

Yan Da RISD Digital Media 09

ACROSS * RISD

Interactive Visual Network

Description:

- Across* is a real time system that generate lines from anything moving in the space. These lines would fill inside the contours of the moving objects and randomly cross connect other moving objects' edges, thus constantly constructing and de-constructing a fluid volume of people's motion and gesture in the space.
- Across captures sound wherever it captures the visual, the movements of the audience trigger the appearance (volume) of the sound from the video it captures whether it is live or pre-recorded. The more vivid the movement of the audience is, the more perceivable the sound will become. Across* engages people to virtually connect each other between different space and time creating a networked gestural sound flow and visual dynamics.
- Across could be easily customized into different locations so that it could be developed into different variations.
- Across* also incorporates an interactive map and navigation system for audience to switch from live camera to pre-recorded video and to choose the location and time for interaction.
- One of the variations I developed is Across * Risd. It involves communication between two places across risd campus. One is the exhibition site (RISD CIT Lobby), which has a live camera facing the audience, the other

is a switch between another live location (The Sol Koffler Gallery) and a video from 30 pre-recorded spots across risd campus. These locations are a mixture of interior and outdoor space that share common features such as a place at a cross or a place that evolves ascending and descending, whether a slope or a staircase.

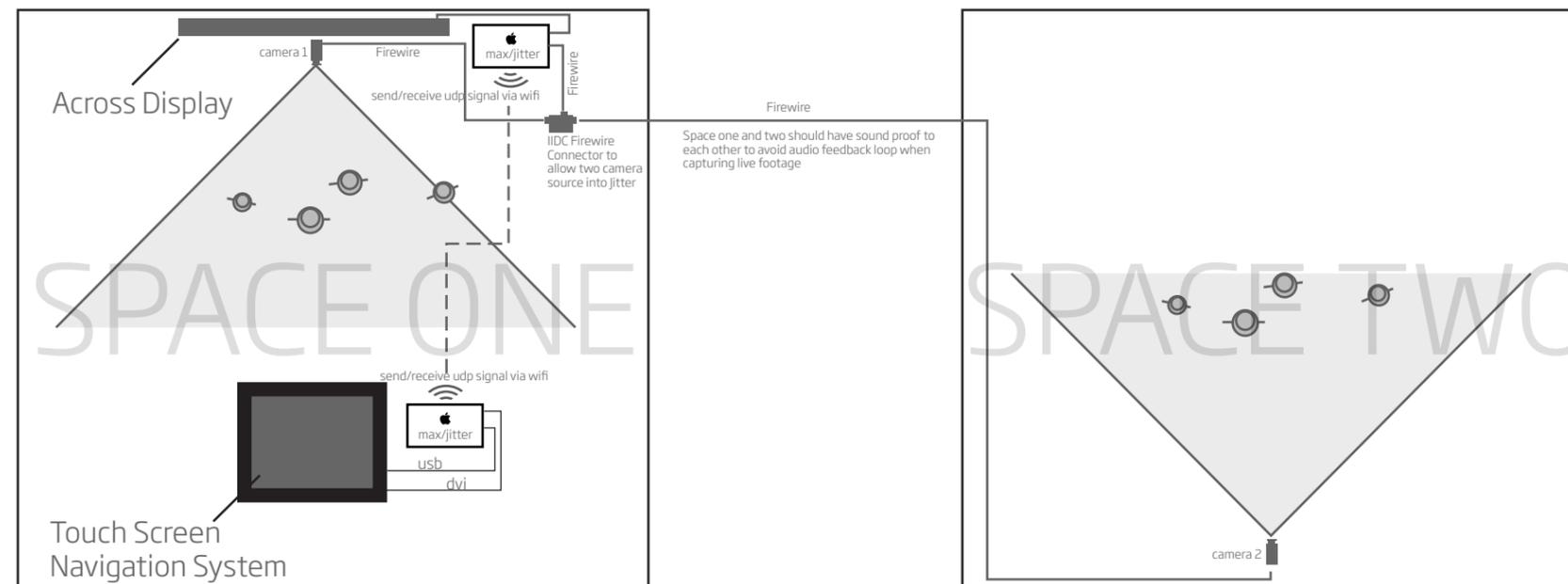
- Across * Risd is displayed on a public TV screen which is used to show campus information. The location is on the first floor in front of the elevator, so that it allows both close interaction (when people waiting for the elevator) and casual contact (when people passing by). Across * is very sensitive so that any subtle movement will be contributing to the visual and aural flow. Across * Risd uses a wacom tablet screen as the navigation system. The system has a similar visual style and dynamic appearance to the visual flow on the big screen. The visibility and vividness of the icon indicating a certain place will be identical to the strength of motion in that place. Besides locations, it allows audience to choose different map mode and visual mode. For details please see the diagram attached.

Concepts:

- Across* tends to reveal the invisible aura and “connections” between people in the same or different spaces and time (live camera and pre-recorded video). It enables people’s gesture to construct a networked visual sound flow without intentional inputs. However, as a result of the real test, it engages an intentional gestural participation to foster an interesting visual and aural dialogue.
- By simply controlling the volume of the sound from audience’s motion and gesture. Across* uses them as a natural editing tool and creates a musical pattern out of the ambient sound from that certain locations. Thus it makes audience re-play and re-organize the “silence” of the daily life in the chosen locations.

- Just like pouring water into a transparent glass might reveal the volume inside the glass, moving people is like liquid pouring into the space. Across* senses only the moving and ignores the still, thus filters the moving into an empty background. The volume of the space might be visualized in a way of constant flux drifting there, which enhances the floating nature of the motion and gesture in the space. The floating trace will gradually construct and de-construct a fluid sculpture.
- Eventually Across* tries to make the space more engaging and playful, to share a networked visual and musical experience with whoever crossing by.

ACROSS * system diagram



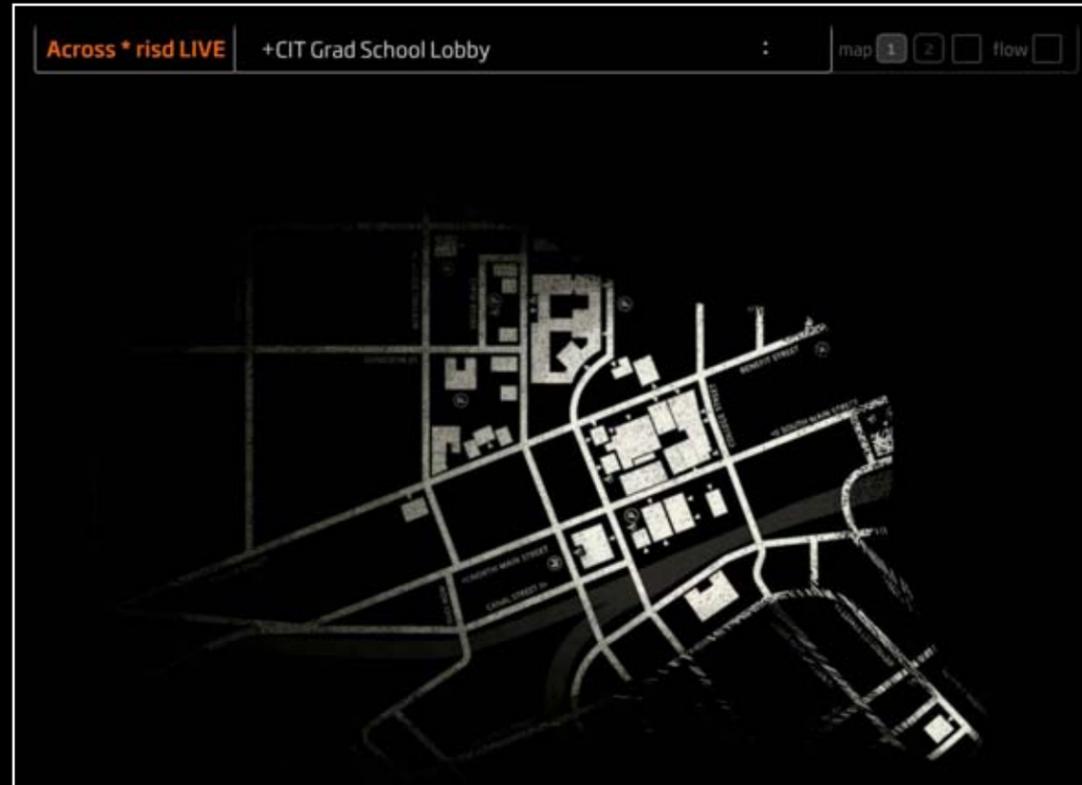
1. The map will be dynamically revealed based on the tablet pen's motion range by the audience

2. A solid white circle on the top right menu bar will turn on when audience navigate to a certain location that has a pre-recorded video.

3. The Orange cross mark switch on/off the recorded spots on the map

4. The pulldown menu will allow more direct navigation to a certain location.

1



2



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