

**EXERCISE DETAILS**

- 1) Choose a location. Your room, a confined public space, or a shared space in your home. Carefully examine the location. What artifacts, ecofacts and features do you notice?
- 2) Make 3 lists: one with the artifacts, one with the ecofacts and one with the features that you noticed in your room.
- 3) Make a floor plan/map of your room, as if you were looking at it from above, with the main features and architectural artifacts that you see.
- 4) **Place the artifacts on your floor plan using symbols.** Provide an index showing what artifact etc corresponds with what symbol.
- 5) Observe the relation of the artifacts, ecofacts and features with each other. Do any patterns emerge?
- 6) Write a **short description of not more than 2 double spaced pages** – about what type of behaviors that the patterns you observed may reveal. Can you think of behaviours which may not be obvious from the data?

The **purpose** of this exercise is to make you realize that a large part of our behavior is manifested through material culture. Some times we perform different activities and thus, we behave differently in different spaces. Then our material culture is spatially differentiated. We won't keep our garbage in our living room, for example, because we believe that garbage is not clean. Thus, we don't expect to see garbage cans in a living room.

Other times we perform several activities in the same space, or one activity in many areas. Then the patterns on material culture get more mixed up. Theoretically we eat in the kitchen, or the dining room. Nobody would get upset in the idea of breakfast in bed, however, or dinner in front of the TV in the living room for example. Mugs and plates in the bedroom and living room are not unusual sightings.

Some times the same activity may be performed in different places, with very different connotations (For instance the use of everyday china in our kitchen, or the occasional use of good porcelain in the dining room, perhaps signifying that our behavior changes from informal to formal).

**GRADING**

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| 1) artifact, ecofact and feature lists:                                    | 1% |
| 2) Floor plan with artifacts, ecofacts and features on it, and with index: | 2% |
| 3) Interpretation of present (and absent) behaviors:                       | 2% |

You will be graded on the **completeness** of your assignment, rather than its content. I do not expect you to put on the floor plan every single item that exists in your room. If for example in a corner of your room you keep a variety of food and drinks, you can mention: dry food, fresh fruit, and liquids. With books, for example, you can just mention: work books and leisure books.

All the items (or categories of items) mentioned in your lists must appear on your floor plan. Since I will be grading the completeness of your assignment I want to see that you are systematic and thorough. If there are items (or categories of items) on your lists that do not appear on your floor plan and vice versa points will be taken away. Equally, your interpretation will have to cover the patterns or lack of patterns that appear on your floor plan by your artifacts, ecofacts and features. If not, points will be taken away.

**Due date: Thursday January 19th, in class.**