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Apartment (2000-2004)

Apartment is a series of closely related works, created in collaboration with Marek Walczak and with help from Jonathan Feinberg. All versions explore the relation between language and space, building 2D and 3D "apartments" in response to the viewer's typing.

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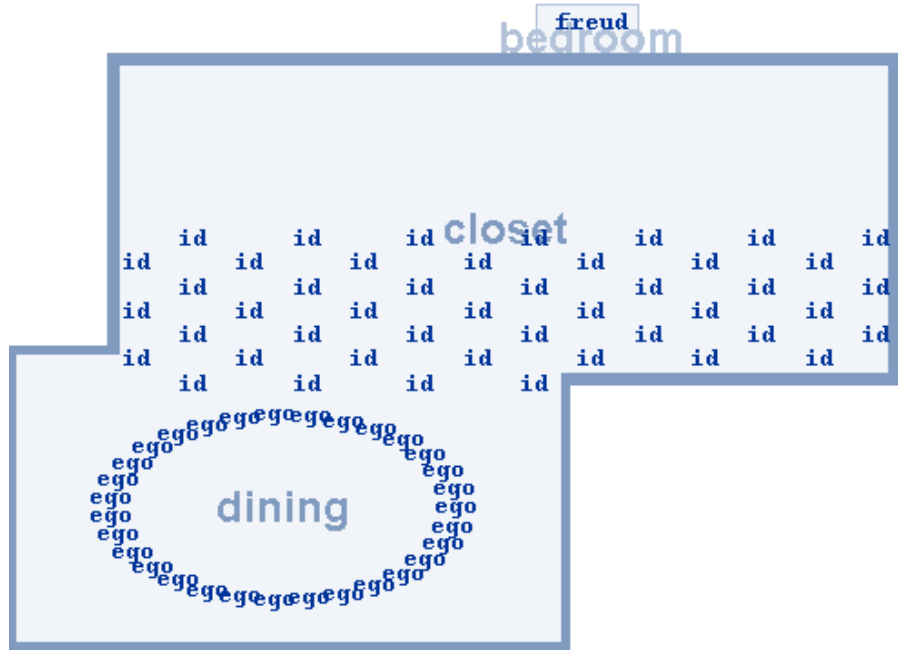
Collaborators

[Marek Walczak](#)

[Jonathan Feinberg](#)



Apartment has been exhibited at the Whitney Museum of American Art, Ars Electronica, the London ICA, and other venues.



Viewers are confronted with a blinking cursor. As they type, rooms begin to take shape in the form of a two-dimensional plan, similar to a blueprint. The architecture is based on a semantic analysis of the viewer's words, reorganizing them to reflect the underlying themes they express. The apartments are then clustered into buildings and cities according to their linguistic relationships.

Apartment is inspired by memory palaces. In a mnemonic technique from a pre-Post-It era, Cicero imagined inscribing the themes of a speech on a suite of rooms in a villa, and then reciting that speech by mentally walking from space to space. Establishing an equivalence between language and space, Apartment connects the written word with different forms of spatial configurations.



In some versions the computer constructs a 3D as well as 2D structure. In a few later installations, viewers can collaborate, with two people able to merge their apartments into a combined structure.

