INFORMATION SHEET FOR PARTICIPANTS IN RESEARCH STUDIES

You will be given a copy of this information sheet to keep.

Project title: Perception of daylit spaces in Virtual Reality

You are being asked to take part in a research study about your perceptual impression of spaces in virtual reality. Please read this form carefully and ask any questions you may have before agreeing to take part in the study.

Details of the study:

The purpose of this study is to understand how different parameters influence your perception of the interior of a daylit space in virtual reality.

If you agree to participate, you will be asked to wear a Virtual Reality (VR) Headset, in which you will be shown interiors of architectural spaces. We will ask you to fill in a short questionnaire verbally, while the researcher will be noting your answers. The questionnaire will include questions on your perception of the different scenes in the virtual reality headset, besides some personal information. Additionally, we will record your physiological response to the virtual reality scenes by measuring the skin conductance and heart rate through a non-invasive wristband. We will also take some environmental measurements (such as air temperature and amount of light) and ask you to do a visual acuity test in the VR Headset. The experimental session will last about 30 minutes.

There are no anticipated risks in the participation of this study other than those encountered in day-to-day life. The use of the VR headset might induce a slight headache to sensitive participants for a few minutes after the completion of the experimental session. You will be paid 10 CHF at the end of the experimental session as compensation for your participation.

Taking part in this study is completely voluntary. You can withdraw your participation in this study at any time without giving a reason or facing negative consequences. Your answers will be confidential. All data will be collected and stored safely and reported in an anonymous form, in accordance with the CH Federal law on data protection (“Loi fédérale sur la protection des données” – RS 235.1). Only the principal investigator and/or the members of the Research Ethics Committee have access to the original data under strict confidentiality. The wristband used to monitor the physiological responses is not a medical device, but rather a research equipment, and we cannot exclude the possibility of human or measurement error in the data. However, if the data analysis after the completion of the experiments indicates a physiological behavior out of the norm, we will de-anonymize the corresponding experimental session and notify the participant in question.

Any injury or damage occurring during or following the participation in the above-mentioned research project and for which the responsibility of the EPFL can be established, is covered by the general liability insurance of EPFL (insurance policy no. 30/5.006.824 of the Bâloise Insurance), in accordance with the terms and conditions of the insurance.
To complement the above-mentioned insurance, it is your responsibility to have adequate health insurance and accident insurance coverage. In case of doubt, just like in case of discomfort or undesirable effects related to your participation in this study, please contact the researchers directly.

The researchers conducting this study are Kynthia Chamilothori and Dr. Jan Wienold. Please ask us if there is anything that is not clear or if you would like to receive more information. If you have questions later, you may contact Kynthia Chamilothori at kynthia.chamilothori@epfl.ch.