

## VIRTUALLY EXPANDED REALITY

Cyberhelvetia.ch is about a virtual extension of reality.  
What does that mean?

Digital technology is increasingly impacting on our lives and day to day activities. More than two million people in Switzerland have access to the Internet; we now operate in a virtual reality generated and expanded by computers as if it were nothing out of the ordinary. With this expansion new possibilities for encounters and communication emerge – at the same time in virtually expanded reality the boundaries between reality and fiction become blurred.

How do we experience this expansion of our reality? How do we encounter other individuals in virtual space, how do we communicate with them, how do we organise our coexistence in virtual communities? How does our perception change?

Cyberhelvetia.ch allows us to approach the subject in a fun way – with the encounter in two worlds.

## EXHIBITION AND INTERNET COMMUNITY

Cyberhelvetia.ch comprises two components:

first the Pool exhibition and second, the Internet community called Cy at [www.cyberhelvetia.ch](http://www.cyberhelvetia.ch). Pool and Cy are supplemented by the online portrait machines known as Fotobots, with which people from all over Switzerland can have their picture taken, which will then appear on the Internet. The Fotobots also play the role of ambassadors. At [www.cyberhelvetia.ch](http://www.cyberhelvetia.ch) the pictures can be collected, sent as an e-mail or ordered as a hardcopy photograph.

The Pool exhibition is reminiscent of a traditional lakeside swimming area, a place of encounters and communication since time immemorial. But appearances can be deceptive: inside there is not a real swimming pool awaiting the bathers, but a virtual one – you can find out more about the various experiences around the glass pool in the bathing guide overleaf.

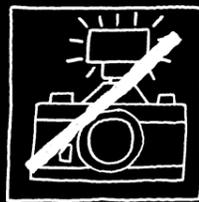
The bathers' experiments and communicative behaviour set the tone in the pavilion. However, the virtual water in the pool also reacts to real weather: the artificial surface of the water also changes its appearance during the course of the day and seasons like the surface of Lake Bienne – thus acting as a symbol for the proximity of artificial and natural worlds which is becoming more and more evident.

In.Cyders, the inhabitants of the virtual city of Cy at [www.cyberhelvetia.ch](http://www.cyberhelvetia.ch) come from every corner of Switzerland and indeed the world. Real people adopt fictitious identities there and discover new forms of living in virtual space. They make use of the various means of communication in Cy for serious or lively exchanges of ideas and opinions. And many a person has asked him or herself after a virtual meeting: "Is he really what she claims to be, or...?" What's more virtual In.Cyders are meeting up in reality in ever increasing numbers – yet another encounter in two worlds! Cy is growing and thriving, new inhabitants arrive every day. When are you going to become an In.Cyder?

[www.cyberhelvetia.ch](http://www.cyberhelvetia.ch)



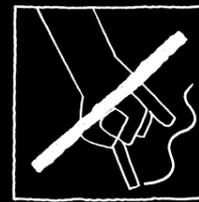
SCUMANDÀ DA FILMAR!!! NO FILMING!!!  
!!!!!!/!GOTO-!N!B!H!E!C!O!S!M!A!S!M!F!B!H!E!H!A  
FILMEN VERBOTEN // VIETATO FILMARE!!!  
!!!/!!!/INTERDICTION DE FILMER!!!/!!!/



VIETATO USARE IL FLASH!!!/FLASH INTERDIT  
/!!!/! /SCUMANDÀ DA FOTOGRAFAR CUN  
STRAGLUSCH //VIETATO FILMARE!!!  
!!!!/!!!/PICKNICK FÓRBUJEN // 禁止控烟 !!  
:BLITZLICHT VERBOTEN // NO FLASHLIGHTS



VIETATO FAR PICNIC!!! /PICKNICK VERBOTEN  
/SCUMANDÀ DA FAR PICNIC!!!!!!/!!!!!!  
!!!!/!!!/PICKNICK FÓRBUJEN // 禁止控烟 !!  
NO PICNICS!!! //PIQUE-NIQUE INTERDIT



INTERDICTION DE FUMER!!!/NO SMOKING!!!  
//VIETATO FUMARE!!!/!!/RAUCHVERBOT  
!!!!/!!/SCUMANDÀ DA FIMAR!!!!!!/!!!/!!  
ANAFOPEYETAI TO KATINIZMA!!!!!!/!!!/

Wheelchair users.

The exhibition is equipped with a lift for wheelchair users; staff at the entrance to the pavilion will be happy to offer further assistance.

Hard of hearing

The exhibition has an induction loop which the hard of hearing can use; hearing devices switched to "T" are compatible with it.

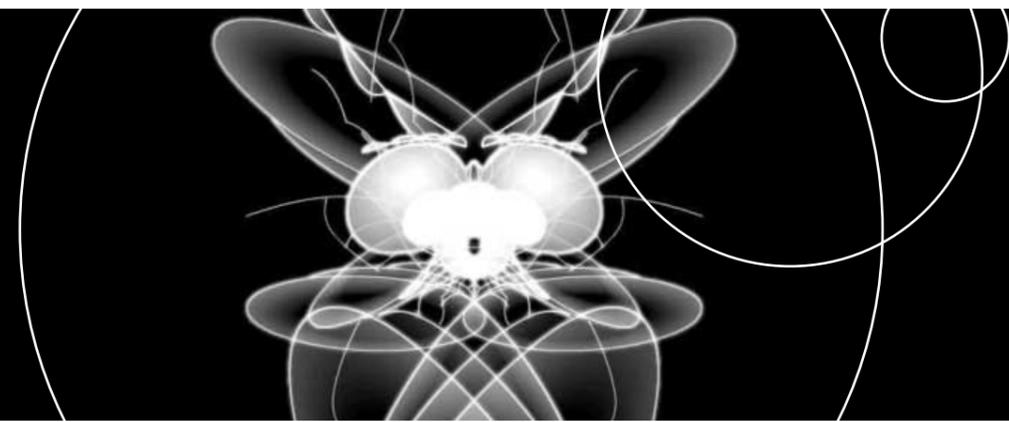


[cyberhelvetia.ch](http://cyberhelvetia.ch)

# BATHING GUIDE

A VERY WARM WELCOME TO THE CYBERHELVETIA.CH LAKESIDE SWIMMING AREA!

- Discover the glass pool. Help to shape its internal features. Fill it with imaginative lifeforms together with the visitors to the exhibition on the Internet. Alter the atmosphere in the pavilion with your curiosity and joy in discovery.
- Dare to experiment with your perception – immerse yourself in the unique atmosphere of Cyberhelvetia.ch!



## RENDEZ-VOUS

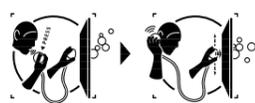


With a little luck you can entice a Cy.Bee on to the palm of your hand. These creatures come from the [www.cyberhelvetia.ch](http://www.cyberhelvetia.ch) virtual vivarium and have been sent from the Internet to Bienne to make contact with bathers. Hold your hand over the surface of the pool and wait until a Cy.Bee approaches. Take care because these gentle creatures are very timid! If you stay still for long enough, the Cy.Bee will have its picture taken on your hand; the creator of the Cy.Bee will then be sent an e-mail with the picture.

## FOTOBOT LOUNGE PIXFLOW

Take a seat in the comfortable Lounge Pools and have a spontaneous Fotobot group picture taken with friends or strangers. A short time later you'll see how the picture coasts through the Pixflow's glass channel and subsequently on to the Internet. You can collect your Fotobot pictures at [www.cyberhelvetia.ch](http://www.cyberhelvetia.ch); note the name of the Fotobot (Fotobot 3 or 4) and your personal Fotocode!

## AQUAPHONE



With the Aquaphone you can send voice messages to the opposite side of the pool. Your words create bubbles which float in the virtual water; with the Aquaphone's sensor they can be opened and heard. Run the sensor over the play area and catch the bubbles of the person opposite – you will then hear the message sent to you over the loudspeaker.

## LOOKOUT

Non-swimmers and onlookers can experience the exhibition from one of the six vantage points on the gallery. The motto here is see and be seen! But is everything really what it appears to be at first glance?

## STREAM



Paint acoustic patterns in the virtual water. Experiment with the various shapes and colours which emanate from the modulation of your voice. Your words decorate the pool with wonderfully hued ornaments which float across a landscape of waves.

## INFO-GIRL / INFO-BOY

Do you have any questions about Cyberhelvetia.ch? Or are you looking for pleasant conversation? The Info-Girls and Boys have a virtual presence at the exhibition to support the bathers with whatever real help they can offer.

## FOTOBOTS

With the Fotobot portrait machines at the entrance you can record your visit to the exhibition in a picture. You can find your picture under Fotobot at [www.cyberhelvetia.ch](http://www.cyberhelvetia.ch). Follow the instructions on the screen – and don't forget to make a note of the description (Fotobot 1, Fotobot 2, Minibot) plus your Fotocode on the small cards provided so that you can find your portrait on the Internet again.

## DRIFT

To relax on the air beds you first have to slip on the Pool Boots. Wait on the bench until it's your turn. Follow the path of plankton to a free air bed. Put on the video goggles and let your thoughts drift. If you're lucky perhaps the Cy.Bees will give you a little massage ...

## WAITING BENCH POOL BOOTS

You can put your Pool Boots on in this area and get ready for the Drift.

## POOL LADDER

You can reach the pool using this ladder.

## LIFEFORMS

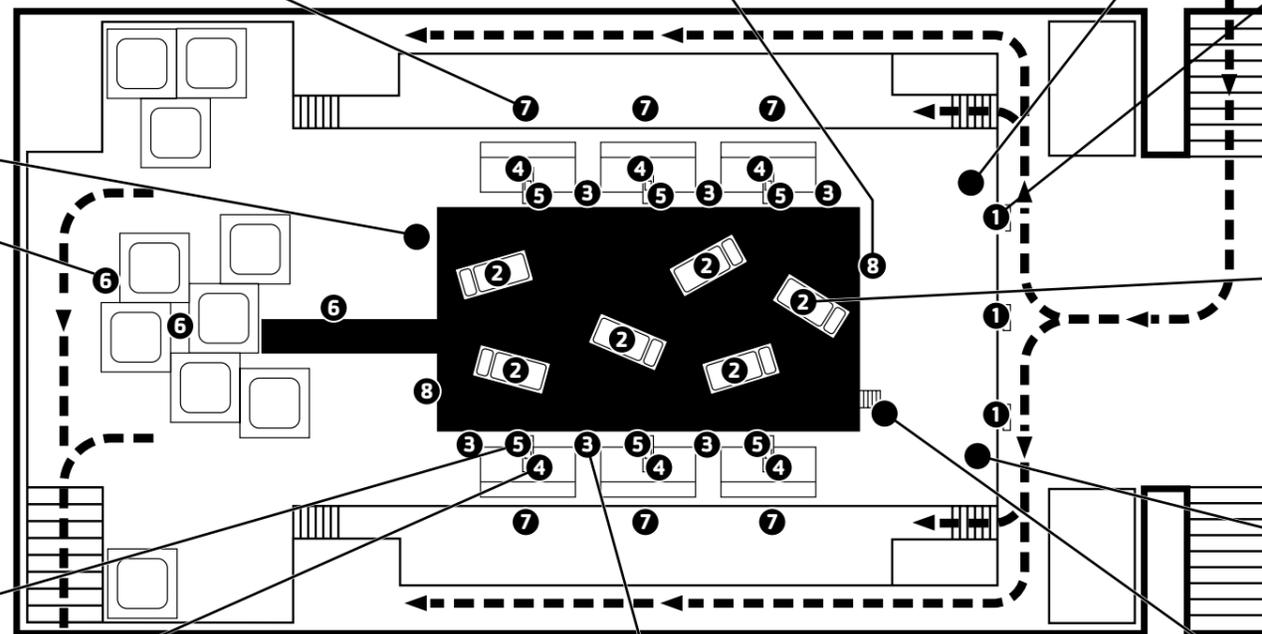


Shape the living organism of the Cyberhelvetia.ch pool – run your finger over the luminous glass surface in the middle of the bench and amuse yourself with the darting and harmless sea snake!

## SOUNDSHAKE



With the Soundshake you can locate the partner station on the other side of the pool. Pass the spherical loudspeaker to the person sitting next to you and discover how the Soundshake's movement composes sounds and modifies them.



cyberhelvetia.ch

PLEASE RETURN THE BATHING GUIDE AT THE ENTRANCE OR WHEN LEAVING THE PAVILION!