

# Storytelling Curtain

*as part of PhD research: Architecture of Experience*

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**ABSTRACT:** The project aims to explore human emotional response as means to perceive reality, with a potential to bridge the gap between human and inhuman. This bio-digital conversation between photosynthetic algal bio-curtains and humans unfolds new layers of information towards understanding the complex informational networks of behaviours. While creating this link we not only engage in studying other living organisms, but at a same time we are sensing the Self. Exploring the possibility of evolving our human emotional state, potentially instilling in us collective behavioural patterns within a shared Biosphere.

The project **Storytelling Bio.Curtain** aims at revealing the interconnectedness between our surrounding and our inner state mapped via biometric Galvanic Skin Response (GSR) sensor and other environment measures of Air Quality, Dust and CO<sub>2</sub> concentration.

When we experience an arousing stimulus our body generates a variety of psychophysical responses, that are usually in correlation with environmental pressures, such as, traffic load, startling noise, pollution and but even a disturbing thought.

Recognising human thought as a relevant part for operating within environment, the project explores what is traditionally perceived as “negative-positive” or “dark-bright” via Storytelling Narrative, translating the opposites into physiological breathing exercise in order to speculate about a vulnerability of our experience. The visitors are welcome to participate on recording, by following the guidelines via headphones. The narrative is physiologically bringing the subject to an extreme situation by means of cardio-breathing increasing heartbeat and consequentially calming and stimulating by taking control over the breath and pulse again. Sensing the direct response to the narrative by GSR sensor in order to speculate about a vulnerability of our experience.

By monitoring these phenomena with biometric sensor technology, we can learn and train ourselves, we can grow our prefrontal cortex and improve our emotional state.

This project is therefore opening up a question: “How we can consciously evolve our behaviour, shifting our perception of the absolute spaces and therefore influence our reactions and impact upon the environment?” Exploring this question begins with dissolving the human I-ness complex to move away from pure anthropocentric methodologies and adopt a human – inhuman relationship towards a new epoch of shared Biosphere.

Compassion from Latin “compati”, means literally “to suffer with”, however it is not only about feeling the pain of the other but about a motivation to relieve it. This moves us beyond perceiving the world as dominated by relationships of causes and effects, searching for the “guilty” and the “responsible” for the current global disruptions, and instils in us the ability to answer questions and equally contribute to the systemic nature of the *Urbansphere* (8), the global apparatus of contemporary urbanity.

Recognising human thought as a relevant part for operating within existing environment influencing our spatial experience and revealing the potential to enhance our own contribution in it developing an ecology of emotional freedom.

Architecture therefore has a potential to become our “extended cognitive system”, that is at the same time interconnected with the environment creating a constant exchange with it, and feeding us back with information, matter and energy. Looking at the complexity of ecological crisis through Photosynthetic Architectures, enables us to trigger a larger discourse and the meaning of human perception as well as individual and collective intelligence.

Such relations with inhuman species woven into city fabric require us to participate and engage with new, redefined human behavioural patterns developing a compassion towards other species and living organisms that supports the functional diversity of the Urbansphere.

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## CREDITS:

### Storytelling Curtain

Featuring cyber yoga by Terezia Greskova (inspired with teachings of Dr. Kumar)

Chlorella Vulgaris, welded Bio-curtain, e-Sense GSR emotional response sensors, Grove Air quality sensors,

### Phd Thesis 'Architecture of Experience'

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