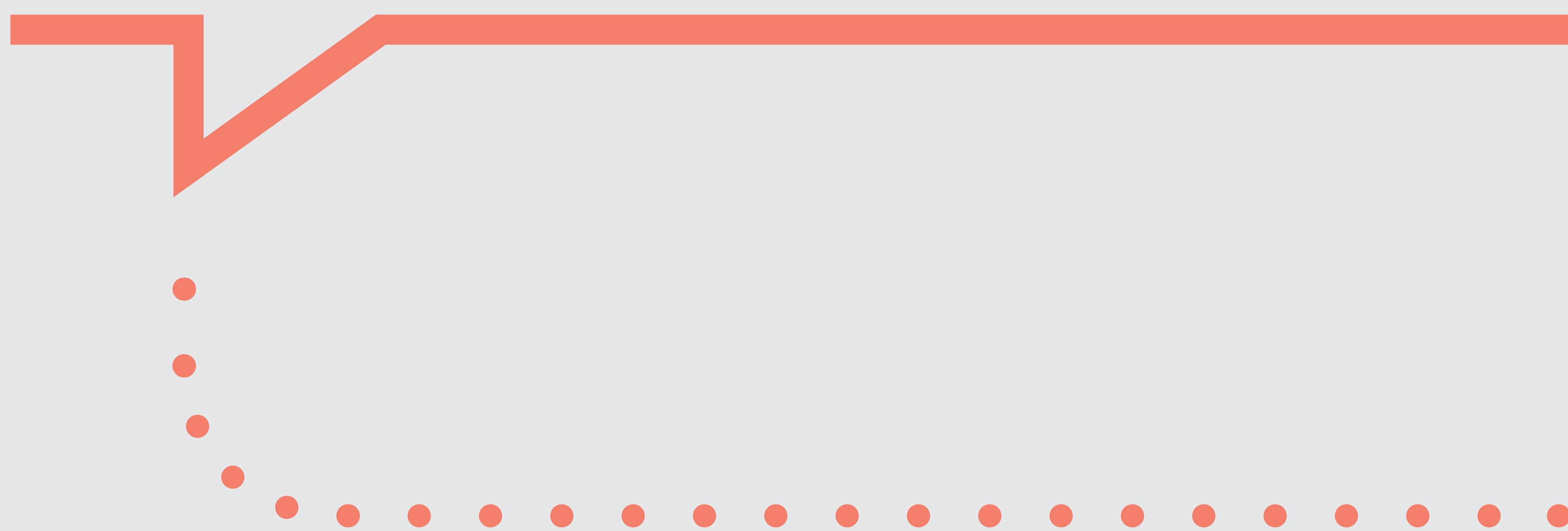


How can design cultivate more meaningful interactions for families and friends living far apart?



A tool for families to build more lasting memories together

As remote communication increasingly takes place on digital platforms, we are losing the physical artifacts that traditionally sustained our memory. Chat histories build up in the digital space, but most conversations

accumulate without any curation involved, resulting in fragmented memories. My thesis explores design opportunities to cultivate more meaningful long-distance interactions to enrich our collective sense of identity.

DESIGN OPPORTUNITIES

From my research findings, I have determined opportunity areas that design can have valuable impacts on the remote communication.

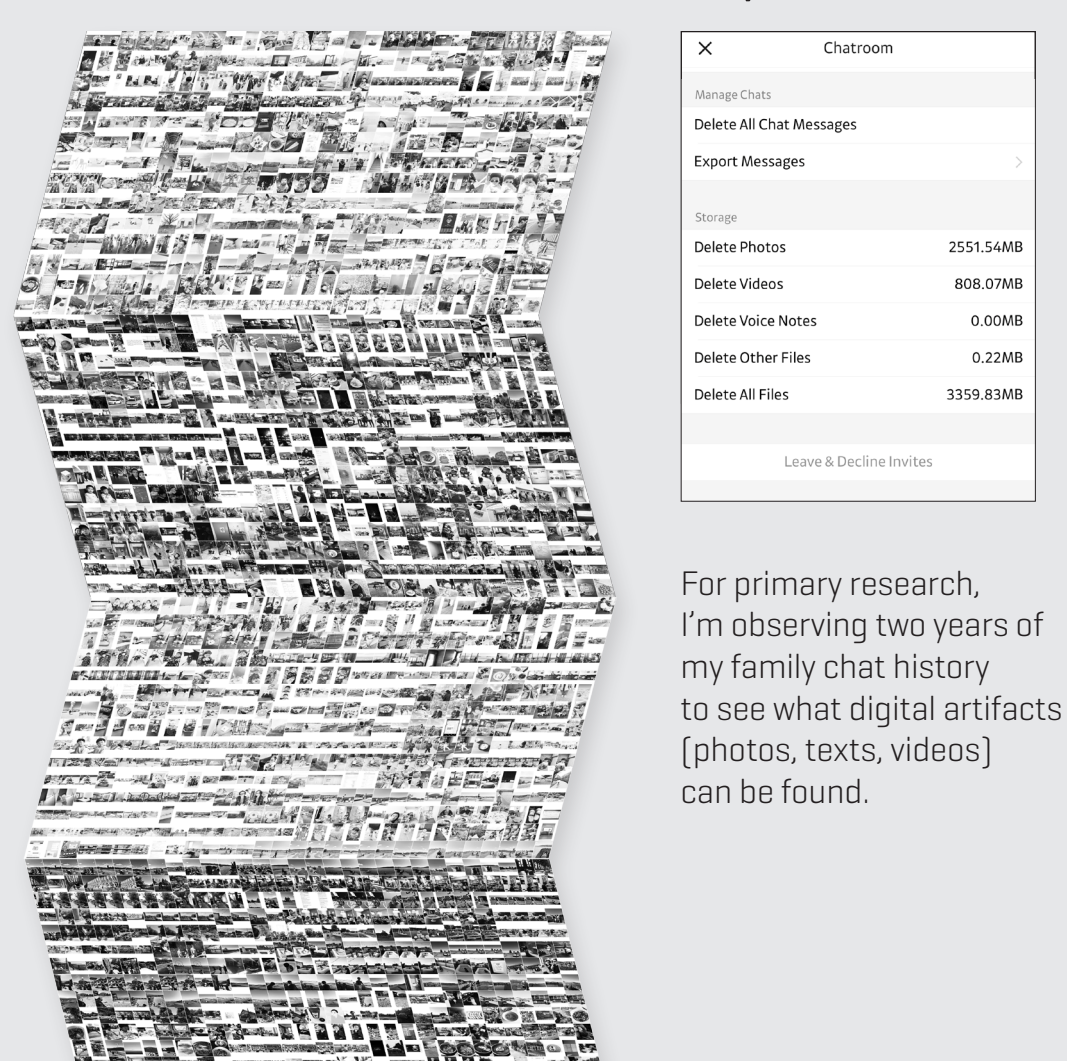
1) Designing for asynchronous, spontaneous and maybe non-verbal communication can provide unique ways of communicating with families and friends living far apart

2) Materializing the archive of digital communication can offer more cherished meaning to one's virtual possessions [i.e. providing more valuable portraits of his/her identity]

RESEARCH METHODS

1.

Observing my own archived chat history



2.

Probing into current family communication dynamics



A research probe kit has been sent to my family in Korea to gain inspirations about remote communication dynamics. The kit contains three activities: Sketch cards to draw moments that family members wish to share, an envelope to collect receipts, and a disposable camera to capture daily interactions.

3.

Looking into participants' personal inventories



I've asked research participants to send objects that are personally meaningful to them. A form of objects is missing from online communication and I'd like to explore how people value and create attachments to their physical possessions in regards to relationship building,

POTENTIAL OUTCOMES

A product that can co-create a moment
or memory together from a distance

What if there is a portal for families to create contents together asynchronously? Spontaneity and slowness can come in to build anticipation to contrast with “instant” messaging.

A device that can physically display digital conversations to create more valuable meaning to one's virtual possessions

What if text messages or images can be displayed in a different way other than on your phone?
Would that make you feel different about your communication? Or about yourself?

