

I am submitting my application for the tenure-track faculty position in the Media Laboratory at MIT. I will be defending my PhD thesis over the next month, supervised by Sheelagh Carpendale in the Interactions Lab at the University of Calgary. I have enjoyed working in a multi-disciplinary environment and have participated in many projects involving new media, information visualization, and interaction design. I look forward to being a member of the MIT Media Laboratory so that I can continue to work in this type of rich and diverse research environment.

I believe that my interests in human-computer interaction and my particular focus on the use of tabletop display media in the design of interaction techniques for 3D manipulation are particularly suited to the available position. My thesis work was highly influenced by work by Hiroshi Ishii in the Media Lab and I would greatly appreciate the opportunity to work more closely with him and the Tangible Media Group. In particular, his work on urban planning (Urp) served as inspiration for the idea that 3D interaction on tabletop displays could result in a physical connection with virtual artefacts as tools. I am also excited about the possibility of exploring some of the ideas that came from my work on designing a sandbox for sandtray therapy – a form of art therapy for children – with Mitchel Resnick and the Lifelong Kindergarten team. Projects such as pulp-based computing (Pattie Maes) and Surflex (Hiroshi Ishii and Pattie Maes) by the Fluid Interfaces Group provide compelling media and I look forward to the possibility of working in an environment that understands and pushes the limits of how digital computing can become a very physical experience. As a member of the MIT Media Laboratory, I would enjoy further pushing those limits.

Thank you for considering me for this position, and please contact me if you require additional information. My application materials are also available online: <http://markhancock.ca/mit>