ROTTERDAM UNIVERSITY OF APPLIED SCIENCES

MINOR DESIGNFUL INNOVATION

ROTTERDAM 2025/2026
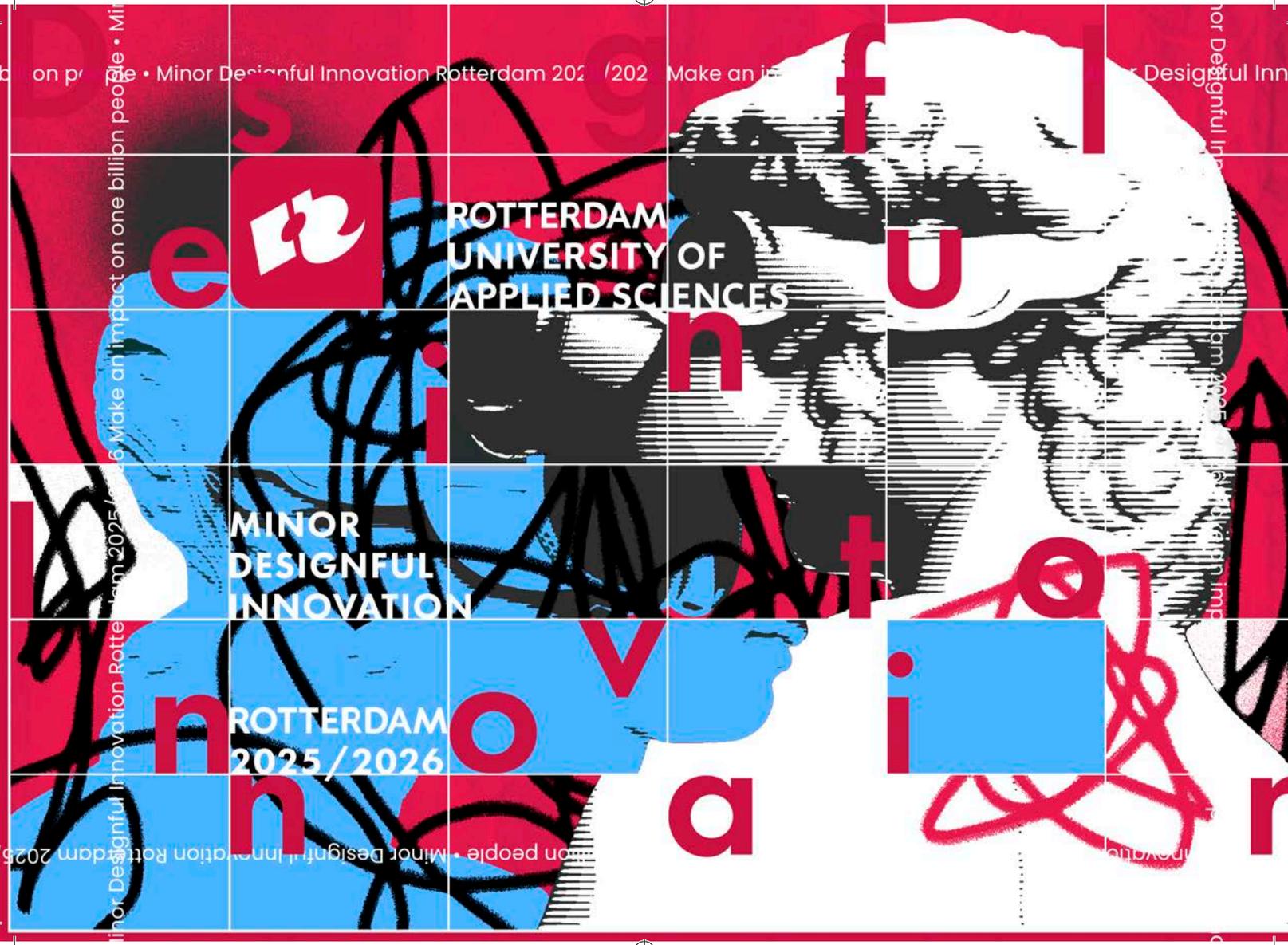
Introduction

Take up the challenge to design a meaningful speculative innovation for 1 billion people for the year 2055. In a transformative program consisting of different thematical weeks on Speculative Design as a tool to explore possible futures, Cross-Cultural Competencies, Creative Concepting, Making and Prototyping, Business Modelling and Exposition Design, students gained the knowledge and insights to question assumptions and change existing situations in the world. As a moral compass, they used the Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations.

From August 2025 until January 2026, students were challenged to take the next step from problem solving design to sense making design (Bannon, Kolko). Through speculative design, they learned to frame complex challenges, provoke discussion, and make future consequences tangible and debatable in the present.

It was again a pleasure and honour to work with students from different Universities of Applied Sciences in and outside the Netherlands. These students demonstrated a curious and open mindset, essential for speculative inquiry and future thinking.

Their projects explored how design can influence future social, cultural, technological, and ecological conditions at multiple scales.

The students designed innovations that over time could benefit a substantial part of the world. They gained deep insights into users, systems, and relevant stakeholders. By reframing problems through a future-oriented lens, they proposed alternative approaches that challenge existing solutions and dominant narratives, while opening up space for reflection and dialogue.

We wish all students success in their further studies and lives. We will miss the 2025–2026 student group.

Enjoy the innovations and the futures they invite us to imagine!

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The innovators of 2025

The Themes

Responsible Business

Shift of Power

Smart & Social City

More than human design

Care & Wellbeing

Rebooting Nature

Responsible Business

From profit to planetary prosperity

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'How might I rethink human energy and consumption by using light as a biological support system?'

B.L.I.S.

B.L.I.S. is a calm technology innovation created for Gen Y in 2055, a generation living in a world of constant stimulation and artificial light. Instead of adding more screens, notifications or tracking systems, B.L.I.S. offers a new kind of connection, one that begins in the body.

B.L.I.S. is a wearable light patch that works in harmony with a biocompatible gel placed just under the skin. The gel senses subtle biological signals and communicates with the patch, which responds by emitting gentle light waves. This light supports energy levels, circadian rhythms and overall wellbeing. No need for manual input. The body leads, the system follows.

The experience is intentionally minimal. Just soft, adaptive light that works in the background of daily life. In moments of stress, exhaustion or imbalance, B.L.I.S. offers a quiet rebalancing a physiological breath. B.L.I.S. uses red light for energy and repair, blue for rhythm and focus, and amber to calm the body. Each light adapts to what the body needs in the moment.

All biological signals are handled with strong privacy by design. There is no data extraction, no cloud connection. The system exists only to serve the person wearing it, creating a private space for natural restoration.

Responsible Business

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'How might I create a system where consumers feel genuinely connected to the origin, impact, and regeneration of their clothes?'

Trustware

Fashion shapes how we express ourselves, yet behind most clothing lies a system built on overproduction, hidden labor, and environmental cost. We are taught to buy more, faster, trust brands we cannot see into.

With Trustware clothing is no longer purchased as mass-produced items, but as digital rights to create garments on demand. Each piece begins as a secure digital design file, either made by designers you love or customized by the user, recorded on a blockchain ledger that carries its full story - materials, maker, environmental impact, and care over time. Nothing is hidden. Nothing is disposable.

When a garment is ordered, machine learning optimizes production through nearby micro-factories, matching materials, energy use, and patterns to reduce waste. Artisans remain at the center of the process, supported by technology rather than replaced by it. Materials are extracted ethically, and after purchase the garnment is logged into Trustware storing repair paths, resale options, and recycling futures, creating a closed loop. Governments and communities gain real-time, verified data, replacing vague sustainability claims with accountability.

2055 is a future where what we wear reflects who we are and how we care for the world. From consumption to stewardship in a decentralized fashion network.

Responsible Business

Trustware

Eco-Dye farm

Weave &
fabrics facility

Wool farm

Sewing &
repair hub

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'How might I break down invisible boundaries and create genuine connections?'

Making the Unseen Seen

Through my exchange student experience, I constantly questioned how foreigners can truly integrate into existing societies. I experienced firsthand what it means to enter European society as an outsider.

At the same time, I heard stories from people entering Asian society. When a Dutch friend who studied in Korea told me he experienced racism there, I couldn't believe it at first. How could someone often considered privileged face such discrimination? But what he described wasn't visible or overt. It was an impenetrable boundary that emerged when he tried to form deeper relationships within Korean society.

I couldn't empathize then, but now I understand what that boundary means. It doesn't come from a desire to exclude or reject one another. It emerges from invisible differences in shared understanding and ways of thinking. Language barriers are disappearing through technology, but cultural differences remain like transparent walls.

People will continue to move and seek connections. How might I break down these invisible boundaries and create genuine connections?

I want to design a new lens that makes the invisible visible. PARALLAX - the ocular interface lens.

Responsible Business

Ocular Interface Lens

PARALLAX™

How might I break down invisible boundaries and create genuine connections?

2 LENSES
FOR SOCIAL CLARITY

Shift of Power

From hierarchies to fluid sovereignties

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**'How might I use new techniques to reduce waste during clothing manufacturing?'**

Growth pods

Forget throwing away your clothing, you can just remake them into something new with growth pods. Growth pods allow you to grow clothing from agricultural waste, like banana fibre or hemp fibre. They represent a radical shift of power, moving the industry away from massive, centralized factories and placing the means of production directly onto the desks of independent, sustainability-conscious designers. Imagine a personal meeting with an independent designer where you hand-pick every detail for your garment.

And if that doesn't suit you, you can just browse in the stores and let the garments be altered to your perfect fit.

Your garment then grows locally in a Growth Pod, transforming from agricultural waste into a living form that fits your body perfectly.

But the innovation doesn't stop at creation. These garments are not dead matter, they are living biomaterials. When you no longer like it, it doesn't end up on a landfill. Instead, you feed it back into the Growth Pod, where it is broken down to become the nutrient-rich fuel for your next outfit. This
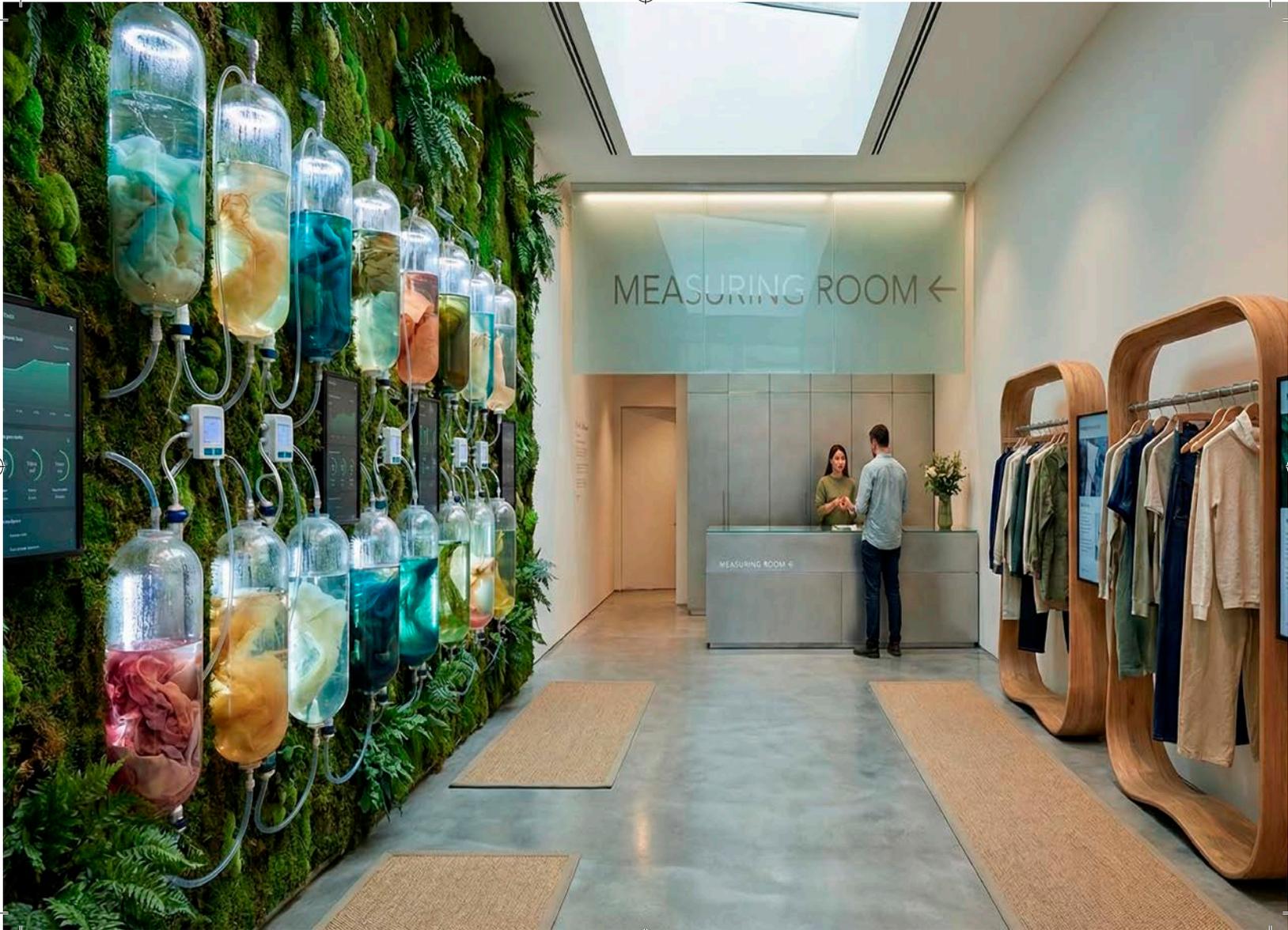
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'How might we establish a global Symbiotic Safety Standard for human ocean infrastructure by 2055 that prioritizes the ocean ecosystem?'

Symbiotic Safety System

Imagine an underwater infrastructure that doesn't just exist within the ocean but partners with it. The Symbiotic Safety System (SSS) is a autonomous solution designed to protect critical subsea internet cables. Stretching across a vast segment of global infrastructure, this system replaces disruptive human intervention with biomimetic resilience.

The SSS consists of three autonomous Biomimetic Sealing Nodes. Specialized rings that monitor and travel along the pipeline. Using a silent, non-invasive hovering system, these nodes scan for failures without disturbing the acoustic environment of marine life.

Once a leak is detected, the node activates its self-healing compartment, releasing a mussel-inspired resin to repair the structure instantly.

By shifting the focus from human-led repairs to autonomous, symbiotic maintenance, the SSS ensures global connectivity while restoring the peace of the deep sea. It's not just about fixing pipes; it's about creating a safe, quiet habitat where technology and nature coexist.

Shift of Power

Smart and Social City
From data-driven to symbiotic urban organisms

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'How might I make neighbourly communities stronger and more accessible in urban areas?'

KINORA

KINORA is a digital community manager that implements a change in meaning on how we organize ourselves into local communities. The most important part?
Receiving a default local community anywhere you move. Being connected to your neighbours, doing participatory activities together based on your interests, where you get to socialize with neighbours while working together to make your environment better.

This will create exponential progress in Sustainable Development Goals: 10.Reduced Inequalities, and 11.Sustainable Cities and Communities.

How is this going to be implemented?

According to United Nations, 68% of the global population will live in urban areas by 2055. This is around 5 billion people, which would probably be housed in high residential buildings. Kinora comes as a digital space equipped with AI Agents that rental companies can implement in their buildings, to nurture active communities and to make the building more responsive to the tenants. This way, no one is left behind, no one is left isolated and alone.

Are you ready to make an impact? Then choose KINORA today!

KINORA

The Digital Community Manager

Join now!

About KINORA

KINORA is a digital community manager that implements a change in meaning on how we organize ourselves into local communities. The most important part? Receiving a default local community anywhere you move. Being connected to your neighbours, doing participatory activities together based on your interests, where you get to socialize with neighbours while working together to make your environment better.

Take the Neuro Test

Start

KINORA

How might I make neighbourly communities stronger and more accessible in urban areas?

- **Default Community**
- **Empathy & Acceptance**
- **Active Attitude**

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'How might I create a better connected and human centered city for the future?'

HACIP

The Hoverpad Adaptible City Infastructure Program, HACIP, is a new way of thinking of cities. Instead of a conventional static city, this new type of city design,is a rearranging city.

This new type of city better adapts to the needs of the people living in the city. You no longer need to commute far for work, as the city adapts into the most optimal layout for every change that occurs. Moving to a different city is no longer a logistical nightmare, as you move your entire house.

City design is based on hover-houses instead of owning the land it sits on. You can think of your house as we think of our cars today:

We buy it, we use it for what we need it for, we love it, we take care of it, and the only thing we pay for is a parking spot. In this future you would'nt need a car anymore if you live in or around a city, as everything is close by, and/or easily accessible.

The system itself makes sure the city is working at an efficient and optimal level, in terms of productivity, and the social structure of the inhabitants. The city system will ensure trough data that you always live close to your social circle, which will make it easier to socialize with the people you hold dear.

Smart & Social City
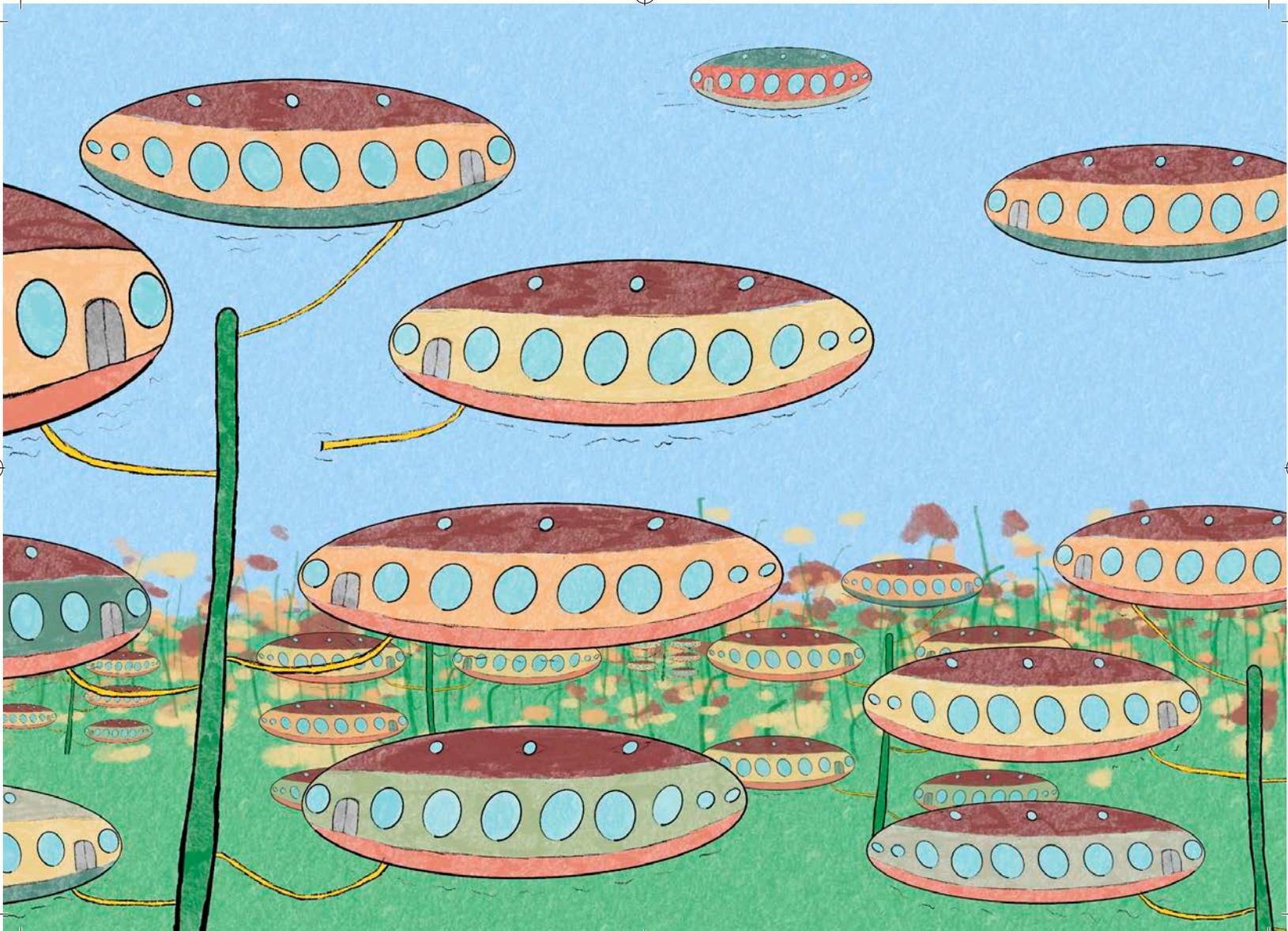
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'How might I create sensory places that go beyond aesthetic to enhance emotional well-being?'

THE UNSEEN LAYER

The Unseen Layer is an urban hub that redefines architecture as a responsive, multi-sensory experience.
This compact plaza is lined with sensory capsules, each dedicated to a specific sense: sound, touch, vision, smell, balance, and movement. Within each capsule, light, texture, sound, scent, and spatial elements adapt dynamically to visitors' emotional states, creating environments that are both visually striking and restorative.

Most architectural spaces prioritize appearance over emotional impact, even though every surface and object subtly influences mental wellbeing. The Unseen Layer brings this hidden dimension to the forefront, demonstrating how design can actively support mindfulness, creativity, relaxation, focus, and social connection.

Each capsule offers distinct exper-iences, from study and introspection to gentle movement or social interaction, while the adaptive architecture ensures that emotional engagement remains central.

By combining aesthetically compelling design with responsive, multi-sensory environments, the project envisions a future in which public spaces not only delight the eye but also actively nurture the emotional and mental health of everyone who inhabits them.

Smart & Social City

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'How might I expand the city vertically to create new layers of connection, nature, and well-being?'

Roffa Roofs

By 2055, decades of rapid urban growth, climate pressure and rising mental health challenges have forced societies to rethink not only how cities function, but how they feel to live in. As ground-level space became increasingly congested and overstimulating, attention shifted upward to one of the city's most underused resources: rooftops.

Roffa Roofs is a circular urban strategy that transforms unused rooftops into a connected layer of calming, restorative ecosystems. Instead of adding new infrastructure at street level, the concept introduces a new public realm above the city. Walkable paths and small bridges link rooftops into a continuous green network, offering access to nature, calm and perspective within dense urban environments.

Each rooftop operates as in a circular system collecting rainwater, generate renewable energy, support biodiversity and producs local food. Redistributed through a transparent value system, ensuring that residents directly benefit from the value generated above them.

Maintenance and management are handled by a dedicated Rooftop Foundation. By combining circular systems with human-centered design, Roffa Roofs reimagines rooftops as essential infrastructure for healthier, fairer and more regenerative cities.

Smart & Social City

More than human design
From Homo sapiens to Homo symbioticus

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'How might I increase quality of life through augmentation. ?'

SonderBionics

The Open Source Bionics of 2055

In an increasingly technological society where more and more jobs can be performed with robotic labour and artificial intelligence, where do humans go, and do they compete?

In a society with major AI implementation, robotic labour, universal basic income and early stage regenerative medicine, humans no longer work to survive, but rather to achieve passion, purpose, fulfillment and status. In this neo-renaissance people aim to take their crafts to new heights, and augmentation is just a step along that path.

This project—originally intended as a medical solution to offer amputees better prosthetics at a reduced cost—has been repurposed and aims to put the option of augmentation for increased efficiency in everyday life and specialised work in the hands of the people.

As an open source platform for the different fields to implement tools directly into the limb for specialised work in collaboration with the SonderBionics development team, this project aims to increase the quality of life for users both in everyday life and the workplace.

More than human design
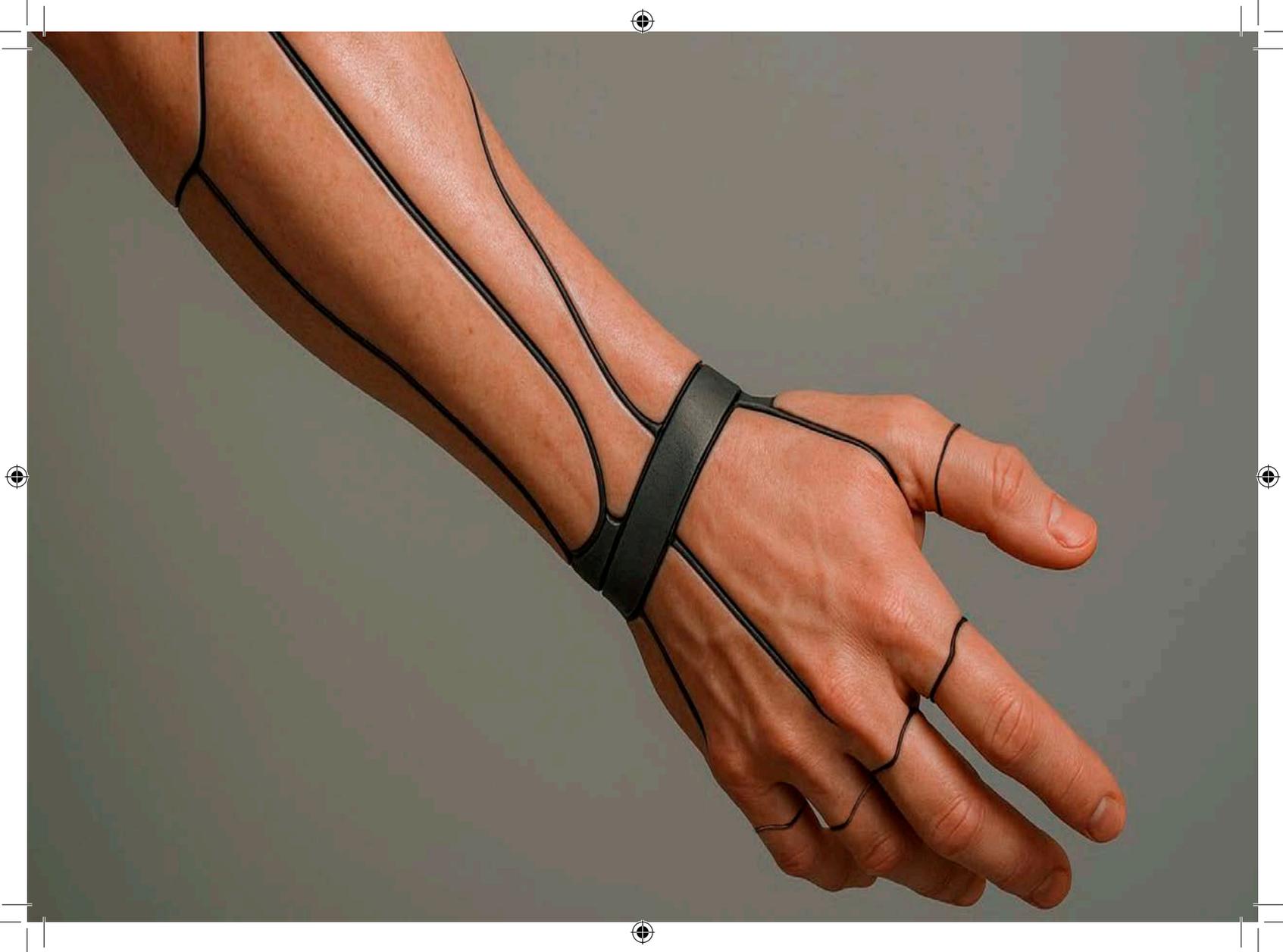
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'How might I design a new meaning of belonging for young urban professionals by mirroring their emotional flow?'

The Specular

We live in a culture that measures everything except how we feel. Belonging is earned through productivity, comparison and constant optimisation. Stillness feels suspicious. Reflection feels like failure.

The Specular challenges this logic.

The Specular is a personal holographic journal that does not measure you—it mirrors you. Worn as a quiet ring throughout the day, it senses emotional flow rather than output. When the day ends, the ring unfolds into a holographic reflection space. No scores. No streaks. No goals. Only an embodied visualisation of your inner rhythm.

This reframes journaling from control to witnessing, from self-surveillance to self-trust. In a world obsessed with improvement, The Specular offers something radical: permission to pause without guilt. To listen to the body before the mind interferes. To belong without performing.

Designed for people shaped by climate anxiety, housing precarity and digital overload, The Specular becomes a ritual rather than a tool. A cultural artefact for emotional presence in uncertain times.

The value is not efficiency. The value is meaning.

More than human design

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'How might I help visually impaired people in their daily life to live their life?'

Echosense

Echosense is a sensory upgrade designed for 2055 that gives visually impaired people a way to "see" using sound. Instead of carrying a cane or checking a phone, users have a device that uses AI and echolocation to map out everything around them in real time. It takes the same tech bats and dolphins use and turns it into a high-tech enhancing of the senses that sends vibrations and temperture signals directly to the user. This is not just about fixing sight; it is about giving people the freedom to walk into a busy city, a skate park or a new job with total confidence and control. It's a way of new freedom and independence.

More than human design

ECHOSENSE:
HUMAN: Your Enhanced Sense
Translate Surroundings Through Temp & Haptics

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'How might I rethink human communication to create deeper understanding beyond words?'

Outer Emotion

Making the invisible language of emotion visible in real time.

Outer Emotion is an experimental communication concept that translates human emotions into subtle external signals such as light, color or vibration. Allowing people to better sense and understand each other beyond words. Inspired by how animals communicate emotional states through visual and sensory cues, the project explores how emotional transparency could reduce misunderstandings, support mental well-being and create more empathetic interactions in everyday life.

More than human design

Outer Emotion

Making the invisible language of emotion
visible in real time

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'How might I create a wearable device that could make communication truly inclusive for deafblind people in 2055?'

Neurological Crown Link

Neurological Crown Link (NCL) is a conceptual headband device designed for the year 2055 to enable non-verbal, non-visual communication through controlled electromagnetic signaling. Worn around the forehead and temples like a lightweight crown, the device interfaces with neural activity associated with intent, emotion, and perception. Inspired by animals such as electric fish and sharks that navigate and communicate using electromagnetic fields, the Crown Link translates neural signals into low-energy electromagnetic wave patterns.

These patterns do not function as spoken language. Instead, they carry encoded information such as meaning, emotional tone, or presence.

When another person wearing a Crown Link is nearby, their device receives and decodes the signals, converting them into neural feedback that feels like intuitive impressions or understood concepts rather than words.

The technology is designed to be especially inclusive for deafblind individuals, removing dependence on sight, sound, or physical touch. Users can recognize others, exchange information, and maintain social connection through electromagnetic sensing alone. Adaptive AI within the device learns each user's neural patterns over time, increasing accuracy and comfort while maintaining privacy and safety limits.

More than human design

Care & Wellbeing
From treating illness to cultivating vitality

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'How might I increase the recognition of values within oneself to have a greater sense of belonging?'

BUJI BUDDY

"We all need a sense of belonging."

Buji Buddy is a smart AI robot designed to help people feel better and more connected. It focuses on Sustainable Development Goal 3: Good Health and Well-being by fighting the problem of loneliness.

This project was inspired by "Hikikomori" in Japan—people who stay inside and pull away from society because they feel too much pressure.

Buji Buddy is special because it monitors your body's signals, like a racing heart or signs of stress. When it senses you are feeling anxious, it gently approaches you to start a conversation or lead you through a mindfulness exercise. It uses CBT (Cognitive Behavioural Therapy) methods from therapists to help you handle difficult thoughts.

The robot follows three main goals:
Safety: It provides a kind, supportive presence that never judges or pressures you.

Self-Worth: It helps you focus on your own strengths and values, so you gain confidence.

The Bridge: It acts as a temporary "bridge," helping you build the courage to talk to others and rejoin the world.

By being there when things get tough, Buji Buddy helps people move from feeling alone to feeling like they truly belong.

Care & Wellbeing

BUJI BUDDY – "YOUR SILENT MONITOR, YOUR LOUDEST BUDDY."

BUJI BUDDY – we all need a sense of belonging...

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'Might I support young men to open up mentally using immersive technology?'

PULSE

Know your state. Own your day. Shape your future.

The vision is bold: Normalize mental awareness the same way fitness trackers normalize physical health.

No stigma. No friction. Just a smarter, safer path to self-understanding.

In 2055, young men face more pressure than ever. They're expected to perform, stay resilient, and stay composed. Yet behind that façade, many struggle silently with stress, anxiety, and emotional overload. They want support, but not stigma. Insight, but not exposure. Control, but without constant effort.

That's why I have created PULSE.

A discreet ear-worn wearable, integrated seamlessly into their everyday style, continuously tracks emotional and physiological signals: micro-stress patterns, mood fluctuations, sleep impact, environment triggers, and social load.

It doesn't tell them what is wrong. It helps them understand themselves.
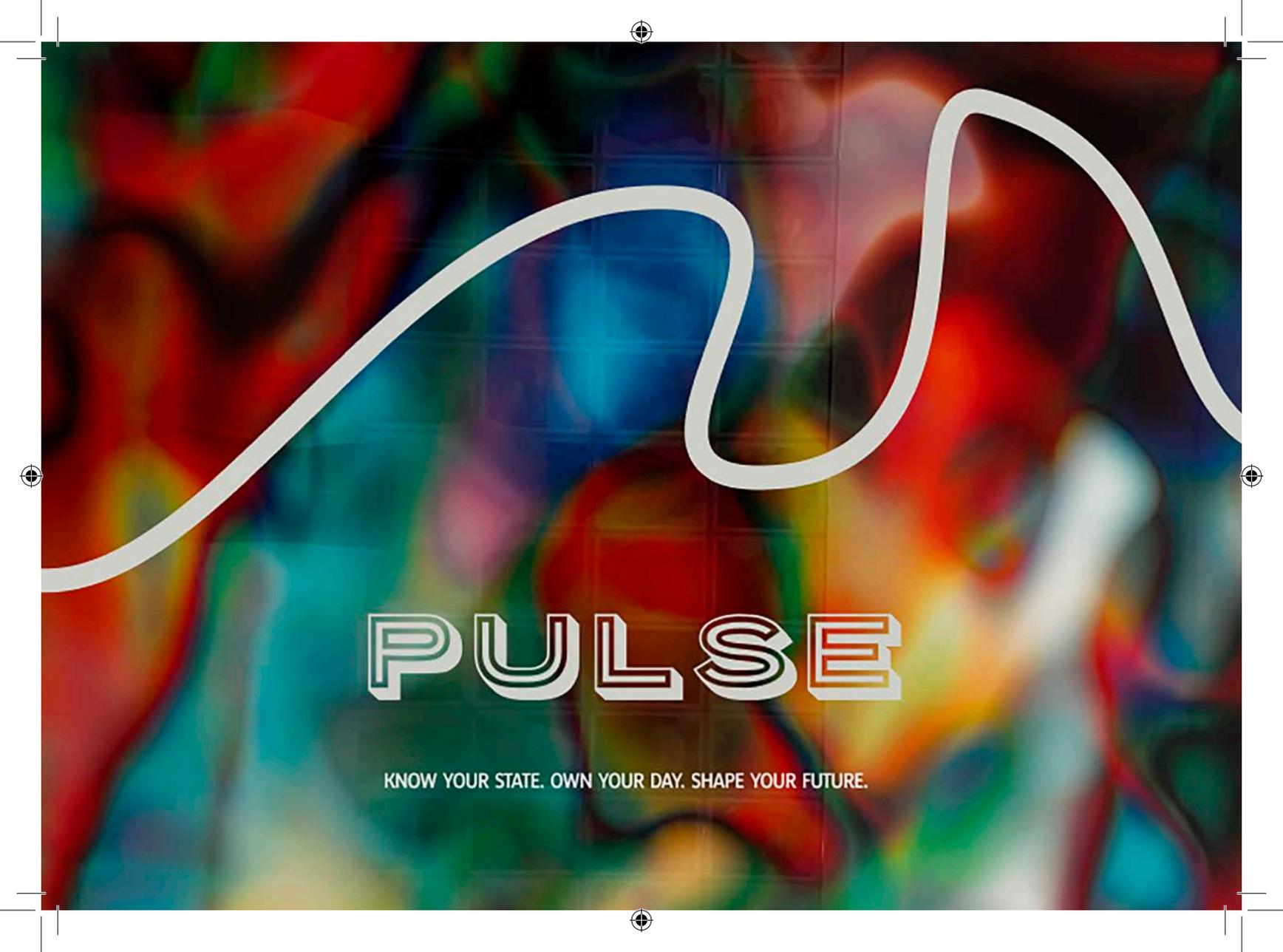
Care & Wellbeing

PULSE

KNOW YOUR STATE. OWN YOUR DAY. SHAPE YOUR FUTURE.

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'How might I integrate the local ecosystem in preventative healthcare?'

Making Climate Visible

By 2055 climate has become one of the most immediate health threats in dense urban environments, shaping how people move, rest, and protect themselves every day.

Making Climate Visible is a speculative innovation that translates invisible real-time climate data – such as heat stress and air pollution – into intuitive visual signals embedded directly into the city's walkways. As you move through urban space, visuals appear on the ground around your feet, revealing the environmental conditions you are walking through. With every step you take, the environment communicates how it affects your body, helping you make healthier choices in the moment.

As you walk from a shaded park into an industrial area the visuals shift, reflecting immediate changes in temperature and air quality. Over time citizens learn to read these light signals intuitively, while public information screens are always available to explain what the data means for your health and how to respond.

This immersive system builds public awareness, especially vital for vulnerable groups such as elderly people and asthma patients. By surrounding people with visible climate feedback, the city becomes a living reminder of the interconnected system between human health and the environment.

Care & Wellbeing

MAKING
CLIMATE
VISIBLE

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'How might I reimagine the act of eating as a personalized, sustainable and culturally rich experience in a circular food system?'

Foodloop

Foodloop is a community-based, circular food system that transforms eating from an individual act into a shared, meaningful and regenerative daily ritual. It combines a digital community platform, local circular food infrastructure, AI-supported personalization and shared physical food spaces into one integrated product–service ecosystem.

At its core, Foodloop enables neighbors to eat together. Users form local food circles to plan shared meals, cook collaboratively and collectively order seasonal, regional food from local producers and chefs. Intelligent systems offer ethical guidance by suggesting meals based on health needs, cultural preferences and seasonal availability, while preserving human choice and social rituals.

Foodloop operates as a circular loop: food is produced locally, consumed collectively and waste is reused through composting and redistribution. Transparency dashboards reveal food origins, preparation and environmental impact, fostering trust and shared responsibility.

Designed for urban Millennials and Gen Z, and scalable to cities such as São Paulo and Berlin, Foodloop is more than an app or service. It is a social food operating system for neighborhoods, connecting food, community and care to nourish people, relationships and the planet together.

Foodloop

— an intelligent, circular ecosystem that turns every meal into an act of identity, connection, and regeneration.

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'How might I use digital traces to support people in experiencing remembrance in an emotionally balanced way?'

MyResonance

Remembrance today is shaped by digital fragments. Messages, images and recordings linger across platforms, offering closeness while often disrupting emotional balance. As technology moves toward recreating people after death, remembrance risks becoming loud and overwhelming. MyResonance proposes a quieter alternative. Instead of replication, it focuses on presence. Instead of endless access, it offers intention.

MyResonance invites people to consciously curate meaningful digital traces during life. Not to preserve everything, but to reflect on what truly resonates and how one wishes to be remembered. Through a Digital Will, individuals shape their digital presence with emotional agency. Selected traces are transformed into a physical remembrance object that awakens through sensory cues such as light, sound, scent or touch. Not to replay a person, but to evoke a feeling, a moment, a connection.

For oneself, MyResonance is an act of reflection.
For loved ones, it offers a gentle point of remembrance that supports healing without holding them in the past.

By blending digital traces with sensory rituals, MyResonance reframes remembrance as balanced, respectful and emotionally supportive.

Care & Wellbeing

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'How might I help people break free from digital overload and reconnect with themselves?'

Re:Connect

Re:Connect is a calm technology innovation designed for Gen y in 2055, addressing the growing crisis of emotional overstimulation in a hyper-digital world. Instead of adding more screens, notifications, or data-driven systems, Re:Connect offers a quiet moment of reflection through a simple, voice-based Emotional Journal. Users speak freely, while the system responds with gentle, non-judgmental reflections that help them slow down, reconnect with themselves, and recognize their emotional state.

The experience is intentionally minimal: no scrolling, no metrics, no social comparison, and no performance pressure. By removing visual noise and focusing on soft audio interaction, Re:Connect restores clarity in moments when life feels overwhelming. All data is handled with strict privacy by design principles, ensuring complete emotional safety.

Re:Connect contributes to SDG 3.4 by promoting mental wellbeing and helping users build healthier emotional habits. Designed as a universal and accessible ritual, it can scale to one billion people worldwide. In a future where technology competes for attention, Re:Connect uses technology to give something back: a moment to breathe, to feel, and to come home to yourself.

Re:Connect, a space to disconnect from the noise and reconnect with yourself.

Care & Wellbeing

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🌐 Danish

'How might I create a future solution that adapts to each child's unique needs and potential?'

Helping Buddy

In the year 2055, education has evolved to meet the needs of a changing world. Helping Buddy is an AI-powered learning companion designed to support primary school children and their parents in this future learning environment. It works as a digital teacher that is always available and adapts to each child's level, pace, and individual needs.

By 2055, many schools face an ongoing shortage of qualified teachers. Helping Buddy helps solve this challenge by supporting classroom teaching and providing personalized help whenever a child needs it. Whether at school or at home, children can receive explanations, practice skills, and ask questions without pressure or fear of making mistakes.

Helping Buddy empowers children to reach their full potential by offering tailored learning experiences that build confidence and motivation. At the same time, it gives parents a reliable and easy way to stay involved in their child's education.

The vision behind Helping Buddy is to create equal access to high-quality education ir 2055 and beyond, while serving as a valuable supplement to human teachers in primary school.

Care & Wellbeing

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'How might I enable people to immerse themselves in music, without harming their hearing?'

NODE - Music Beyond Sound

The digital age made music more available than ever, but also more detached and harmful. We crave depth and embodiment, a feeling of being inside the music, not just next to it. To compensate, we turn up the volume to dangerous levels, overstimulating both our ears and our nervous system.

NODE is a wearable system designed to restore lost depth. Instead of relying on the ears, it uses neural technology to stream music directly to the mind. Sound is translated into deep physical vibrations, subtle warmth, and light, allowing music to be experienced without increasing volume. Using biofeedback, NODE reads signals of stress and tension

and adapts your favorite music into an emotionally attuned soundtrack. At the same time, NODE challenges the idea that immersion must mean disconnection. Using selective listening, the system reduces background noise while allowing meaningful sounds through. Such as someone addressing you, a relevant announcement, or a safety signal. NODE understands context, whether you are in transit, at work, or resting, and adjusts how deeply you are immersed.

NODE transforms music from passive, harmful consumption into an intentional, embodied experience. One that reconnects the listener to themselves, their environment, and the music.

N O D E

M U S I C
B E Y O N D
S O U N D

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🌐 Polish

'How might I enable humans to express emotions authentically and empathetically in the future?'

Aura Veil

We live in a time where emotions are filtered through screens, emojis, and text—flattened, delayed, and often misunderstood. As conversations move into digital space, our ability to sense one another in real life quietly fades. Aura Veil responds to this loss.

Aura Veil is a subtle wearable that makes emotions perceptible again—without words, performance, or exposure. Hidden behind the ear, it emits a soft aura of light and temperature that is not meant for the wearer, but for the person in front of them. The glow resonates gently across the head, translating emotional presence rather than emotional data. Colors adapt to cultural interpretations, allowing empathy to remain contextual rather than universal.

This innovation does not explain feelings or attempt to optimize them. Instead, it creates space for them to be sensed. Aura Veil invites people back into physical conversation, where emotion is shared through proximity, intuition, and care rather than constant messaging.

Neither a notification nor a display, Aura Veil is a quiet social signal. It proposes a future where technology does not interrupt human connection, but softly amplifies what already exists: presence, vulnerability, and the courage to feel together.

Care & Wellbeing

SENSE Acupressure jewellery
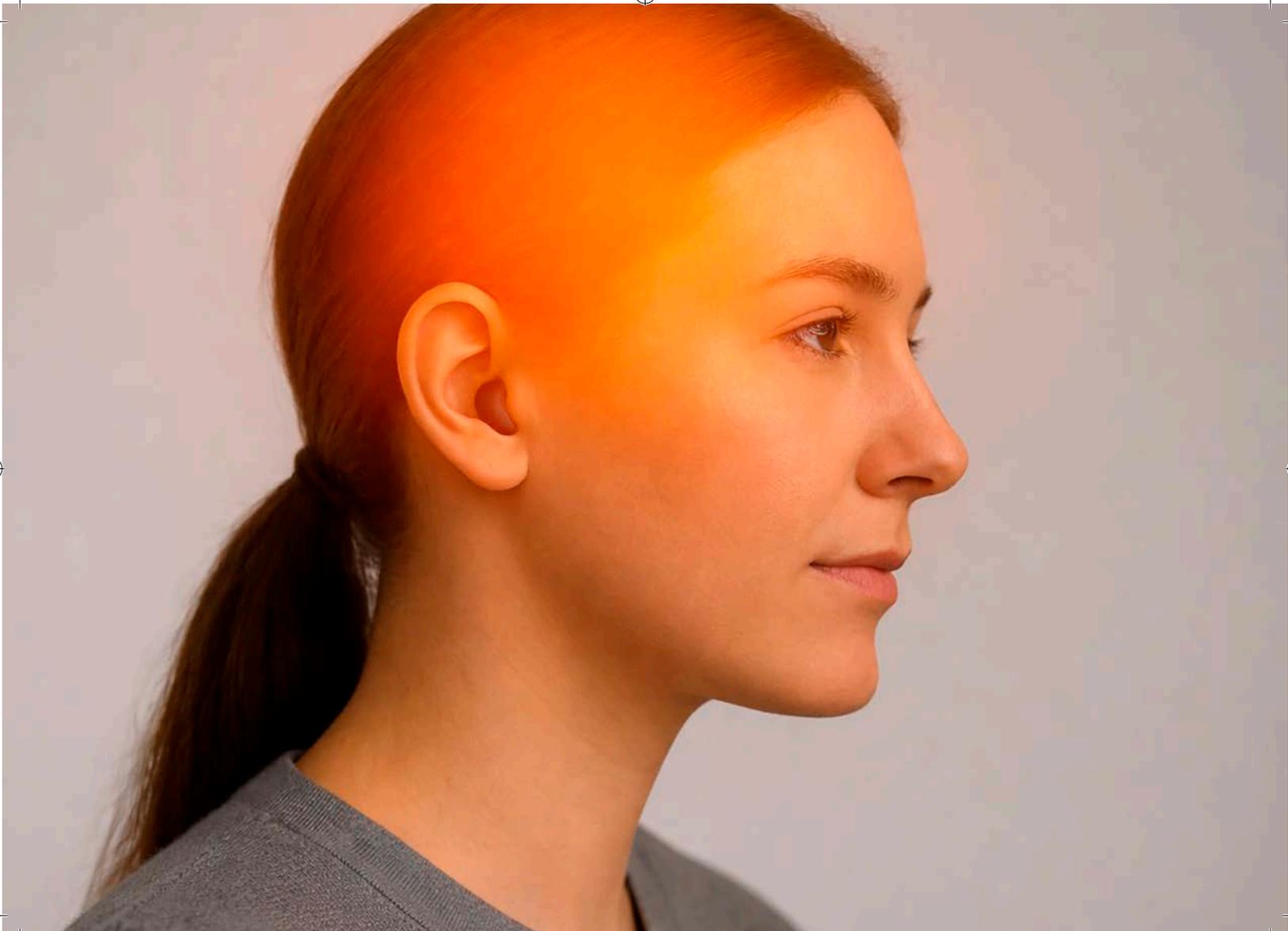
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'How might I create a piece of acupressure jewellery that helps young adults who feel ashamed of their health engage in their health-care with confidence and comfort?'

We live in a time where caring for yourself is encouraged, yet showing vulnerability still feels risky. For many young adults, stress, anxiety and overwhelm are part of daily life, but admitting that can feel like failure. Wellness is everywhere, but it is loud, visible and performance-driven. Care has become something you have to prove.SENSE responds to that tension.

SENSE is fashion-enabled acupressure jewellery designed to support mental and physical well-being without exposure. Inspired by Traditional Chinese Medicine, it gently stimulates pressure points on the ear, offering calm through touch.

It looks like jewellery, not a medical device. Something you choose to wear, not something that labels you.
In the future, SENSE becomes more intuitive. Using responsive materials, it subtly changes shape when stress patterns are detected, offering support before overwhelm takes over. Not by interrupting or alerting, but by quietly listening.

SENSE reframes self-care from something visible to something felt. From explanation to intuition. From treatment to ritual. In a world that asks us to perform wellness, SENSE offers something softer: care that lives with you, privately and on your own terms.

Care & Wellbeing

SENSE

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'How might I turn curiosity into the why of learning while creating an inclusive environment?'

SELBSS

By 2055, education can no longer be about fitting children into rigid systems. While society promotes extreme individualism, traditional schooling still prioritizes conformity over curiosity. SELBSS — the Sensory-Emotional Learning-Based School System — is an alternative primary school model that bridges this gap by placing curiosity, self-awareness and communal values at the center of learning.

SELBSS redefines education by engaging the body as much as the mind. Learning begins with sensory exploration and emotional communication, allowing children twwo build knowledge through experience rather than memorization. Reflection becomes the engine of growth: by looking inward, children develop confidence, emotional awareness and direction.

Designed as a community-centered infrastructure, SELBSS promotes collaboration, shared responsibility and mutual care. Communal spaces for cooking, gardening and making transform schools into living ecosystems where cooperation, empathy and interdependence are learned through practice.

Curiosity becomes the "why" of education, turning learning into a meaningful, lifelong process. Beyond the classroom, SELBSS supports mental well-being, strengthens social and ecological responsibility, and educates not only students, but future societies.

Care & Wellbeing

SELBSS
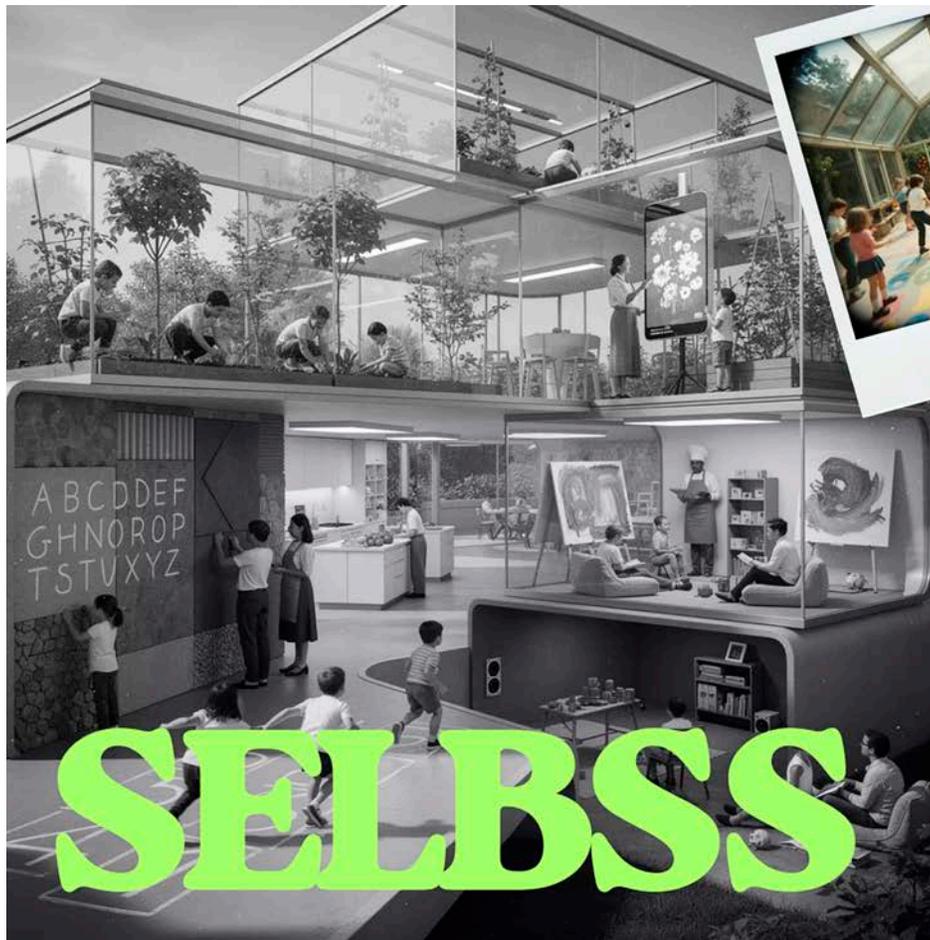
SENSORY-
EMOTIONAL
LEARNING
BASED
SCHOOL
SYSTEM

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'How might I create a more inclusive and motivating fitness experience for senior citizens in 2055?'

Trail Mix

Trail Mix is a wellbeing facility designed for senior citizens in 2055, focused on supporting independence, health, and quality of life through the simple act of walking. Instead of traditional gyms or clinical fitness spaces, Trail Mix offers a calm, adaptive indoor environment where movement feels safe, motivating, and meaningful.Inside the facility, seniors walk on intelligent paths that adjust to their pace, balance, and physical ability. Through immersive visual layers, the walking experience can transform into different environments, such as a peaceful beach, a forest trail, or an imagined landscape. This turns daily exercise into an engaging experience that supports both physical and mental wellbeing.Trail Mix also brings people together. Users can walk socially through shared digital environments while remaining physically safe in separate spaces, making movement a moment of connection rather than isolation. Every step even gives something back, as the walking paths generate clean energy to help power the building.
At its core, Trail Mix addresses a real challenge of ageing: staying healthy, mobile, and independent for as long as possible.
By making movement fun, social, and meaningful, Trail Mix helps seniors keep control over their lives while enjoying the journey.

Care & Wellbeing

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'How might I encourage meaningful. offline social connections through small and intentional experiences?'

Take a look

Take a look is a monthly analogue service designed to reintroduce ritual, presence, and shared attention into everyday life. Each month, subscribers receive a physical box containing a curated set of objects and prompts that invite people to slow down and engage with one another without digital mediation.

The service is built around the idea that meaningful connection does not require constant novelty or technology, but rather intentional moments of togetherness. The box is meant to be opened, explored, and used collectively, creating a recurring ritual that encourages conversation, reflection, and physical interaction.

As a response to 2055 lifestyles; marked by screen fatigue, accelerated routines, and increasingly fragmented social interactions. Take a look and propose an alternative model of engagement. By operating as a subscription-based service, it sustains continuity over time, allowing relationships and rituals to evolve gradually rather than through one-off experiences.

Innovation in this project lies not in new technology, but in reframing connection as a designed service: one that values slowness, materiality, and repetition. The box positions analogue interaction as a relevant and necessary counterbalance to digital life in the near future.

Care & Wellbeing

take a look

A monthly experience designed to slowdown and try new things.
Delivered to your door every month.

Mathilde Okkels

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🌐 Danish

'How might I challenge cultural narratives about midlife hormonal transitions?'

The six side project

Midlife affects nearly two billion people worldwide, yet many experience this transition in silence. When we hear the word midlife, it is often framed as crisis. The Six Sides Project challenges that narrative. Midlife is not a crisis, but a biological and identity transition, comparable to puberty. Unlike earlier life stages, however, it is rarely prepared for, openly discussed or culturally acknowledged. The Six Sides Project reframes midlife as a period of renewal, purpose and connection.

The project is a global cultural movement supported by a holographic AR/VR community platform for people aged 40–60+. Users create profiles and are guided by an AI Curator through personalised pathways focused on knowledge, identity, purpose, creativity, community and rituals. The Six Sides symbol, available as both a digital badge and physical pin, invites storytelling, shared experience and a sense of belonging.

To expand impact, the project includes Educational Kits and Corporate Packages that integrate midlife awareness into schools, organisations and workplaces. Each year, during the Autumn Equinox, a global four-day gathering celebrates this transition.

The Six Sides Project makes midlife visible, shared and celebrated.

Care & Wellbeing
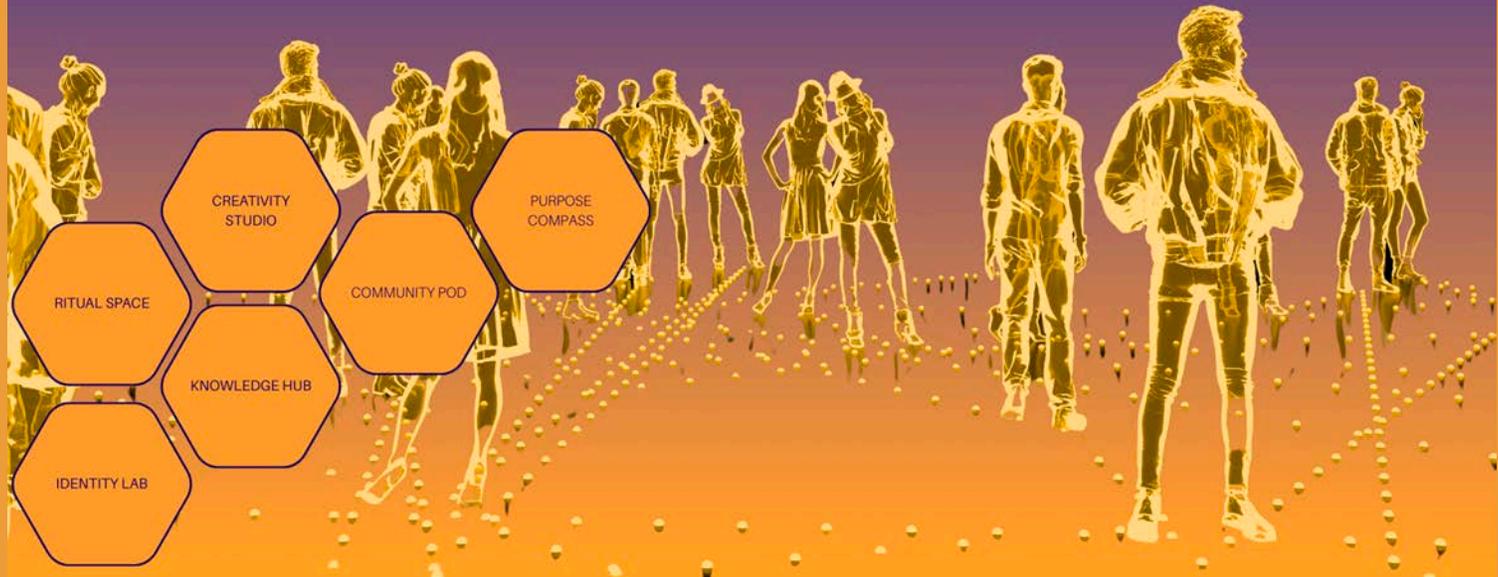
Rebooting Nature

From extraction to co-creation of life.

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🌐 Polish

**'How might
I create deeper,
more meaningful
communication
between humans and
plants to build mutual
understanding and
harmony with nature?'**

Beeyond

Beeyond is a bio-hybrid communication system that explores how humans can reconnect with nature by listening rather than controlling. Inspired by plant intelligence and pollinator behaviour, the project introduces a network of bee-inspired micro-drones that monitor plant health and pollinator activity in agricultural landscapes.

The system collects biological and environmental signals such as soil conditions, water stress, early disease indicators and bee behaviour. This data is translated into calm soundscapes and visual patterns, allowing farmers to understand the needs of their fields without relying on complex dashboards or technical data.

Beeyond prioritises sensory communication, empathy and ecological balance over efficiency-driven optimisation. Rather than functioning as a conventional agricultural tool, Beeyond acts as a communication layer between humans, plants and pollinators. It supports regenerative farming by encouraging informed, timely and nature-sensitive decisions that protect biodiversity and strengthen ecosystem resilience.

By positioning plants and pollinators as active participants rather than passive resources, Beeyond imagines a future in which technology fosters coexistence, care and mutual understanding between humans and the living world.

BEEYOND
Technology that feels natural

NATURE

2055

Beeyond helps you farm more sustainably by aligning your decisions with the needs of plants, soil, and pollinators.

MAKE AN IMPACT

"Most tools overload you with data. This one feels different. It gives signals when something actually matters, without demanding constant attention."

"I'm used to reading my fields through experience. Beeyond doesn't replace that, it supports it. It helps me notice things earlier and confirms what I already sense."

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🌐 Ukrainian

'How might I merge natural intelligence with technology to track and remove microplastics?'

DeMicro — Making the Invisible Visible

Microplastics is among the most pervasive, yet invisible forms of pollution. They move through water systems, enter marine ecosystems and accumulate in our bodies, often without our awareness. DeMicro is a speculative innovation that responds to this invisibility by rethinking how humans, technology and nature could collaborate to reveal microplastic pollution. DeMicro explores a future were natural intelligence and technology work together. Inspired by bioluminescent marine organisms and bioacoustic sensing, the concept imagines detection systems that use light and sound to highlight microplastics in water environments. Rather than focusing on immediate removal, DeMicro emphasises the crucial first step: making pollution visible so it can be understood, monitored and addressed responsibly. Alongside this speculative system, DeMicro functions as an educational and experiential campaign for children. Through UV-reactive materials and hands-on interaction, young users discover how invisible plastic particles exist in everyday water systems, fostering early awareness and responsibility.

Bridging present-day education with a vision for 2055, DeMicro positions visibility as a catalyst for ecological action, transforming an unseen problem into a shared responsibility.
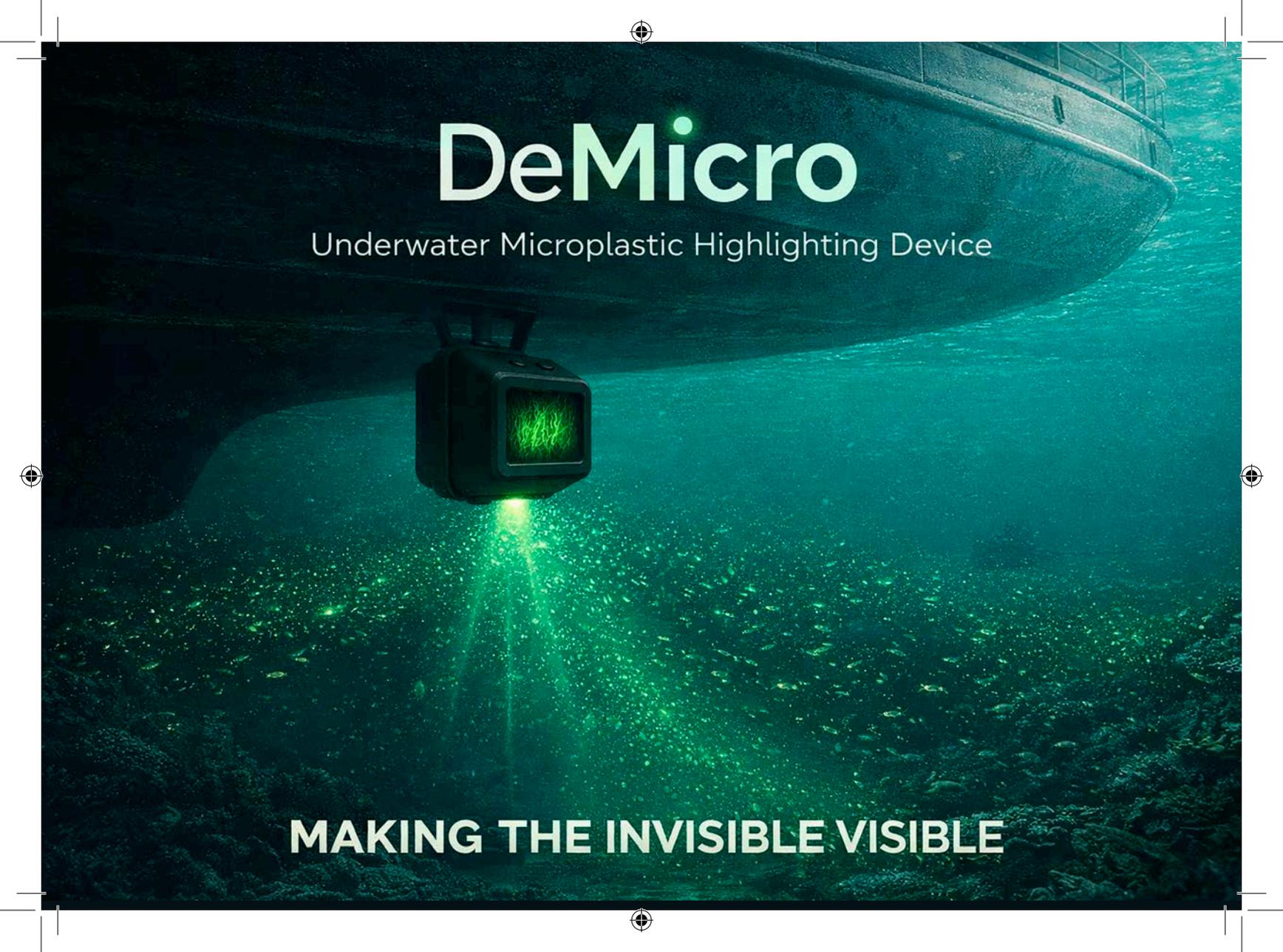
DeMicro

Underwater Microplastic Highlighting Device

MAKING THE INVISIBLE VISIBLE

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'How might I create farming solutions that make nutrient-rich, sustainable produce more accessible while regenerating soil, biodiversity, and ecosystem health?'

Symbioroot System

Symbioroot System – Rooting for regeneration.

Right now, our food system looks productive, but underneath it's failing. Crops are getting bigger, but less nutritious. Soils are being depleted by industrial farming and climate extremes, and farmers are stuck in systems that depend on chemicals and fragile supply chains. If we push this 30 years into the future, these problems don't disappear, they become critical. By 2055, soil fertility, nutrient-rich food, and carbon storage won't be "nice extras," but conditions for survival.

That's where my concept, SymbioRoot, comes in.

SymbioRoot is a hybrid product and service that helps farmers regenerate soil instead of exhausting it. It combines a biodegradable underground mat made of biochar, mycelium, microbes, and companion plants with a service that scans, customizes, installs, and monitors soil health over time. Instead of forcing one solution, it adapts to local soil, culture, and climate. So it will adapt to changing climate change and become the solution we need for permaculture in an ever changing world.

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🌐 Dutch

'How might I design a system that transforms collective human activity into clean, guilt-free energy, empowering people to generate the power they use and fostering a new culture of responsible consumption?'

BioGems

BioGems explores a future where energy is not only consumed, but collectively created. By 2055, urban growth and climate pressure demand ways of living that balance comfort with responsibility. BioGems responds by transforming everyday human movement into a visible, shared source of clean energy.

BioGems are wearable jewellery pieces—rings, necklaces or earrings—that act as personal energy identifiers. While they do not generate power themselves, they connect users to energy-producing urban infrastructure such as kinetic floors and pressure-sensitive public spaces. As people move through the city, their BioGem registers their individual contribution to the urban energy flow.

This energy is stored in local microgrids and translated into personal energy credits. At home, users place their BioGem into a docking station that converts these credits into electricity for lighting, charging or smart-home functions. Without demanding lifestyle changes, BioGems reduce dependence on traditional energy systems.

Beyond technology, BioGems propose a cultural shift. Energy becomes tangible, social and meaningful, redefining citizens as active contributors rather than passive consumers.

Rebooting Nature

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'How might I evolve and protect future ecosystems without harming nature, while also making people aware of the consequences of environmental damage?'

ECO Strategy

By 2055, cities have been reshaped by climate pressure, biodiversity loss and food insecurity. Expanding into natural landscapes is no longer viable, forcing societies to rethink how urban space is used. The Eco Strategy transforms unused rooftops into productive, biodiverse ecosystems that support food production, climate resilience and community engagement. Instead of pushing agriculture into nature, the strategy reuses existing buildings to create green spaces where cities and ecosystems coexist.

Rooftop gardens are designed as multifunctional systems that combine food crops, native plants and habitats for pollinators, birds and insects.

These spaces help restore biodiversity while reducing urban heat, improving air quality and managing rainwater through natural absorption and reuse.

Community participation and education are central to the strategy. Rooftop gardens become learning environments where citizens, schools and volunteers engage with sustainable food systems and ecological processes, strengthening emotional connections to nature.

The approach remains low-impact and adaptable, relying on lightweight growing systems, rainwater harvesting and minimal automation, making it feasible across diverse cities and building types.

ECO STRATEGY 2055

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'How might I develop a way to restorate clothing with zero waste?'

Alpatch

AlPatch is a textile repair system that rethinks how we care for clothing by working with living systems instead of against them. At a time when fashion waste and textile pollution continue to damage planetary ecosystems, AlPatch proposes a shift from disposable consumption to regenerative maintenance.

The innovation consists of a device that repairs damaged clothing by growing algae directly into worn or torn areas of fabric. Rather than adding synthetic patches or using energy-intensive repair methods, AlPatch uses bio-based processes. The algae adapt to the textile structure and naturally adjust their pigments to blend with the original material, creating a durable and organic repair that leaves no waste behind.

Beyond fixing clothes, AlPatch reframes repair as an everyday ritual of care and responsibility. It encourages users to keep garments longer, reduce overproduction, and actively participate in restoring resources rather than extracting new ones. The system is supported by a simple digital interface that automates the repair process and visualizes environmental impact, making sustainable choices easier and more tangible.

By turning repair into a living, regenerative process, AlPatch invites people to see clothing not as disposable objects, but as part of a wider ecosystem that can heal, adapt, and grow alongside us.

Memories

SILA · JESPER · MASUF · ISA · SONDRE · VALERIA

TERENCE · SZYMON · WIKTORIA · CHERIE · JONA · MARTINA

onsults planning

Classroom	Hallway	Hallway	Classroom	Hallway
Saskia	Elske	Raul	Julia	Micha
:30 Maruf	Nayobe	Oliver	Federica	Hannah
:50 Jisoo	Martina	Jayda	Indi	Terence
4:10 Kim	Casper	Sofie	Jona	Mathilde
4:30 Max	Lana	Bart	Alandra	Jenni
4:50 Alexander	Marta	Robin	Yana	Ben
5:10 Wiktoria	Isa	Fiona	Valeria	Jonna
15:40	**Check-out**			
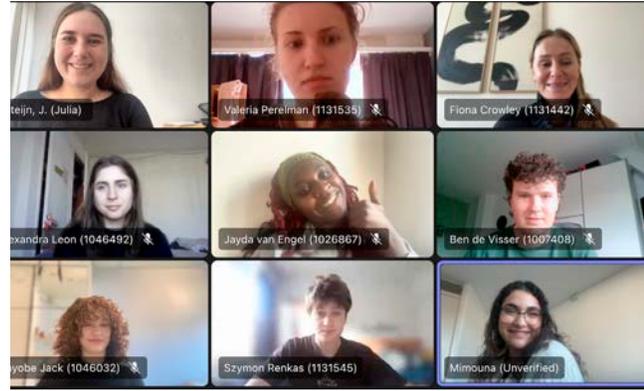
CASPER · JONNA · SOFIA · NAYOBE · Lidia · OLIVER

LANA · BEN · MATHILDE · YANA · ALANDRA · MARTA

BOMBICE

RACUCHY

NEW TECH DAY

CO-PRODUCTION

KAREL DE GROTE HOGESCHOOL ANTWERPEN

&

HOGESCHOOL ROTTERDAM

FOR

MINOR DESIGNFUL INNOVATION 02-12-'25

by EISKE

JASPER SCHELLING — THINGS ARE HYPED — GEN AI EXPLODED

HOW WE VIEW TECHNOLOGIE IS HOW WE SHAPE IT

SEBASTIAAN VAN DER MOLEN — BEING HUMAN IN A TECH-DRIVEN WORLD — LóMDA HYPERACTIVE AGENCY

WHAT IF DESCARTES WAS RIGHT? → THE MATRIX

IS TECHNOLOGIE NEUTRAL? — BECOME A SELBSTDENKER

UPSTAIRS / DOWNSTAIRS

MAKE ME THINK — GENE MODIFICATION IN BABIES

FUTURE PRODUCT — 99¢ STORE — PROTOTYPE EXHIBIT

2055 E-WATCH

Make an impact on one billion people