



Room to Move

LOS ANGELES: There has been some media buzz recently concerning a collaboration project between HKUST and University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA). Both *New Scientist* and local media have covered extensively this interesting story about the “Make It Home” software program. Jointly developed by professors and students at the two institutions, the application is a virtual room design package, helping people to come up with ideas on how to arrange their furniture. Software designer Yeung Sai-kit, a HKUST PhD alumnus and UCLA postdoctoral scholar, says that the program represents a big step on from the manual systems used currently by furniture retailers. The HKUST/UCLA program enables users to place furniture according to their needs. What makes it especially notable is that the program takes just 20 seconds to move 30 objects in a room and it provides as many options as possible: the traditional system takes 20 minutes to provide just one solution. Craig Yu, a UCLA PhD candidate and also a HKUST alumnus, is excited to know that their work has been accepted to the highly competitive SIGGRAPH Computer Graphics Conference to be held in Vancouver in August 2011. HKUST President Prof Tony F Chan, also part of the team, says that there is unlimited potential for the software. It has the capability to handle office and commercial layouts, including shopping malls, city planning and even troop organisation for military use.



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Stateside Briefings

BOSTON & NEW YORK:

President Prof Tony F Chan and Vice-President Dr Eden Woon visited Boston and New York in May, hosting reunions and meetings with alumni. These trips presented them with a great opportunity to update stateside graduates on the exciting developments at HKUST, as well as to celebrate the 20th anniversary.



“Gear” up for Houston Challenge

Representing Hong Kong, the HKUST Team named “Gear” led by alumni professor Prof Tim Woo has won the Design Elegance Award at the 2011 International Remotely Operated Vehicle Competition at NASA in Houston, Texas.