

VIRTUAL REALITY

Design & Development for Meta Quest 3

Definition, real examples, Meta XR, Unity workflow, and comfort-first VR design guidelines.

Focus device: Oculus / Meta Quest 3

What is Virtual Reality?

VR is an interactive, computer-generated 3D environment that surrounds the user and responds to head, hand, and body movement.

In practice, a headset replaces the user's normal field of view with stereoscopic images, spatial audio, tracked controllers or hand tracking, and real-time rendering.

Presence

The feeling of “being there” inside the simulated space.

Embodiment

Head and hand movement are mapped into the virtual world.

Interaction

Users manipulate objects, menus and environments directly.

Where VR is used

From “watching a screen” to “acting inside a space”.

Games & entertainment

Beat Saber-style rhythm, immersive worlds, social VR events

Training & simulation

Safety drills, emergency procedures, medical or aviation practice

Education & science

Anatomy, museums, labs, field trips impossible in real life

Design & collaboration

Architecture walkthroughs, product prototyping, remote meetings

Therapy & wellbeing

Exposure therapy, rehabilitation, mindfulness environments

VR, AR and MR: one continuum

Quest 3 can run fully virtual experiences and also mixed-reality scenes through color passthrough, scene understanding and anchors.

Physical world Passthrough vision

AR overlay

Mixed Reality

Virtual Reality

Sources: Meta Horizon OS design overview: passthrough, scene understanding, spatial anchors, locomotion.

Meta XR: the Quest development stack

Meta's official Unity SDKs package device integration, interaction models, platform services and MR features for Quest apps.

Core SDK

tracking • rendering • passthrough • scene • anchors

Interaction SDK

grab • poke • ray • teleport • hands/controllers

MR Utility Kit

room awareness • semantic surfaces • spatial UX

Audio + Haptics

spatial sound • tactile feedback • presence

Unity workflow for Quest VR

Unity is the scene editor, real-time engine, asset pipeline, and build system. The Quest app is ultimately an Android/OpenXR application.

1 Project setup

XR Plug-in Management,
OpenXR/Meta packages, Android
build target

2 Scene + scale

1 Unity unit = 1 meter; design
around real human reach

3 Origin

Camera rig, tracking space,
controllers and hands

4 Interactions

XRI or Meta Interaction SDK: grab,
poke, ray, UI canvas

5 Build & test

Profile on device, iterate comfort
and performance

Comfort first: the non-negotiables

VR can feel magical only when the user's body believes the experience is stable, responsive and under control.

Keep motion predictable

Avoid forced camera movement, surprise acceleration, or artificial camera shake.

Maintain frame rate

Dropped frames increase latency and can quickly break comfort. Optimize early on Quest hardware.

Provide comfort options

Offer teleport / snap turn / vignette / seated mode rather than one locomotion style.

Respect the body

Use real-world scale, stable horizons and interactions within comfortable reach.



STABLE HORIZON
Comfort first



LOW-LATENCY MOTION TRAILS
Instant response



HIGH FRAME RATE TIMELINE
Smooth & fluid



GPU PARTICLES SMOOTH FLOW
Efficient & stable

120 FPS
High Frame Rate

8.3 ms
Motion-to-Photon

Sources: Meta Comfort and Locomotion design guidelines; Unity Tunneling Vignette Controller docs.

Headset-friendly UI design

Design spatial UI as objects in 3D space, not as a flat mobile screen glued to the face.

Place UI at comfortable distance

Avoid panels too close to the eyes; keep main content in front and slightly below eye level when possible.

Use large, high-contrast text

Favor short labels, clear hierarchy and readable interaction targets.

Avoid “head-locked” UI overload

Use world-locked or hand-attached menus for most tasks; reserve head-locked UI for critical status only.

Use depth deliberately

Do not force users to refocus rapidly between near and far elements.

Support seated and standing users

Menus must work with different heights, arm reach and play spaces.

VR UI Design Principles



Eye Level

Place UI at a comfortable eye level to reduce strain and improve readability.



Safe Distance

Keep UI panels at a safe distance for easy focus and natural movement.

comfort, clarity,
interaction

Aa

readable

Use large typography
and high contrast for
quick comprehension.



Depth & Hierarchy

Use size, spacing, and layers to guide attention and convey structure.



Comfortable Interaction

Design for natural gestures and minimize unnecessary effort.



Consistent

Maintain visual and behavioral consistency across all screens.

Locomotion (Movement types that reduce motion sickness)



Teleport



Teleportation + room-scale walking



Head Rotation



Snap turns; avoid smooth rotation by default



Vehicle comfort



Cockpit frames and stable references reduce vection



Advanced option



Smooth locomotion only with settings: speed, vignette, comfort mode

How users interact inside VR

VR interaction is embodied: the user expects objects to react like physical things, but with clear digital feedback.

Direct grab

near objects with hand/controller pose

Ray pointer

far UI, menus, object selection

Poke / press

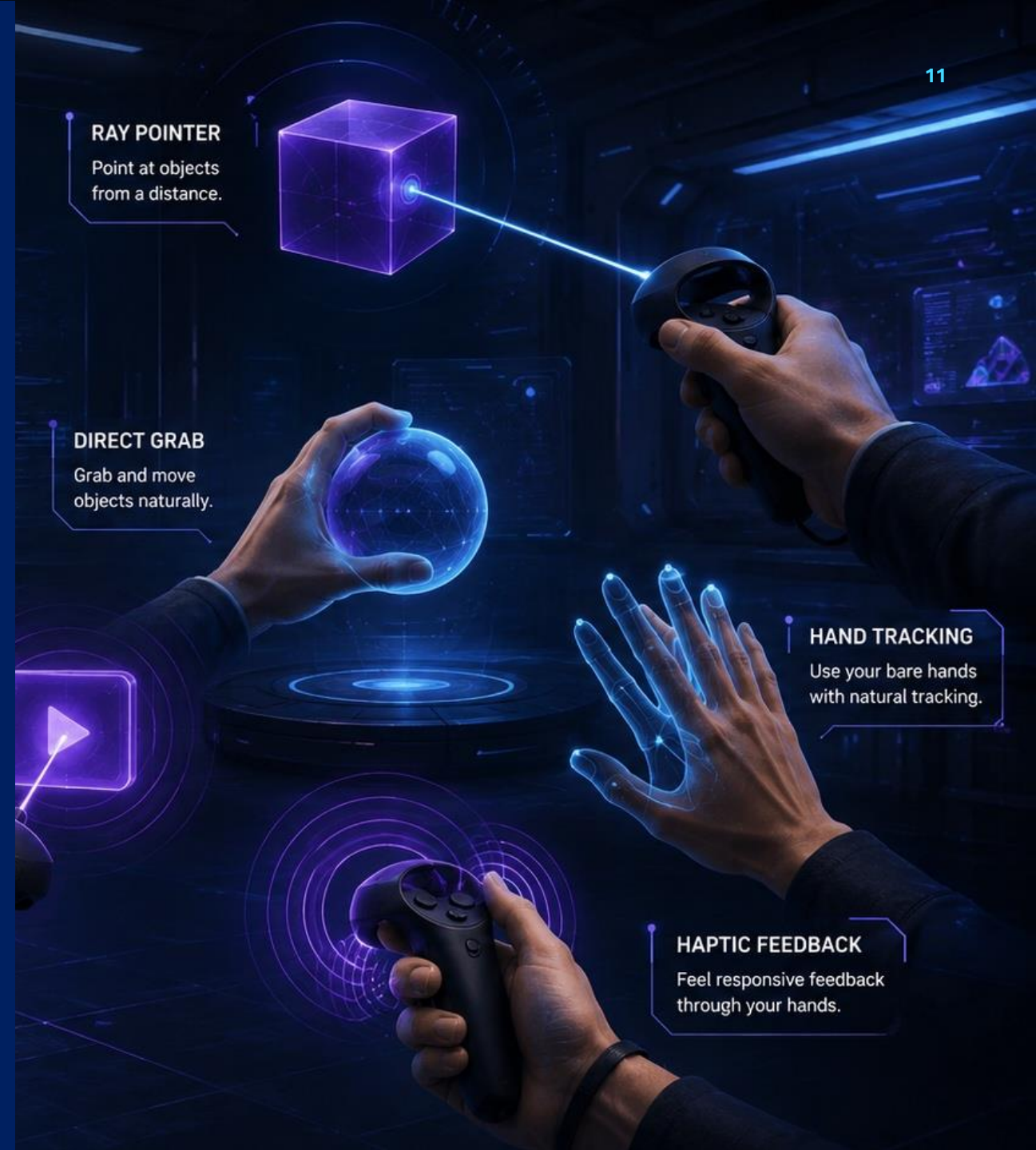
buttons, sliders, toggles

Hand tracking

natural gestures, direct manipulation

Haptics + audio feedback → output

confirmation, affordance and presence



Implementation checklist for comfort

Translate design principles into actual settings and components before playtesting.

Locomotion

- TeleportationProvider
- SnapTurnProvider
- optional:
ContinuousMove with Tunneling/Vignette for smooth move

Interactions

- XR Interaction Manager
- Ray + Direct Interactors
- Meta hands/controllers rig
- visible affordances + haptics

UI

- World-space canvas
- laser pointer + poke targets
- large hit areas
- no tiny text or edge-only UI

Performance

- profile on Quest 3
- fixed foveated rendering when appropriate
- batching/LOD/occlusion
- sustain target refresh rate

<https://developers.meta.com/horizon/documentation/unity/unity-isdk-teleport-interaction/>

<https://developers.meta.com/horizon/documentation/unity/unity-isdk-grabbing-objects/>

<https://developers.meta.com/horizon/documentation/unity/unity-isdk-uiset/>

Key sources used

<https://developers.meta.com/horizon/documentation/unity/unity-tutorial-hello-vr/>

Meta Quest 3

Meta Quest 3 official product page; VR-Compare Quest 3 specifications.

Meta XR stack

Meta Horizon OS Developers: Interaction SDK overview; Unity Asset Store: Meta XR SDK.

Design guidelines

Meta Horizon OS Developers: Comfort and immersive experience design overview.

Unity implementation

Unity XR Interaction Toolkit documentation; Unity Tunneling Vignette Controller.

Use this deck as a practical introduction: validate all design decisions with real users wearing Quest 3, not only inside the Unity editor.