Poetic Communication – Compass Phone

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The Compass Phone addresses an ethical and social issue related to the behaviour of current mobile technology, and explores alternative communication which is more poetic.

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1. INTRODUCTION

Although mobile phones have made people feel more connected to each other, they do not represent any special human relationships in an aesthetic way. Starting from this sceptical view and observation of people's habits, such as saying "where are you?" when they first speak on the mobile phone, I have become interested in the very problematic issue of whether the mobile device is a surveillance tool or a digital leash. Could it be turned into a source for creating an alternative means of communication which delivers a more poetic and aesthetic experience between people who are very close?

2. COMPASS PHONE

Compass phone proposes a non-verbal communication way, which gives strong feeling of connected between two people.

2.1 Device description

The Compass Phone does not support any verbal communication side, but has only GPS function. It measures the distance between two people in real-time, and then converts it to the time it takes for them to meet each other by either different transport or time unit. A relative compass is hidden under the digit display. The centre of the compass always indicates the user's position and its needle indicates the other side's direction.

Figure 1: Compass phone

2.2 User group

Although this project started from observing people's unusual behaviours, the final design result does not aim to solve the problem only. Instead, this project proposes alternative means of communication, and as a result, the user group can become broaden into anyone who would like to share this connected feeling with someone who already agrees; for example, between lovers, parents and children, and so on.

Figure 2: Photographic scenes - between lovers