

Designers Notes on Gestural Control in Music and Engineering

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Keywords

gestural control, spatiality, meaning of space, design, geodatical ability

Abstract

This paper was to be held as a statement on a panel session at the international workshop „Human Supervision and Control in Engineering and Music“. I am neither an engineer nor a musician. I am a designer and so I just want to make some basic notes on gestural control from designers viewpoint.

Geodatical ability

First I want to introduce a word put up by Paul Virillio:

Geodatical ability

It stands for an absolute need, when putting up gestural control. Geodatical ability comes from geodatics – the science of land measurement. It means the ability

- of creating spatial structures
- of giving spatial orientation
- of giving meaning to space

by defining „Entity of time and location“ for objects, action, interaction and sometimes subjects.

The Spatiality of Gestures

I introduce the phrase *Geodatical ability* not because I am a designer and this geodatical ability is what makes designers and architects special, so it's an advertisement for our profession.

But as I wrote it is a need when putting up gestural control. This is because of the main features of gestures that we have to remember.

- gestures always have spatial context
- a gesture without a spatial context is meaningless; (Figure the gesture fist with the straight thumb: depending on the spatial orientation it means left or right, good or bad ...)
- we can not extract this context out of a single gesture like it is partly possible with words
- gesture evolved out of handling and body motion, it's being, it's gestalt is first on
 - where and so in physical world
 - who or whichand only in the second step
 - what

More Designers Views

Now before I stop just a few more designers views to discuss about.

- Control and interaction consists always out of standardised gestures.
- Aesthetic and rhetoric of gestures makes the control and interaction.
- Gesture is also seen as a reproductive selfreflection. – Is this also with control and interaction?
- Gesture and searching can be related to each other. Gestures are a possibility to artificially produced rememberings.
- Aspects of our thinking results from our hands. As individual also as mankind. In German the word "begreifen" means understanding as well as grasping.