

DISTINGUISHED LECTURE SERIES

EECS COLLOQUIUM

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From Kant to Computation: Why Aesthetics Matter Now More than Ever, and What We Can Do about It

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Abstract

Our sense of aesthetics is grounded in the natural world, our place as living things. Yet our intimate connection with nature grows more tenuous every day. Indeed, within the last year the world passed an important milestone: for the first time, half of all people on the planet now live in urban rather than rural environments. In an increasingly manmade, urbanized, and technological virtual world it is imperative that we keep aesthetic things in our experience as a counterbalance to these forces. In this talk, I will give a brief history of aesthetics, argue the need for incorporating aesthetics into our real and virtual environments, and discuss how computer graphics can play an essential role in this pursuit.

Adobe's Creative Technologies Lab: Inventing the Future Collaboratively

Abstract

Adobe was established twenty-six years ago with the invention of PostScript, work that redefined how people share documents around the world. Ever since, Adobe has been reinventing the way people engage with ideas and information. As Adobe continues to grow, deepening its technology in documents, graphics, and imaging - and broadening into new areas - where is the necessary innovation going to come from? In this talk, I will give an overview of the Creative Technology Labs and describe some of our most recent research.

Biography

Salesin's research interests include computer graphics, visualization, image-based rendering. He received his Ph.D. at Stanford in 1991 and joined the Univ. of Washington faculty in 1992. He has led Adobe's Creative Technologies Lab since 2005. He has also worked at Lucasfilm and at Pixar, and has co-founded two companies (serving as Chief Scientist): Inklination and Numinous Technologies. When the latter was acquired by Microsoft in 1999, he worked there as a Senior Researcher until 2005 (remaining on the UW faculty). Further information on Salesin is at: <http://salesin.cs.washington.edu/>

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