

In Search for the *DomoNovus*: Speculations on the “New Home”

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Abstract

DomoNovus is a concept devised by the author, which attempts to explore the speculative futures of the domestic environment, and to conceptualize and define possibilities and limitations of the “New Home” that consists not only of routines, experiences, physical objects, and biological bodies, but also of a range of technological systems, digital networks, virtual environments, and local or remote cyberspaces in micro, meso, and mega scales; an accumulation of cells, things, memories, links, molecules. Thus, in this work a range of theoretical and practical explorations are presented that intend to investigate the domestic space as an ecological system that uses technological facilitation to extend methods and practices that tame and domesticate ubiquitous computing, while same time proposes ways in rethinking dwelling and achieving conditions for symbiotic mutualism.

Project Description

This work investigates the ecological transition of the domestic space as adaptive shifts and radical changes within the routines, rhythms, and qualities are caused by the technological facilitation that infiltrates and redefines home’s natural order. A vast amount of information that can be collected to help identify patterns emerging from the invisible choreography of the household, provide a rich database for the establishment of guidelines concerning the spaces we occupy. With the use of computational systems and web services it is possible to sense numerous properties of the environment, classify, analyse and filter data and metadata, train Artificial Intelligence algorithms to process large amounts of clusters, and identify trends or even psychological traits that can be applied for a detailed understanding of the domestic interactions, suggesting we rethink dwelling and how ubiquity can be domesticated.

According to these aims, we need (a) to view the house on all possible scales from micro, to meso, and macro, (b) to consider the ecological universe of objects with their resonance and emotional presence, and (c) to perceive house as partner in mutual symbiosis. In order to demonstrate these points, a number of speculative experimentations have been developed by the author that attempt to explore the possibilities that emerge through the domestication of ubiquitous computing systems, services, and applications, and to observe how current adaptive shifts affect home’s ecology.

DomoNovus is a speculative concept that emerged from the practical expeditions of this work, and it suggests a future for the computationally-enhanced domestic environment that develops an intimate and affective relationship with its inhabitants according to its technological infrastructure, in software, hardware, and hybrid forms, suggesting and offering precise responses according to the dwellers’ computed profiles. The invisible and remote servers of the cloud become a fundamental extension of the domestic ecology, following

loyally their owners in space and time, and personalizing accordingly when needed. Moreover, the concept explores the hybridization of domestic objects, properties, and events, the implementation of computational units responsible for reasoning, analysis, memory-keeping, multisensory interfaces, and network of things, open-source and DIY ideology, sustainability strategies, as well as computational media practices that transform the interior space into a cosmos of easily accessible variable realities.

DomoNovus, therefore, provokes us to study, implement, test, and analyse the networked manifestation between inorganic, biological, and digital entities, and create a digital cartography of behaviours, actions, and sensed interactions. The domestic space becomes a tool of distributed authorship, a cyberception and telematics portal, a cluster of participation of objects and bodies. Unseen and buried datasets collected from sensorial and algorithmic agents are organized, connected, and revealed to the daily actions of the household through spatialized rearrangements in multiple domains, breaking the rhythms and preconceptions of the chaotic system we call “home”.

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