

KAIROS

Creating the opportune moment

In a vision of a future world where everything and everybody is digitally networked, the home increasingly becomes a site of complex systems within systems.

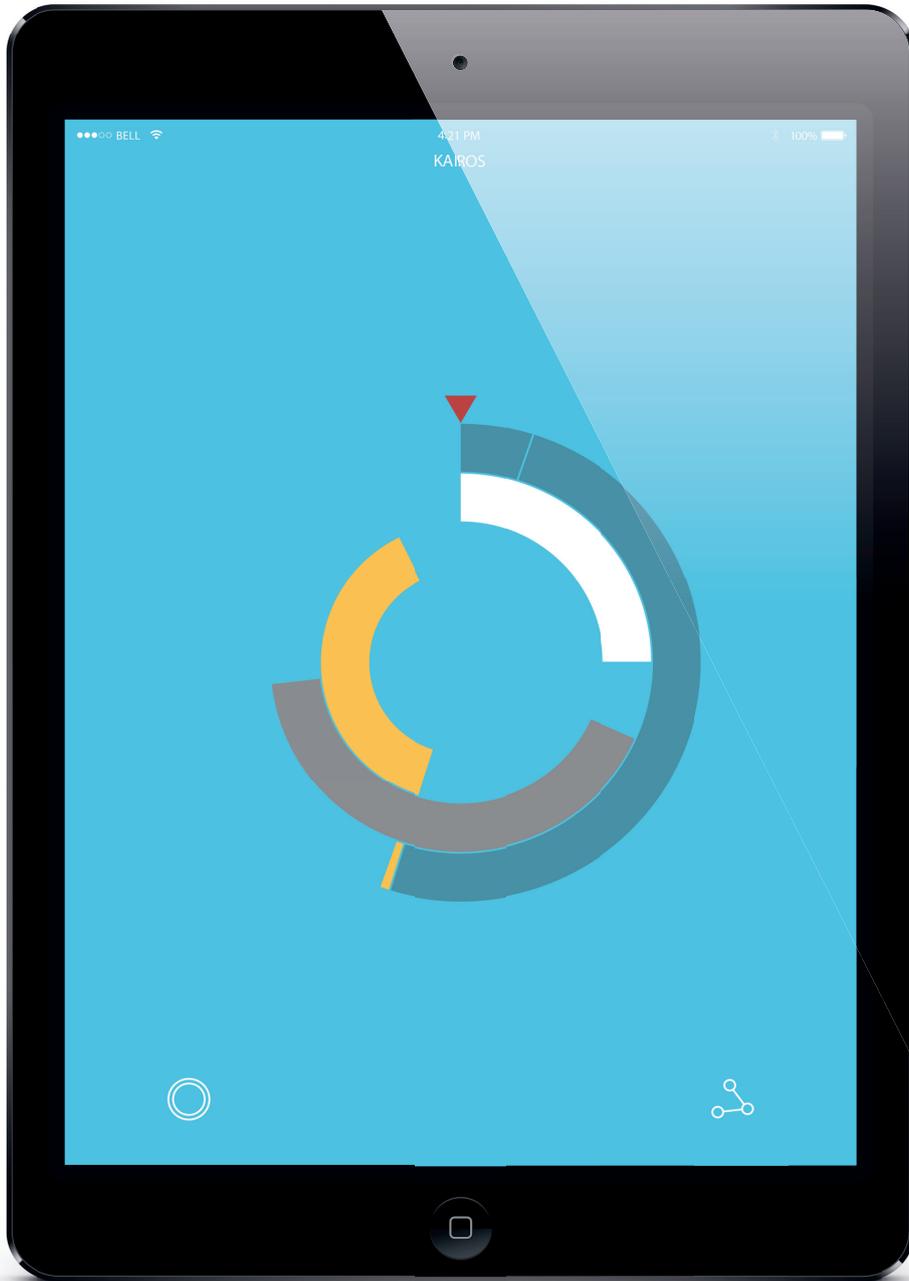
What connections can we agree to and where do the boundaries lie?

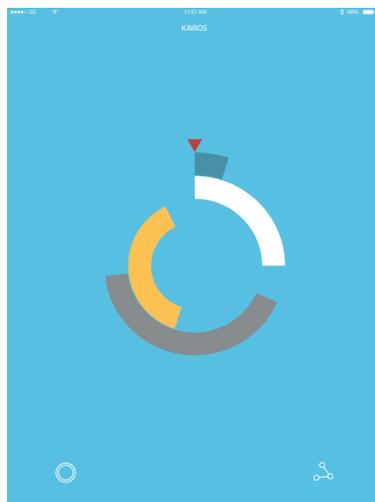
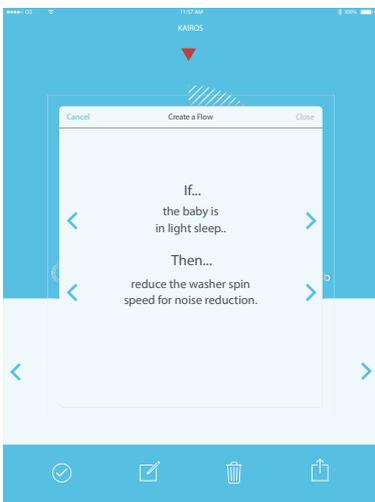
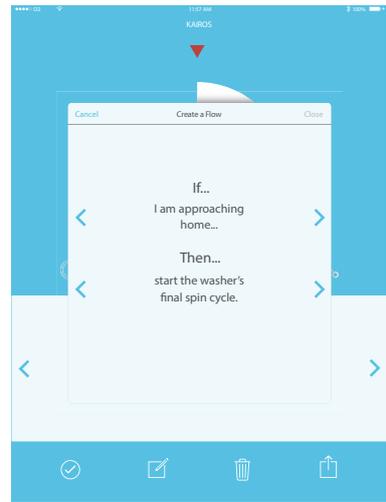
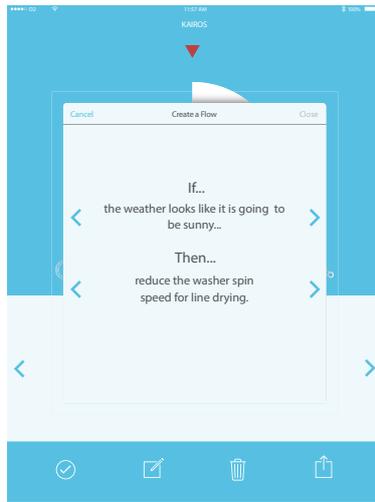
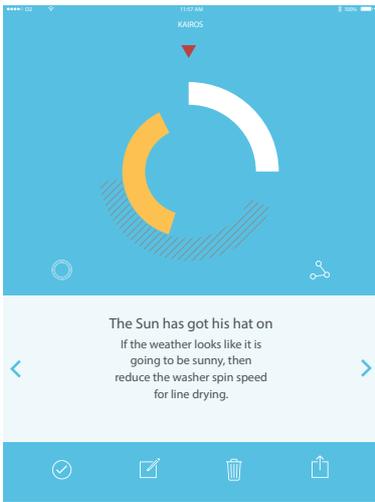
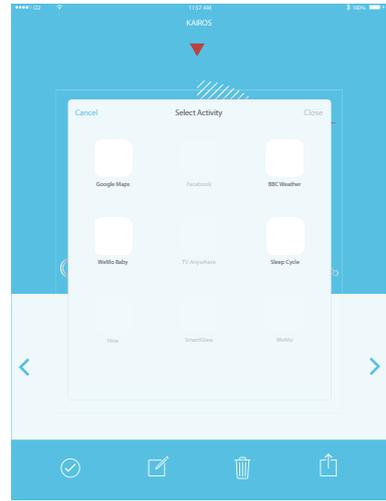
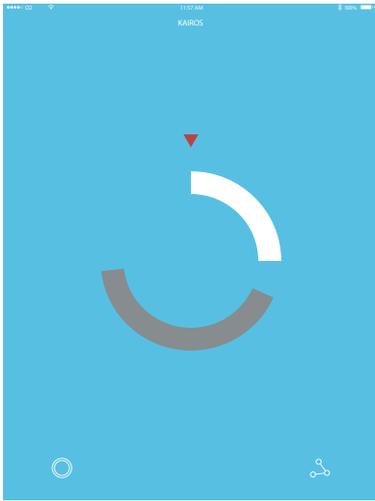
Kairos, a term the ancient Greeks used for the opportune moment, is a mobile app concept that allows the user to set a delayed end time and intelligent profile for their appliances and heating system that is grounded and situated within their daily lives. The concept has been developed so far using the washing machine as an example.

Kairos represents activities and time qualitatively, eschewing traditional approaches to time and activity management. There are no quantitative metrics of time displayed, other than the dial representing a 24-hour day, with activities positioned in relation to other relevant activities (the coloured arcs) and to the present moment (the red arrow). The present moment is constant (it is always 'now') with a fixed position across which the Kairos dial rotates in real-time counter clock wise, introducing new activities ahead and discarding activities that have passed.

Activities can be selected to build unique Kairos profiles, as an individual or as a family, with user created digital flows (using IF/THEN conditional statements) to make new interrelations of activity, embracing the notion of people as everyday innovators and directors of flow. This concept also builds upon Taylor and Swan's vision for ubiquitous computing, that states "technological infrastructures for the home should allow for the use of multiple, mobile and embedded, information devices that can be combined and interconnected in ad-hoc ways". The endpoint of the wash cycle can, for example, be 'snapped' to the start or end points of these activities, which may be static (e.g. synchronizing to the TV schedule) or dynamic (e.g. entering/leaving the home), completing the wash cycle when it is the opportune moment for the user to engage with.

By setting a delayed end time, the washing machine can determine the most efficient settings to complete the task, adjusting dynamically to the anticipated activities and the energy load of the home/grid. Additionally, Kairos promotes conscious decision making and planning, especially towards the identification of potential activity conflicts (for example, user location and wash load end time) thereby reducing post-wash dwell time and the need for rewashing due to smell or creasing, as identified in our research. Parts of the laundry process can be optimised towards the situated activities of the user in addition to any surplus in the energy system, rather than driven by inefficient speed based priority settings.





Activities are displayed in relation to each other over the next 24hrs

Carousel through activated activities and networked devices

Activate, deactivate or add new activities to your next 24hrs

Explore the digital flows that connect your activities

View, create, delete or edit your own digital flows

Create new digital flows using conditional statements

Flows can interact with the start, end or duration of an activity

The washing machine can be activated as a 'quick' activity, or...

...snapped to create an opportune moment for engagement