01.07.02

ACMI **Screen Lounges**: Progress report on design

From **Crowd Productions**: A report of progress and an outline of research and design work to 07.06.2002

01.] **Development of the Screen Lounge Partition family.**

There are four types of partition screen currently being designed to accompany the Screen Lounges:

01.] The felt acoustic partition screen

02.] The light entry veil partition screen

03.] The egg-crate grill peeping partition screen

04.] The woven translucent/mesh partition screen.

Each type of partition screen performs a different function in regard to the Screen Lounges and the surrounding room space.

The felt partition screen is an acoustic absorber and partial visual barrier. The veil is a visual obscuring device for deployment at the Screen Lounge doorway. The egg-crate grill partition screens and the woven partition screens are designed to link the semi private space of the Screen Lounge pods in with the surrounding public space of the ACMI building.

The partition screens both lead the pedestrian to the Screen Lounges and act like hedges to partially obscure them to increase their allure. These partition Screens act as kinds of interior street signs, directing traffic and acting as navigational tools.

The navigators of Micronesia used woven screens as navigation tools, a kind of model or woven cartography, in the absence of a written language, to record land fall locations, star positions, tides and wind currents. These gave rise to a type of cartography that was communicated as a spatial narrative, recorded in woven screens.

'Speed, time at sea, current, drift and wind speed were mentally processed against a conceptual star map to form a dynamic cognitive map, formed not by mere computation of memorised data but by an understanding of abstract theoretical concepts through which a body of knowledge was organised. In discussing metaphor and the spatiality of knowledge and language, David Turnbull, the author of Mapping the world in the mind: an investigation of the unwritten knowledge of the Micronesian navigators, describes all knowing in a sense as being 'like travelling, like a journey between parts of a matrix''[1]. With these screens as guides the Micronesian navigators could travel vast distances across the southern oceans to exact destinations. We are looking at this idea of navigation in developing

Detail from a Micronesian Navigation screen, proposed ACMI woven partition screen, 2 examples of Australian weaving using natural fibre, an example of an artificial fibre screen.

1 Pringle, P. 'Holding a world in the mind', *The Interior*, issue 7 1996, Melbourne pp70-73

the design of our woven partition screens. The Screen Lounge pods are spaces or taxis that can take you on a journey through the content ACMI has stored and generated. This journey is a journey through a virtual space, one of narrative and of the imagination. The users of the Screen Lounges are creating their own pathways through this material. We would like to engage with this idea. On their adjustable tripod legs the partition screens are already reminiscent of road signs. Can they participate in the process of way-finding in virtual territory?

02.] **Visualisation of the proposed ACMI Screen Lounge system**

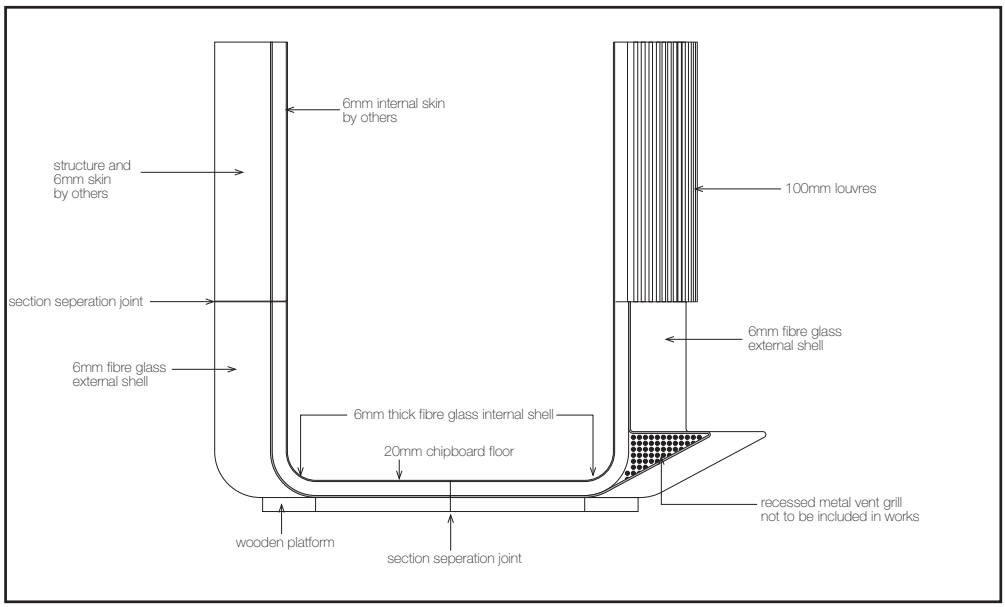
A printed graphic has been prepared to communicate the way in which the proposed system of elements making up the current design for the ACMI Screen Lounges can respond to changing demands and maintain a very porous physical interface. This visualisation is also available as an animated screen graphic.

03.] **Further development of Screen Lounge partition concept.**

A meeting will be set up with Dr. David Turnbull to further discuss the idea of spatial narratives and way-finding in virtual space. The Micronesian navigation system is called Etak and is now used as the name of an electronic vehicle navigation system.

04.] **A report on current design progress: New detail drawings: development of the skin.**

Discussions are under way with a number of fibreglass fabricators to address cost and design requirements to achieve a finely detailed, light and translucent fibreglass skin for the Screen Lounge pods.



05.] **A report on current design progress: Development of the Memory blister pack wall.**

Discussions are under way with a number of acrylic fabricators to address cost and design requirements necessary to create the translucent blister pack memory wall.

06.] **Basket Weavers Society of Victoria.**

We have commenced consultation with the Victorian Basket Weavers Association to explore the range of contemporary fibres and weaving techniques available to us as a possible avenue to design and fabricate the proposed woven partition screens..

07.] **Discussions with consultants on fabrication techniques and systems for the Screen Lounges.**

01.] 13.06.2002. Meeting with Mal Cottlewell, fibreglass boat building consultant, to discuss pricing and fabrication techniques for the Screen Lounge fibreglass shell.

02.] 13.06.2002. Meeting with Vaughan Bolwell, from Bolwell Corporation, to discuss costings and fabrication techniques for the Screen Lounge fibreglass shell.

03] 11.06.2002. Meeting with Paul Blackie, from Epo-Kem, to discuss pricing and fabrication techniques for a continuous hard wearing rubberised interior skin for the Screen Lounge shell.

04.] 21.06.2002. Meeting with John Maher, from Source One Alliance, to discuss pricing and fabrication techniques fof Decitex and other acoustic foam materials for use in the Screen Lounge partitions.

05.] 15.06.2002. Material has been received from IO Metal Fabrics, Wynnum, Queensland, for consideration for use in the Screen Lounge partitions.

06.] 17.06.02. Material has been received from Ashley Lane at Lab Architects; colour samples and surface swatches of finishes for the Screen Lounge.

07.] 11.06.02-17.06.02. We have ordered 8 meters of fabric for upholstery tests and fabrication tests for the Screen Lounge *Soona* prototype, the upholstered seating elements. The fabric has been chosen to test a range of surfaces and substrates. Commercial grade fabric has been selected from Textile Mania, Instyle and Senica.