

# COLLABORATIVE EXPLORATION

vancouver international airport



## Initial Design Focus

the designated physical plane spotting platforms at YVR **lack a prominent visual presence**, leading to concerns regarding a sense of community, **inconsistencies**, and an **insufficiency of information** for the plane spotting community. The disconnect between YVR and local aviation enthusiasts leads to **underwhelming experiences**, primarily due to **poor communication** and a **limited understanding** of YVR's capabilities

# Workshop Goals

our workshop aimed to verify our assumptions and research findings, ensuring that our design solution aligns with a worthwhile direction that benefits plane spotters. We hoped through exploring both real-life and blue sky scenarios, we uncover the fundamental values of plane spotters at viewing platforms, especially at South Terminal, and use these insights to iterate and enhance our design solution further.



**are there common themes and patterns we overlooked that could help enhance our design solution?**



**does our design solution fulfill genuine needs and prove useful to plane spotters?**

# Workshop Toolkit



zoom



figma



**ACTIVITY 1**

PROMPT 1: when I head to south terminal

Zach

Luis

Brian

PROMPT 2: as I am waiting & getting ready to shoot planes

Zach

Luis

Brian

PROMPT 3: when a plane is delayed

Zach

Luis

Brian

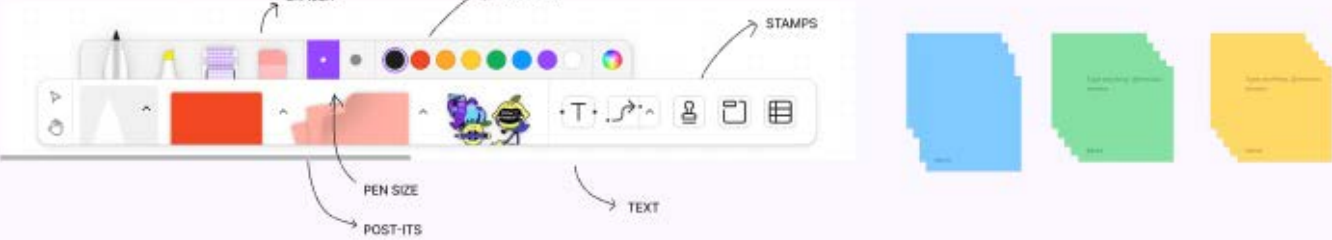
PROMPT 4: when my posts are being used as means of increasing engagement with the community


Zach


Luis


Brian

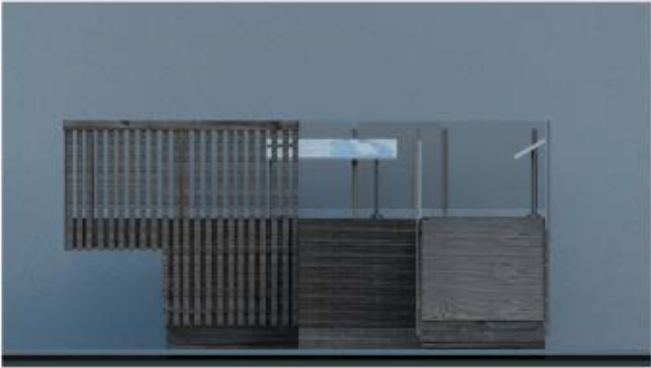
**ACTIVITY 2**











constraint consideration

# Facilitating Collaboration in a Virtual Workshop Environment

when designing our workshop activities, and translating them to a virtual environment we considered the boundaries of instantiating collaborative interactions between participants and how participant knowledge of virtual platforms may alter participant experience.

# Our Participants



Zach Lucas

zach



age: 25 years old  
bio: new to planespotting, bikes/transits to ST, studying graphic design and uses photographs in projects.



Brian Hickey

brian



age: 50 years old  
bio: yvr-based planespotter for over ten years, drives to ST, and uses spotting to relax.



Luis Raphael

luis



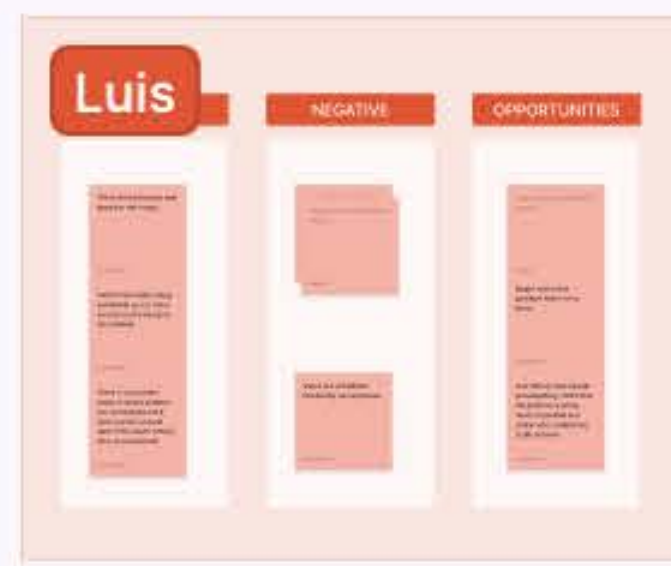
age: 22 years old  
bio: yvr-based planespotter for over a year, transit/drives to ST, influencer and attends flight school.



## Ice Breaker

the workshop began with asking the participants to share a memorable photo taken from planespotting. The initial framework of the participatory workshop aimed to drive open communication by promoting a space for the group to feel comfortable in sharing their background knowledge, ideas, and insights in an online setting.





PROMPT 4: when my posts are being used as means of increasing engagement with the community

PROMPT 3: when a plane is delayed



# Triple Lens

the first activity was designed to offer participants the opportunity to identify the strengths and weaknesses upon visiting South Terminal. Through a series of prompts, the participants wrote their thoughts under three primary categories; positive, negative and opportunity.

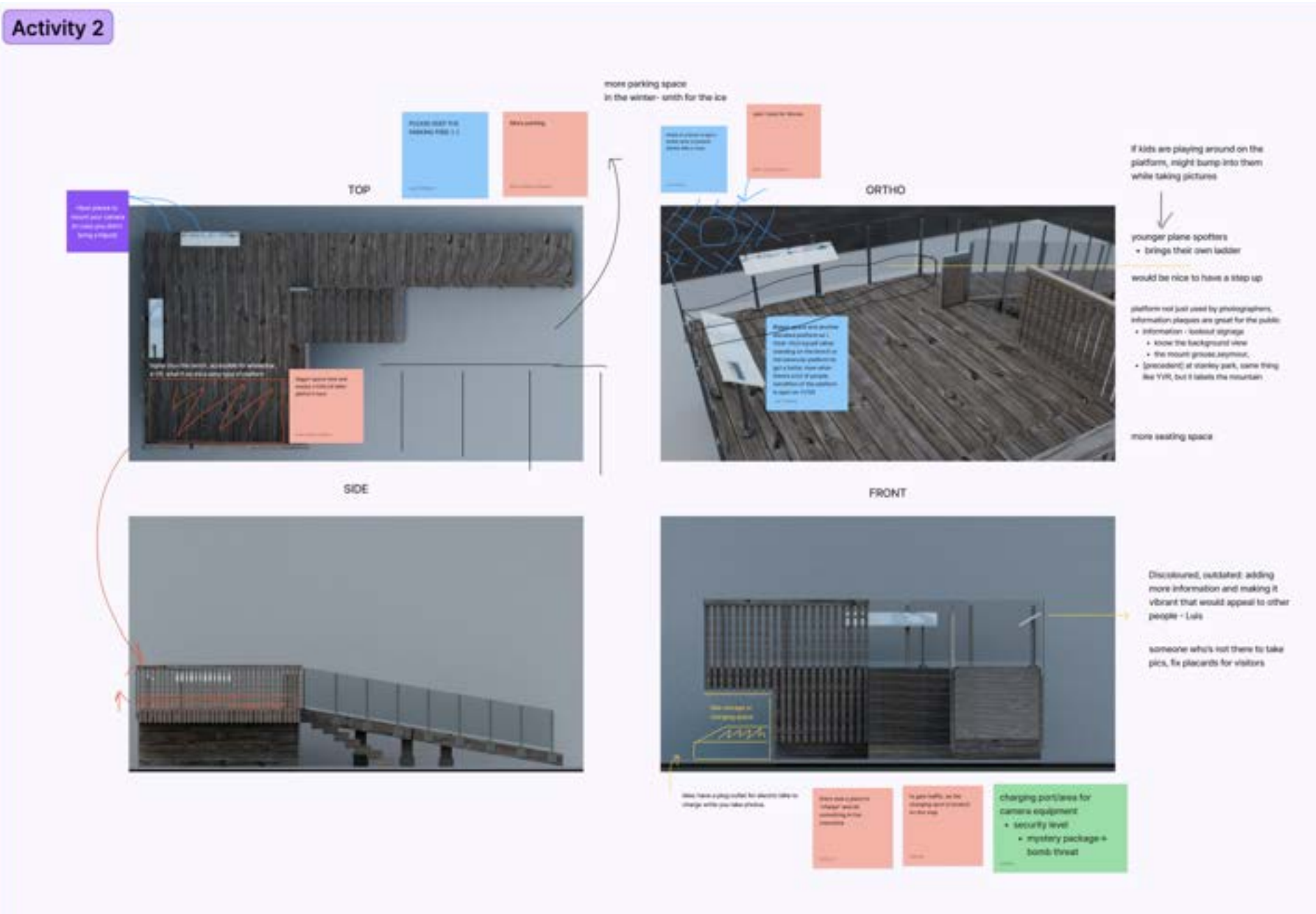
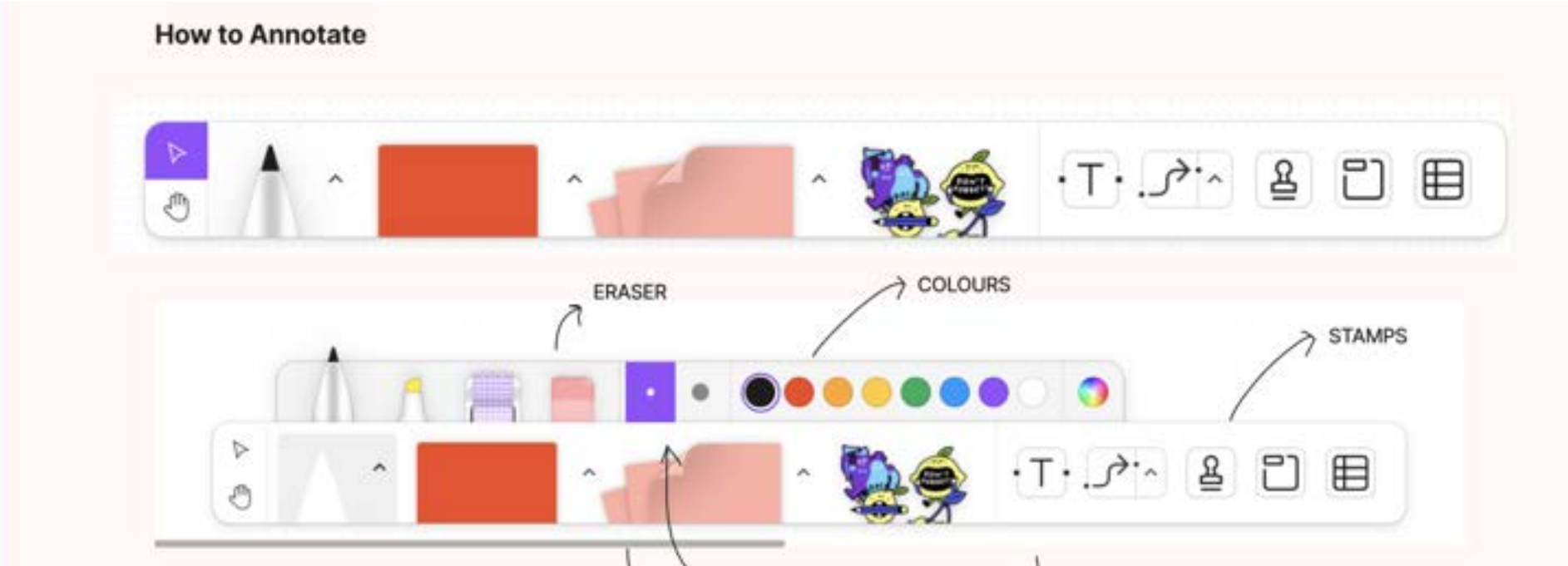
Triple Lens draws back to the idea of co-design in participatory workshops, inviting the participants to add their insight to arising possibilities. By conducting this activity, it further allowed us to uncover missed opportunities that stem from the values of the planespotting community.



# Interactive Model Mapping

Interactive Model Mapping extends from Triple Lens, encouraging participants to annotate possible solutions to a 3D model of South Terminal. Participants are asked to build on their existing thoughts and generate novel solutions to addressing the needs and challenges discussed as a group.

the activity aims to direct their focus into exploring the opportunities through ‘what ifs.’ It prompts the participants to communicate conceptually in an open collaborative space and yield diverse solutions into the design focus.





intro

activities

**insight**

reflection

Sabrina

Kaia Crozier

Brian Hickey

Samantha

Emily Lin

Zach Lucas

Zach Lucas

# Our findings

## ice breaker

participants' interest in aviation is rooted in a **variety of interconnected interests**, including photography, piloting, and enjoyment of plane watching.

## triple lens

while the platform occasionally experiences crowding and shot obstructions, **participants generally favour it as a shooting location**.

they express a preference for proactive communication from YVR regarding planes and delays to enhance their spotting experience.

## model mapping

participants **proposed optimizing the space** with suggestions for a viewing platform and camera holders, **emphasizing the potential addition of amenities** such as electrical charging stations based on the hidden location.



# Our limitations

the workshop lacked the desired engagement level due to the limited number of participants and online platform. However, this allowed the participants time and space to voice their opinions that would have been difficult otherwise. During discussion, **we also actively participated in discussions and provided hands-on support** in navigating Figma.







## Thematic Analysis

after the workshop, we reviewed the FigJam document and cross-referenced them with our workshop notes, incorporating additional insights from participant conversations that were not initially documented. Additionally, we included feedback on our design solution and focus, taking into account participants' opinions and addressing any questions related to the ongoing work.

## outcomes

- ✈ obstruction of view
- ✈ communication from YVR

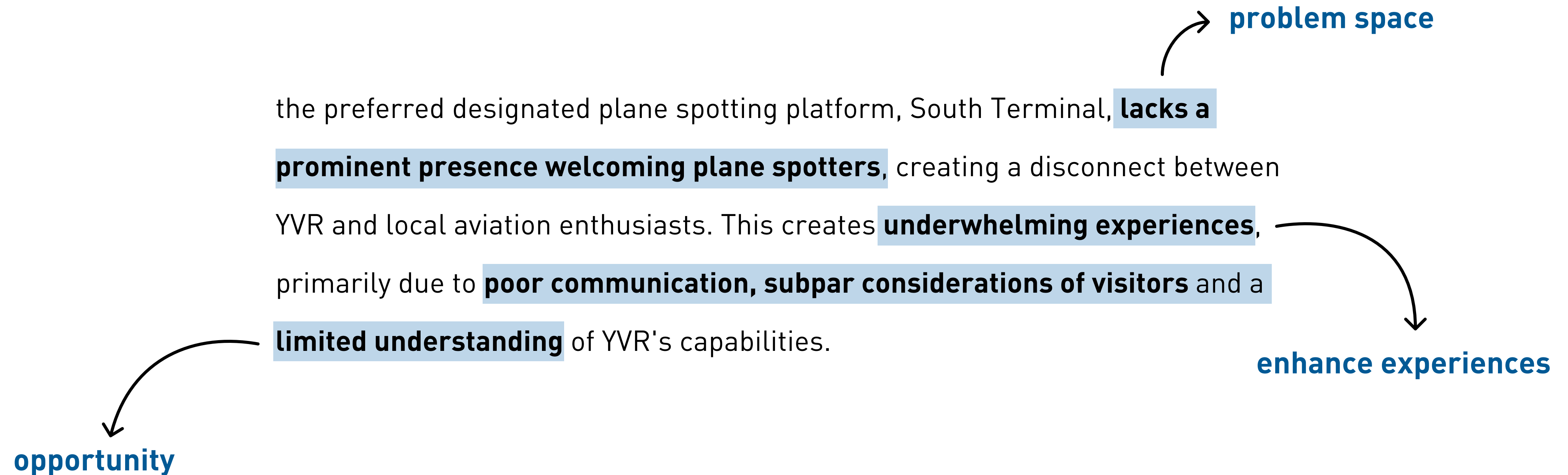
- ✈ space optimization
- ✈ additional amenities



## Refined Design Focus

the preferred designated plane spotting platform, South Terminal, **lacks a prominent presence welcoming plane spotters**, creating a disconnect between YVR and local aviation enthusiasts. This creates **underwhelming experiences**, primarily due to **poor communication, subpar considerations of visitors** and a **limited understanding** of YVR's capabilities.

## Refined Design Focus





# Key Considerations Moving Forward

## sustainability

- ✈ providing charging ports (for camera battery, bikes, cars)
- ✈ highlight scenic appeal
- ✈ create traffic by adding charging stations

## accessibility

- ✈ obstruction of view- physical, height difficulties, congestion during special planes
- ✈ places to mount camera to avoid juggling pieces of equipment
- ✈ provide real-time information on flights

## community

- ✈ factoring all users to the space (travelers, cyclists, families etc.)
- ✈ a space to connect plane spotters with each other
- ✈ motivate plane spotters through photo promotion and recognition of captured photos



THANK YOU FOR  
FLYING WITH US

