

Flowing through the bridges of Venice, a virtual bridge to heritage reality.

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Abstract

There are places that is impossible to visit in first person: because they are not open to public, they are no longer or not yet existing, for conservation reasons.

Panoramic photographs and video can deliver the full 360° experience. Virtual reality storytelling allows everybody to see, navigate, or even interact without using any complicated device, granting the complete immersion in the scene.

The main objective of our research is to allow people, also disabled, visiting the unaccessible places in a virtual manner, with the best immersive experience.

Canal View project started in 2005, with the aim to design an interactive platform representing the urban space as a place of relationships, connections, tales and heritage. The first phase took 4 years and required in-house development of equipment, software and media language.

The first interactive event took place in 2009 in Venice, involving *Wetoo* group and the writer Alberto Toso Fei. It combined a 360° panoramic video-projection of the Grand Canal of Venice and its shape projected on the floor as interface. Using movements tracking technology, users controlled the immersive video through natural movements of the body without the need of any physical device, feeling like being there in first person.

During World Expo 2015 took place the immersive show "*Canal Grande: Memorie di Antichi sapori*", a journey through popular culture in a full 360° projection theater. Starting from venetian toponymy, the video-installation tells stories about the relationship between Venice, food and legends according to venetian oral tradition.

The second phase research is now in progress. Given the main concern of accessibility, natural navigation approach, and both emotional and physical involvement of the audience, we are exploring new languages to develop any kind of thematic routes: archeological routes, as well as urban planning projects, natural parks paths, places of cultural interest.

useful links

website: www.canalview.it

video channel: www.vimeo.com/canalview

immersive show: www.youtu.be/FhZ_crPVt7w