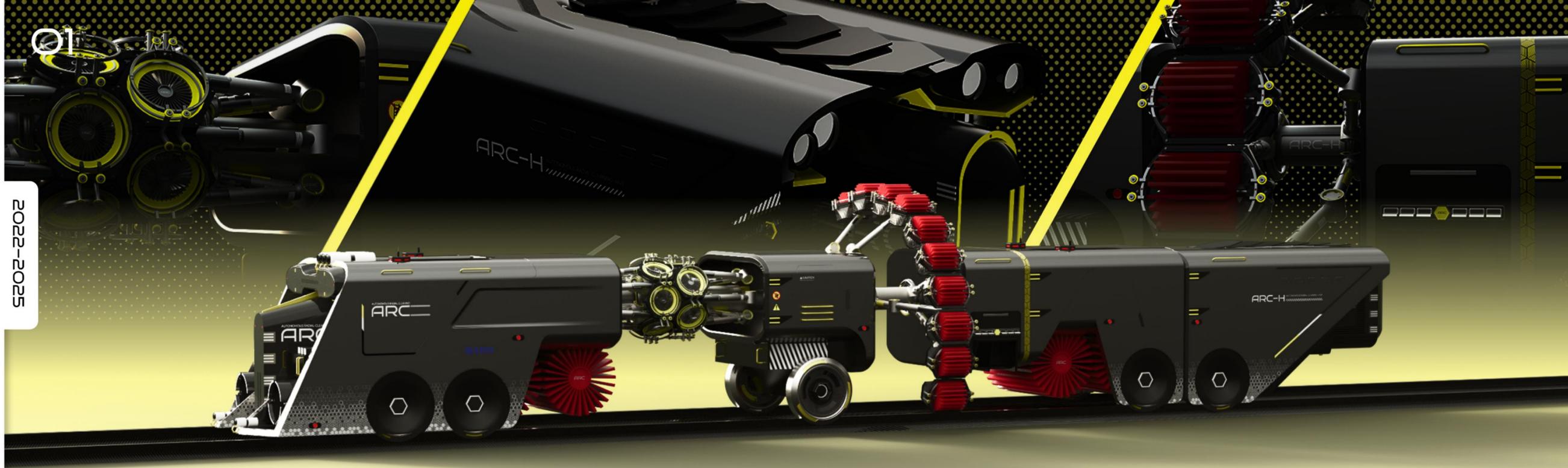




2022-2025



ARC-H 2024-2025

An **unmanned tunnel-cleaning vehicle** that replaces traditional manual workers, utilizing modular segmented carriages to enhance the logic of the cleaning process. It ensures the highest cleaning accuracy through honeycomb-shaped cleaning devices and mobile robotic arms, **freeing traditional subway cleaning workers from high-risk occupations.**

AUTONOMOUS RADIAL CLEANING-HIVE

NAME:
Xu haochen

VIDEO TASK LINK:
<https://youtu.be/xy6nyZwjz-o>

BACK GROUND

PAIN POINT

Unclean subway tunnels not only limit the visibility of subway drivers, but also seriously affect the air quality inside stations, tunnels, and subway trains, and impact the health of daily commuters.

The efficiency of manually holding the spray gun is low, and the dark environment cannot guarantee that all areas are cleaned thoroughly.

The poor air quality inside the subway tunnel is severely impacting the health of cleaning personnel.

The cleaning vehicle has a large volume, poor flexibility, and high operational requirements for the cabin crew.

DATA ANALYSIS

Vehicle cleaning efficiency
150-400m²/min
(calculated based on the tunnel circumference (approximately 25-35m) x speed)

Manual cleaning efficiency
15-25m²/min



DESK RESEARCH

HISTORY

Specialized small cleaning vehicles are available that can either operate along the tracks or be towed by locomotives. They are typically equipped with rotating cleaning brushes, although water gun flushing still relies on manual operation.

These large cleaning vehicles integrate both washing and waste collection functions, and have been further developed to include additional features such as sewage recycling and storage. Simultaneously, most tasks that previously required manual labor have been automated, significantly reducing the need for human involvement.



Problem Statement

How can we efficiently eliminate accumulated contaminants such as dust, sediment, metal powder, and oil stains from tunnel sidewalls, pipelines, trackbeds, and drainage ditches to significantly enhance air quality within tunnels, stations, and subway trains after cleaning, while maximizing automation to reduce cleaners' exposure to hazardous high-pollution work environments?

USAGE SCENARIO ANALYSIS



OPERATION TIME WINDOW

Skylight period hours
23:00 pm - 5:00 am

Only during the subway shutdown period.

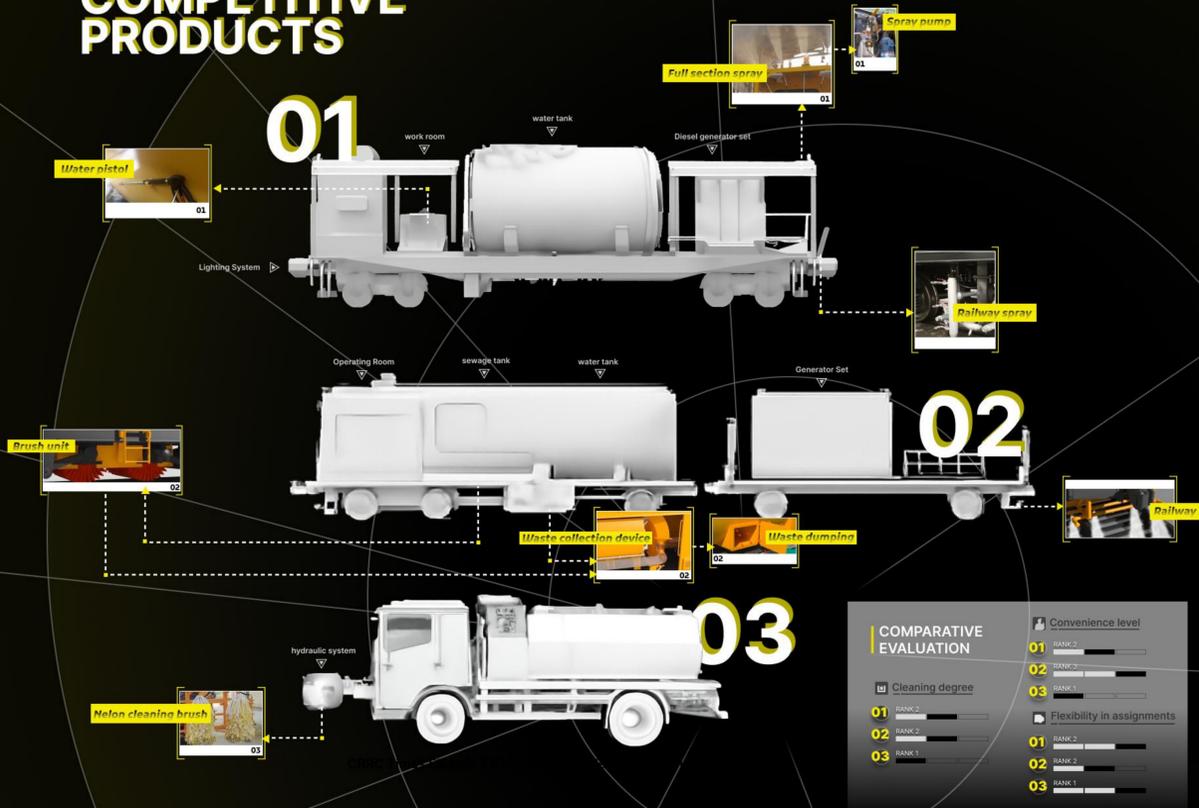
Single Task Duration
≤ 4 hours

(including tunnel entry and exit time)

CLEANING OBJECT TYPE

- Hard attachments: track rust/concrete dust (density 1.8-2.2g/cm³)
- Soft pollutants: oily sludge (viscosity>5000cP), leakage water
- Special residue: black metal powder (particle size>10 µm), cable insulation debris

COMPETITIVE PRODUCTS



01 : Tangshan Baichuan Intelligent Machine Co., Ltd. - Subway Tunnel Cleaning Vehicle Series
 02 : CRRC Times Electric TJC-XXX Tunnel Cleaning Vehicle Series
 03 : Chengli Special Purpose Vehicle Co., Ltd. - Subway Tunnel Cleaning Vehicle

USER RESEARCH



FACE TO FACE INTERVIEW

XU HAOCHEN
 Tunnel cleaning is not a well-known cleaning process in the subway. May I ask why tunnel cleaning is extremely important for subway passengers and how the dirt inside subway tunnels is formed?

SUN JIANFEI
 Because subway vehicles entering the tunnel from the ground vehicle depot will bring in dust and cause air blockage, forming particulate matter in the air, which will be concentrated at the entrance. On the other hand, rainfall precipitation and drainage from subway operation sites, residual fuels and oils are constantly accumulated in the tunnel, producing sediment. Tunnel cleaning is aimed at improving the air quality inside subways and stations, and further enhancing the comfort of passengers while riding.

XU HAOCHEN
 What are the advantages of using tunnel cleaning vehicles for cleaning compared to manual cleaning? When do regular cleaning vehicles start working in tunnels? Will it affect the normal operation of the subway?

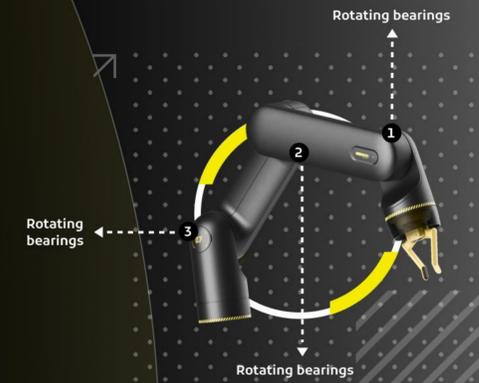
SUN JIANFEI
 Compared with using manual cleaning, tunnel cleaning vehicles only need about 10-20 minutes for cleaning the 0.19-kilometer-long Line 11, calculated based on the working hours of 1:20 to 4:00 in the morning every day. Moreover, due to the high water pressure of the nozzle of the cleaning vehicle, the water is distributed at different angles, the cleaning is also cleaner.

XU HAOCHEN
 What difficulties did you encounter during tunnel cleaning before the popularization of subway tunnel cleaning vehicles?

SUN JIANFEI
 Removing stubborn stains requires manual cleaning. During this process, maintenance personnel must be thoroughly trained. Additionally, equipment in the tunnel must remain 24-hour energized throughout the cleaning period. Once cleaning is completed, we also need to verify the power supply status to ensure normal subway operation.

August 7, 2025, Haidian Huangzhuang Subway Station, Haidian District, Beijing

STRUCTURE RESEARCH



The circular arm can be **deployed** and **stored** using a minimal number of drivers. Its strengths include a stable structure with excellent rigidity, effectively resisting operational reaction forces; **simple control logic**, requiring only management of the retraction sequence; and **high storage efficiency**, allowing compact placement within the carriage. Furthermore, its **fixed cleaning path** ensures **high reliability and predictable operation**, while its standardized design reduces complexity, facilitates deployment, and lowers maintenance requirements.

C The theme is simple black, white, and gray with bright yellow accents, bringing a unique industrial feel.

M The carbon fiber wheels and metal paint reflect material changes, with additional components embellished with plastic.

F Matte metal paint and rough metal contrasting glossy plastics for industrial metal components; carbon fiber coating.

FINISHING
 01: High-temperature baked paint
 02: Clear varnish protective layer
 03: Hard anodizing
 04: In mold injection molding

MATERIAL
 01: Carbon fiber
 02: Metallic paint
 03: Plastic
 04: Metal

COLOR

COLOR 01, 04: Metallic color 02,03: Simple black, white, gray, and bright yellow accents.
 MATERIAL 01: Carbon fiber 02: Metallic paint 03: Plastic 04: Metal
 FINISHING 01: High-temperature baked paint 02: Clear varnish protective layer 03: Hard anodizing 04: In mold injection molding

TECHNOLOGY RESEARCH



Existing unmanned subway cleaning systems follow fixed paths. To enable intelligent operation, the system fuses LIDAR point clouds, camera images, and millimeter-wave radar targets at the underlying layer to build an accurate environmental model. For example, LIDAR locates an object, the camera identifies it as a "toolbox," and radar confirms it is stationary. After independent sensor judgments, the fusion center synthesizes conclusions—such as determining a "passable puddle." This multi-sensor fusion transforms the system from a fixed-path executor into an intelligent platform capable of perceiving and responding to complex environments.

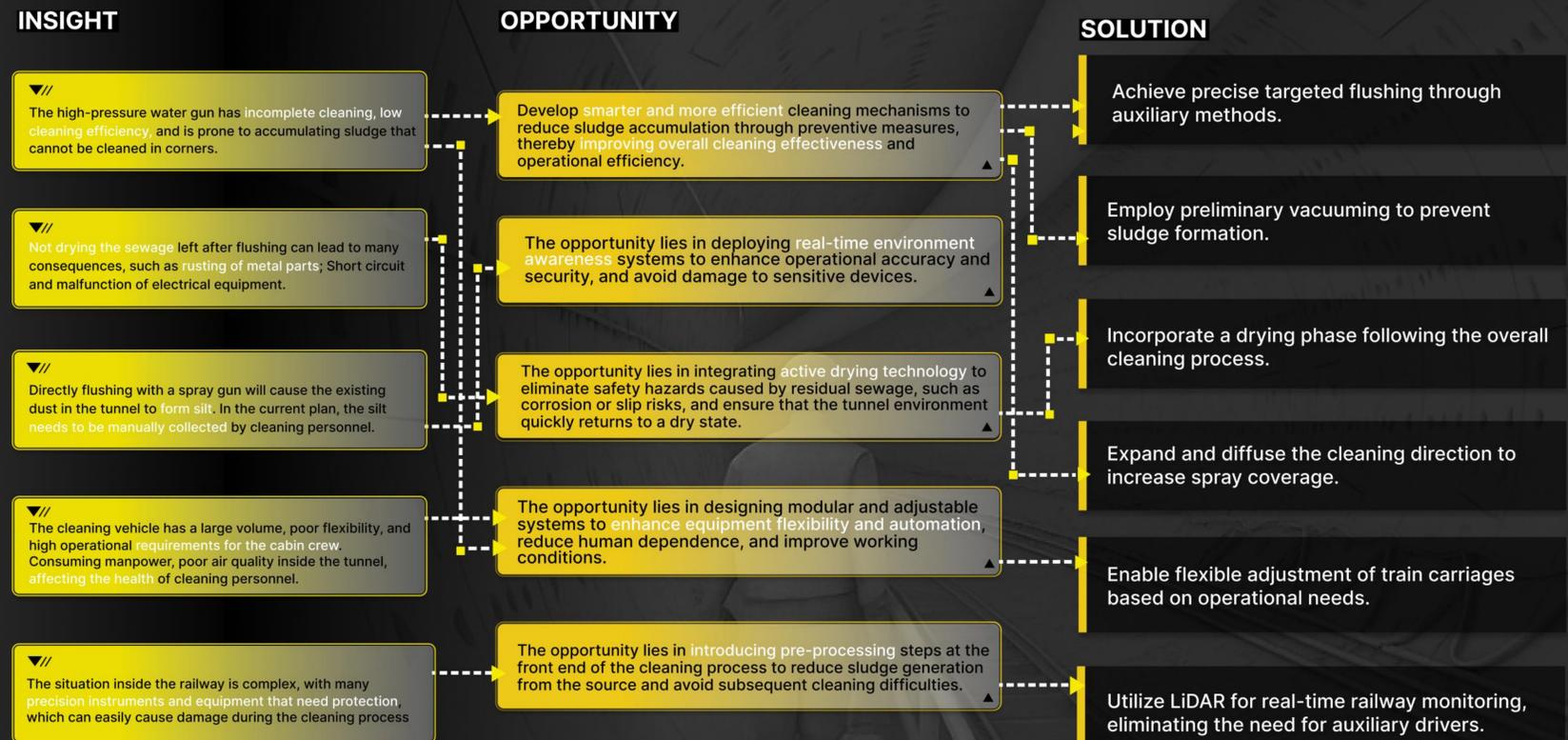
TYPES OF RADAR

01 Forward LIDAR
 Generate high-precision 3D point cloud maps by emitting laser beams and receiving reflected signals. Forward looking path planning and obstacle detection. Build a precise model of the tunnel structure in front of the vehicle. Provide safe deceleration and braking distance for vehicle cruising.

02 Lateral LIDAR
 Equipped with rotating components, it provides real-time high-precision distance measurement on both sides of the vehicle, ensuring the brush arm maintains the optimal cleaning distance from the tunnel wall. Identify cracks, dents, or protrusions on the tunnel wall and notify the main control system in advance to adjust the posture of the robotic arm to avoid collisions.

03 Millimeter wave radar
 Detects objects through the Doppler effect by emitting radio waves in the millimeter wave frequency band. Strong penetration through harsh environments where optical sensors such as dust and water mist cannot work. Directly measuring the relative velocity with the object in front is crucial for determining whether there are personnel or vehicles entering. The detection effect of metal objects is excellent. Integrate with the main LIDAR and train head as redundancy and supplement.

DESIGN PROCESS



FINAL CONCEPT

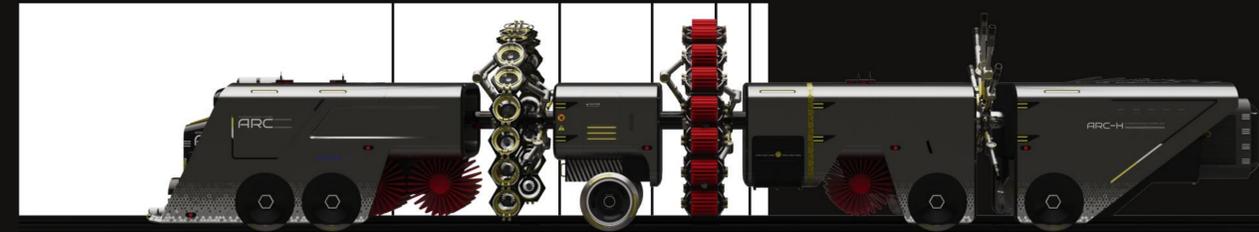
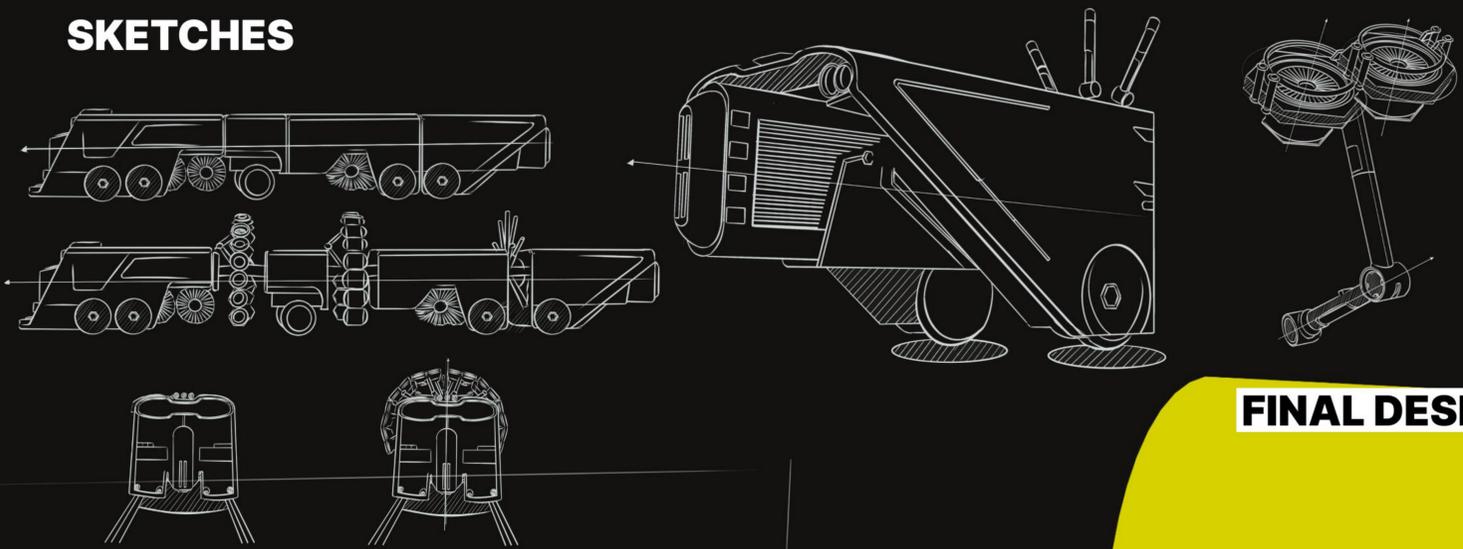
RADAR—GUIDED CLEANING
 LIDAR and millimeter-wave radar are employed to accurately identify debris and track conditions, ensuring cleaning integrity and enabling unmanned operation of the cleaning vehicles.

STRETCHABLE BODY
 The carriages can be separated and reassembled, with operational positions dynamically adjustable to ensure normal operation while allowing the modular hive-shaped cleaning devices inside to be retracted and deployed flexibly.

MODULAR CLEANING DEVICE
 The honeycomb-shaped modular cleaning device can be extended to achieve full circular coverage of the tunnel, ensuring high cleaning completion, while also retracting into the carriage for wastewater recovery.

COMPLETE CLEANING LOGIC
 The four carriages sequentially execute a complete cleaning logic—master control, vacuuming, brushing, spraying, and drying—to achieve optimal efficiency and thoroughness in cleaning operations.

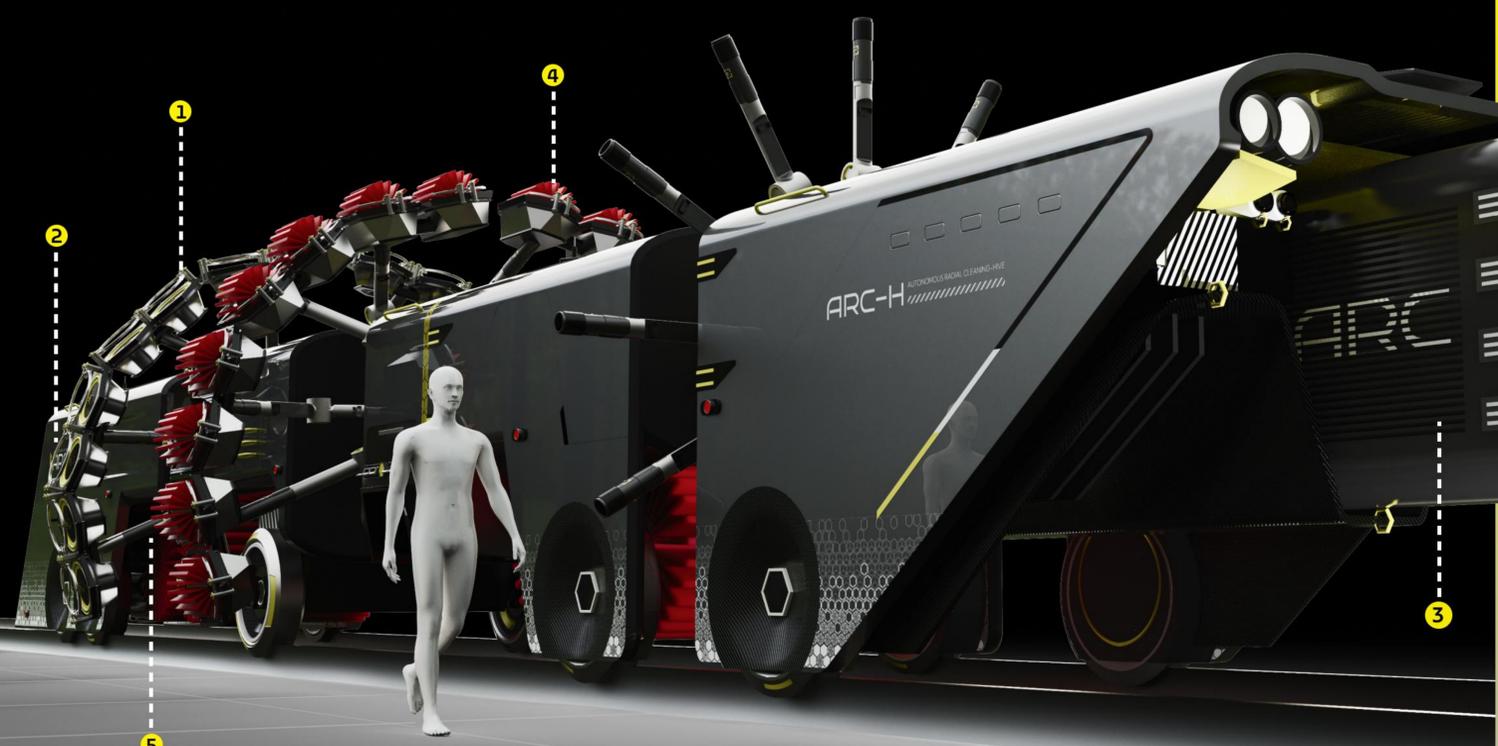
SKETCHES



FINAL DESIGN

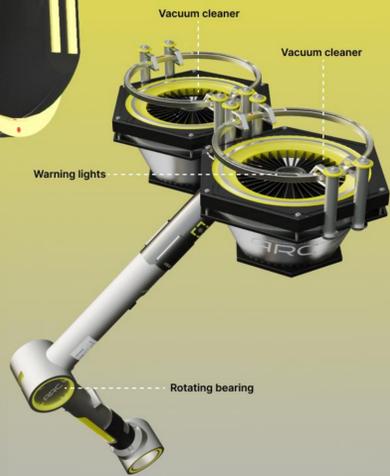


DETAILS



CLEANING DEVICE

1 A honeycomb-shaped modular cleaning assembly connects two cleaning units (depicted as vacuum units) via a robotic arm. The arm's movement enables retraction and extension of the cleaning units, achieving radial coverage. Warning lights are also integrated into the device for both alerting and illumination.



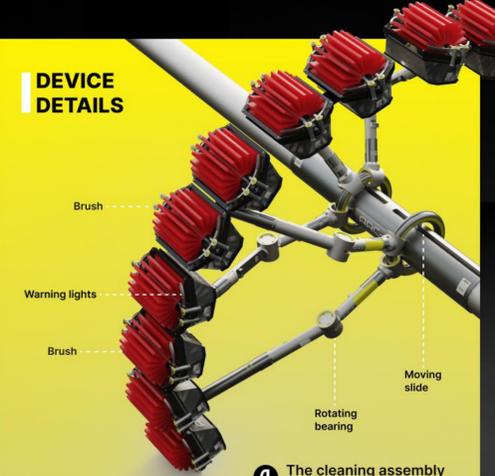
CAR-BODY DETAILS

2 Radars are positioned primarily at the front of the vehicle to identify debris locations and pre-plan the cleaning sequence.

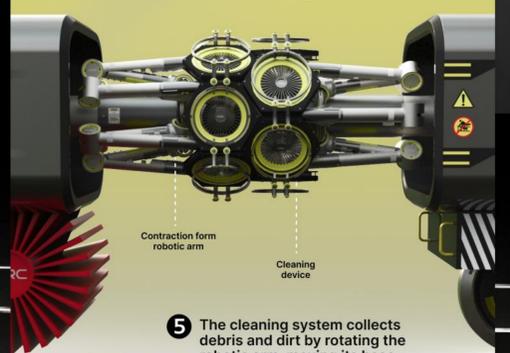


3 A rear-mounted suspension drying unit performs overall drying after the preceding three stages—vacuuming, brushing, and spraying—are complete.

DEVICE DETAILS

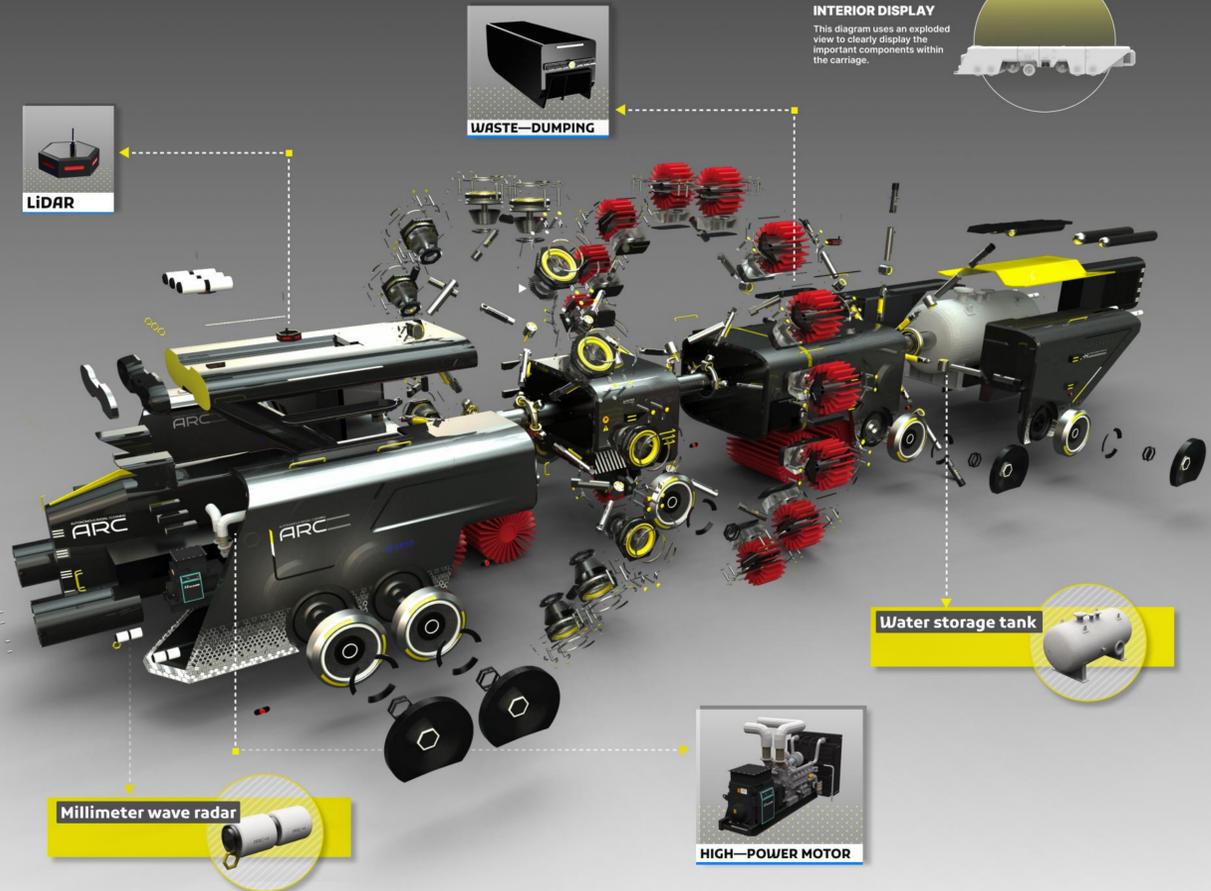


4 The cleaning assembly covers the tunnel's full cross-section through coordinated rotation, extension, and base movement of the robotic arm.



5 The cleaning system collects debris and dirt by rotating the robotic arm, moving its base, and retracting the assembly back into the carriage.

EXPLODED VIEW



RENDERINGS

RENDERINGS



The last subway train running at 11:00 pm has been suspended, and the ARCH tunnel cleaning vehicle is about to start its cleaning.

INTERFACE DISPLAY

The secondary interface of the main interface. Click "BRUSH" from the main interface to adjust the specific values of the cleaning vehicle's spray module, such as Brush rotation speed, brush position, etc.

The login interface of ARCH tunnel cleaning vehicle control app.

The secondary interface of the main interface. Click "Spray" from the main interface to adjust the specific values of the cleaning vehicle's spray module, such as water pressure, spray position, etc.

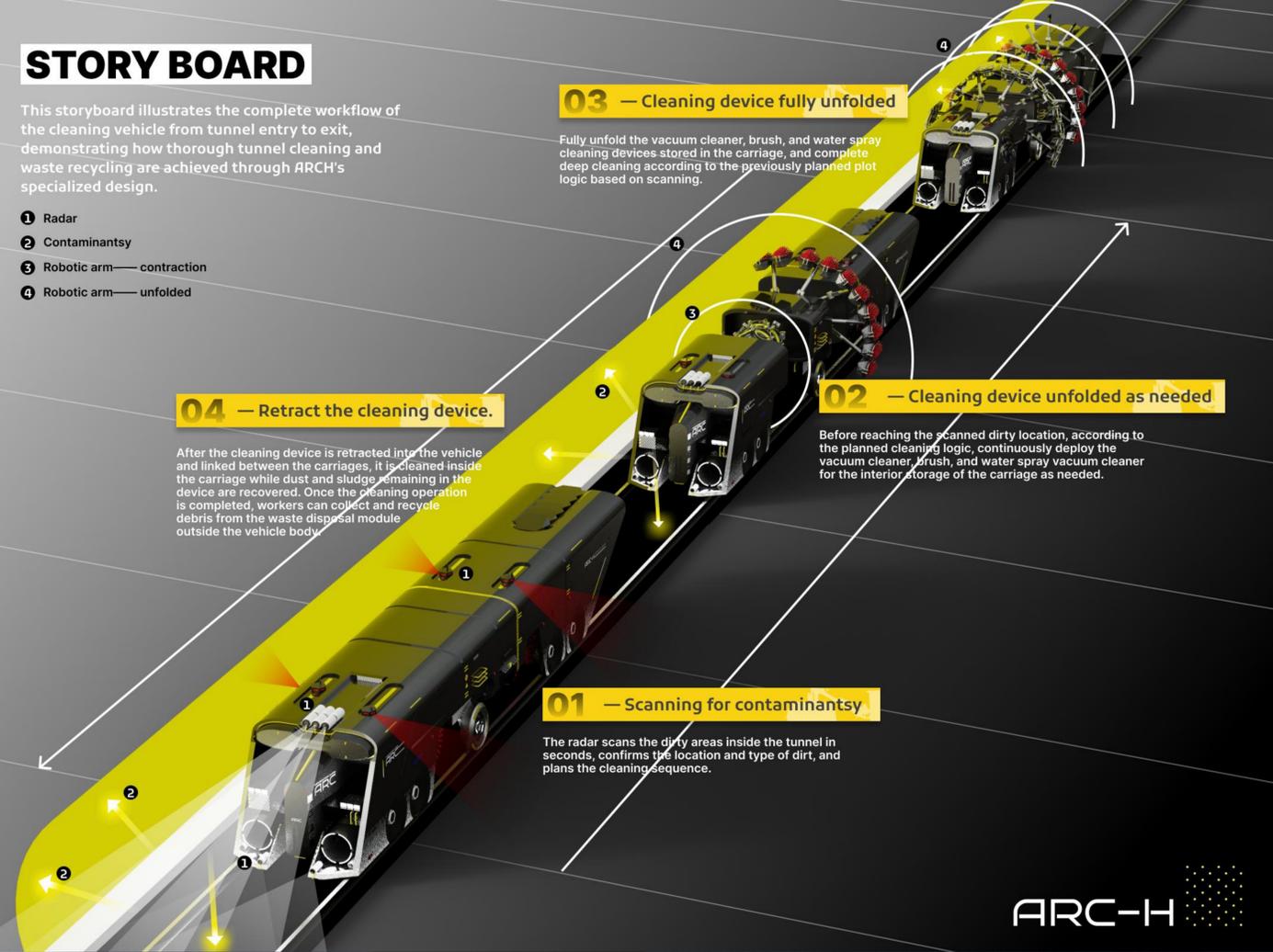
The main interface of the interface can complete the supervision of train conditions and the identification of tunnel radar scanning results and types of dirt and stains.

During the cleaning vehicle's operation, workers remotely control it from the central console, supervising and enabling it to complete the cleaning process either autonomously or via manual intervention.

STORY BOARD

This storyboard illustrates the complete workflow of the cleaning vehicle from tunnel entry to exit, demonstrating how thorough tunnel cleaning and waste recycling are achieved through ARCH's specialized design.

- 1 Radar
- 2 Contaminants
- 3 Robotic arm—contraction
- 4 Robotic arm—unfolded



ARCH

02

STORY WEAVER

— AI interactive projection medical device

2024-2025

This project introduces a "Creative Healing" system for hospitalized children. It uses **hand-shadow recognition** and a simple dial interface to capture creative input, which **AI then converts into personalized stories**, giving children a sense of control. The system also establishes an emotional support loop through a story gallery and a family app, **creating a supportive haven** within the hospital environment.

INSPIRATION

Two years ago, my younger sister struggled with a serious illness. Because our family was tied up with other responsibilities, she often had to stay in the hospital on her own for treatment. Later, she told me how hard it was to be alone in her room — how lonely and scared she felt most of the time. Back then, I wished that even if she was in a quiet ward by herself, she would never have to feel alone again.

BACKGROUND

Psychological pressure is widespread:

- hospitalized children generally face severe feelings of loneliness, fear, and anxiety.

The proportion of hospitalized children showing significant anxiety:



The proportion of hospitalized school-age children whose primary source of stress is fear of separation from their parents:



Ward time blank:

- Children have a lot of boring and unstructured alone time in the ward and urgently need active intervention.

The duration of unstructured activities for hospitalized children in the ward:



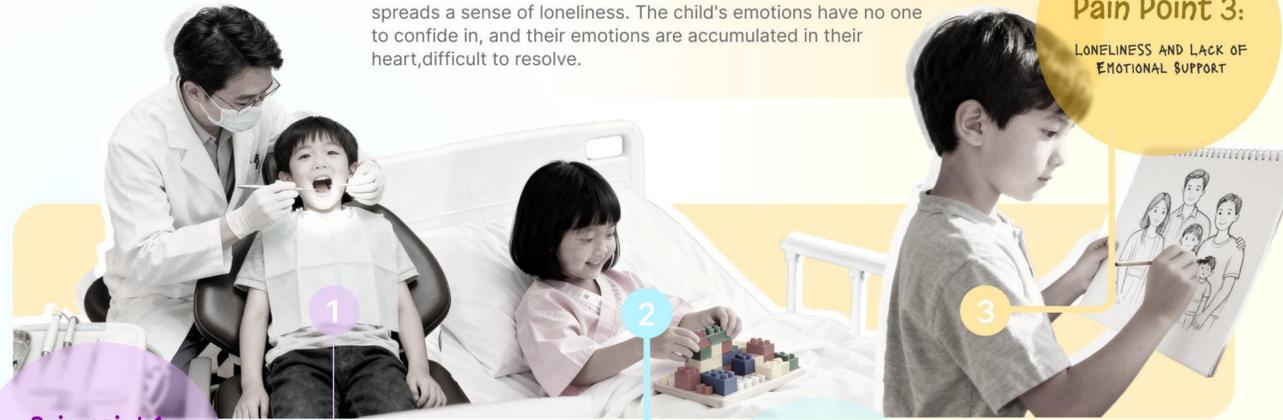
Shortcomings of existing solutions:

- The hospital's existing entertainment measures (such as television) have limited effectiveness and lack solutions that can provide personalized support and creative expression.



PAIN-POINTS

The ward isolates family and friends, and the long alone time spreads a sense of loneliness. The child's emotions have no one to confide in, and their emotions are accumulated in their heart, difficult to resolve.



Pain Point 3:

LONELINESS AND LACK OF EMOTIONAL SUPPORT

Pain point 1:

FEELING OF BEING AFFECTED AND LOSING CONTROL IN A MEDICAL ENVIRONMENT

In the hospital, everything for children is decided by adults, from treatment to sleep, and personal will is completely deprived. This sense of loss of control will exacerbate their anxiety and fear, making them feel helpless.

Pain Point 2:

LACK OF CREATIVE EXPRESSION AND POSITIVE ACTIVITIES.

The ward environment is monotonous, and traditional entertainment is mostly passive consumption, which cannot satisfy children's natural desire for creativity and exploration. This leads to mental fatigue and deep boredom.

PROBLEM STATEMENT

Hospitalized children face profound loneliness and fear, as existing passive entertainment fails to support their need for active, creative expression—reducing them from “active individuals” to “passive patients.” An innovative solution is urgently needed to restore their creative agency and alleviate emotional isolation.

BRAND-ANALYSIS



Qingsong Health Group is an AI-powered, one-stop health platform. With a mission to empower families against illness, it offers both Digital Health and Health Insurance services to its 168 million+ users, covering needs from education and screening to management and protection.



“Children's Health Care Outreach” Activity



“Qingsong Growth” Child Health Initiative



“Ward Library” Project



CASE-STUDY



ROPET

A desktop static companion robot. Equipped with temperature simulation, by recording the host's emotions and behaviors, seeking interaction at appropriate times (such as seeking touch), emphasizing the weak companionship and emotional empathy of being needed, without relying on dialogue.

169\$

Empathy Comfort



DOKIDS

A companion smart robot designed for children aged 3 to 12, positioned as an “electronic pet.” It simulates a sense of life through an LED expression screen, extendable front feet, and touch interaction. Its core functions include habit formation and remote parental supervision/communication.

212\$

Management Cultivation



ROLA MINI

A mobile desktop robot that can be remotely controlled. The core is to serve as a “substitute” for remote interaction, allowing parents to interact with their children in real time and observe the environment through the robot's camera and microphone, achieving “physical remote companionship”.

283\$

Connection Communication

Analysis shows competitors are weak in creative expression and autonomy:

- Dokids = Semi-passive management.
- Ropet = Passive emotional soothing.
- Rolamini = Remote monitoring/receiver.

I expect my design to fill this gap through “from creation to generation” interaction, transforming children from passive patients into active creators, directly addressing their need for expression and control as a core competitive advantage.

Sense of autonomy and control

Creativity and expression

INTERVIEW



01

Hospitalized Children - Xiaoyu

Hospitalized for one week due to fracture

A: It's boring to be alone and a bit scared. I miss my family very much, but I know they don't have time to be with me all the time. I can only pass the time by myself.

Q: What is the most difficult thing to endure in the hospital?

Q: What are the main difficulties currently faced in taking care of children's emotions?

Work for 8 years

Pediatric nurse - Nurse Zhang

A: Our manpower and time are limited, so we cannot be with every child all the time. There is a lack of activities in the ward that can encourage them to actively engage and forget their fears.



03

Parent - Ms. Li

Busy with work, child hospitalized

A: I hope to see him happy and energetic, not just knowing his condition. I want to talk to him about specific things instead of always asking 'does it hurt?'

Q: What do you most hope for when you are not with your child?

PERSONA

INFORMATION

Core portrait: 7 years old, hospitalized for fracture

Identity: First grade boy, lively and active

Hospitalization status: Hospitalized for 3 days, expected to be hospitalized for another 4-5 days

Accompanying situation: Mother works during the day and accompanies at night; My father works in another city

Personality



Needs

Emotional Support

To receive companionship and have their feelings acknowledged, especially when family is absent.

Self-Expression

A safe outlet to express fears and imagination, proving they are “more than just a patient”.

Regaining Control

The desire to make choices and experience mastery (“I can do this”) within a restricted environment.

Maintaining Connection

To sustain an emotional bond with family and have indirect interaction with peers.

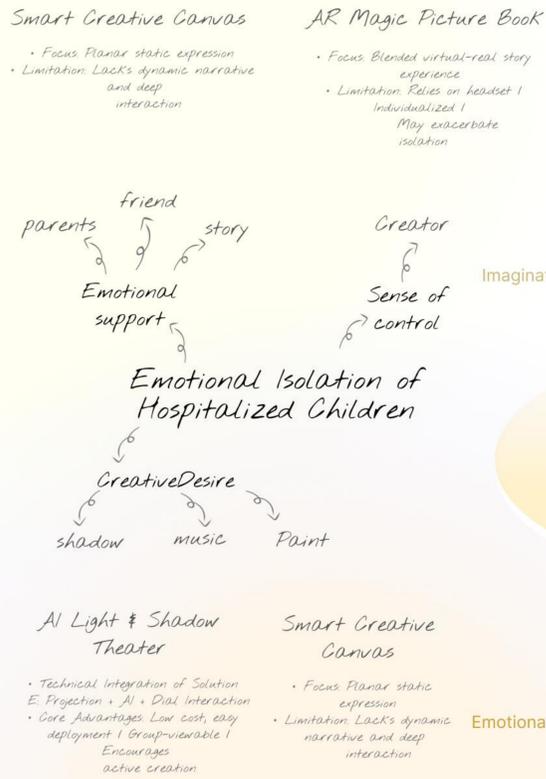
- Strong sense of environmental unfamiliarity
- Daily routines are broken
- Dual physical and psychological pressure
- Sudden interruption of social interaction

Pain Points

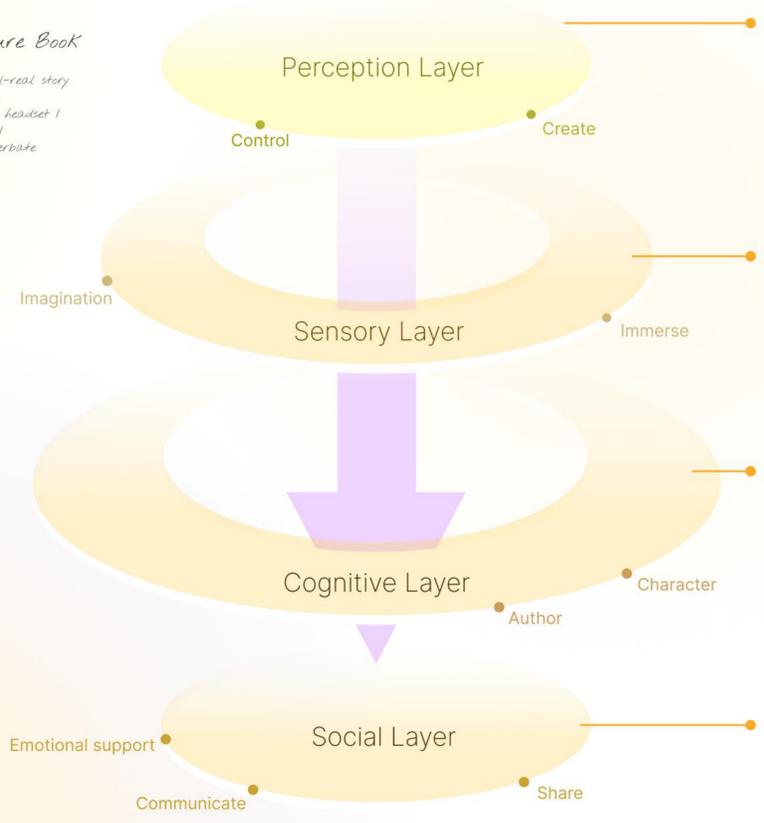
- Loneliness & Boredom**
Long, solitary hours with few engaging activities.
- Fear & Anxiety**
Mounting fear of treatments with no emotional outlet.
- Loss of Control**
No autonomy over their daily routine or choices.
- Stifled Creativity**
Monotonous environment with no way to express themselves.



MIND MAP



DESIGN CONCEPT



Creative Physical Expression: Shadow Recognition and Dial Control

The device uses a camera to capture the child's **hand shadow** as a primal, direct creative input. The physical dial offers tactile feedback and a sense of choice. This layer transforms **body movement** into a starting point for **creation**, giving the child an initial feeling of control.

XR Visual Magic and Immersive Storytelling: Real-time Projection "Activation" & Immersive Story World

The core AI technology acts as a "**visual magic**", instantly transforming the hand shadow on the wall into a **unique animated character** within a dynamically generated story scene. This immediate, magical feedback creates a powerful flow experience, diverting the child's focus from the ward to a **self-initiated**, wonderful imagined world, enabling a positive **emotional escape**.

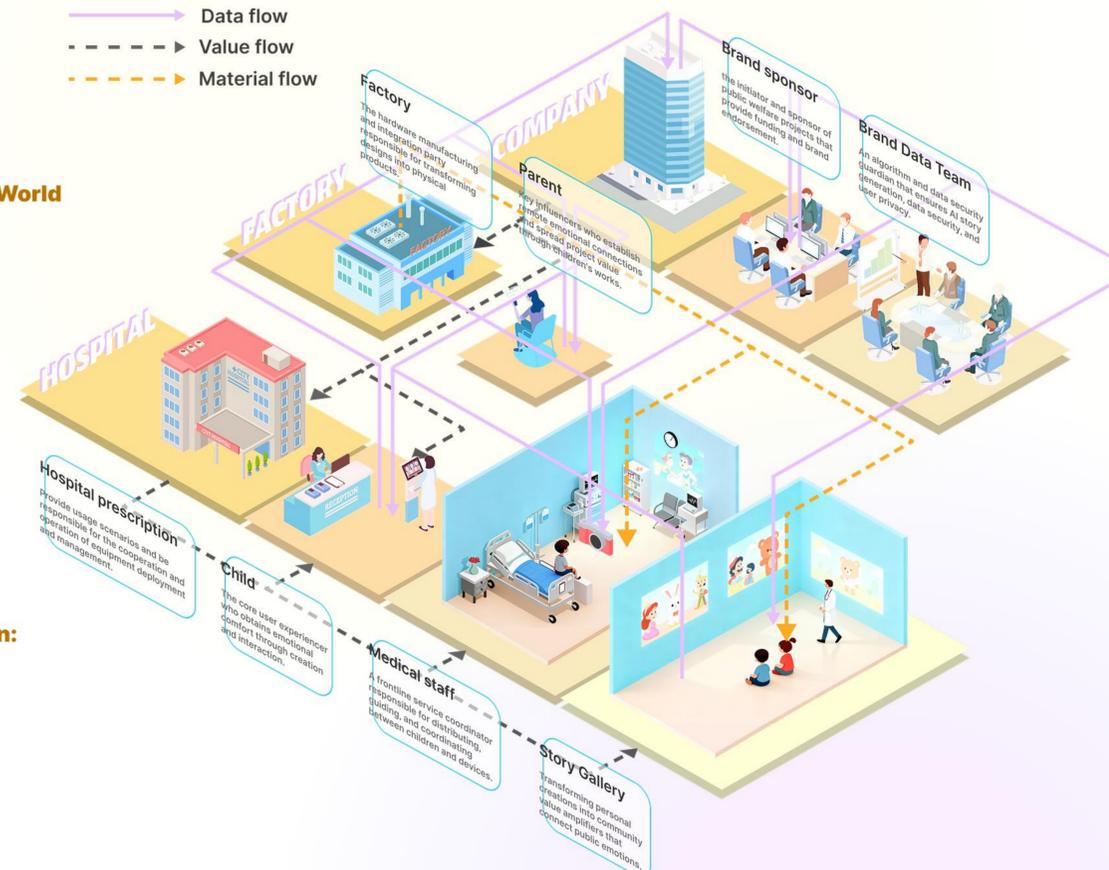
Guided Imagination and Cognitive Reframing: AI-Generated Narrative & Character Identification

The system dynamically generates personalized narratives from the child's shadow character. The child shifts from being a "**patient**" to a story's "**co-author**" and "**hero**". Plotlines involving overcoming challenges provide metaphorical empowerment. This helps translate real-life helplessness into narrative courage and confidence, fostering a **positive self-perception**.

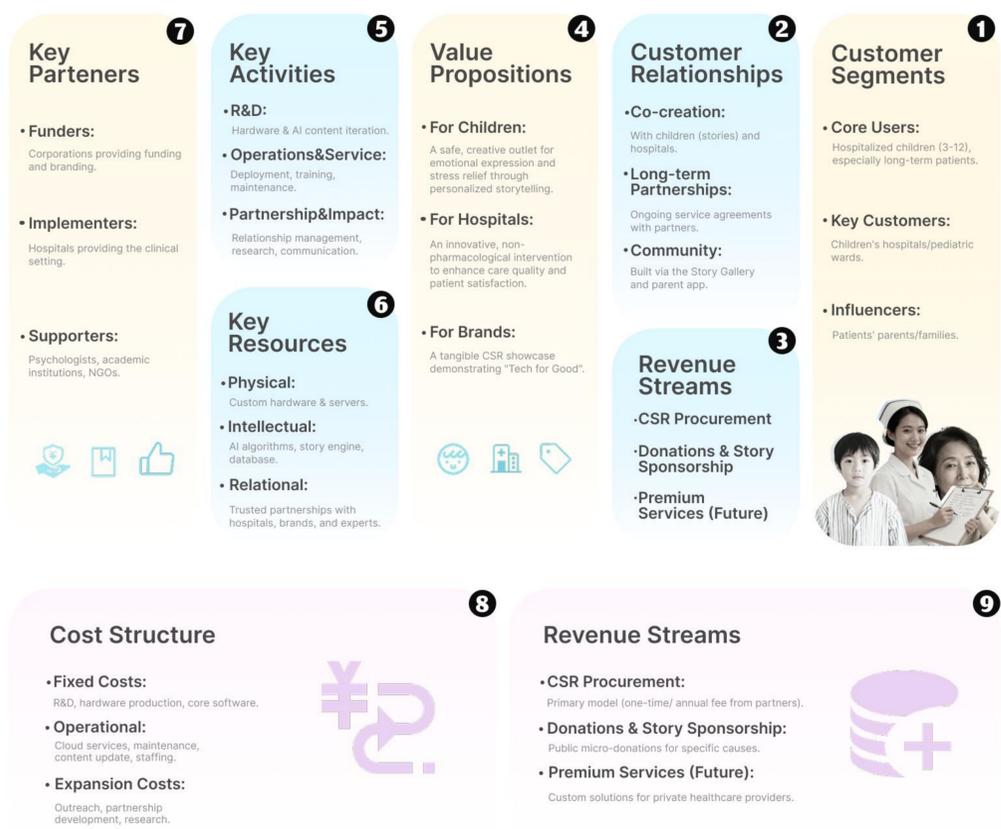
Community Display and Family Emotional Connection: Story Gallery and Family App Synergistic Support

The design builds two layers of social support. The "**Story Display Gallery**" turns individual creations into **shared assets for the ward community**, fostering belonging through recognition. Simultaneously, a Family App creates an **emotional bridge**, allowing care to connect directly to a child's creations via likes and voice messages, **enabling remote companionship through positive shared content**.

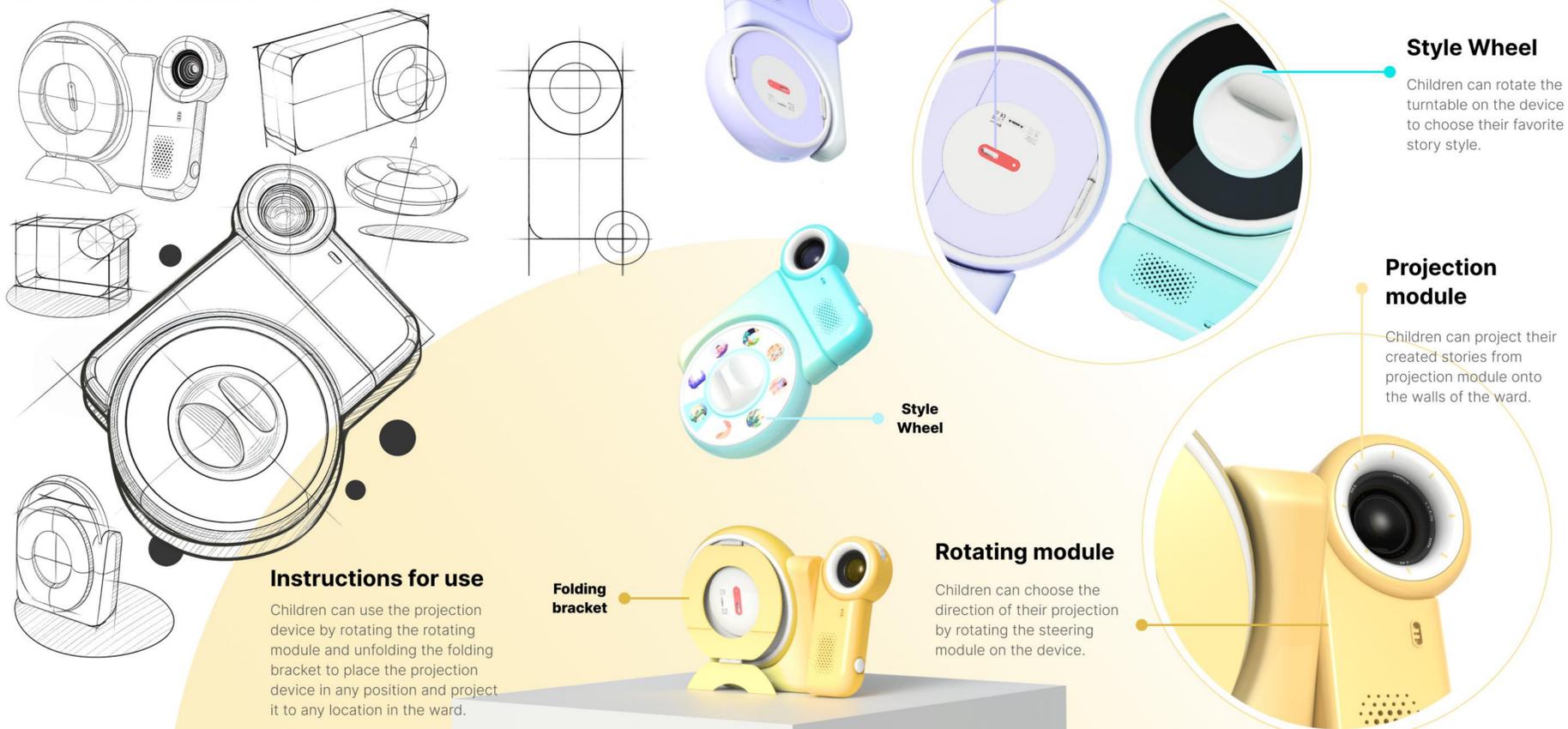
SYSTEM MAP



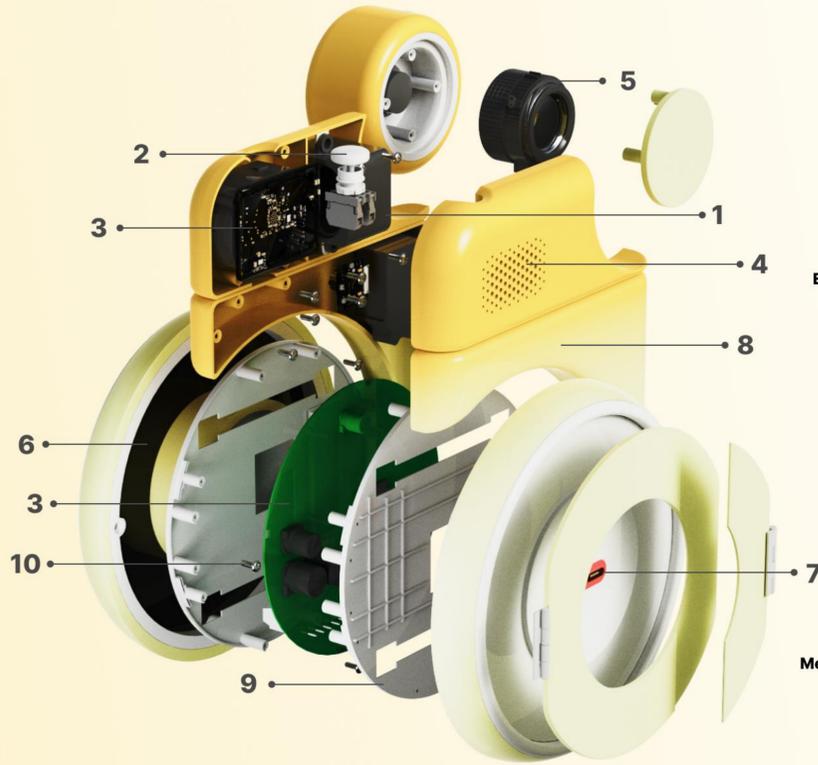
BUSINESS MODEL CANVAS



SKETCHES & FINAL DESIGN



Explored view



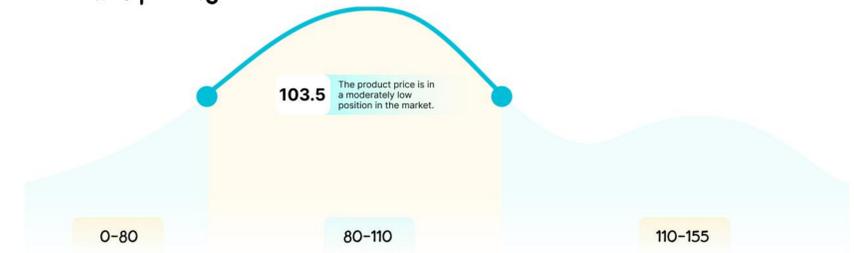
Material & Manufacture & Costing

Cost

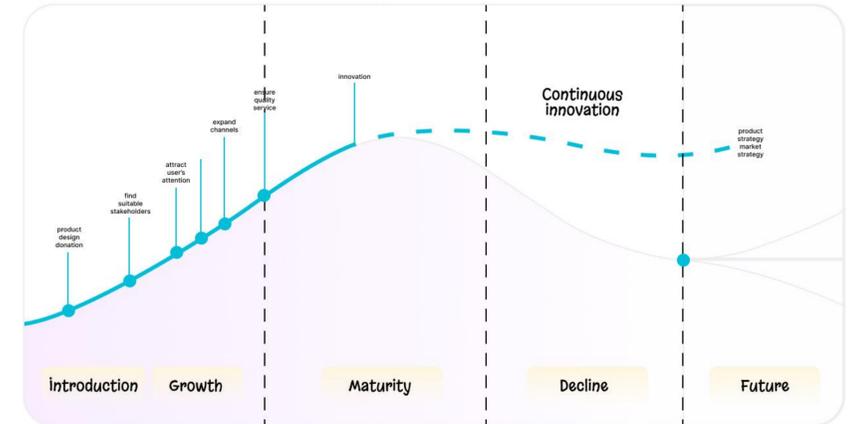
Function block	Specifications/Materials	Price (€)	Reference brand/Plan
1 Projection unit	DLP micro projector 0.2 "DMD, resolution 854×480, brightness 80-100 ANSI lumens	17.5-21.5	Texas Instruments (TI) DLP solution as the core
2 Incremental rotary	encoder with down button function	0.8-1.7	ALPS or HUANO.
3 Intelligent Projector Board	Four core ARM CPU, 2GB RAM, 8GB eMMC, integrated Wi Fi/Bluetooth, audio amplifier, supports DLP/LCOS optical driver	9-11.5	Amlogic or Rockchip
4 Micro Speaker	1W, 4 Ω 5-8	1.1	Changzhou Wanshisheng Electronics Co., Ltd
5 camera module	300000 pixels, USB interface, fixed focal length 10-15	2.6-4.3	OmniVision or GalaxyCore sensor
6 Circular TFT LCD Screen	Circular, ~2-inch diameter, low resolution	11	DisplayMan
7 Type-C PD charging module	supports 12V/2A input	0.43-0.68	adopt mature PD deception chip solutions.
8 Main shell (upper/lower cover)	materials: ABS+PC, flame-retardant V0 level. The surface has a matte fine texture. Injection molding is required.	0.9-1.3	Zhuhai Feilida Electronics Co., Ltd
9 Internal structural components	ABS material. Including motherboard bracket, battery compartment, optical mounting bracket, etc.	0.9-1.3	Zhuhai Feilida Electronics Co., Ltd
10 screws, rubber pads	stainless steel, silicone	0.25	Pengchi Hardware Products Co., Ltd. (EG)

TOTAL=44.5€

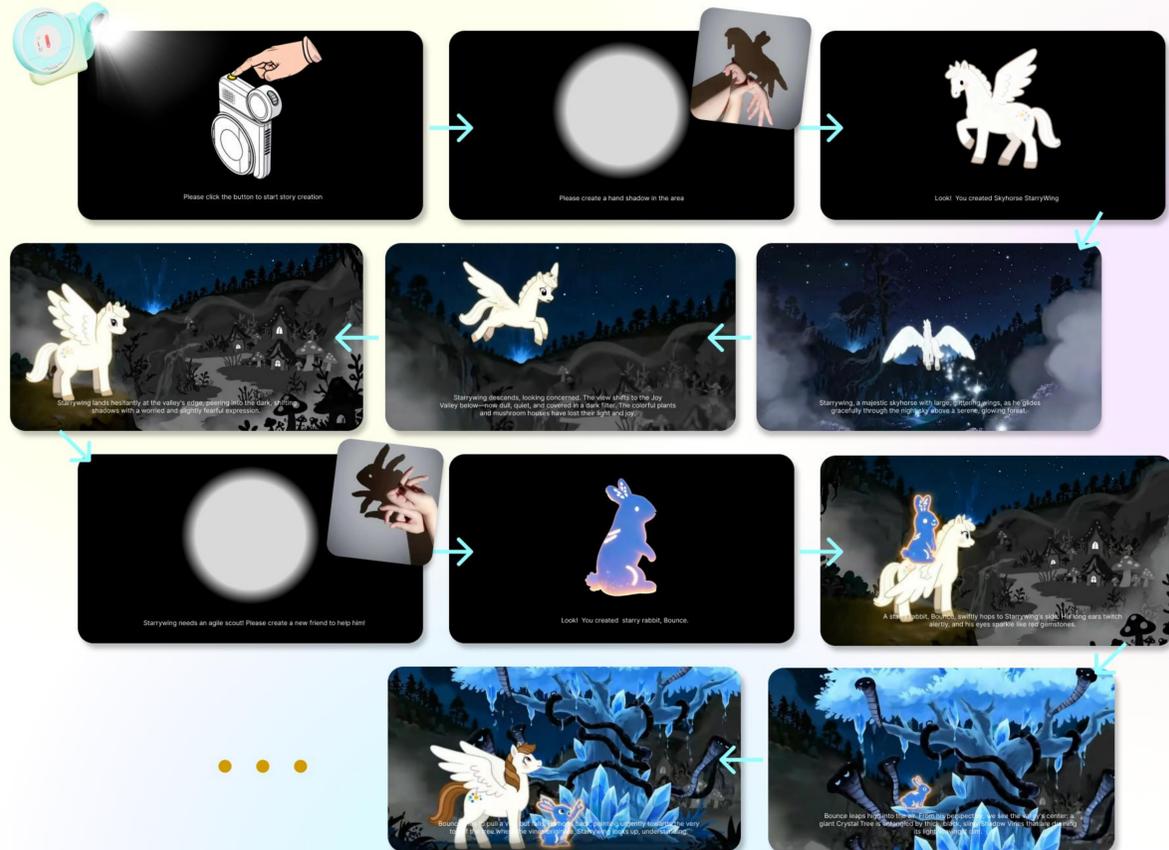
Product pricing



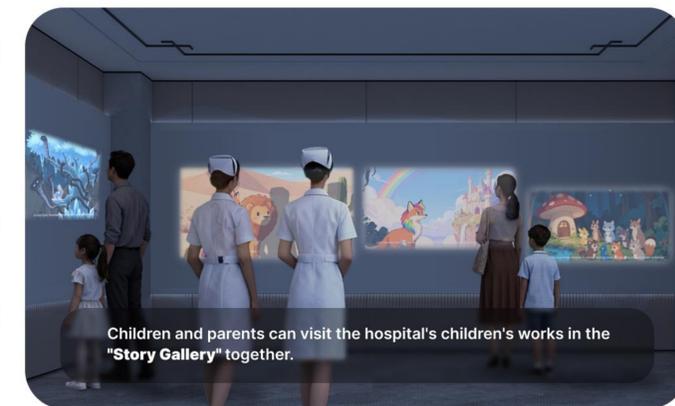
Product life cycle



Projected Content Display



Rendering



SERVICE FLOW CHART

1 Public Welfare Initiatives and Funding

- **Front stage**
The hospital warehouse administrator signs for the goods; Medical staff see installed equipment in the ward or activity room.
- **Back stage**
The hospital warehouse administrator signs for the goods; Medical staff see installed equipment in the ward or activity room.

2 Device Manufacturing & Integration

- **Front stage**
(This stage is invisible to users, as it is a preparatory phase.)
- **Back stage**
The factory procures raw materials; the production line assembles the hardware; software engineers flash and test the AI story-generation system; the quality control department conducts final inspections and packaging.

3 Hospital Receiving & Deployment

- **Front stage**
Hospital warehouse staff sign for the delivery; medical staff see the installed devices in wards or activity rooms.
- **Back stage**
The hospital logistics department verifies device quantity and models; the IT department connects devices to the hospital's internal network; the nursing department establishes usage and management protocols.

4 Device Lending & Guidance

- **Front stage**
A child receives the device from a nurse; the nurse demonstrates to the child and parent how to power it on and create hand shadows; the child returns the device to the nurse's station after use.
- **Back stage**
Medical staff manage the device loan/return log; regularly clean and disinfect the devices; check battery levels and operational status to ensure readiness for the next user.

5 Creative Interaction & Story Generation

- **Front stage**
The child makes a hand shadow; the camera captures the silhouette; the projector instantly "animates" the shadow into a character; the child watches and listens to the AI-generated personalized story.
- **Back stage**
Medical staff manage the device loan/return log; regularly clean and disinfect the devices; check battery levels and operational status to ensure readiness for the next user.

6 Story Gallery — Offline Exhibition

- **Front stage**
Visitors and patients watch curated animated stories on screens in the "Story Display Gallery"; each story is labeled with the hand-shadow character and a synopsis.
- **Back stage**
Hospital volunteers or Child Life specialists select suitable works from the story library for public display; the communications department manages exhibition space setup and content updates; the technical team ensures stable operation of playback equipment.

7 Family Connection — Online Sharing

- **Front stage**
Parents log into their accounts via the mobile app, browse a list of all stories created by their child, click to play the animations, and can send likes or voice comments to their child.
- **Back stage**
Cloud servers sync newly created stories to the linked parent accounts; the app development team maintains server stability and data security; the system ensures all data transfers comply with healthcare privacy regulations.

FUTURE PLAN

• Phase 1 : Clinical Validation & Loop Closure

Deploy first-generation devices in 2-3 partner hospitals to clinically validate emotional benefits and refine the user experience. Success is defined by gathering solid efficacy data and closing the "create-display-connect" service loop with a functional parent app.

• Phase 2: Ecosystem Expansion

Expand horizontally into new hospital settings (e.g., waiting areas, bedsides) and vertically by enriching content through artist collaborations and a more advanced AI engine, building a robust content library and use-case portfolio.

• Phase 3: Platformization & Scale

Evolve from a product into an open platform by open-sourcing core tools to enable broader creation. Forge partnerships with NGOs and CSR programs to establish a sustainable, replicable model for "creative healing," aiming to set a global standard. .

03



This project addresses the physical, mental, and time constraints mothers and similar groups during offline shopping through the "Shopal" system. The design integrates mobile resting, storage, personalized guidance, and a hands-free shopping process into one solution. By offering **on-demand support**, it transforms offline shopping into a relaxed and enjoyable experience, positioning technology as a **helpful companion** in daily life.

REST

User can sit on the robot for rest during their shopping process anywhere and anytime.



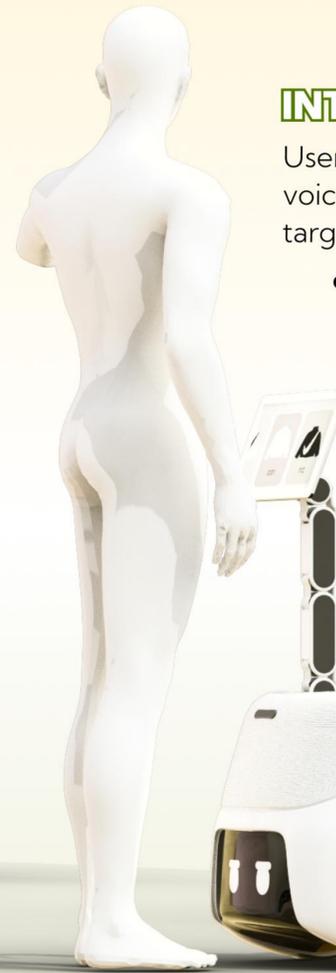
STROLLER TOWING

Users can connect their baby stroller by folding down the structure at the back of the robot.



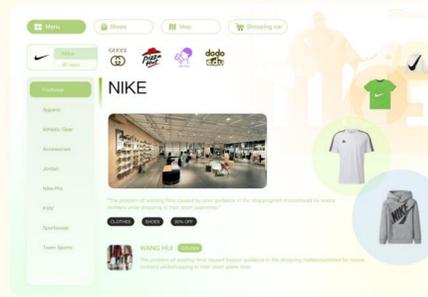
INTERACTION AND GUIDE

Users can interact via the touchscreen or by voice, and the robot will then guide the way to target store

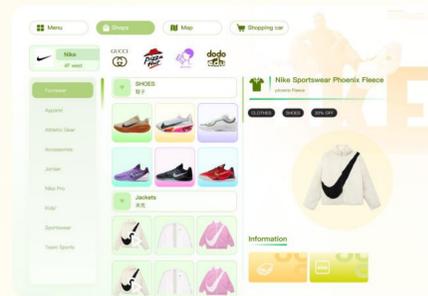


STORAGE

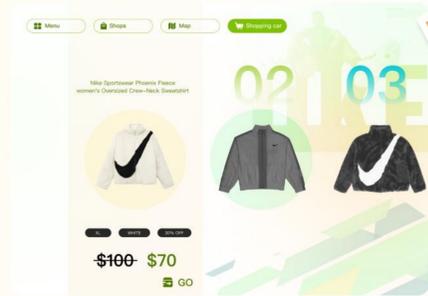
users can store their belongings under the seat.



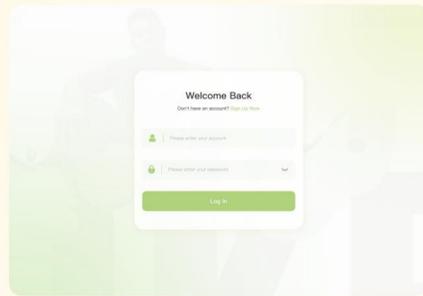
Shop interface



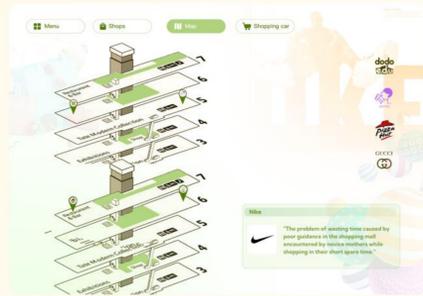
Product interface



Shopping cart interface



login interface



Map navigation interface

STORY BOARD

01 | SCAN CODE TO ACCESS ROBOT
If you want to experience a more time saving, cozy, and hands-free shopping experience, you can choose your own robot.

02 | THE ROBOT WILL LEAD YOU TO TARGET SHOP.
I want a blue jacket that fits a height of 165cm.

03 | SHOPPING WITH THE ROBOT.
The store staff will search for suitable products for you in advance before you arrive at the store.
If you are carrying a baby stroller, you can also connect it to the robot.

04 | GET YOUR PRODUCT IN THE PICK-UP CABINETS.
If you are tired, you can "recharge" with the robot in the rest area.
You can receive the goods at the pick-up cabinet, return the unwanted items, and make payment at the pick-up cabinet.

SCAN THE PRODUCT
Scan the product's QR code to add it to the robot's virtual cart. Your items will be sent directly to the mall's pickup cabinets, so you never have to carry them while shopping.

If you get tired from shopping, you can also sit on the robot and rest anytime.



VISION ECHO

— ELECTRONIC ERHU



This project re imagines the traditional Chinese erhu through modern technology. The electronic erhu harmonizes classical artistry with contemporary innovation, making learning more intuitive via smart interaction, practice more flexible with portable design, and performance more expressive with real time visual feed back. It aims to **revitalize classical instruments with renewed accessibility and flexibility**

2023-2024

Background

Erhu is notoriously difficult to learn. In the eyes of the vast majority of people who know music from social networks, the Erhu has a high level of proficiency and mastery, making it always high in the difficulty pyramid.

VERY HARD
suona, violin, erhu

QUITE HARD
pipa, guqin, guzheng

NOT HARD
guitar, piano, drums

Hold the bow

voice box

100-120 million

30-40 million

6-8 million

Piano
Violin
Erhu

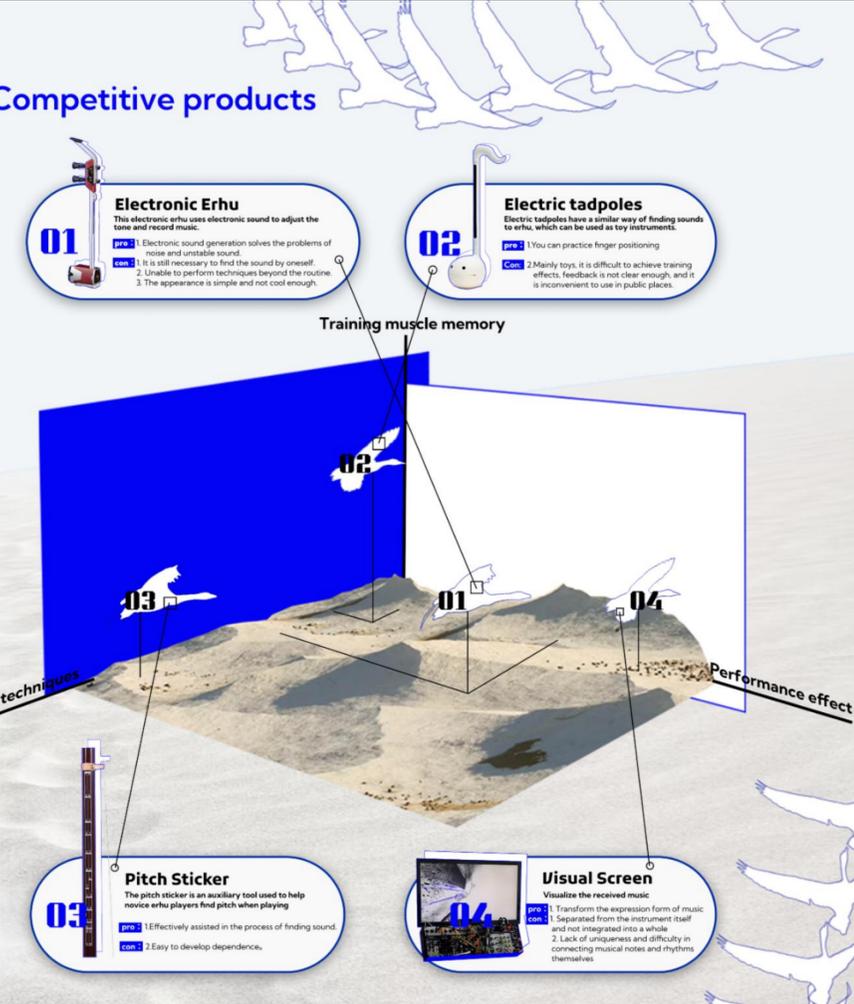
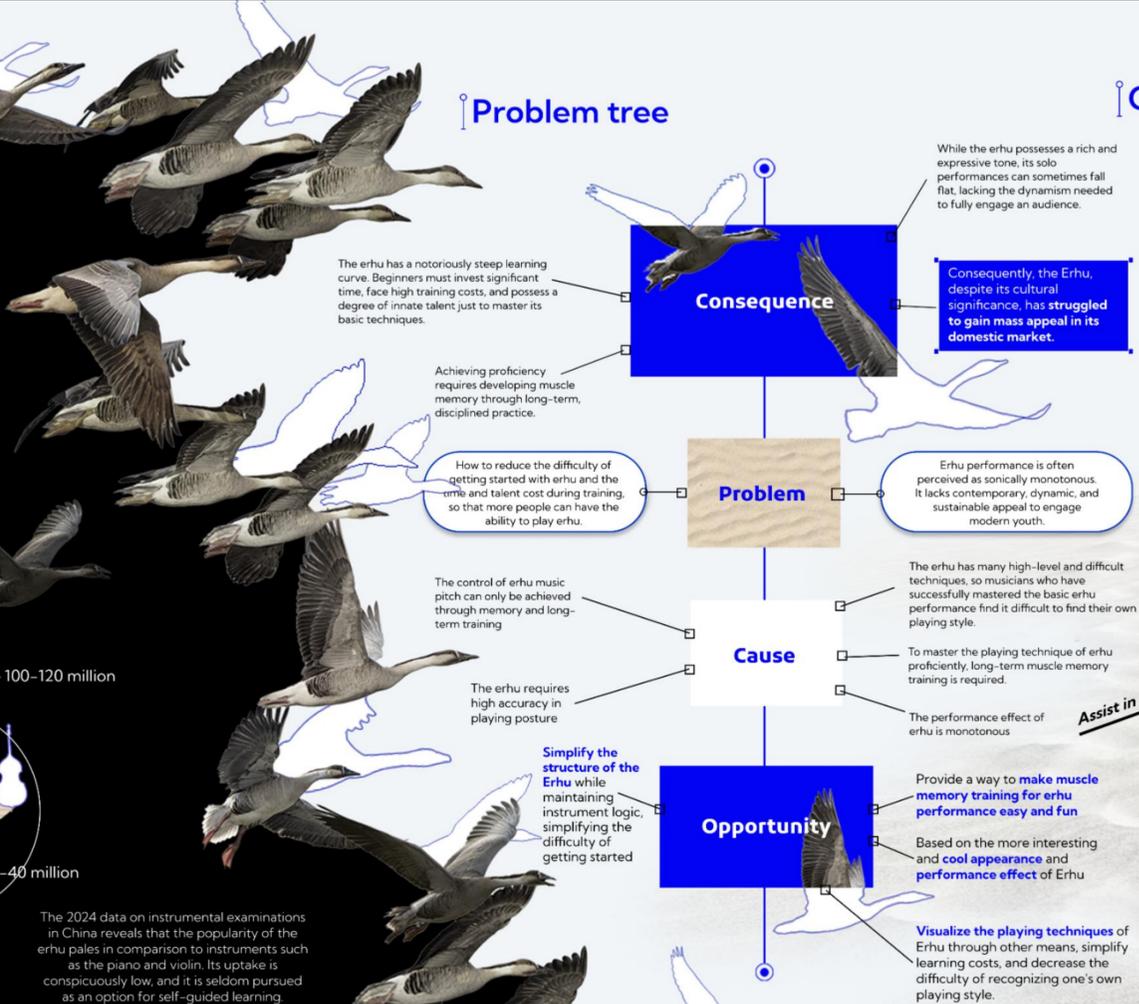
The total number of candidates who have sat for standardized instrumental music examinations in China. (This indirectly reflects the popularity of various musical instruments.)

The 2024 data on instrumental examinations in China reveals that the popularity of the erhu pales in comparison to instruments such as the piano and violin. Its uptake is conspicuously low, and it is seldom pursued as an option for self-guided learning.

Press the string to confirm tone. Unlike guitars, pianos and other instruments have a fixed pressing position, and the erhu is similar to a violin in that it needs to confirm the pitch based on long-term trained muscle memory.

Tone tuning

A traditional chinese instrument



PERSONA

MEG A music lover

Pain Points:

1. Frustrating Start: Self-learning pitch and technique feels impossible without real-time guidance, leading to discouragement.
2. Monotonous Practice: Repetitive drills are isolating and hard to sustain without feedback or engagement.
3. Limited Expression: Her playing sounds thin and fails to convey the vivid atmospheres she imagines.

Core Needs:

1. Intuitive guidance for quick, confidence-building starts.
2. Engaging, adaptable practice with instant feedback.
3. Visual enhancement to unify sound and personal expression.

Info:

A university student and traditional music enthusiast drawn to the erhu's soulful sound. She seeks to learn but faces steep barriers.



Insight

1. Unable to find a continuous and accurate demonstration.

2. Lack of time and space for muscle memory training.

3. Find practicing repetitively quite boring.

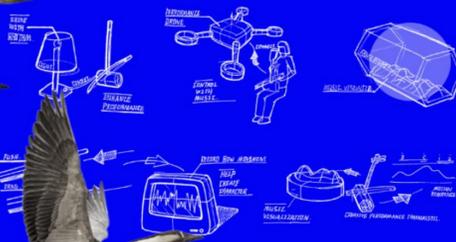
4. Lack of self awareness.

5. Feeling unfamiliar with the new instrument.

Brain storm

3. Find practicing repetitively quite boring.
4. Lack of self awareness.

Provide unique performance effects while making the performance cooler and giving each performance style a special effect.

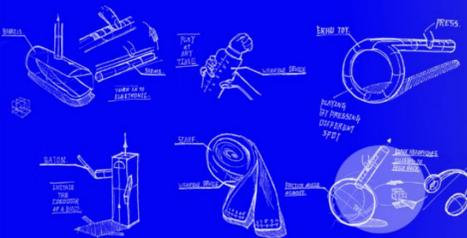


Music visualization

Music visualization technology converts audio signals into dynamic graphics (e.g., particle animations) in real time, making repetitive practice visually engaging and intuitive. By providing immediate feedback on pitch, rhythm, and emotional expression, it not only alleviates the monotony of traditional practice but also enhances self-awareness and practice efficiency through visual guidance.

2. Lack of time and space for muscle memory training.

Design additional daily use components to enable users to interact effectively and train erhu muscle memory.

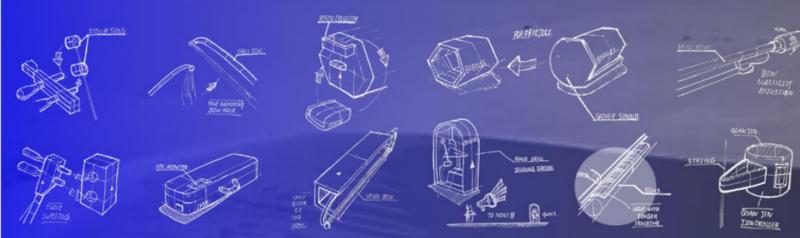


Muscle memory training module

A detachable muscle memory training module that attaches directly to the instrument, enabling users to seamlessly remove it for on-the-go practice. It supports finger-activated repetitive drills and provides real-time audio feedback through headphones, making skill development both portable and responsive.

1. Unable to find a continuous and accurate demonstration.
5. Feeling unfamiliar with the new instrument.

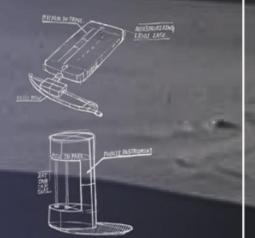
Simplify the difficulty of getting started with erhu manual operations: Simplify the difficulty of getting started with erhu manual operations. Simplify the difficulty of getting started with erhu manual operations.



Electronic fretboard for training assistance

A smart finger board system uses illuminated LED zones to provide step-by-step visual guidance, enabling beginners to quickly learn basic fingering and positioning on the erhu.

Other Innovative Design Approaches Related to the Erhu.



Erhu Enthusiasts



Digital Finger board Interface

A touchscreen replaces traditional strings, offering visual guidance and reducing the initial learning curve for rapid familiarity.



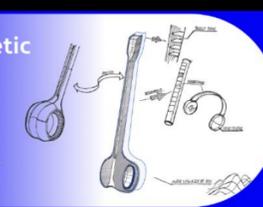
Detachable Finger board

The removable digital Fret board functions as a standalone muscle-memory trainer, enabling portable, feedback-driven practice via touch interaction and audio cues.



Futuristic Aesthetic Design

Streamlined, sci-inspired form reinterprets the erhu as a visually striking instrument, enhancing its contemporary appeal.



Responsive Visual Projection

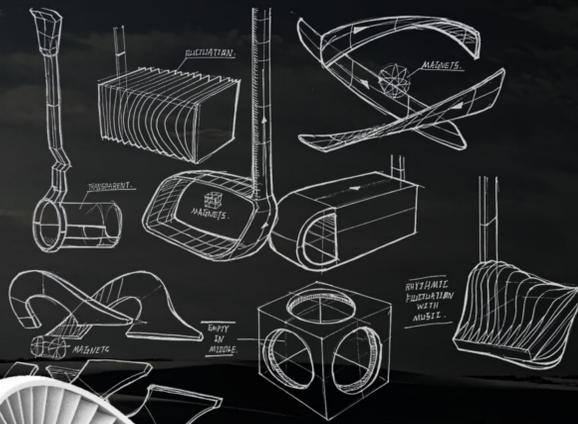
Integrated TouchDesigner-powered projection generates dynamic particle visuals (e.g., migrating geese) that respond in real-time to the music's theme and rhythm.



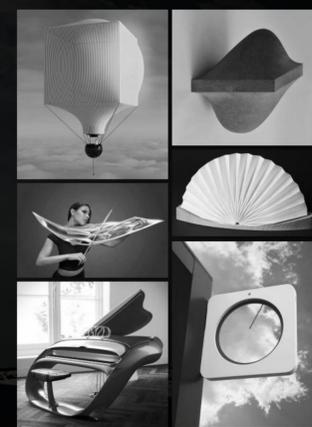
Styling Evolution and Interaction Model Development

Erhu Body Design

The body design is a crucial component of the erhu's overall form. Beyond adopting a streamlined, futuristic shape, I incorporated a circular LED light ring, allowing the instrument to pulse and breathe in sync with the music during performance.

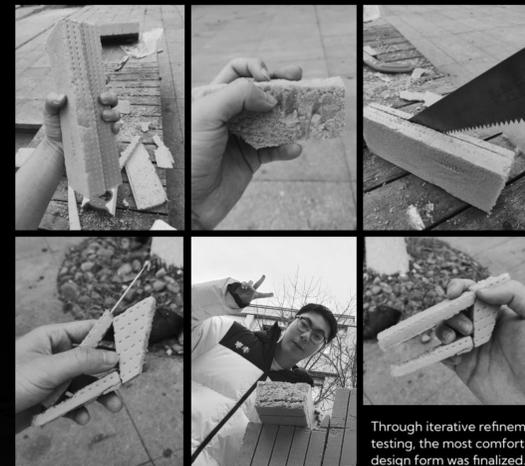


Reference



Bow Design

While maintaining the overall minimalist, streamlined, and futuristic style, the optimal bow size and form for ergonomic handling were finalized through foam prototype modeling.



Through iterative refinement and testing, the most comfortable design form was finalized.

Fingerboard Design

The fingerboard features a detachable structure, allowing it to function independently as a smart device for muscle memory training. The erhu neck adopts an elongated, hollowed-out design from top to bottom, which not only provides clearance for the bow to pass through but also maintains visual coherence when the fingerboard is removed.



Scroll Design

The scroll continues the minimalist, streamlined futuristic style, with enhanced dynamic lighting effects. Furthermore, by reinterpreting the traditional erhu scroll form, a dedicated integration slot was designed to embed the TouchDesigner projection module.

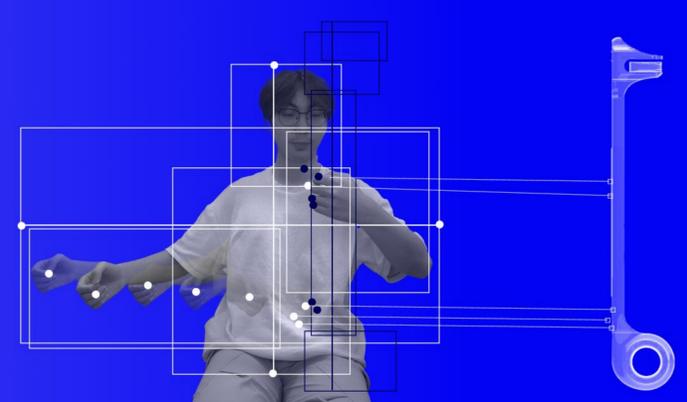


Overall Form Exploration



Overall Proportions

The overall dimensions are derived from the calculated dynamic range of human motion during performance, which in turn informs the erhu's proportional design to ensure optimal ergonomic comfort.



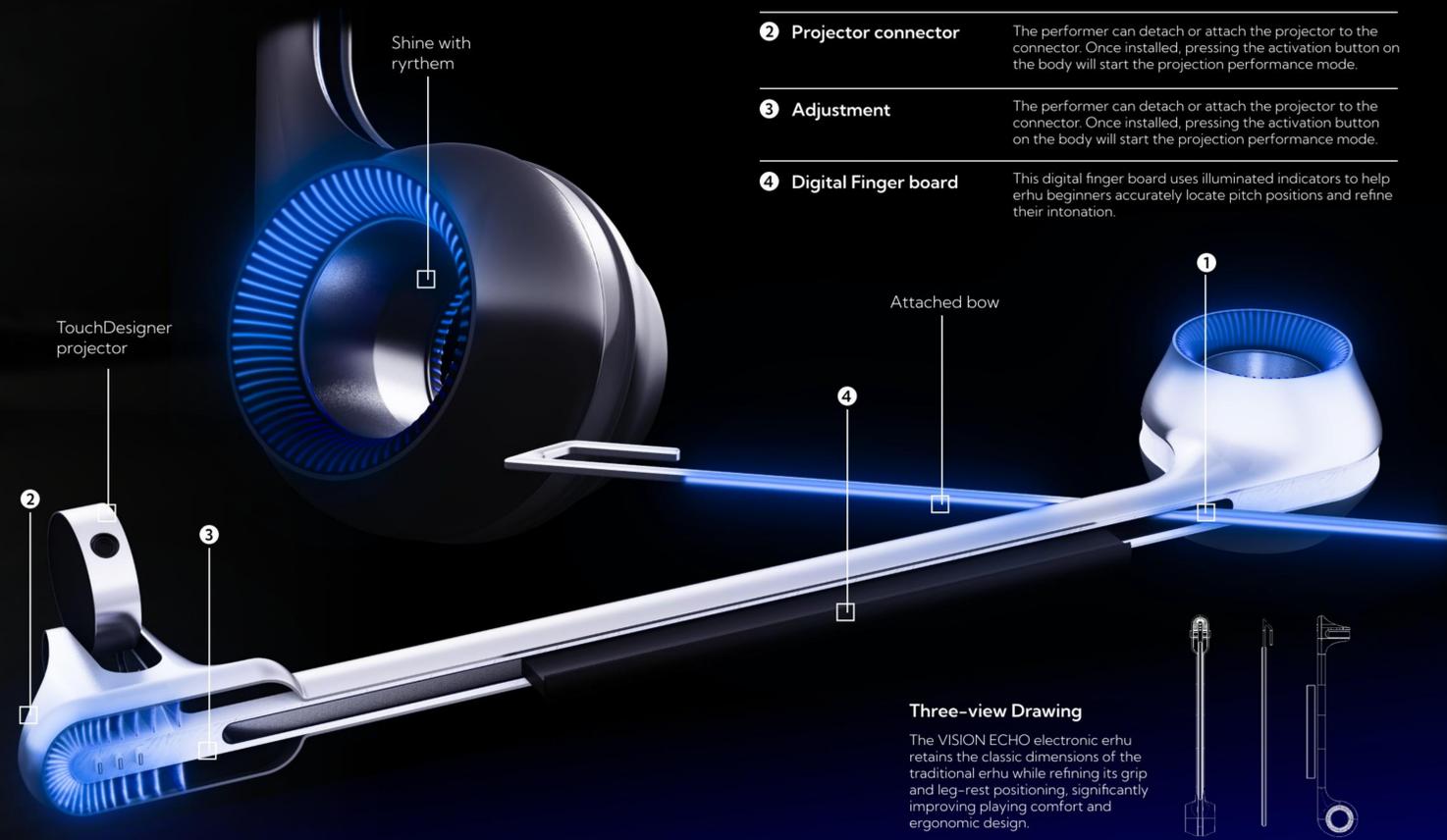
Concept

Final Design

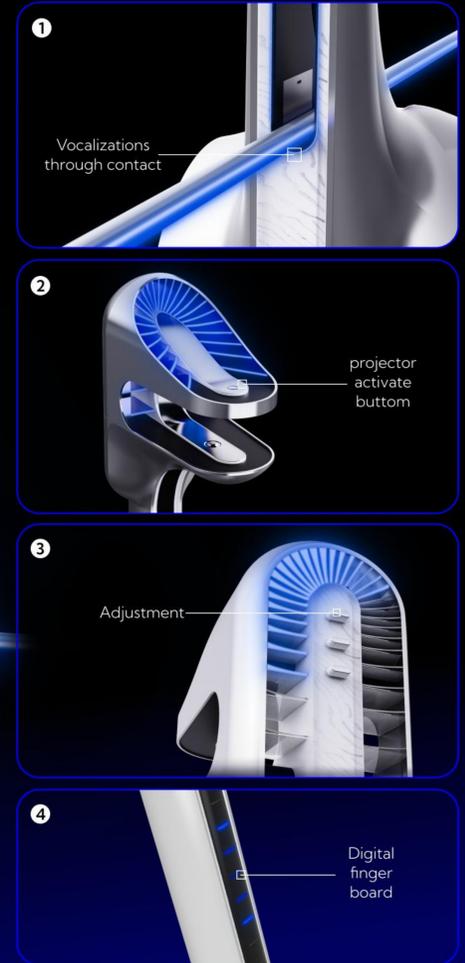
This modern erhu features a touchscreen fingerboard for easy learning, a removable design for portable training, and a futuristic aesthetic. Integrated projection creates real-time visuals that respond to playing, blending tradition with innovation.



Details



- 1 Bow connection** Electronic sounds are triggered by the contact between the bow and the recessed section of the instrument body, maintaining the traditional playing logic of the erhu.
- 2 Projector connector** The performer can detach or attach the projector to the connector. Once installed, pressing the activation button on the body will start the projection performance mode.
- 3 Adjustment** The performer can detach or attach the projector to the connector. Once installed, pressing the activation button on the body will start the projection performance mode.
- 4 Digital Finger board** This digital finger board uses illuminated indicators to help erhu beginners accurately locate pitch positions and refine their intonation.



Renderings



1 2 VISUAL PROJECTION
The performer activates the projector and begins playing a piece of desolate, mournful music. The system **recognizes the musical style and generates** a flock of particle-based geese that swirl and fly in sync with the melody.

3 4 MUSCLE MEMORY TRAINING
To practice muscle memory during spare moments, the performer **detaches the fingerboard**, takes it onto the subway, connects it to headphones, and starts practicing anywhere, **receiving real-time feedback** through the earpiece.

Model Creation and Immersive Performance

Physical Model Production



1 TOUCH-DESIGN
Music data is collected in real-time via sensors and fed into the TouchDesigner analysis system. The system deconstructs pitch, rhythm, and emotional characteristics (e.g., desolation, vastness) to identify the "style fingerprint" of the piece. For instance, a melancholic melody would be tagged as [Frontier/Desolation] style, triggering the corresponding "wild geese" visual asset library.

2 TOUCH-DESIGN
Based on the recognized style, TouchDesigner activates pre-programmed particle systems and motion rules. Taking "wild geese" as an example: the system generates particle flocks whose flight trajectories, density, and dispersion respond in real-time to the music's rhythm and dynamics. When the melody surges, the geese soar vigorously; during sustained phrases, they glide in gentle arcs, creating a deep, dynamic mapping between sound and vision.

3 MODEL MAKING
The body is 3D-printed as a single unit, ensuring structural and ergonomic precision. A matte paint finish delivers a streamlined, sci-fi aesthetic. Flexible LED strips are embedded along key contour lines (e.g., the neck curve, resonance box outline). These strips are not merely decorative but visualize performance states: their brightness and color shift with touch intensity and projection content, transforming the instrument itself into a dynamic light medium.

4 PERFORMANCE
As the performer plays a melody depicting the frontier, particle geese generated by TouchDesigner "fly" out from the projection and interact with the instrument's LED lighting. The geese's flight path triggers pulsating light and color ripples along corresponding sections of the body, as if light emanates from the instrument to converse with the imagery. Thus, the physical model transforms from a passive object into an active, luminous participant in an immersive audiovisual narrative.