

Shona Kitchen

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Shona Kitchen is an international multidisciplinary artist/designer. Graduating in Architecture at the Royal College of Art, London in 1997, she continued for several years within the Interaction Design Department as a researcher/teacher, while running her own London-based design partnership KRD (Kitchen Rogers Design) until 2004.

Now Residing in California, Kitchen divides her time between creative practice, research, and teaching. Shona is a part-time professor of Digital Media Art at San Jose State University's "CADRE Lab" and serves as a thesis advisor at Art Center College of Design, Pasadena. She also continues to work as a freelance consultant on art and design projects such as public art initiatives, interactive inventions (both spatial and object-based), and research-based Conceptual Narrative Architectural Proposals with long-time collaborator Ben Hooker (Hooker + Kitchen).

Her ongoing passion is an intrigue for technological advancement, a continuous desire for technology to enhance and enrich rather than distract from the culture and aesthetics of their surroundings. Her work investigates, speculates, tests, and celebrates the consequential intersections - both physically and socially - between the natural environment and the synthetic/technological and finds ways in which they can manifest themselves as alternative interactive experiences within urban contexts.

Her projects are realized using a network of collaborators, working with manufacturers on practical commissions such as interactive museum exhibits and public artworks and with scientists and large corporations on research based conceptual projects that create foundations for more applied projects to follow.

Most recent works are a multi-site electronic installation DATA NATURE (Hooker & Kitchen) centered at San Jose International Airport, conceptual housing project ELECTROPLEX HEIGHTS (Hooker & Kitchen) part of a touring exhibition commissioned by Vitra Design Museum & Art Center Pasadena, and DOMESTIC WILDERNESS CHANNEL (Shona Kitchen) a site-specific exhibition at Montalvo Arts Center, California. DWC takes the sophisticated surveillance technologies that pervade our urban environments and mainstream culture and transposes it onto an idyllic domestic environment.

Current projects include:

DREAMING F.I.D.S. - an artwork commissioned for San Jose International Airport, combines forms and technologies derived from familiar airport information and security systems with an aquatic ecosystem — an aquarium of shoaling fish. *DREAMING F.I.D.S.* proposes a self-contained, self-perpetuating dynamic system of surveillance and display, record and playback. As the fish swim around their tank, underwater cameras monitor them. Recorded sequences from these cameras are relayed onto a bank of screens, which are suspended in the tank itself. The effect is that the virtual fish (images of fish projected on the screens) appear to swim alongside the live fish.

THE GREEN CORRIDOR for Deptford Creek, one of the few remaining small industry boroughs near Canary Wharf, in East London. The proposal is a 328-foot long, 10-foot high solar-powered billboard, reading High...Tide...Low. The word "Tide" is illuminated continuously while a progression of lights on either side, tuned into the tide itself, illuminate according to the tide height. This creates a visual landscape similar to the old skeletal billboards that are scattered throughout the industrial parts of NYC.