

COLLET Carole (UK)

A Poetic Cyber-quest –paper

My primary ambition as a textile designer is to map out new design territories. By confronting and combining diverse disciplines such as textile design, architecture, interactive design, electronics and interface design, my work investigates new meanings and new potential for innovative contemporary textiles.

Both as a practitioner and an academic leader in one of the world largest institutions in art and design, I believe that textiles can and will redefine our use and understanding of new technologies. Textile products can facilitate a more “human conscious” approach to design and can open up to a new poetic dimension for our future cyber-selves.

The main aim of my current research is to develop innovative textiles for the living environment and to redefine the notion of “home”. In the context of a growing market for high tech lifestyle products and gadgets, my work challenges both the aesthetic and the perception of new technologies.

My latest project, titled “Remote Home, One Home, Two Cities” is the result of a collaboration with Tobi Schneidler from the Smart Studio at the Interactive Institute in Stockholm, Sweden. Remote Home was exhibited simultaneously at the Science Museum, in London and at the Raumlabor Gallery, in Berlin in May 2003.



Using Internet gateway technology, two conceptual flats were remotely designed and connected to respond to the presence and movement of their inhabitants. The furniture and wall coverings physically transformed themselves in a symbiotic fashion and reacted to the absence or presence of their inhabitants.

“Remote Home” is an interactive architectural proposal marrying textiles and new technologies to trigger a more emotive design response. The choice of materials and shapes

reflect the desire to enhance a human and sensual exchange. From hand-knitted textiles to smart fabrics, the textile furniture explores the semiotic values of tactility, craft and the “hand-made” to counterbalance the symbolic values of high technologies and cyber-aesthetics.

“Remote Home” will be exhibited at the e-culture fair in Amsterdam in October 2003.

The paper proposed for the Space between conference would present the on going “Remote Home” project as well as new work currently being developed.

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Born in France 1969. Lives and work in London, UK.

Carole Collet is trained as a textile designer. Her consultancy and design work has included clients such as Boussac, DMC, Koji Tatsuno, Matsuda and Hoechst. Carole 's current academic research focuses on questioning and repositioning the use of textiles within the domestic environment. Her work is influenced both by tradition and innovation within the context of sustainable textiles. Although new technologies play a key role in her work, the investigation of emotions and poetics is inherent to the design process. She has recently exhibited work as part of the "Remote Home" project at the Science Museum, London and the E-culture fair, Amsterdam. Her work has also been included as part of group shows in "Dirty Washing" and "Design against Crime" at The Design Museum, London; Zeus Gallery, Milano, as well as at Avantex trade fair, Germany. www.textilefutures.co.uk
www.csm.linst.ac.uk
