

Public Bathrooms in the Boston Common

Private Acts in Public Spaces

Design Synthesis

For this assignment, take all the studies and drawings you have done so far and reconsider them based on the criteria outlined in the preliminary assignment. Is your project unified? Well detailed? Beautiful? Now is the time to reconsider these details before the final review of this project.

Considerations:

Program

You have been given a rudimentary program. The first act of design is to question and challenge the program. The decisions you make about what constitutes your program reflect your attitude about your design intentions. Consider carefully all the program elements that you wish to include and their relationship to one another.

- What is the relationship between the sexes and the spaces required by each?
- What type of fixtures will you use (off the shelf or custom designed)?
- What other items are required of the program (toilet paper dispensers, paper towels, garbage receptacles, mirrors, condom and sanitary napkin dispensers, etc.)?

Identity

Each urban structure or artifact has an identity. The meaning of an object can be explicitly identified (as in posting a sign) or its meaning can be accrued over time through repeated use (for instance, the stairs at the student center serve also as a stage and a place to sit and hang out on nice days). The meaning of a structure / object can also evolve out of its relationship to an existing typology (e.g. white clapboard New England Church with a steeple reads first as “church”).

- How will passers-by know the identity and purpose of your structure?
- Is there a sign or should there be a sign?
- Are the interior activities somehow revealed without compromising privacy?
- Is there something about the shape, form, and organization of your structure which identifies itself with a Public Bathroom Toilet “Typology”?

Public / Private

The separation between the public and private realm in our society is continually challenged. The gradation of most public spaces to most private spaces has dissipated in our culture. Think of overhearing a very private cell phone conversation spoken at high volume in a public space like a train, or airport.

- Is there a clear delineation and gradation of public and private spaces?
- Which spaces have uses or services shared by both sexes? Which are entirely private?
- How is privacy defined? Is it defined by location, controlled access, change of materials, or transparency / opacity?