

KEEPING IN TOUCH



The newest mobile sensation?

As brick-like cellphones, Sony Walkmans and Casio Synthesizers of the 1980s are all but relegated to the gadget graveyard, Gen-Y tech-savvy designers and inventors are sharing their visions for a more sensory new mobile world.

How many times have you wished that you could send that someone special more than just a smiley in an e-mail, or see them through a Skype call? Well, thanks to German gadget designer, Fabian Hemmert, the technology to enable us to interact physically with one another is finally here. Intimate Mobile

Phones (currently in the prototype phase) will enable mobile phone users to physically feel a kiss, touch or sigh. For example, the “crying phone” uses a wet sponge inside the phone, so when a caller plants a kiss or sheds a tear, the person at the other end will feel the kiss or the tears.

These innovative devices give new meaning to “being in touch.”

WWW.FABIANHEMMERT.COM/PROJECTS/INTIMATE-MOBILES

OPEN SOURCE DESIGNING

While technology has greatly improved global access to telecommunications and music, architectural design has been the last digital frontier. Until now that is. OpenSimSim is a new open source (community-driven platform) design network. It enables users from around the world to interact in the architectural design process with the help of Web 2.0.

Daniel Dendra, a Berlin-based architect and co-founder of OpenSimSim which launched at the Venice Biennale in 2010 explains: “We use open source tools such as Wikipedia and OpenOffice every day. Why not use open source to reinvent cities where 98 per cent of the buildings are not designed by architects?”

[HTTP://OPENSIMSIM.NET/BETA/OPENSIMSIM](http://OPENSIMSIM.NET/BETA/OPENSIMSIM)



Blueprints for a digital age

Must-attend event: The Mobile World Congress takes place in Barcelona from February 14–17, with a special performance by Welsh singer-songwriter Duffy.

WWW.MOBILEWORLDCONGRESS.COM

STRINGLESS STRUMMING

Less “feely” but as “touchy” as phone kissing is jamming on the Kitara — the world’s first stringless, digital guitar. It features an multifunction touch screen, MIDI controls and an on-board polyphonic synthesizer with effects.

“The Kitara will allow both professional and amateur music artists to increase their experimental threshold without the frustration of string control,” says **Michael Zarimis**, designer and creator of the Kitara, which made its global debut at the Las Vegas Consumer Electronics Show in January. Two years in the making in Sydney, Australia, the invention has been drawing fans ever since Zarimis released a YouTube clip of him playing the Kitara, which has since gone viral with more than 2 million hits. Incidentally, “kitara” also means “guitar” in Finnish.

WWW.MISADIGITAL.COM



The world’s first digital guitar, Kitara, takes its name from the Greek word for guitar, “kithara.”