URBAN FURNITURE: from gazebo to digi-booth

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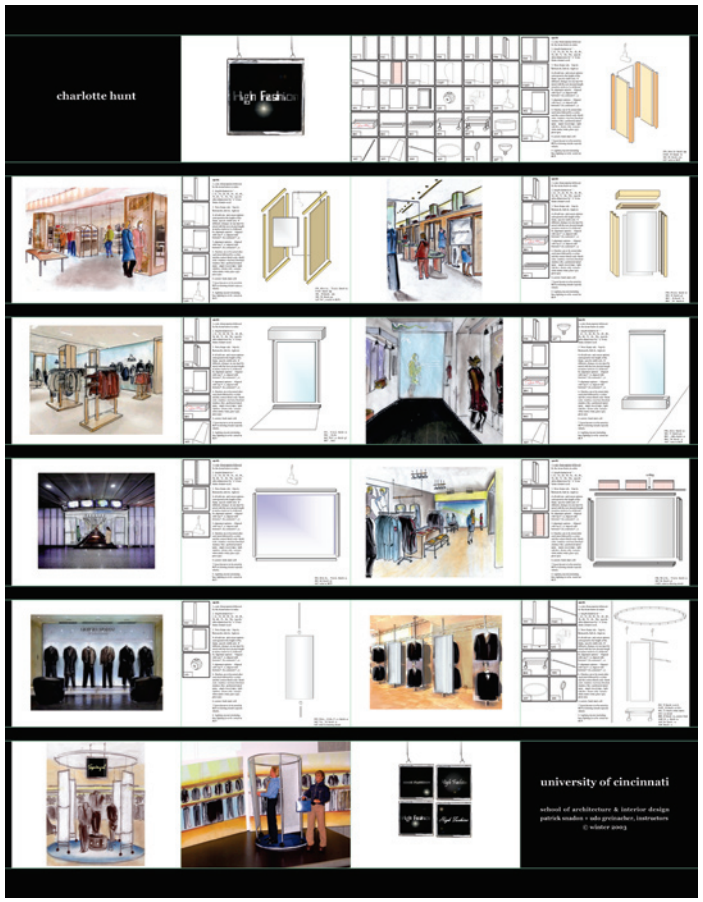

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Recent years have seen the steady increase of automated kiosks and temporary structures that begin to replace traditional building types. In this course we studied and analyzed the development of the gazebo/kiosk in urban/rural settings both inside and outside over time, assessed its value for commerce and social equity, proposed a forward projection regarding the role digital info-booths/commercial kiosks will play in our urban environment, and developed new spatial models that can become an integral part of our daily experience.

The kiosk, “High Fashion” takes a futuristic look at shopping. Pressure, time, and options are some reasons why people can shop at home from their computers rather than go to a store. This kiosk explores the convenience of virtual shopping and brings this experience back into the store so that it is both “virtual” and “social.” Body scanning technology creates a full-size replica of you that can be manipulated on a screen. You can try on clothes without trying on clothes! Added features allow the customer to adjust the light levels, pick their own background, and combine outfits with accessories throughout the store.

“High Fashion” is the answer for mothers with small children, for students in a hurry, and for those who are just looking for a different shopping experience – not to mention fashion advise! The environments that may be created from the “High Fashion” kit of parts are endless. By combining frames, lasers, screens, and accessories, “High Fashion” can fit into the most high-class boutique or the most simple chain. It’s easy, it’s fun, it’s “High Fashion”.

Design Proposal - The Problem Identified:
I walk into a store (with partial intention of buying something)…I am trying not to make eye contact with that sales clerk who is about to ask….”is there anything in particular I can help you find today?”. (Darn, she caught my eye), I respond…”no thanks, just looking”. The truth is, I am looking, looking for ideas…so I head to the dressing room with a few potentials, making sure not to exceed the limit of six items per dressing room. I exit the dressing room, give the clothes to the attendant as she says, “So, none of these worked for you today” (with a sigh of course)…and I think to myself, “god forbid that someone actually made you do your job”… guess I won’t try on that other stuff after all.

This scenario applies not just to buying clothes, but to cars, furniture, or anything that can be “bought”. In most cases, when you are really interested in buying something, the information is not available or the sales person is nowhere to be found. This proposal will alleviate the pressure that is attached to buying by introducing the concept of “automated browsing” inside the store, within a kiosk prototype.