jeremy eichenbaum <jermwarfare82@yahoo.com> wrote:

Reception clusters is what I call places where people gather in informal hotspots to use personal computing devices. These RC's become safety zones where one can remain connected to their virtual presence. Whole Foods Market near school has shit phone service inside and I am reminded of it every time I shop there. Recently before going in I stopped right before the entrance to finish texting my sister. I knew once I got inside I wouldn't be able to communicate freely so I had to shut down before I unplugged. I finished the text and when I looked up I noticed other people standing at this buffer zone with their phones in palm, connected.

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From: Jeremy Eichenbaum <jeremyeichenbaum@gmail.com>
To: Jeremy Eichenbaum <jeichenbaum@inside.artcenter.edu>
Cc: jeremy eichenbaum <jermwarfare82@yahoo.com>; jeremy@icanbomb.com

Subject: Hand to Eye

Hand to Eye

I remember trying to convince my parents that playing Nintendo made for good hand eye coordination. Look at the screen, push buttons, kill and advance. I never could have imagined how well those skills paid off. I look at screens and push buttons everyday in an attempt to advance while consequently killing the self.

Jeremy Eichenbaum <jeichenbaum@inside.artcenter.edu> wrote:

Online dating:

I just got out of a relationship. We communicated more through instant messenger, text and video chat then we did in the physical world. Needless to say there were some disconnections and miscommunications.

jeremy eichenbaum <jermwarfare82@yahoo.com> wrote:

Solo mission

I travel solo a lot. I fill up gas at the self service pumps and I shop for groceries via self check-out when available. I don't have to stand on line, look employees in the eyes or even talk to them for that matter. Not that I mind face-to-face contact with cashiers, it's just that the store is set up in such a way that the self check out is so damn appealing. The first time I checked my self out I had a real sense of independence. I scanned my cat food, toothpaste, peanut butter and a six-pack and placed them in the bagging area. I then verified the transaction on the screen and entered my phone number to ensure that I was part of their club. Paper or plastic? Cash or credit?! The prompt even reminded me to take my receipt.

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Arrival validates existence

1 message

jeremy eichenbaum <jermwarfare82@yahoo.com>

To: jeremyeichenbaum@gmail.com, jeichenbaum@inside.artcenter.edu, jeremy@icanbomb.com

The first time I drive someplace I have to visually scan what isn't to find out what is. I have to pay attention to signs and landmarks that establish new memory tracks in my brain so I remember how to drive there again. Or, I can cop out and use a GPS and that way I don't have to even think much. I asked myself, what happens when I drive somewhere I've been many times? I decided to pay attention to the environment while I drove through it--the billboards, the businesses, pedestrians, the other vehicles, traffic lights, signs.... It was EXHAUSTING trying to pay attention to everything. It's much easier to click into mental cruise control. Typically, I arrive at my destinations without having paid attention to anything between my point of departure and time of arrival. I've been mostly just in my head thinking about other things. My mind roams free while my motor skills work the road. If I'm on the phone I'm even further removed because my mind and attention are elsewhere. One time while driving with my right hand still in a cast, I was texting with my left hand and steering the car with my right knee. It's amazing I made it in one piece. I exist in a state of transit until I arrive.

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Location verifies our departure

1 message

Jeremy Eichenbaum <jeichenbaum@inside.artcenter.edu>

To: jeremy eichenbaum <jermwarfare82@yahoo.com>, jeremyeichenbaum@gmail.com, jeremy@icanbomb.com

Non-places and places of waiting like an airport or a doctor's waiting room facilitates departure to the *networkedscape*. When I'm not particularly grounded in a physical environment because I have no history or emotional tie to it or I'm bored, I tend to proceed directly to the *networkedscape*. My virtual comfort zone. I just sit back and enjoy the mind space.

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From: jeremy eichenbaum (jermwarfare82@yahoo.com)
To: jeremyeichenbaum@gmail.com; jeichenbaum@inside.artcenter.edu;
[REDACTED]
Cc: jeremy@icanbomb.com;
Subject: Re: Video in the now

Sometimes I like viewing a live feed on a device even if I'm in the presence of the real. I sacrifice the real experience so I can record it and play it again and again and again.

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From: Jeremy Eichenbaum <jeremyeichenbaum@gmail.com>
To: Jeremy Eichenbaum <jeichenbaum@inside.artcenter.edu>
Cc: jeremy eichenbaum <jermwarfare82@yahoo.com>; jeremy@icanbomb.com
[REDACTED]
Subject: Video in the now

Video in the now.

Telepresence. Live video chat. Let's all communicate with representations of each other! What do you have skype, ichtat, google video chat, all good.... lets have video sex! You show me yours and I'll show you mine.

[REDACTED] Jeremy Eichenbaum <jeichenbaum@inside.artcenter.edu> wrote:
Our devices are anchor points for our invisible umbilical cord connecting us to the motherload or motherdownload if you will.

[REDACTED] jeremy eichenbaum <jermwarfare82@yahoo.com> wrote:
Through constant exposure to representation a new aura is developed.

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From: Jeremy Eichenbaum <jeichenbaum@inside.artcenter.edu>
To: Jeremy Eichenbaum <jeremyeichenbaum@gmail.com>
Cc: jeremy eichenbaum <jermwarfare82@yahoo.com>; jeremy@icanbomb.com
[REDACTED]
Subject: Codes

I enter security codes as if the information I'm accessing is secret. It's all part of the illusion of privacy. Once On-line I am exposed. I have eaten from the screen of knowledge and am vulnerable to the eyes of the Internet gods.

[REDACTED] Jeremy Eichenbaum <jeremyeichenbaum@gmail.com> wrote:

Project or Project?

Paul asked me if I could help set up an upcoming video show. Being gimp I couldn't really lift and put the digital projectors in place. I realized if I couldn't use the equipment I couldn't project.

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From: Jeremy Eichenbaum (jeichenbaum@inside.artcenter.edu)
To: jeremyeichenbaum@gmail.com;
[REDACTED]
Cc: jermwarfare82@yahoo.com; jeremy@icanbomb.com;
Subject: to be one?

It's seems impossible to be one body and mind. We can think up things that we aren't capable of physically acting out. But the mind can become one with our virtual representation. Thoughts that can not be physically acted out could be executed virtually. What if our virtual selves started giving prompts to our physical self demanding that we carry out certain actions--suicide? Virtual suicide! How would we know if it's real or not and if we should do it? Who or what is in control?

[REDACTED] Jeremy Eichenbaum <jeremyeichenbaum@gmail.com> wrote:

We can become our own God

I heard this story about a guy who was walking on a beach with God. Well, it turns out that there were no footprints in the sand. God was carrying the believer and God will be damned if he's going to leave a trace. Pretty soon our virtual selves will carry us and we will leave no trace. We will simply transcend and be absorbed into the *networkedscape*.

The binary code that makes up our virtual identity is devoid of any physical connection to the real that it represents.



● Art Center College of Design

Jeremy Eichenbaum <jeichenbaum@inside.artcenter.edu>

Affordability of Digitality

1 message

jeremy eichenbaum <jermwarfare82@yahoo.com> [REDACTED]

To: jeremyeichenbaum@gmail.com, jeichenbaum@inside.artcenter.edu, jeremy@icanbomb.com

"Are you ready to make your digital life more affordable?" You bet I am! I will gladly exchange numbers for numbers. Money should just be called numbers because I never actually see "money" any more. I see numbers with dollar signs. Direct deposit, debt card, secret codes, and the network nodes. This reminds me, I had to deposit a check the other day. Chase Bank, I parked in the lot, walked to the ATM, swipe, secret code, feed the check into the mouth of the machine, verified the calculation, and headed back to my car. I stopped to talk with the parking attendant about how empty the lot was. I thought it was the economy but he said it was all the new apps used to deposit checks from anywhere. People don't bother driving to their local banks that much anymore because money no longer grows on trees.

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From: Jeremy Eichenbaum (jeichenbaum@inside.artcenter.edu)

To: jermwarfare82@yahoo.com; jeremyeichenbaum@gmail.com; jeremy@icanbomb.com;

Cc:

Subject: Mediated Perspective

Swiping through photos and videos on my iphone I came across a video I had taken while Dr. Lesin was working my wrist. It seemed easier for me to go through the excruciating pain if I was video taping the process. Through my phone I was removing myself from the situation and giving myself a mediated version of the experience. The strange thing is that during the procedures I was able to watch everything through the screen on my phone... But now watching those same videos it's making me nauseous.

--



Jeremy Eichenbaum <jeremyeichenbaum@gmail.com>

Radio Ads

1 message

jeremy eichenbaum <jermwarfare82@yahoo.com>

To: jeremyeichenbaum@gmail.com, jeichenbaum@inside.artcenter.edu, jeremy@icanbomb.com

Two radio ads recently caught my attention.

The first was for Trader Joe's and they were promoting the fact that they still have employees working the check out. They are trying to show that their still human in a world turning more and more toward machines. Most grocery stores today have installed self-serve check out. The second commercial was for Verizon's 4G network. They were advertising for business websites. The line that got me was, "If you don't have a website you're invisible." God bless Verizon for telling it like it is. If you don't have a website you might as well kiss your dreams good bye because you don't exist.

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Involuntary Participation

1 message

jeremy eichenbaum <jermwarfare82@yahoo.com>

To: jeremyeichenbaum@gmail.com, jeichenbaum@inside.artcenter.edu, jeremy@icanbomb.com

Involuntary Participation

We have sensors that are invisible and undetectable to the naked eye and I wonder how many times throughout the day I come into contact with them. When will they be everywhere and in total control of the physical--sensors feeding data into a predicted algorithm that I am unaware of?

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Why I like it

2 messages

Jeremy Eichenbaum <jeichenbaum@inside.artcenter.edu>

To: jeremy eichenbaum <jermwarfare82@yahoo.com>, Jeremy Eichenbaum <jeremyeichenbaum@gmail.com>, jeremy@icanbomb.com

Sounds like I'm criticizing our new technological age. But I'm really just being careful not to lose what I know about reality and illusion. I have to have a good understanding of them independently so I can use them in combination with each other. I need the golden ratio of the physical to the virtual. How can I benefit from my control of the two?

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jeremy eichenbaum <jermwarfare82@yahoo.com>

To: Jeremy Eichenbaum <jeichenbaum@inside.artcenter.edu>, Jeremy Eichenbaum <jeremyeichenbaum@gmail.com>, jeremy@icanbomb.com

Design

I want to design for a new virtual context-- A context with the potential for seamless departure and effortless arrival. To design for those who are in a constant state of in-between. This is a context that is not based off the user's physical location but their ability to be anywhere at any time. It's for users who are drawn to the visual, auditory, poetic and innovative. I want to be a voice in the new age of emerging technologies that is directed towards our virtual desires.

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From: Jeremy Eichenbaum <jeichenbaum@inside.artcenter.edu>

To: jeremy eichenbaum <jermwarfare82@yahoo.com>; Jeremy Eichenbaum <jeremyeichenbaum@gmail.com>; jeremy@icanbomb.com

Subject: Why I like it



● Art Center College of Design

Jeremy Eichenbaum <jeichenbaum@inside.artcenter.edu>

bibliography

1 message

jeremy eichenbaum <jermwarfare82@yahoo.com>

To: jeremyeichenbaum@gmail.com, jeichenbaum@inside.artcenter.edu, jeremy@icanbomb.com

Adam Green field. *Everyware The dawning age of Ubiquitous Computing*. Berkely, CA: New Riders, 2006. Print.

Jean Baudrillard. *The Perfect Crime*. New York: Verso, 1996. Print.

Marc Auge. *Non-places An Introduction to Supermodernity*. Brooklyn, New York: Verso, 1995. Print.

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