

## Design and Internet Tools

*This category highlights new applications in design, software, and associated tools, as well as internet-based tools.*

### Technology Scanning

One of PATH's major research support services is Technology Scanning. *Technology Scanning* tells us about technology developments in other industries, from other nations, from federal laboratories, and from other building sectors. PATH looks for breakthroughs in other industries that could be transferred and applied to housing. *Technology Scanning*-published by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development/PATH and prepared by Newport Partners LLC-is updated as technology developments dictate.

This issue of *Technology Scanning* is one in a series. Each issue in the series falls into one of the following categories:

- *Design and Internet Tools*
- *Safety*
- *Surfaces and Interior Finishes*
- *Building Envelope Technologies*
- *Heating, Ventilating, and Air Conditioning*
- *Energy/Power Systems Generation*
- *Basic Materials*
- *Information Technology*
- *Thermal and Moisture Protection*
- *Indoor Environmental Quality*

For other available Technology Scanning issues, log onto [www.pathnet.org](http://www.pathnet.org).



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### 3D Virtual Reality Simulation Systems

Immersion Corp. is developing, licensing and marketing technology and products that enhance human interaction with digital devices using the sense of touch. Immersion's technology is applicable to computing, entertainment, training, automotive and 3D simulation. Their "Haptic" workstation was developed for automotive engineers so that they could experience the "feel" of a new technology prior to producing expensive prototypes. This type of technology eventually could be introduced into new technology development in the building industry and even into the sales process to enable virtual house walk-throughs.

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### Remote Construction Monitoring Systems

The Photo-Net II remote construction monitoring system uses Web cameras and software to allow anyone with an Internet connection to visually access the construction site. According to the owner, the system can be used to plan, control and monitor construction projects. The



**Simulated automotive steering using the Haptic Workstation.**

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system records real time images and stores them in a database. It works around the clock, from beginning to completion of a project. The database enables a manager to generate a movie of the entire construction project.

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