



LIVING LIGHT

DAVID BENJAMIN AND SOO-IN YANG, THE LIVING PLATFORM TO GET INFORMATION ABOUT SUSTAINABILITY

SEOUL, KOREA

2009

CANOPY/
DATA VISUALIZATION

PERMANENT

Living Light is a permanent pavilion commissioned by the City of Seoul that glows and blinks according to real-time air quality and public interest in the environment.

It suggests that buildings of the future may change in response to the environment and provide an interface to the health of the city. The pavilion offers tactile enclosure and ethereal information. Communicating with citizens and making visible the invisible, it also suggests that buildings can become a register of our collective concern about important issues.

Living Light by David Benjamin and Soo-in Yang (aka "The Living") is a permanent outdoor pavilion in the heart of Seoul with a dynamic skin that glows and blinks in response to both data about air quality and public interest in the environmental field. The skin of the pavilion is a giant map of Seoul with the 27

neighbourhoods (gu) boundaries redrawn based on existing air quality sensors of the Korean Ministry of Environment—each shape in this new map encloses the air closest to one of the sensors.

Then the map illuminates to become an interactive, environmental building facade. Citizens can enter the pavilion or view it from nearby streets and buildings, and they can text message the building, and it will text them back.

This structure in a public park not only provides a canopy and a tactile enclosure, but it also suggests that a building facade itself can become a new kind of public space. It can offer important real-time information about our shared resources and our collective concerns.

"The Living" is also showing its work at the current Toward the Sentient City exhibition in New York.