

Art Direction Goals:

Create a visually rich, immersive 3D online space delivered in a browser while taking advantage of high-end graphic shaders and hardware to extend the look beyond any current Flash based offerings, using techniques typically associated with current console platforms

Create a UI and interaction model that allows non-3D users to feel comfortable and have a low learning curve, while ensuring long term interest and playability.

Technical Challenges/Constraints:

User download size must be kept to a minimum for a good User experience. Visuals must look good on an minimum spec nVidia 7600 class computers (PC and Mac).

Since objects would be added and moved to random locations by Users, Real Time cast shadows were utilized, despite the inherent rendering/memory cost.

To accomplish this,3D Spaces range in size from 2-8 megs for all geometry, textures, shaders and animation.

User place-able props fall within the size range of 1.3 to 1 meg and be under 1500 polys.

Avatars must fall in the range of 1.5 megs, and the entire base animation tree must be kept under 3 megs.

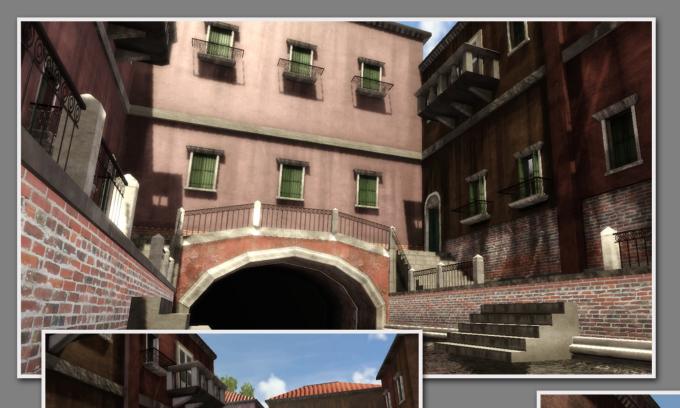
Texture pack channels included: color, specular, bump, transparency and full color lightmaps.











Space: Canal street with enclosed areas, reminiscent of old Venice

Technical notes: Lightmaps used to create dirt streaks in addition to usual ambient occlusion. Direct shadows are real time





Space: Yaletown warehouse loft conversion

Props: Various User place-able and texture customisable items including plants, furniture. Most surfaces in Space are also texture customisable by Users





Space: Stacked containers, converted to use as artist work/live space

Avatars: Several of the characters available for User selection and customisation





Space: Large public gathering area, modelled after Grand Central Terminal

Props: seating, carpets, piano, easels, plants, and image frames with User customised images







Space: designed to feel like a courtyard in small town Provence, France

Props: Placeable Easels with customised User photos, plants, seating, dividers. Textures in Space are User customisable

