



A Teachers Resource

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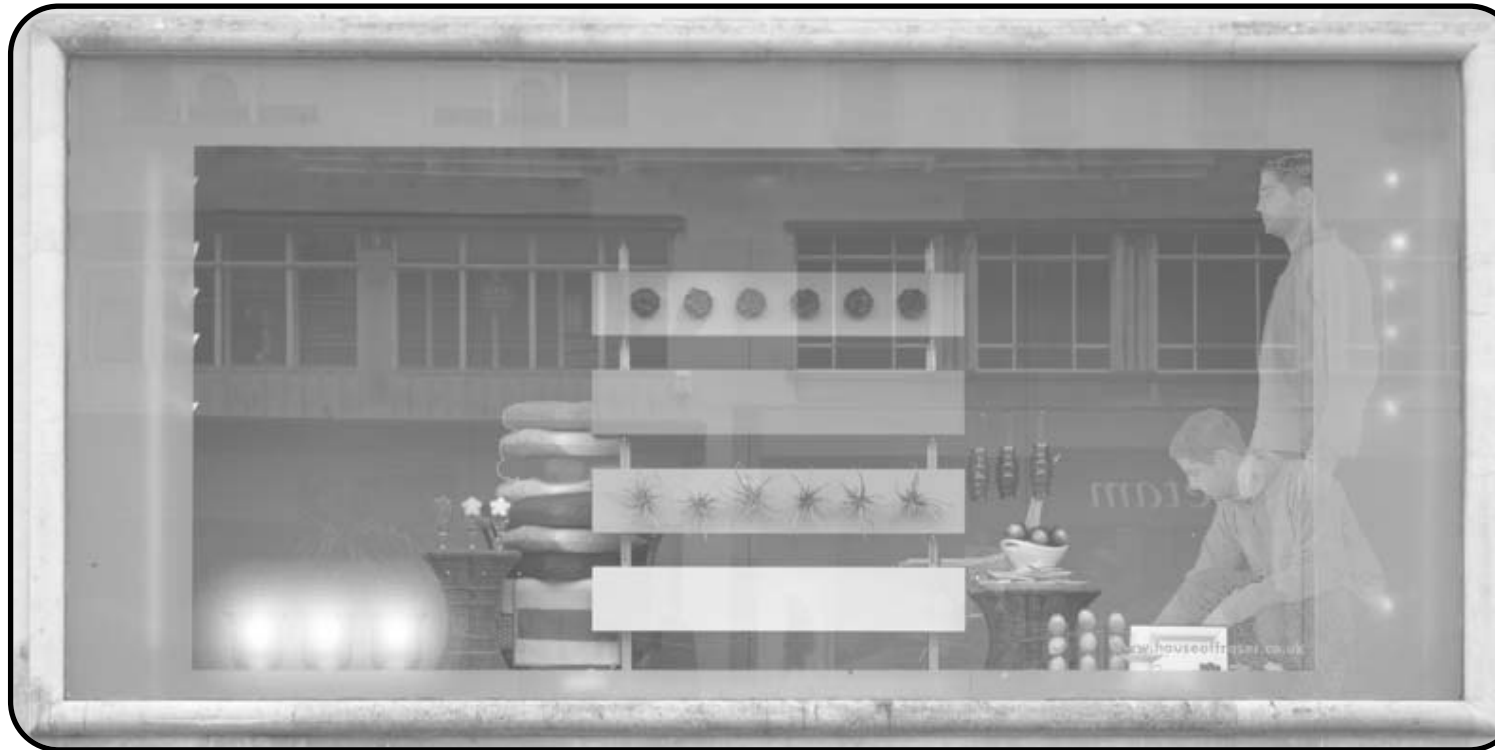
Catalogue



Reflected Reflections

Pletts Haque

photography by Graeme Duddridge. image © Pletts Haque



Biography

Pletts Haque is an architecture practice specialising in interaction design and research projects. Their practice explores the ways that people relate to each other and to their surrounding space. They design both physical spaces and the software and systems that bring them to life.

The Work

The spatial equivalent of a catalogue is a shop window. Shop windows, like catalogues, contain a collection of products that are carefully arranged to entice the viewer. However, the spatiality of a shop window creates a series of interactions with the products as viewers may see fleeting reflections of themselves superimposed on the products they aspire to.

This illusion is frequently interrupted by the street scene behind, smudges on the glass left behind by previous viewers or window dressers moving through the space to rearrange and redesign the window display.

References

<http://www.p-h.org.uk>

Alice Through The Looking Glass by Lewis Carroll

Reflected Reflections

Activity

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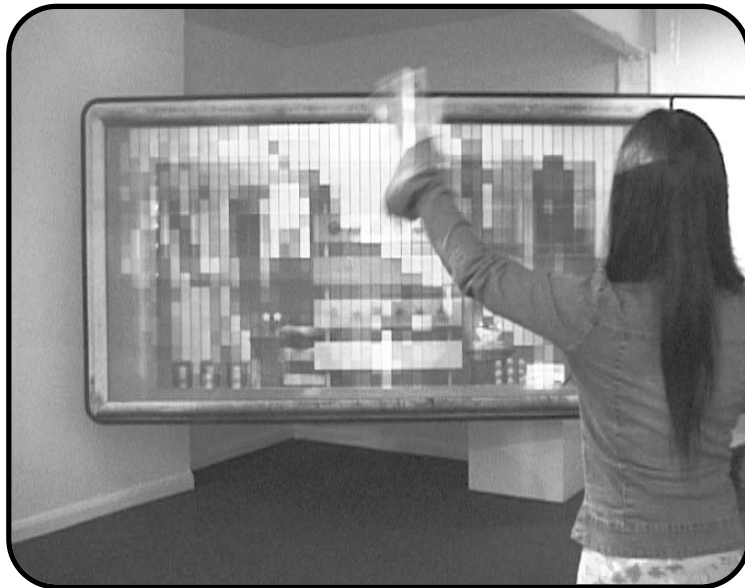


image showing a woman interacting with her reflection



image showing a ghostly figure rearranging the furniture

This image of a shop window is from a department store in Plymouth. Projected onto this image are digitised reflections of the visitors to the Catalogue exhibition in a street scene (imitating reflections on the surface of glass), and ghostly video images of people intermittently rearranging the furniture.

When we look through catalogues we might imagine what it would be like to be in the room that is shown. Shop window designs take our imagination one step nearer to reality. Our reflection on the shop window shows us in the scene. We can see our reflection and we can also see ourselves although we are slightly distorted. The shop window acts as a 'window' to another world.

Mirrors also show us our reflection and the room we are standing in. What would happen if like Alice in Alice Through the Looking Glass, what we saw was not the room we were in but the room we wanted to be in?

Discussion

Using the story of Alice Through the Looking Glass, explore with the class what their classroom could be like.

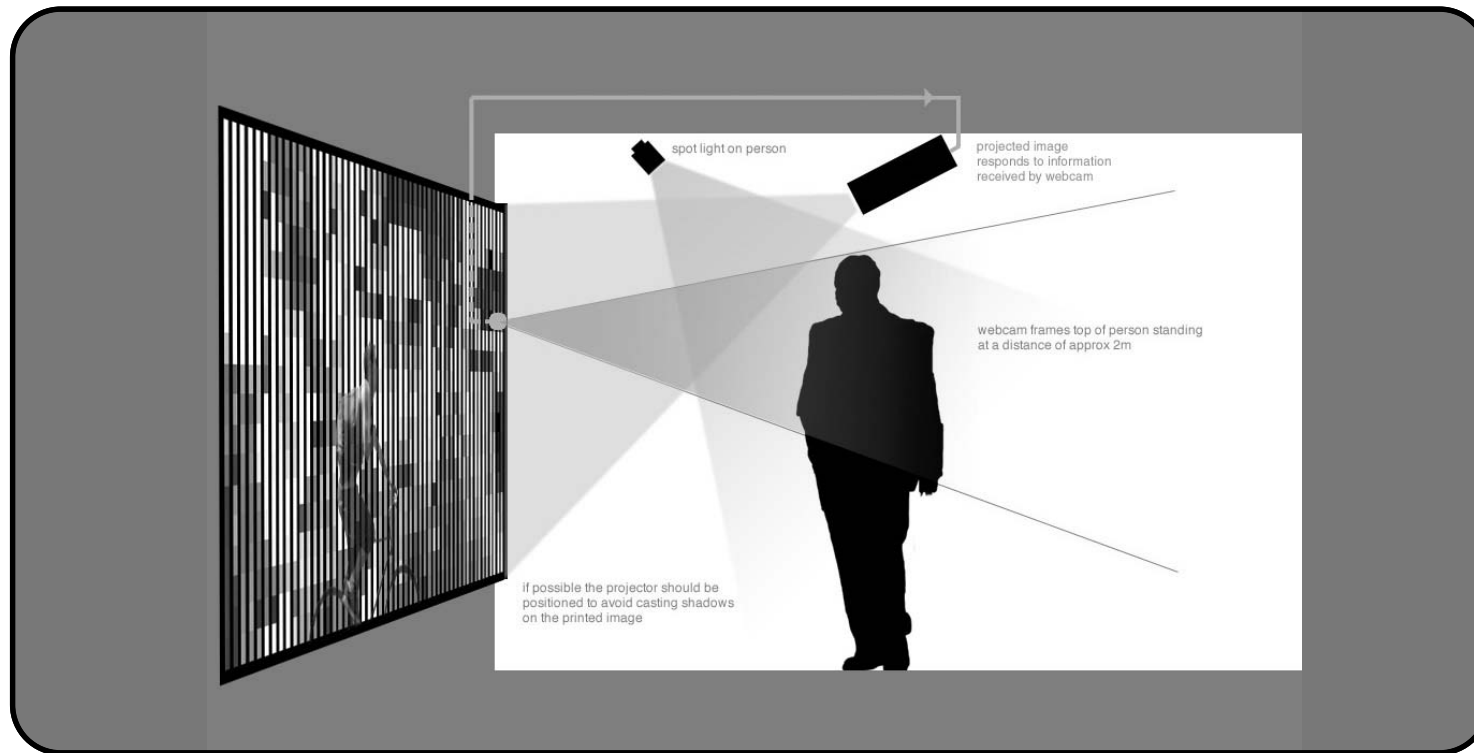
Help them to imagine a completely different world. In Alice Through the Looking Glass everything was topsy turvy and the wrong way round, just like a reflection.

You could ask these questions to help the discussion.

- What would you like to sit on?
- Instead of a desk what would you like to work at?
- If the class room was topsy turvy what would it feel like

Reflected Reflections

Activity



images © pletts haque

Using a webcam and video projector you can set up this same system.

- How could you change the image that is projected?
- What could you project the image onto?

Using a webcam connected to a computer monitor you can explore the difference between reflection, projection and an image on screen.

- Is the image on the screen a mirror image?
- Can you superimpose this image onto another background?

Webcam Technology

The image of a shop window is from a department store in Plymouth. Using a webcam a computer and a video projector, Pletts Haque recreated for the visitors to the exhibition the experience of looking in the shop window.

The webcam films the person looking at the image of the shop window. The webcam then sends this information to a computer. The computer runs the image through a series of pattern generators and then projects the distorted (reflected) image back onto the shop window.