CLAIMS

1. A method for showcasing a built-up structure with at least one room, the method including:

obtaining a single panoramic image for each room, the single panoramic image showing an all-around perspective of each room;

locating doorways in the single panoramic image for each room;

creating a first hyperlink at each of the doorways, with selection of the first hyperlink enabling a user to view the single panoramic image for an adjoining room sharing the doorway where the first hyperlink is created;

locating windows in the single panoramic image for each room; and

creating a second hyperlink at each of the windows, with selection of the second hyperlink enabling the user to view a representative image showing a scene obtained from the window where the second hyperlink is created;

wherein the user is able to view the interior of the built-up structure by accessing and navigating about the single panoramic image for each room.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the single panoramic image is obtained from stitching a plurality of images from either a single image capture apparatus or a plurality of image capture apparatus.

3. The method of claim 2, wherein the plurality of image capture apparatus are arranged in a manner where edges of a field of view for each of the plurality of image capturing devices overlap.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein the selection of the first and the second hyperlinks generates a visual effect to represent movement of the user towards the doorways and the windows respectively.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein the single panoramic image for each room is associated with an audio file which is played back when the single panoramic image is viewed by the user.

6. The method of claim 5, wherein the audio file includes content selected from the group comprising: music, speech, and a combination of music and speech.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein the representative image is associated with an audio file which is played back when the representative image is viewed by the user.

8. The method of claim 7, wherein the audio file includes content selected from the group comprising: music, speech, and a combination of music and speech.

9. The method of claim 1, further including creating location information of the built-up structure for each single panoramic image for each room.

10. The method of claim 9, wherein the location information is viewable by the user either because the location information is printed in the single panoramic image or because the user chooses to retrieve data parameters of the single panoramic image.

11. The method of claim 1, further including creating date-time image generation information for each single panoramic image for each room.

12. The method of claim 11, wherein the date-time image generation information is viewable by the user either because the date-time image generation information is printed in the single panoramic image or because the user chooses to retrieve data parameters of the single panoramic image.

13. The method of claim 1, further including creating date-time image generation information for each representative image for each window.

14. The method of claim 13, wherein the date-time image generation information is viewable by the user either because the date-time image

generation information is printed in the representative image or because the user chooses to retrieve data parameters of the representative image.

15. The method of claim 1, further including recording a user navigation path for the single panoramic image for each room in a sequential manner.

16. The method of claim 15, wherein playback of the recording of the user navigation path is restricted.

17. The method of claim 1, further including overlaying objects onto either the single panoramic image or the representative image, with the objects being of a perspective-corrected form.

18. The method of claim 1, wherein the representative image depicts the scene outside the room where the window is located.

19. An apparatus for obtaining a single panoramic image, the single panoramic image showing an all-around perspective of a location, the apparatus including:

a plurality of image capturing devices arranged in a manner where edges of a field of view for each of the plurality of image capturing devices overlap;

a memory module coupled to the plurality of image capturing devices to store images from the plurality of image capturing devices;

a controller coupled to the memory module to process images from the plurality of image capturing devices, and to stitch the images stored in the memory module;

a display coupled to the controller to preview the single panoramic image after the images from the plurality of image capturing devices are stitched together; and

an actuator coupled to the controller for the user to trigger a capture of the previewed single panoramic image,

wherein the apparatus is mounted either on a vehicle or on the user.

20. A method of using a work product of a method of claim 1 for viewing of an interior of at least one built-up structure, the method including:

accessing an online portal to view an interior of the at least one built-up structure;

selecting at least one built-up structure for online viewing;

choosing one of three options to both view the interior of the at least one built-up structure and communicate with a party brokering a transaction for the built-up structure, with

a first option including navigating about the work product independently, contacting the party for communications, and the party navigating about the work product,

a second option including navigating about the work product in a pre-defined manner, contacting the party for communications, and the party navigating about the work product, and

a third option including contacting the party for communications, and the party navigating about the work product.

21. The method of claim 20, wherein the communications is either a voice communications session, or a video communications session.

22. The method of claim 20, wherein the navigation of the work product by the party is done remotely to show/clarify a particular aspect of the built-up structure.

23. The method of claim 20, wherein the online portal facilitates purchase of property, either on a buyer-seller basis or on an auction basis.

24. The method of claim 20, wherein the online portal allows either unrestricted content access for all parties or subscriber/member only restricted content access.

The invention claimed is:

1. A method for showcasing a built-up structure with at least one room, the method including:

obtaining a single panoramic image for each room, the single panoramic image showing an all-around perspective of each room;

locating doorways in the single panoramic image for each room;

creating a first hyperlink at each of the doorways, with selection of the first hyperlink enabling a user to view the single panoramic image for an adjoining room sharing the doorway where the first hyperlink is created;

locating windows in the single panoramic image for each room; and creating a second hyperlink at each of the windows, with selection of the second hyperlink enabling the user to view a representative image showing a scene obtained from the window where the second hyperlink is created;

wherein the user is able to view the interior of the built-up structure by accessing and navigating about the single panoramic image for each room.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the single panoramic image is obtained from stitching a plurality of images from either a single image capture apparatus or a plurality of image capture apparatus.

3. The method of claim 2, wherein the plurality of image capture apparatus are arranged in a manner where edges of a field of view for each of the plurality of image capturing devices overlap.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein the selection of the first and the second hyperlinks generates a visual effect to represent movement of the user towards the doorways and the windows respectively.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein the single panoramic image for each room is associated with an audio file which is played back when the single panoramic image is viewed by the user, wherein the audio file includes content selected from the group consisting of: music, speech, and a combination of music and speech.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein the representative image is associated with an audio file which is played back when the representative image is viewed by the user, wherein the audio file includes content selected from the group consisting of: music, speech, and a combination of music and speech.

7. The method of claim 1, further including creating location information of the built-up structure for each single panoramic image for each room.

8. The method of claim 7, wherein the location information is viewable by the user either because the location information is printed in the single panoramic image or because the user chooses to retrieve data parameters of the single panoramic image.

9. The method of claim 1, further including creating date-time image generation information for each single panoramic image for each room, wherein the date-time image generation information is viewable by the user either because the date-time image generation information is printed in the single panoramic image or because the user chooses to retrieve data parameters of the single panoramic image.

10. The method of claim 1, further including creating date-time image generation information for each representative image for each window, wherein the date-time image generation information is viewable by the user either because the date-time image generation information is printed in the representative image or because the user chooses to retrieve data parameters of the representative image.

11. The method of claim 1, further including recording a user navigation path for the single panoramic image for each room in a sequential manner.

12. The method of claim 11, wherein playback of the recording of the user navigation path is restricted.

13. The method of claim 1, further including overlaying objects onto either the single panoramic image or the representative image, with the objects being of a perspective-corrected form.

14. The method of claim 1, wherein the representative image depicts the scene outside the room where the window is located.

15. An apparatus for obtaining a single panoramic image for each room of a built-up structure the apparatus including:

a plurality of image capturing devices arranged in a manner where edges of a field of view for each of the plurality of image capturing devices overlap;

a memory module coupled to the plurality of image capturing devices to store images from the plurality of image capturing devices;

a controller coupled to the memory module to process images from the plurality of image capturing devices, and to stitch the images stored in the memory module, the controller further configured to:

obtain a single panoramic image for each room of the built-up structure, the single panoramic image showing an all-around perspective of each room;

locate doorways in the single panoramic image for each room;

create a first hyperlink at each of the doorways, with selection of the first hyperlink enabling a user to view the single panoramic image for an adjoining room sharing the doorway where the first hyperlink is created;

locate windows in the single panoramic image for each room; and

create a second hyperlink at each of the windows, with selection of the second hyperlink enabling the user to view a representative image showing a scene obtained from the window where the second hyperlink is created;

wherein the user is able to view the interior of the built-up structure by accessing and navigating about the single panoramic image for each room;

a display coupled to the controller to preview the single panoramic image after the images from the plurality of image capturing devices are stitched together; and

an actuator coupled to the controller for the user to trigger a capture of the previewed single panoramic image,

wherein the apparatus is mounted either on a vehicle or on the user.

16. An apparatus for obtaining a single panoramic image, the single panoramic image showing an all-around perspective of a location, the apparatus including:

a plurality of image capturing devices arranged in a manner where edges of a field of view for each of the plurality of image capturing devices overlap;

a memory module coupled to the plurality of image capturing devices to store images from the plurality of image capturing devices;

a controller coupled to the memory module to process images from the plurality of image capturing devices, and to stitch the images stored in the memory module;

a display coupled to the controller to preview the single panoramic image after the images from the plurality of image capturing devices are stitched together; and

an actuator coupled to the controller for the user to trigger a capture of the previewed single panoramic image,

wherein the apparatus is mounted either on a vehicle or on the user, and

wherein the controller is further configured to:

obtain a single panoramic image for each room of a built-up structure, the single panoramic image showing an all-around perspective of each room;

locate doorways in the single panoramic image for each room;

create a first hyperlink at each of the doorways, with selection of the first hyperlink enabling a user to view the single panoramic image for an adjoining room sharing the doorway where the first hyperlink is created;

locate windows in the single panoramic image for each room; and
create a second hyperlink at each of the windows, with selection of the second hyperlink enabling the user to view a representative image showing a scene obtained from the window where the second hyperlink is created;

wherein the user is able to view the interior of the built-up structure by accessing and navigating about the single panoramic image for each room.