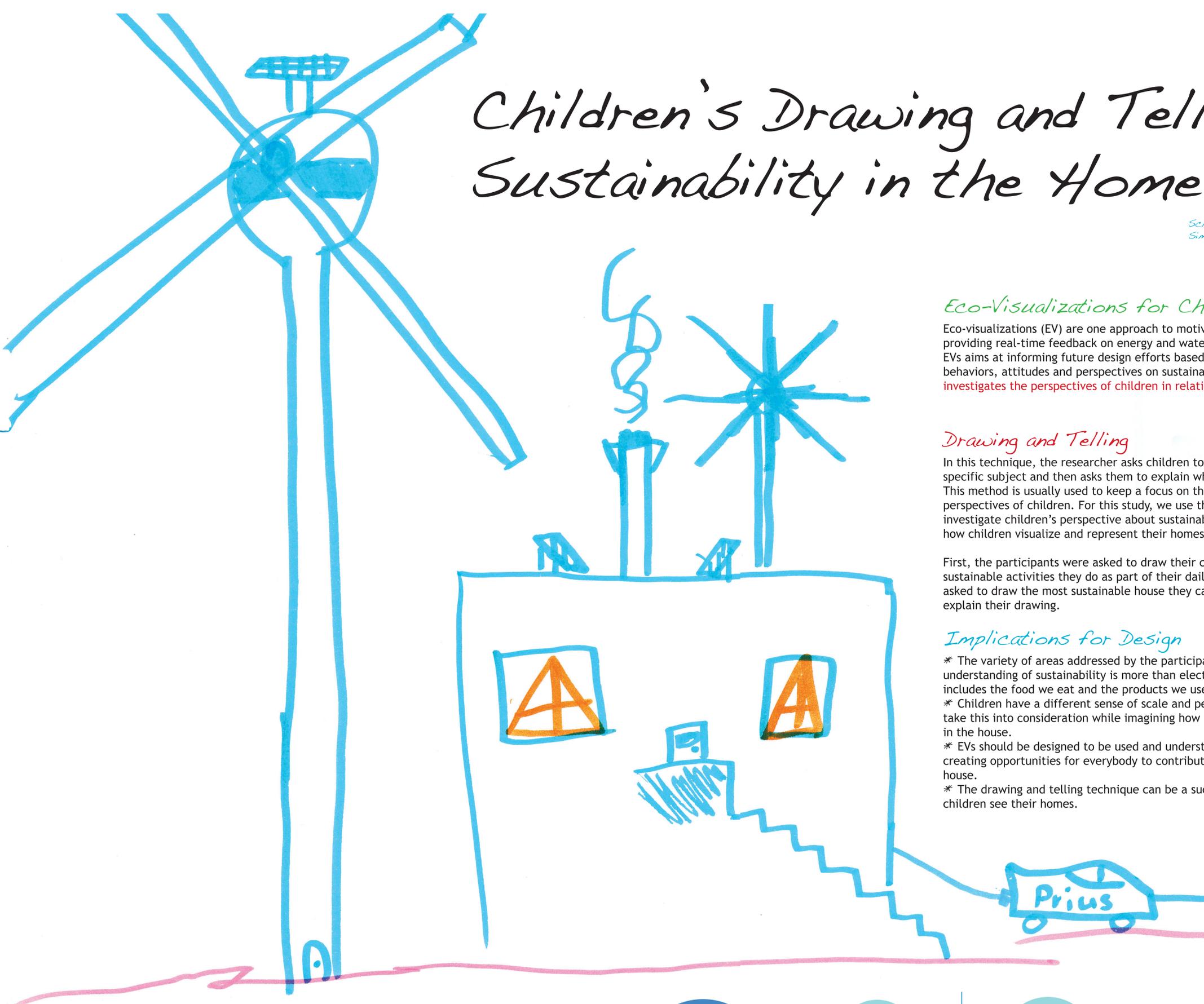


Children's Drawing and Telling of Sustainability in the Home

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Eco-Visualizations for Children

Eco-visualizations (EV) are one approach to motivate sustainable behavior by providing real-time feedback on energy and water consumption. Most literature about EVs aims at informing future design efforts based on the current state of adult behaviors, attitudes and perspectives on sustainability, **there is no literature that investigates the perspectives of children in relation to EVs.**

Drawing and Telling

In this technique, the researcher asks children to draw something in relation to a specific subject and then asks them to explain what their drawing means to them. This method is usually used to keep a focus on the lived experiences and on the perspectives of children. For this study, we use the drawing-telling technique to investigate children's perspective about sustainability. Furthermore, we investigate how children visualize and represent their homes and imaginary spaces in a drawing.

First, the participants were asked to draw their current house and to talk about the sustainable activities they do as part of their daily routines. Secondly, they were asked to draw the most sustainable house they can imagine, and to comment and explain their drawing.

Implications for Design

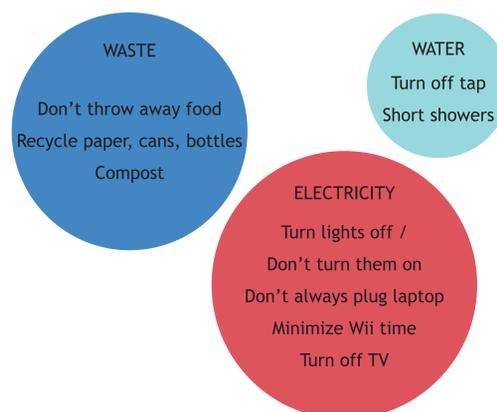
- * The variety of areas addressed by the participants in their drawings show that their understanding of sustainability is more than electricity and water consumption - it includes the food we eat and the products we use for example.
- * Children have a different sense of scale and perception of space. Designers should take this into consideration while imagining how to represent data about sustainability in the house.
- * EVs should be designed to be used and understood by both children and parents, creating opportunities for everybody to contribute to the sustainable actions in the house.
- * The drawing and telling technique can be a successful method to explore how children see their homes.

Comparing drawings and issues:

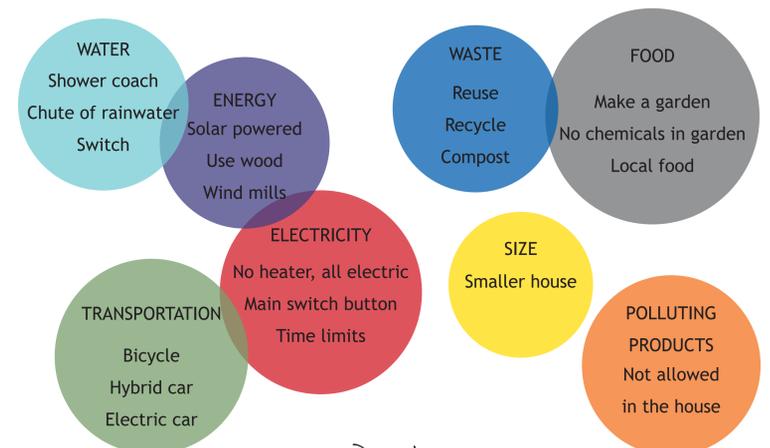
The Current House and the Ideal House

The figures are two affinity diagrams combining the sustainable actions at home depending on what area they are related too.

Overlaps between circles show similar ideas were shared between the two categories. The affinity diagram is helpful to visualize the areas the children were aware of and the points of intersection that can be new starting ideas for future EVs.



Drawing 1
Representation of the Reality



Drawing 2
Representation of the Ideal House