Display learning

Posting student work, both current and past, up on the walls tracks progress in a visible way.

BM: One of the challenges of moving so much intelligence onto computers is that you can’t see the work. At the BMD studios, one of the ways we’ve combated that is with a very simple display technique. People in the studio knew that if they wanted to get my attention, what they had to do was put the work where I could see it as I was walking by. So now we tack our work up on four-foot by eight-foot foam-core boards and see how it evolves. Bill Buxton, who used to be chief scientist at Alias, spent some time with us in the studio, and when he went to Microsoft Research to become principal researcher, he said to them, “I need a box of four-by-eight foam core to use for display.” They said, “We don’t have the budget for it.” He said, “If I wanted a computer, you’d order it, but I’ll buy the foam core myself.” One day he passed by a meeting that was going on, and it was clear it was getting bogged down. He quietly slipped in a couple of boards. Now they are standard issue at Microsoft.

TL: We’re seeing the things kids are producing, and they aren’t just two-dimensional and static anymore. This new generation is creating films and multimedia productions. With technology getting less and less expensive, multimedia presentation display is affordable—and essential.

—Bruce Mau, BMD and Trung Le, OWP/P