CAREGLASS
seeing sensational

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THE THREE GROUP MEMBERS WISH TO REMAIN ANONYMOUS

Could technology assist human communities to be more empathetic? This project addresses the issue of mental illness caused by our increasingly digitized life. The group proposes the utilization of augmented reality eye-wear to make use of data gathered online and transfer it to physical public spaces. Information displayed refers solely to the user's state of wellbeing, aiming at fostering communication with fellow citizen and empathy as well as caring for each other.

INTRODUCE YOUR PRODUCT/SERVICE: WHAT IS IT AND HOW DOES IT WORK?

Focussing on the question of how to reach a state of higher wellbeing in society, we propose Careglasses. Careglasses look like regular glasses but come along with a complete service. The overall aim is to change the state of mind of the user through a modified view of reality to light up the user's mood. Furthermore, we aim at sensitizing others about the feelings of strangers and to motivate individuals to start an open conversation by simply asking: 'how do you do?' during random encounters.

The product itself are glasses. They look like casual glasses but have integrated high-tech features like an integrated display showing filters and emojis. Colour filters enhance the mental state of users. They are controlled by an app. Through collecting long term personal data, it is possible to analyse how the person is feeling. With the help of algorithms, the glasses are instantly reacting to the user's current mood. If the user for instance seems to be stressed, the glasses project warm and cordial filter to relax the nerves.

Emojis support the exchange between users. The vision is that in 2030 there should be no inhibitions to speak open about one own's wellbeing. The user can show others how she/he is doing by displaying the matching emoji. The act should invite to start a conversation. Simply talking about one's feelings can immensely increase the user's positive feelings. Furthermore, in a bigger picture it is an attempt to avoid deeper depressions and mental illnesses. The service should be supported by public health insurances. Consequently, everybody can take part and profit from Careglasses.

WHICH SOCIETAL TOPICS ARE YOU ADDRESSING WITH YOUR PRODUCT/SERVICE?

Mental Health is a major issue with regard to digitalization and the increasing growth of cities. Due to the huge amount of input people tend to lose their focus and personal human interaction is declining. Studies however are showing that contact to other humans is mandatory for a happy and
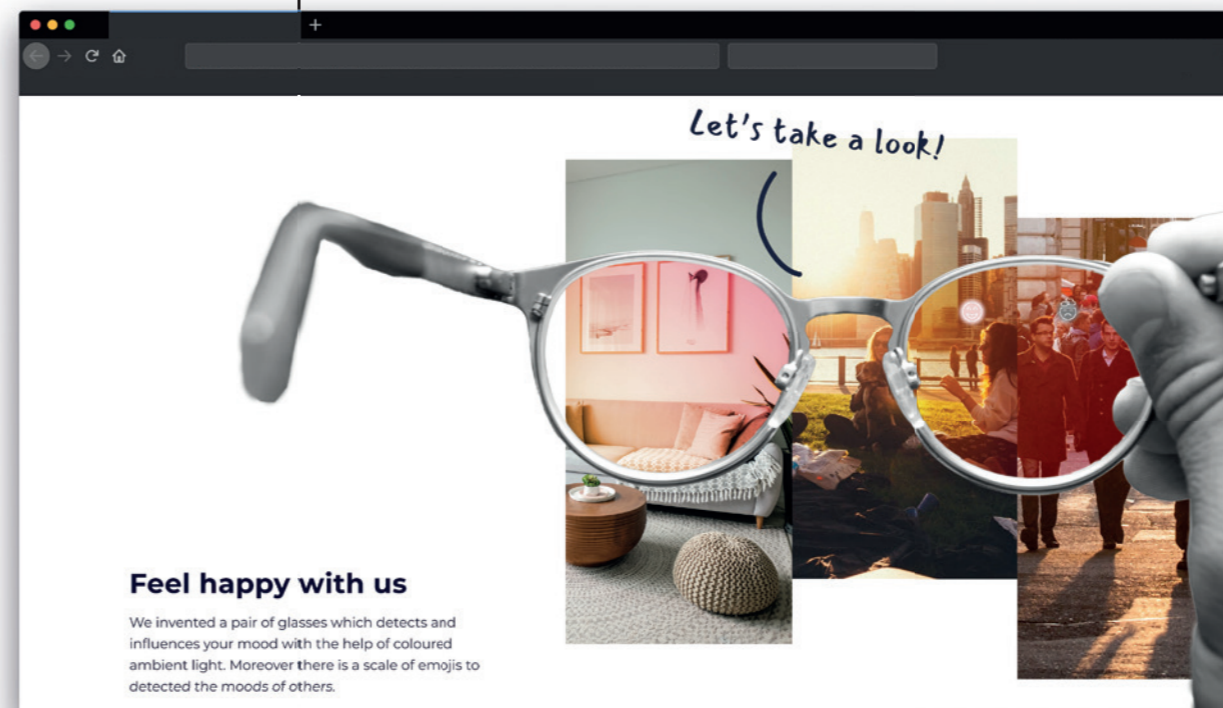
healthy relation to oneself. Moreover, people use public places mostly for transportation. This is nothing to be criticized. But it usually doesn't allow for the possibility to enable randomized interaction with people outside the typical interest-circle and social environment. For our product, we intended to find a way to place it into these public places and make it part of society. Addressing mental illness, we also required a neutral design that would not be identifiable as a symbol of a mental illness. We opted for regular glasses, not just because of their inconspicuous look but because of their unbiased usage. People, regardless of their origin, are able to take advantage of our product.

Certainly, the glasses can be of great benefit for people who are mentally instable. They can be treated with our patented sunshine mood colour filters. Moreover, the long-term goal is to establish the idea of mutual care and interest in the mental well-being of all individuals within society. Being only a tool to enhance these societal processes, the glasses will slowly disappear when this goal is reached.

With this project we aim to raise awareness on the understanding of mental illness not as an unhuman issue, but as a widespread disease. With our project we depict a future scenario for the year 2030 where there is no reason to be uncomfortable or ashamed for a depression or similar anymore. By describing a future where people are open to this topic, the fact that many people are in a similar situation is revealed.

DESCRIBE WHY YOU CHOSE THE SPECIFIC VISUAL APPEARANCE OF THE PRODUCT/SERVICE. WHAT ARE YOU INTENDING TO TRIGGER WITH THE DESIGN?

We thought a lot about the look of the glasses. Should they look futuristic and spacy so that everybody can see who is part of the Careglass community or would it be stigmatizing for the people who are wearing them? We realized that an inconspicuous product would be the best solution for our customers. It has been developed on the base of usual glasses striving for a casual look. The aim is to give anybody the opportunity to look as individual as possible, but still use the benefits of modern technology offered by Careglasses. Through the convenient look it is straightforward for people to adapt as well as to accept the concept of the glasses. It feels closer to their way of life and leads them to think about wearing them for real and how their everyday life would change with our service.

There are some integrated high-tech features such as filters and emojis. The emojis use a visual identity that everybody already learned by using social media and instant messaging services. Therefore, the emoji visuals displayed are easy to be decoded. But at the same time they are abstract enough to avoid someone from interpreting them as belonging into the real world and their offline life. once we made a decision, we need external positive affirmations to make us feel that the decisions we made were the right ones. Uncertainty attacks us, and that's why we need to push provocation in all directions.

AFTER PRESENTING YOUR PRODUCT/ SERVICE TO THE OTHER PARTICIPANTS, WHAT ARE YOUR MAIN TAKEAWAYS FROM THE REACTIONS AND THE DISCUSSION?

There have already been ideas about how to help people to orientate in real life with integrated-display glasses. For example, Google introduced such an eyewear, however, failed because of its extravagant style. The fact, that every accessory in the facial area shapes the person's identity must not be ignored.

As unofficial design concepts made by Apple enthusiasts were released, smart glasses started to be more of a supporting wearable than a technical statement. People wearing usual glasses was never a noticeable statement. This opens up many new possibilities of combining the real world with the artificial one. The implementation of the artificial world into the analogue world is scalable. Self-optimisation through glasses is a totally self-controlled action. Glasses are no substance that can be physically addictive nor a totally inconspicuous way of self-deception.

State of Mind

Imagine there is this moment in life, when you can't influence your own feelings. Wouldn't it be nice, if there would be someone who could?

With Careglass everybody who is wearing the glasses can be informed about your general feeling. Visualized in 5 simple and lean Emojis your feelings can be shown instantly.

Help others to socialize with you trought sharing your emotional state of mind.

Could be as sad as you!

Personal view

What if you could give the first little push towards your own happyness. Our Careglasses will give you the opportunity to colorize your viewport of life.

Bad feeling — sad
Happy/Neutral — stessed
— haunted