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Master's Thesis
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Sound Gardening: a Garden Microenvironment for User-generated
Narrative

Graduate School of Media Design
Keio University

John Shaw

A Master's Thesis
submitted to Graduate School of Media Design, Keio University
in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of
MASTER of Media Design

John Shaw

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Sound Gardening: a Garden Microenvironment for User-generated Narrative

The aim of this research is to transform a living garden in to a microenvironment for narrative production. The design, Sound Gardening, took the form an indoor garden augmented with sensors and a system of speaker outputs. Garden-to-human interactions led users to conceptualize the garden as a microenvironment in which to stage their own stories. Without any recognizable landscape the design relies on its non-visual interactions to facilitate narrative creation among its users. The process of story creation is represented in three chronological elements of the design, intervention, exploration and discovery, and user-generated narrative. In a unique contrast to existing plant media research Sound Gardening focuses on a holistic garden interaction rather than a singular plant to human interaction.

Keywords:

Plant Media, User-generated Narrative, Gamification, Miniaturization

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