Virtual Green Planner user testing

Observation task for Participatory Planning course

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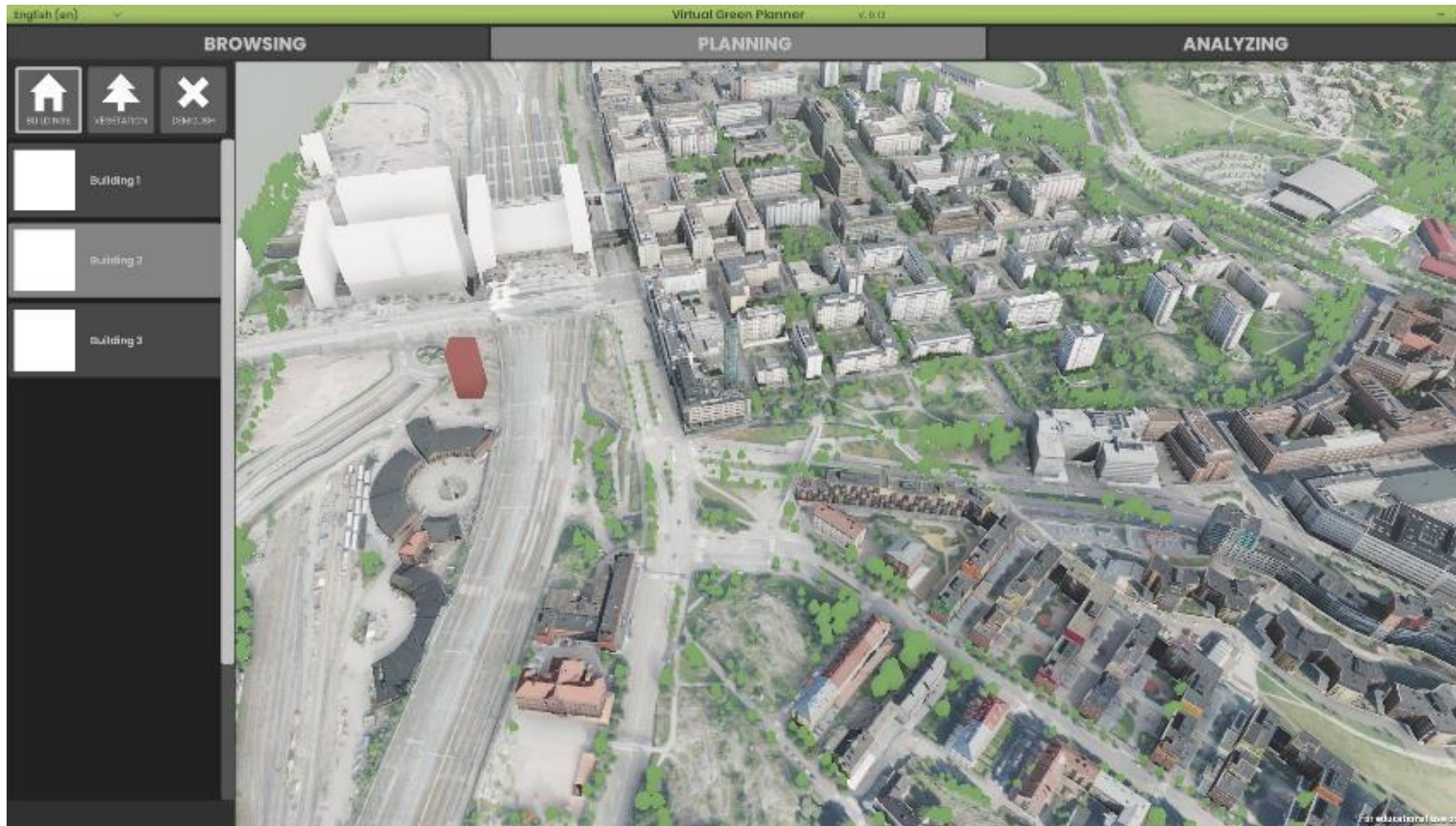Tallinn University of Technology, FinEst Centre for Smart Cities

FinEst Centre for Smart Cities

Note!

Enroll for this coursework
by Mon 6th 2023:

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Online 3D Planning Support System (PSS) for Digital Community Planning

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This research is part of the GreenTwins, one of the FinEst Large Pilots (2021-2023)

Picture: Screenshot of the early prototype version of the PSS application.

Background: The idea of the tool was born already in 2014 at local citizen activists' urban planning workshops. This research is a further development of the concept with wider group of stakeholders and online functionality.

Research focus: Open-source 3D web application for concept level urban and green area planning. Integration with 3D city information model.

Methods: Co-design and user research is an important part of the project. User requirements have been mapped in public workshops. User testing will be used to evaluate the application's usability.

Collaborators: City of Tallinn, City of Helsinki, TalTech, Aalto University, other researchers, NGOs, citizens.

VGP user testing task for Participatory Planning course

Goal of the course work:

- Learn about a novel digital tool for participatory planning
- Learn how to observe users of digital participation tools in a user testing session and document the findings
- Learn to analyze the findings of the user testing
- Learn to make recommendations to develop the tool further and communicate those to developers

The course work includes three parts:

1. Preparing for observation
2. Observing and documenting user testing 15.3.2023 at 15:30-18:30 pm (R102, Väre)
3. Reporting results and recommendations for developing VGP
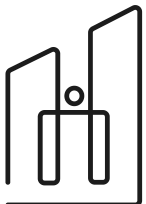
1. Prepare for user testing

- Join a briefing session (7th March or 8th March 2023 at 15-16 pm) for user testing. GreenTwins researchers will present the user testing plan and introduce observation method.

- Familiarize yourself with VGP tool. More information will be given in the briefing session.

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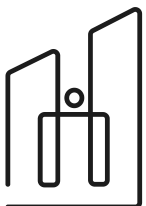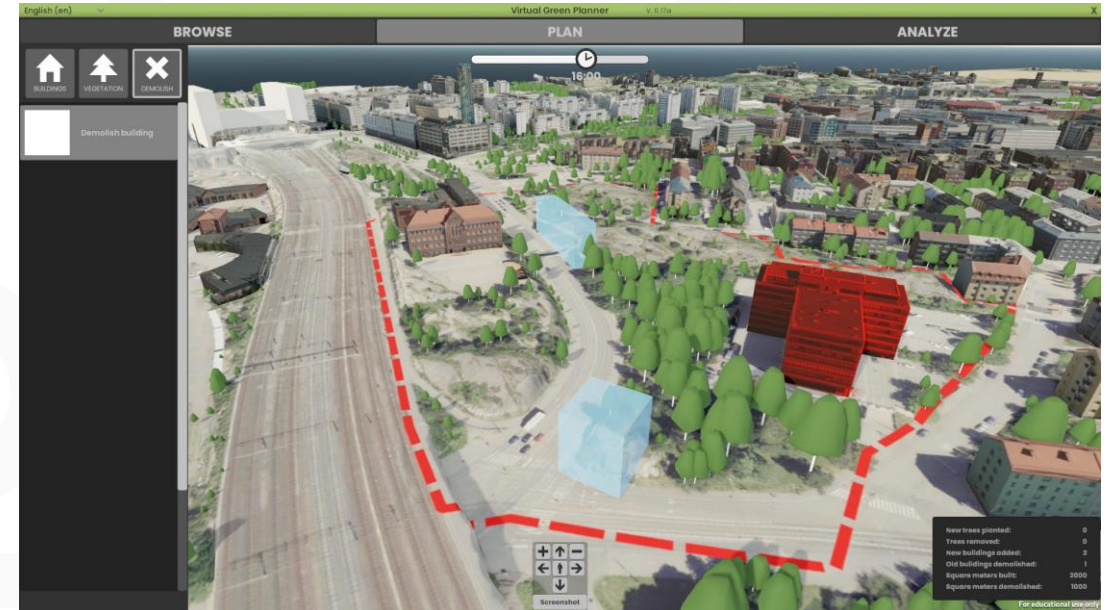
2. Observing and documenting user testing

- Testing sessio is held in R102 (Väre) on 15.3.2023 at 16-18 pm.

- Be present at 15:30 pm.

- You will observe one pair of users in the session.

- Instructions and an observation form will be provided by the researchers
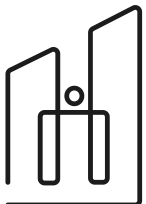
Observation Form

no. of participants		no. of operators				
Mode	Function	order?	failure			note
browsing mode	time	✓	by mistake	error	other	
	season					
	year					
	plan location					
	comment					
	move	panning with mouse				
		with keyborad				
		with button on screen				
	rotate					
	scalling	with scrolling wheel				
		with button on screen				
planning mode	place object	place building				
		place tree				
		green area brush				
	rotate object	rotate building				
		rotate tree				
	delete object	delete building				
		delete tree				
stree view	move					
	jump					
	sprint					
	squat					
	mini map					
	info bar					

3. Reporting results and recommendations for developing VGP

- Join the analysis session with GreenTwins researchers. Provide your insight from observation.

- Select the planning context where VGP could be utilized (e.g., formal planning, city planning activism…)

- Write a report where you:
  - Describe the use context (e.g., with use cases or a scenario)
  - Report your observation findings and analysis results
  - Make suggestions and recommendations how to develop VGP further

Note!

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