Indoor species and their near future: Sensory experiences of the interior architecture

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According to the National Human Activity Pattern Survey (NHAPS) in 2001, Americans spend about 90% of their time indoors, including an enclosed automobile. It means at least since the 1990s, we are an ‘indoor species’. 2020 is the year we humans are (almost) 100% indoor species, due to the COVID-19 pandemic. From the experiences of the current tragedies and academic studies, we learn that the natural environment plays a crucial role in mental and physical well-being. However, it is an inevitable fact that we live ‘inside’ the buildings no matter what happens. Then, how and what digital technology aids us to stay indoors for a long time? In the era of digital technology, the development of smart agency—including smart connected things—has helped us having convenient to live in the building. The smart agents have been installed in various ways, as a part of the building and as a mobile object. In this essay, the author starts with the hypothesis that smart agents are nature-inspired objects. Firstly, the author overviews the types of smart agents in urban interior architecture. Secondly, concerning the sensory experiences of the smart agents, the author will categorize the inspirations of the smart agents which are derived from the natural environment. Through the findings, she is going to propose a new speculative interior architecture, “naturoid” by suggesting a prototypical designed object ‘Pot No.5’ (2019). The designed object considers the interaction with the users, shifting its form organically based on data. Its unexpected movement is sensible similar to that of vegetation; and yet it is made of man-made
materials. In conclusion, the author provides the vision of the future interior architecture, seeing the connectedness between nature and the indoor species in isolated situations.

• Author(s) Biography (200 words each):

Minso Kim is an international artist, educator, and researcher whose practice explores the relationship between analog and digital worlds through human interaction. Together her creative and academic works not only consider the sensorial experiences of art, but they mediate on human life infused with diverse categories, from the environment to computational systems, to popular culture. Kim’s artwork and writing have been shown and published in various countries including the Seoul Museum of Art, Minnesota State University, Universidad de Caldas, Short Film Festival Budapest, and more. She graduated from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, with a master’s degree in Art and Technology Studies in 2013. She received two bachelor’s degrees in painting and museum studies from Seoul Women’s University. Minso taught contemporary art practices and theory at Seoul Women’s University from 2015 to 2017. Currently, Kim conducts her research at the University of Colorado at Boulder as a Ph.D.