

HCDE Lounge observation 1
Friday, October 13, 2023
2:17pm

a. Built Environment

i. What makes up the built environment of the lounge?

1. The fundamental environment:

- a. One green cinderblock wall,
- b. one yellow plaster(?) wall,
- c. one white (plaster?) wall,
- d. a high(12-20ft) tiled ceiling,
- e. one wall with openable windows from the top of the ceiling to a few feet off the ground. Below the windows are heating vents. The windows have light-filtering off-white shades in front of them. The third window pane from the left is cracked.
- f. The floor is carpeted in a pattern of diffused blue, brown, and beige.

2. Supplemental built environment:

- a. A filing system for department mail
- b. Two kitchen task tables for holding food and kitchen devices.
- c. Six four-tops pushed together to make one large surface in the middle of the room.
- d. Three tables side-by-side against the wall that has the windows.
- e. A corner seating area with a grey couch, a grey chair, a black side table, and a black coffee table with bottom storage that has the color of standard wood composite. There is a bronze-toned plant stand and mature succulent plant in the very corner behind the side table. The longest limb of the succulent is approximately 2 feet long.

ii. Are there elements of the built environment that see high use?

1. Two of six openable windows are open, most of the shades are pulled up partially.
2. The white wall has been used as a medium for a light-handed mural or lights hanging down from the ceiling. The yellow wall holds a clock, a message board, and signage for how to use the lights and trash. The door has signage with an evacuation route, a diagram of the assembly point, and a PSA on it. The green wall has two white boards on it, and has a yard stick and a posterboard

leaned against it. The top surface of the heaters is used as a table, with a room spray at one end and weights at the other.

3. The ceiling has lights hanging from it.

4. Both kitchen task tables are in use.

iii. Are there elements of the built environment that see low use?

1. Nothing but built-in lights hang from the ceiling. The lights are off.

2. The mural wall has furniture pushed up against it, but otherwise has no purpose aside from the decorative mural.

3. None of the tables or chairs, aside from the couch I sit on, are in active use.

4. Air purifier is turned off.

b. Demographics

i. Who is in the lounge?

ii. Do people come here alone, or with others?

c. Overall Experience

i. What is the posture and disposition of the people there?

ii. How do people engage not only with the space itself, but with one another?

d. Possessions

i. What are people bringing with them to the lounge?

ii. Where do they store these items when they are in the lounge?

e. Information and Communication Access

i. What signage is in the lounge?

ii. How do people engage with the posted signage?

f. Tools and Technology

i. What tools and tech are available for use in the lounge?

ii. How do people engage with what's provided?

g. Traffic

i. What is the walking pattern in the lounge?

ii. What happens if the lounge is at capacity and a student enters?

(These are less relevant, but I'm not sure if I need to include them or not and I don't want to lose points by omitting)

h. Food and Drinks

i. Are people consuming food and drinks? If so, who?

ii. What kinds of food and drinks are they consuming?

iii. Did they get food from the free food basket, or did they bring it themselves?

iv. How does eating and drinking fit in with other activities?

i. Family and Kids

i. Are there any family members here?

- ii. How are they engaging with one another?
- j. Media Consumption
 - i. What kinds of media do people have with them?
 - ii. How long do they engage with these media for?

2:32 a fly flies in through the open window, bangs itself against the right-most windows, falls to the surface where it rests.

2:34 the fly begins walking on the bottom half of the right-most window.

2:34 the fly has walked to the top half of the right-most window

2:35 the fly flies off of the window, slamming itself into the glass several times before landing back on the surface of the heater.

2:36 not sure if this is against the rules, I open the window and let the fly out.

2:37pm, the door makes a noise that indicates the lock has been unlocked, and a mechanical winding sound is produced. A young female student wearing all black and holding a kombucha and wearing a black backpack enters. We make eye contact and exchange small, closed-mouth smiles. She sets her kombucha and phone down on the table, in the corner by the water jugs. She takes her phone and leaves. She's left her backpack on the floor and her drink on the table.

2:47pm female student re-enters room, looking at her phone. Stands behind the chair of her area, tapping at phone screen for a few seconds. She picks up her drink, picks her backpack up and puts it on, and leaves without saying anything.

2:47 observation period over.

Conclusion:

The room doesn't see much use. There are indicators of neglect (broken window pane, plant matter fallen onto surface of heaters from succulent plant, perishable vegetable tray left on metal task table. The tables at the center of the room are pushed together in such a way that they would theoretically create one large surface area to work on, but the tables are tilted at various angles so that there is not one flat surface. Chairs are ajar in a way that suggests use and collaborative work. One chair has crumbs on it, suggesting someone had lunch here. Chairs are not pushed back in. There is a general sense of calm, but there is also a sense that there is a lack of care given for this room. Students have, at a base level, everything they need. However, presentation is not at the forefront of what's going on here.

Second session

11:40am 10/17/2023

11:40am I have begun field observation.

There is only one student in the lounge, sitting at the window, at the left-most table. He is at his laptop with his airpods in, looking down at his phone and scrolling.

Right beside his laptop is a glass tupperware with mostly-eaten food in it, the fork still in the last bite of food.

On the table directly to the right of him is his black backpack with a red jumper stuffed inside. Next to that is his black lunchbox.

11:41 he takes a few bites of his food and starts working on his laptop. He takes a few more bites. He appears to be working on a report of some kind.

He is wearing a white t-shirt, black pants, Newbalance sneakers and white socks. He is fairly young, short brown hair.

11:43 He continues to take bites of his food while looking at his laptop.

11:43 he stands up, taking his fork with him, and throws it away. He grabs a napkin from above the refrigerator and brings it back to his seat with him, wiping his mouth as he walks.

11:44 he sits back down.

11:44 He is looking at his phone [he appears to be watching something on his phone]

11:47 he leans back and stretches his chest, gets back to typing on his laptop. Runs his hands through his hair, looks at computer a few seconds, resumes typing.

11:49 still typing

11:50 another student enters the lounge smiling, carrying a large black pleather tote, sits down at corner of large shared surface.

11:50 man puts his tupperware away

11:50 she takes a tupperware out of her bag, puts it on the table. Takes lid off, puts it in microwave. She is wearing a midi-length black dress, a grey blazer, glasses, hair down. A large yellow backpack.

11:51 goes through plastic utensils and picks some out for personal use.

11:52 she takes her things and leaves while food is being microwaved

11:53 the microwave alerts. Her food is done.

11:53 the door opens, she re-enters, removes her food from the microwave.

11:53 she walks to the door, looks out, sets her food down on the table and sets up her little meal station. She wanders a bit in front of the seat [deciding whether or not to sit, where to sit?]

11:54 she sets her food down on the table and leaves.

11:55 she re-enters, picks up her food, takes it out to the hall.

11:56 he stops typing and is looking at his phone again.

11:58 his laptop is charging. Likely has been the whole time.

11:59 people are talking loudly outside the door, the lock pings, they are still talking outside the door. But, no one enters?

12:00pm the door pings again, an unsmiling young female student enters with food, looks in the free food bin, puts her food down, puts her phone and backpack down, unwraps her utensils. She dresses her salad and begins to eat, not looking at her phone.

12:01 she stands up, gathers her trash, throws it out.

12:01 she takes off her coat and puts it on her backpack and begins to eat.

12:02 oh, she has had her earpods in this whole time. She is eating and looking at her phone.

12:02 there is a lot of noise coming from the neighboring room.

12:03 a man walks in holding his cell phone. Indian, glasses, wearing all beige. Sits down still wearing his backpack and is looking at his phone.

12:04 he leaves. [Did he notice he was being watched?]

12:06 she is eating, he is still switching between working on his laptop and looking at his phone.

12:07 a female student enters with no backpack, just a tupperware, puts it in the microwave and stands in front of it while the microwave is on. Black turtleneck.

12:08 Black turtleneck is looking at her phone.

12:09 her food is done. She removes it from the microwave and leaves with it, phone in hand.

12:10 obs done

October 18

11:27 walk into room, there are three students. Grey sweatshirt female student with food, laptop, drink at left-most table in front of windows. One man at door-side far seat of workspace, man at water container corners.

11:28 grey sweatshirt female student and food buy are chatting.

11:29 food male student takes food out of microwave

11:30 female student in mask enters, puts food/drink/backpack down next to quiet man. Does not say anything, neither does he. She stands behind the chair with her open tupperware on the table.

11:31 someone else is entering. Backpack on, looks for place to sit, maybe considers sitting near me, chooses middle table in front of windows. Is fixing her makeup in her user-facing camera.

11:33 all is quiet. Quiet man is working at his laptop, food is still microwaving, mask female student is leaning on steel kitchen table [waiting to use the microwave]

11:33 The food is done, mask female student puts her food in microwave, picks up her backpack, leaves with her drink while her food is still in the microwave. Quickly re-enters without backpack and stands in front of the microwave.

11:34 she keeps clearing her throat. Everyone is working at their laptops except phone female student, who is looking at her phone.

11:35 mask female student's food is done, she leaves. There are four people here now. Two at the window, two at the large table in the middle of the room.

11:37 everyone is doing the same things, grey sweater female student is eating. Talking table male student is looking at his phone. His navigation app starts giving him directions and he quickly decreases the volume on his phone. He then sets his phone down on the table and gets back to eating his chinese food.

11:38 quiet man is looking at his schedule on his laptop.

11:41 phone female student laughs quietly (biftish) at her phone. Grey sweater female student is typing quickly at her laptop. Quiet male student seems to be quietly working again. Talking male student is still eating his food.

11:45 quiet male student stretches. He's had headphones on this whole time. Phone female student is still on her phone. Talking male student is still eating, as is grey sweater female student.

11:47 quiet male student stretches and returns to his schedule. Grey sweatshirt female student has stopped eating and is working on her laptop. Phone female student still on her phone. Talking male student drawing something on a piece of paper.

11:50 people audibly talking in the next room

11:50 talking male student eating again, quiet male student just looking down at his phone. [seems tired]

11:54 talking male student is still sketching, grey sweatshirt female student typing quickly, phone female student still on her phone. Talking male student eating again. Quiet male student moving his schedule around on his laptop [is it his schedule, or is he designing a graphic of a schedule?] It is pink. A soft shade of warm pink.

11:55 talking male student flips the page on his notebook.

11:56 everyone continuing to do what they've been doing.

11:57 end

Conclusion: this room sees a good bit of use. One big draw seems to be the microwave. 3/6 users of this room have used it to heat or eat food. Three people are on their laptops, appearing to do some kind of schoolwork. One person has been, it appears, taking a mental break on her phone. People are not shy to sit side-by-side, or just near one another. Phone female student was sitting one seat from grey sweatshirt female student, not directly next to her. Same table, but two chairs over instead of one.