

Interação Pessoa-Máquina 2024/2025

Lab class 1 (Assignment)

Done by: Tiago Neutel, 71903

Bad design



Image 1 – Indoor Mailboxes

Image 1 is an image of the old indoor mailboxes of my building. These are an example of a bad design, not because of how they look (even though they are old and worn out, they are simple and decent looking) but because they are indoor. This means that to get their mail delivered, the tenants of the building needed to have someone open the door to the mailman, so that the mailman could deliver the mail to the respective mailboxes. This was very inconvenient for people, because there is the possibility that there isn't anyone in the building to open the door to the mailman and also because over time it frequently occurred that some or all of the doorbells stopped working, meaning that the mailman wouldn't be able to contact anyone in the building to open the door. Another detail about this design was that it also served as a way for people to get into the building by claiming that they were the mailman, and since there were

no cameras to verify the identity of the person trying to get into the building, people would let anyone who claimed to be the mailman in.

I believe that it was designed this way to guarantee a certain degree of safety, in regards to the mail. By having the mail inside the building, it would be safer than if it was left at the building's door. It might have also been done that way to fill up some of the space in the entrance and maybe give the entrance some sort of "meaning".

Good Design



Image 2 – Mailboxes on the door

In Image 2 it is possible to see a better solution to the mailboxes design that was presented in the bad design. This way the mailboxes are accessible to the mailman out of the building and are also accessible by the tenants inside the building. In this case there is no need for the door to be opened to the mailman and the tenants can safely get their mail inside the building. The design is simple and sufficient. The mailboxes have a good size, both in width, height and depth; they can only be accessed by the key holders (which should correspond to the people that live in the apartment that has said mailbox associated with); and they are very simple to understand. On the outside (which is not visible in this image), they are easy to understand, have a big enough gap to receive the mail and they are easy to access. This is important for the mailman to be able to use them correctly.

Based on these criteria, I believe that these mailboxes make up for a good design, and a solution to the bad design.