

Personal evaluations on E-GPR 2007

1.1 Evaluation by Ellemieke van Doorn

During the workshop week our team developed significantly. On Wednesday, everybody still tried to find his or her place in the team, while on Thursday we worked as a real, professional team. It was pleasant to see how quick we were able to understand each other with half a word and managed to make quick decisions about how to solve our problems. I think the entire project would have been more efficient if we could have met each other before the actual virtual work. If we could have worked together before, we would have had better insight in how to handle each other and the importance of communication. Due to the previous virtual work however, I think the team forming during the workshop week happened real fast and efficient. It is a pity that the spirit from the workshop disappeared afterwards. While writing the final report, we had the same difficulties as before the workshop week. People did not contribute their parts and were hard or even impossible to contact. It apparently is easy to fall into a habit when nobody is there to call you to account face to face. Personally, I learned a lot about team communication and managing a team with team members from different disciplines. I improved my communication skills when discussing electronic solutions for our prototype with the electrician from City University and learned to value all team members for their personal abilities. In this way, everybody could contribute to the work and feel valuable to the team. I hope all of us enjoyed working together and were proud about our final result. I know I did, because yes, it moved. Yes, men do like toys and happily our toy was positively evaluated by most of our potential users and Kesslers International. And therefore I think our E-GPR project was a big success, not despite but even due to all difficulties we had and overcame as a team.

1.2 Evaluation by Nusa Fain

As the beginning of the week started very stressfully, because most of the components for our prototype were still not in a proper form or were missing all together, the end of the EGPR workshop week was that much more successful. The

block moved, the electrical parts worked and the audience had fun discovering our product. So all well that ends well. However, the issue of the workshop I found most disturbing and most valuable at the same time was the fact that everybody from the team came from a separate field of expertise, with a different way to communicate their knowledge. So the first few days were there to readjust to the working situation. If we met face to face at the beginning of the EGPR course, that obstacle would be overtaken already and so more time could be spent on the actual work. But at the same time, to adjust to the way different people worked, has proven to be the biggest gain of the project, at least for me. To react fast, trust ones expertise in the field and communicate professionally are the major gains of the EGPR final workshop. If the courses during the semester were rearranged a bit, so most of the technical possibilities would be known to the students before the actual product conceptualization, EGPR could be an ideal way to integrate theory and practice in design.

1.3 Evaluation by Ubia Iniobong

TECHNICAL COMPETENCY

In the course of the EGPR project, I have learnt the dynamics of the full design process. From problem specification, to research, to conceptualization, to selection and to production stage; nothing should be left out, as one stage is as important in arriving at the final product as the next. I have learnt how all the different skills and competencies combine together to create a real life product.

I have also learnt how to adapt quickly to solving design problems as they arise, while manufacturing a prototype. I have learnt how to be highly proactive during a manufacture process (especially as it concerns prototyping), to reduce the time spent at manufacturing a product.

COMMUNICATION

I have also learnt how to work in a virtual environment; setting tasks and targets, and ensuring they're met in an 'organization' where, seemingly, everybody, yet nobody is boss. I have learnt how to forge good working relationships with people I've not met, having communicated extensively.

1.4 Evaluation by Tilen Thaler

1.5 Evaluation by Steve Nalbandian