
WOW Pod

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Abstract

WOW Pod is an immersive architectural solution for the advanced massive online role-playing gamer that provides and anticipates all life needs. Inside, the player finds him/herself comfortably seated in front of the computer screen with easy-to-reach water, pre-packaged food, and a toilet conveniently placed underneath a built-in throne.

Keywords

MORPG, gaming, immersive architecture, avatar

ACM Classification Keywords

H5.m. HCI: Miscellaneous.

General Terms

Design, Human Factors

Description

WOW Pod is an immersive architectural solution for the advanced massive online role-playing gamer that provides and anticipates all life needs.

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CHI 2010, April 10–15, 2010, Atlanta, Georgia, USA.

ACM 978-1-60558-930-5/10/04.



figure 1. WoW Pod.

Inside, the player finds him/herself comfortably seated in front of the computer screen with easy-to-reach water, pre-packaged food, and a toilet conveniently placed underneath a built-in throne.

The exterior of WoW Pod mimics the look of WoW architectural structures, whose swaths of flat, pixellated surfaces digitally recreate the built environment of an imagined past. Upon crossing the threshold and entering WoW Pod, the player finds a tangible simulation of things digital.



figure 2. Details.

When hungry, the player selects a food item and scans it in. WOW Pod then physically adjusts a hot plate to cook the item for the correct amount of time and temperature.



figure 3. Food items.

The virtual character then jubilantly announces the status of the meal to both the player and the other individuals playing online. When the food is ready, the system automatically puts the character in AFK ('Away From Keyboard') mode to provide both player and avatar a moment to eat. When the player resumes playing, he/she might just discover his/her character's behavior is affected by the food consumed in real life — sluggish from overeating or alternately exuberant and energetic.

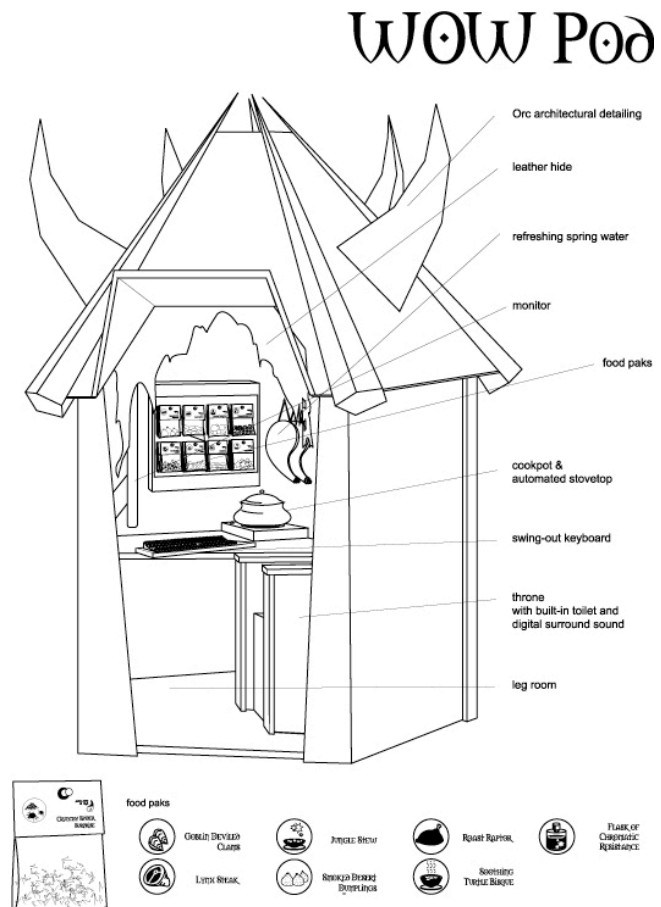


figure 4. Components.

Signage inside WOW Pod reads: "GREETINGS, WARRIOR! Sit down, relax, and settle into the WOW Pod. As you and your avatar are exploring the vast landscapes, you may find yourself getting hungry or

fatigued. Fear not, Warrior — the WoW Pod provides all things to sustain your health. Thirsty? Quench your thirst with refreshing spring water located in the leather bag to your right. Hungry? Grab a packet of food located on the wall to your right. Pass the package directly under the red light. Pour the contents of the pouch into the pot on the stovetop along with 1.5 cups of refreshing spring water. The WoW Pod will control the temperature and time needed to cook your meal. Cooking time varies according to the meal you've selected. Your avatar will alert you when your meal is ready and immediately place your computer into AFK ('Away From Keyboard') mode. Take this time to nourish yourself — many more challenges await you. Need to use the restroom? Flip the seat of your throne and discover the necessary facilities."



figure 5. Inside the WOW Pod.

Acknowledgements

We thank Adam Boulanger for the soundtrack of the video, the Council for the Arts at MIT, the SHASS'S Peter de Florez Fund for Humor, Eyebeam Atelier and the Mixer Event, Friends at MIT Museum, the MIT Media Lab and the Tangible Media Group.

