

# MIT

**https://studentlife.mit.edu/housing**



Division of Student Life



MENU



## Housing & Residential Services

UNDERGRADUATES

GRAD STUDENTS & FAMILIES

STUDENT POLICIES

OFF-CAMPUS HOUSING

SUMMER PROGRAMS & CONFERENCES

CONTACT OUR TEAM

Baker House



362 Memorial Drive  
Building W7  
Cambridge, MA 02139  
(617) 253-3161

[Find out more](#)

Burton Conner



410 Memorial Drive  
Building W51  
Cambridge, MA 02139  
(617) 253-3261

[Find out more](#)

East Campus



3 Ames Street  
Building 62 and Building 64  
Cambridge, MA 02139  
(617) 253-2871

[Find out more](#)

UNDERGRADUATES

[Dates & Deadlines](#)

[First-Year Housing Information](#)

[Get Housing](#)

[Residence Halls & Rates](#)

[How Billing Works](#)

[Rates](#)

## Emergency Contacts

- MIT provides readily available emergency contact information across its housing website, including contacts for MIT police, medical, and housing-related emergencies. This is essential for ensuring safety and convenience for students. We should similarly place emergency contacts in visible locations on our website, allowing for quick access.

## Well-Leveled Subtabs

- MIT's website is organized with intuitive subtabs that make navigation seamless. Key sections include:

- **Housing Dates & Deadlines:** Important timelines for housing applications and moves.
- **First-Year Housing:** Special considerations for freshmen, including housing options and FAQs.
- **Graduate Housing:** Detailed information for graduate students looking for housing options.
- A similar structure for our website will provide a smooth user experience and allow students to find exactly what they need without hassle.

## Dorm Descriptions and Ratings

- MIT provides comprehensive descriptions of each dorm, listing amenities, room types, and community atmospheres. They also encourage students to provide feedback and ratings, helping prospective residents make informed choices. We should consider adding a rating section for each dorm on our site to allow for student input and transparency.

## Renovations

- MIT includes details about recent and upcoming renovations in its dorm profiles. This is important for students to know which facilities are being improved. Including this in our site would help students make more informed decisions, especially if they are concerned about dorm conditions.

## Housing Application Process

- MIT offers a step-by-step guide on how to apply for housing, including links to the housing portal, key deadlines, and troubleshooting resources. Our website should feature a similarly detailed guide to support students through the

application process. Clear, step-by-step instructions will make the process smoother and reduce confusion.

## **Summer and Graduate Student Housing**

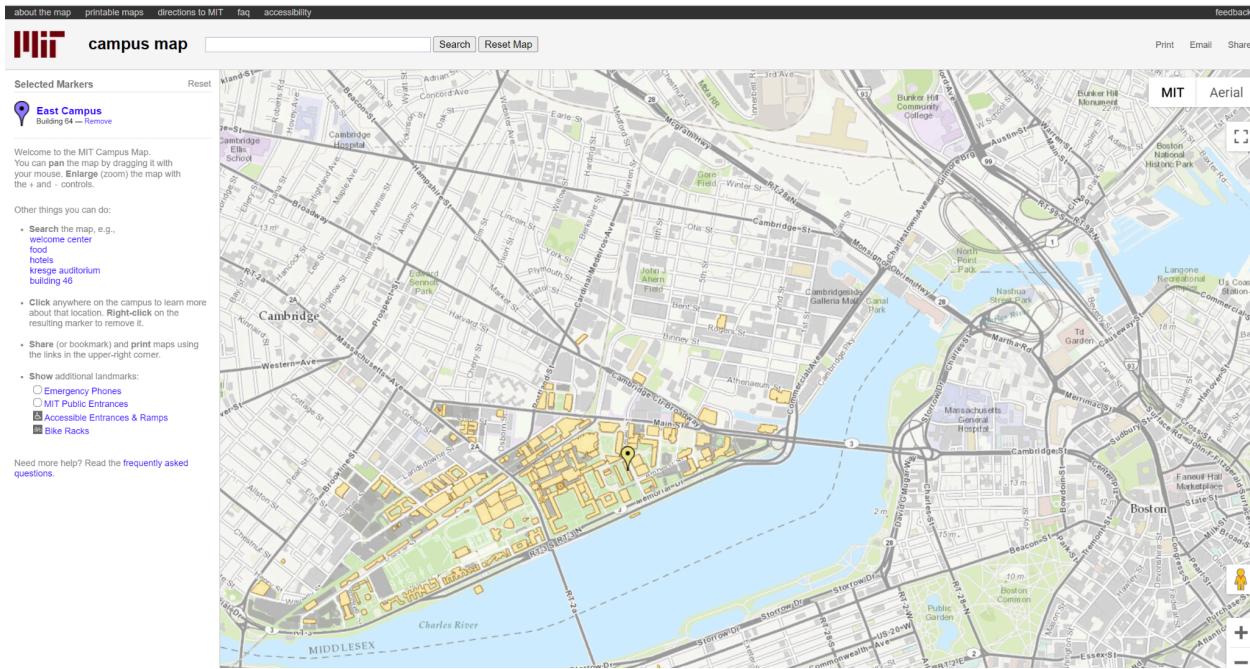
- MIT has a dedicated section for summer housing, outlining special programs and eligibility for students staying on campus during the summer. Graduate student housing is also covered in-depth. We should consider adding sections for these categories, making the site more useful for different student groups.

## **Individual Dorm Websites**

- Each MIT dorm has its own dedicated page, containing extensive details about life in that residence. This includes floor plans, photos, and information on house culture. Creating individual pages for each dorm would enhance our website, giving students more detailed insights and helping them to choose a residence that fits their preferences.

## **Campus Map Integration**

- MIT integrates an interactive campus map that shows the location of all dorms in relation to other campus landmarks. This is particularly useful for students deciding between dorms based on proximity to classrooms or amenities. Incorporating a campus map with dorm locations would greatly improve the user experience on our website.



## Residential Security & Safety

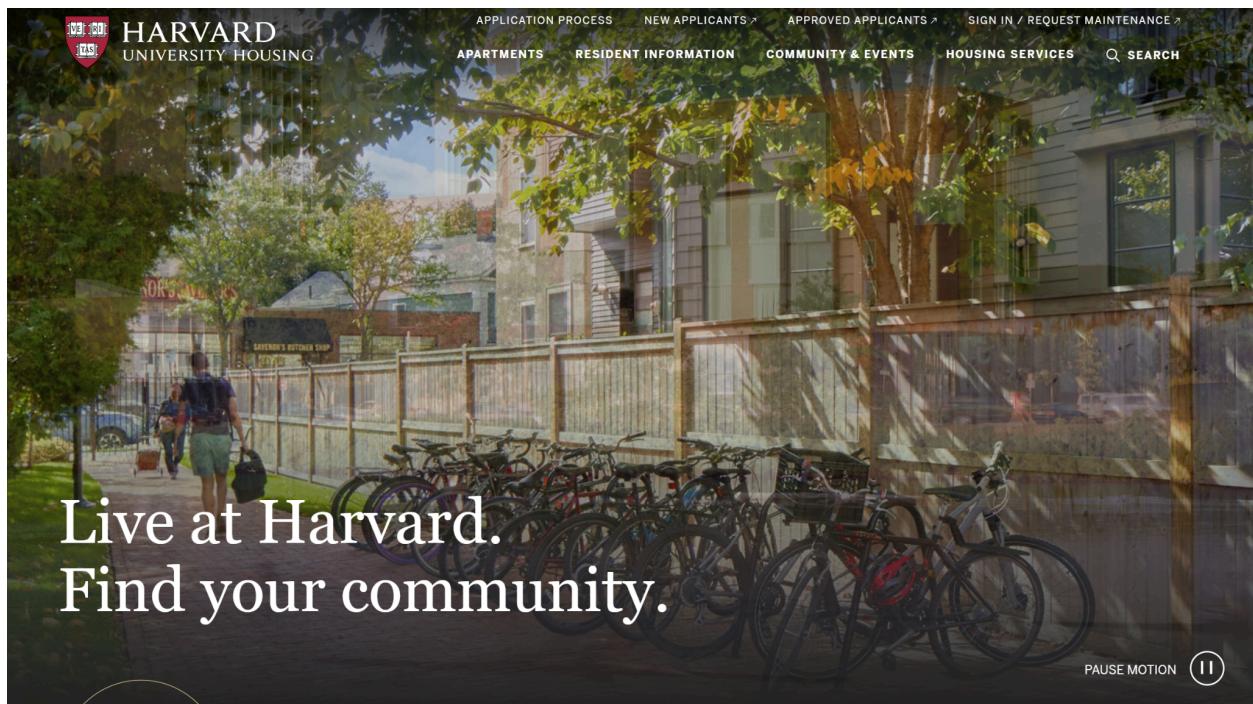
- MIT highlights safety features in dorms, such as secure access points, security cameras, and campus police services. They also provide information on emergency procedures. This is critical for any housing website, and we should include similar sections to assure students of their security and safety on campus.

## Clean Layout with Subtabs

- MIT's site is sleek and clean, largely due to its use of subtabs and dropdown menus that organize large amounts of information. The site feels accessible without being overwhelming. Adopting this layout for our website would provide clarity, allowing users to quickly find relevant housing information while keeping the design minimalistic and user-friendly.

## Harvard

**<https://www.huhousing.harvard.edu/>**



### Design & Layout

- The website has a very clean and visually appealing layout, featuring images of the dorm halls that make browsing comfortable. It is well-designed with clear organization.
- The text is large and complemented by icons for easy navigation.
- Like MIT's website, it features subtabs for better organization, but Harvard goes further with additional subtabs under each section, making the page look even more streamlined and user-friendly.

- The homepage allows extensive scrolling, offering a deeper overview without needing to switch pages frequently.

## Announcements

- The homepage includes two prominent announcements relevant to students, providing quick access to important updates.

## Map

- A map is also present on the homepage, but it only highlights the location of dorm rooms, unlike MIT's which includes distances to campus.
- The map's language automatically adjusts to match the language settings of your computer.
- Each dorm has its own dedicated page, which is clean and comprehensive, including all necessary information. Additionally, within each dorm's page, there's a more detailed map that shows distances to campus and other relevant points.

## Filters

- The site offers filters to help users narrow down dorm choices based on factors like pricing, size, and more.

School Preference: All Schools

Rent

Size

More Filters

**Akron Street**10 Akron Street  
Cambridge, MA

\$2,208+

Studios and 1-bedroom convertibles •  
Utilities included • Some furnished units •  
Air conditioning**10  
Mellen Street**10 Mellen Street  
Cambridge, MA

\$2,604+

1 and 2 bedroom • Utilities included •  
Bicycle Storage • Non-smoking**YALE**

**<https://housing.yale.edu/>**

Yale University

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Welcome

**Design & Layout**

- Yale's website is similar to MIT's, focusing heavily on text. However, it is longer than MIT's and the text is larger, making it more readable but potentially overwhelming due to the extended content.
- Unlike Harvard's and MIT's websites, Yale's main page contains information primarily about housing policies and general details, rather than showcasing individual dorms.
- Access to dorm-specific information requires a student ID, limiting visibility to students only.

## **Conclusion**

I strongly prefer Harvard's website. In my experience, MIT's website feels overly condensed and filled with too much small text, making it harder to read. Harvard's site, on the other hand, is much easier to navigate and more comfortable to read. I also appreciate how both Harvard and MIT provide individual pages for each dorm, and I think we should incorporate that idea as well. Harvard's website stands out as a model for how clear and informative a dorm website should be.

Additionally, both websites offer a wealth of information beyond dorm details, including housing policies and registration procedures. We should make sure to include similar information on our site to ensure it's comprehensive and user-friendly.

Overall, using Harvard's housing website as a model would be an excellent approach for creating our own dorm room selection platform.

