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Quasar

Any day, any place, any music - Het online muziekplatform Quasar maakt afspeellijsten op Spotify aan op basis van iemands locatie, activiteiten en luistergeschiedenis. Van dat ene nummer tijdens je weekendje weg tot de soundtrack van je middelbare schooltijd: via Quasar (her)beleef je alle muziek waarnaar je ooit hebt geluisterd.

Quasar

Any day, any place, any music - The online music platform Quasar creates playlists on Spotify based on a person's location, activities and listening history. From that one song during your weekend break to the soundtrack from your time in high school: through Quasar you (re) - experience all the music you have ever listened to.

Willem Horsten really believes in his personalized online music platform Quasar

'I want to bring back the stories surrounding music'

Thanks to Spotify, millions of people all over the world are listening to the latest music. Heard it? Done. Next. In other cases, songs gather digital dust in a mobile playlist. Quasar works differently. The online music platform developed by Willem Horsten revives that golden era when we perused each other's album collections and CD shelves. Nostalgia in digital form.

'I have a smartphone; I'm a genuine music lover. I've been listening to the latest music using Spotify for years. And yet I felt something was missing. Music is often approached rather clinically, but it nevertheless includes many human components. Wouldn't it be wonderful to listen to music that transports you back to certain moments in time? On your own or together with friends?'

Backpacking holiday music

Having just graduated from Eindhoven University of Technology as an industrial designer, Willem Horsten did not have to think long about a topic for his Master's thesis. The result was Quasar, an online music platform that makes playlists from Spotify based on a person's location, activities and listening history. 'Just imagine, you're travelling by train at the weekend to see your parents and you're listening to music on your mobile via Spotify. Quasar tracks where you are, how you're travelling and what you're listening to, and makes a playlist of your journey. Two weeks later, you can listen to the same

playlist, but also to the music you were listening to on the third day of your backpacking holiday in Ireland, for example. The great thing about this is that you can share these lists with friends through media such as Facebook and, in doing so, also enable them to re-experience your walk, through the music you were listening to that day. Quasar also recycles music from even longer ago, from your high school days or from when you were a kid for instance.'

Datascaping

Quasar is based on a comprehensive theoretical frame of reference created using data scaping technology. Willem: 'With data scaping, you collect data, in collaboration with a data community, in order to improve it step by step. Originally, I asked just a few friends if they would help me to look and think about it, but soon a lot more people had joined us. Eventually we had a group of around 40 people involved with setting up and developing the design.' Willem admits that working with a community could sometimes be quite a challenge. 'Some people came up



Studio by Juliette Bekkering, Bernard Colenbrander, Barbara Kuit Architecture, Building and Planning, Eindhoven University of Technology

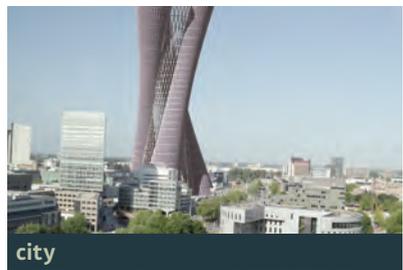
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Texel autonoom eiland

De stofwisseling van Texel in kaart gebracht - Een jaar lang onderzoeken 18 studenten van de TU Eindhoven de 'stofwisseling' van Texel. Idee is te komen tot een metabolische atlas met stofstromen van het eiland - denk aan energie, afval, water, mobiliteit, zorg en landbouw - om eilanders een basis te bieden voor een zelfvoorzienende, duurzame (fictieve) toekomst.

Texel autonomous island

Texel's metabolism mapped out - For an entire year, 18 Eindhoven University of Technology students have studied Texel's 'metabolism'. The idea is to create a metabolic atlas with the island's substance flows - including energy, waste, water, mobility, health care and agriculture - to provide the islanders with a basis for a self-sufficient, sustainable (fictitious) future.



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The Twist

Een innovatief, multifunctioneel, duurzaam, architectonisch en constructief hoogstandje - In het architectuur- en constructief design - project 'High Rise Building Design' werken studenten aan het ontwerp van een wolkenkrabber in hartje Eindhoven. The Twist voldoet aan alle functionele, duurzame en - niet onbelangrijk- constructieve eisen met betrekking tot (dynamische) windbelastingen, heeft een spectaculair uiterlijk en uitzicht en combineert bestaande en nieuwe bouwoplossingen.

The Twist

An innovative, multifunctional, sustainable, architectural and constructive highlight - In the architectural and constructive design project 'High Rise Building Design' students work on the design of a skyscraper for the centre of Eindhoven. The Twist complies with all the functional, sustainable and - not unimportantly - constructional demands with regard to the (dynamic) wind force, has a spectacular appearance and view and combines existing and new constructional solutions.



with comments that really got me thinking. They pointed out that people may not have really enjoyed the music they listened to on a particular trip, for instance, or that they only wanted to be reminded of one particular song. In general, however, things ran very smoothly, not least because we were dealing with what was essentially a human process.'

Collected soundtrack

Willem strongly believes in his free discovery. He is not interested in making a fortune from it. 'I welcome the slogan, 'Dare to stay small'; I simply love the fact that people are using Quasar, and whether that's 10 or 100 people doesn't matter to me. With Quasar, I want to create nostalgia. The feeling of being with friends looking through an album or CD collection, a collection that often represents the very soundtrack of our lives.

A soundtrack in data form, admittedly, but one that has the unique character of letting you listen to music together. This presents a great challenge for designers. It is our task to incorporate that human factor into high tech and, in doing so, bring back the stories surrounding music.'

'Wouldn't it be great to hear music that takes you back to certain moments in time?'

