

A Sense of Place Assignment

For this project, I decided to photograph the dorm rooms of various people in my hall. I thought it would be interesting to see what a person's personal possessions can tell us about their personalities. Each of us in Wheeler were given the same style room on move-in-day, for the most part, and I thought it would be interesting to explore the ways in which each person made it their own. I wanted to reflect the personal space within a public space. Each room, in fact each side of a room, is a very personal space where people live, but as soon as you leave the room and enter the hall, you are in a public space.

Upon entering different people's rooms, the first thing one notices is the furniture placement. I noticed that nearly everyone had manipulated the model they had found here on move-in day. While most people only switched the position of their dressers and desks, others had completely rearranged their rooms. The main thing that reflected each person's identity was their possessions. Their rooms comprise of the things they most prized or felt that they needed most. While some had few things, some of the rooms were packed with everything imaginable. Some rooms had a common theme, while others were completely random in their colors, decorations, and general aura. The arrangement of items also reflected the compatibility of the roommates. I noticed a correlation between my friends who had reported having roommates troubles with the feeling of detachment within the room. The objects tell us the story of each student's life here. The placement of each object has an underlying meaning to its owner that the viewer can only attempt to explain.









