

Term: Fall 2019

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Class Code: IACT 330-02

Faculty: Sung Park

Department: UX Design, School of Design

Project Name: Bud

Medium: Arduino Prototype, Mobile Application
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Group members:

Varun Khatri, Team Lead

Aparna Somvanshi, Research Lead

Sheryl Chan, Branding Lead

Madeline Walz, Product Lead

Project Description:

Despite growing trends in houseplants, many people struggle to effectively take care of their plants. A quick Google search will reveal dozens of articles about plant care and people's struggles with it. Looking at a question-and-answer site like Quora shows many questions from people trying to figure out why their plant is not thriving. We created Bud to remedy this problem. Bud is a two-part system that consists of a face-tracking voice assistant that displays emotions on its screen, and sensors that can gather and record plant health information. There is also an app for setup and tracking long-term plant health data.

Sensors called Seeds, which are placed in the soil with the plant, detect plant health. They have a soil moisture sensor to determine when the plant needs to be watered, a light sensor to determine sunlight needs, and an LED to communicate these needs to the user. The user can have multiple Seeds for multiple plants. Bud is a voice assistant module that receives the plant health data from the Seeds. When prompted vocally by the user, Bud can give information about the plants' health. It can also move to follow the user with its camera. The app can set up new Seed sensors, track long-term plant health, and notify the user when a plant needs something. To determine what exactly the plant needs, the user has to ask the Bud voice assistant module.

Project Links:

<https://madelinewalz.com/ux-design-bud>

<https://www.behance.net/gallery/105018385/Bud>