



What do I see?

What do I see?

An Artery. Diversity. History. Fluctuation. Schedule.

How is the corridor used?

As an artery. This is the main artery of MIT. Most everyone uses it every day. It is the place in which we all momentarily merge and flow through together.

Who has used, is using or will use the corridor?

An incredible diversity of people can be found in the corridor. Everyone has different backgrounds, thoughts, interests and areas of study. In addition to diversity, it is fun to think of the history and future of the people that have used, are using or will use the corridor. Think about who has walked down this hall in the past, either as students, professors or visiting lecturers. Who is walking down the corridor right now? Who will walk down the corridor in the future? What has been, is being or will be accomplished by these people? The many flyers, paintings, posters and displays found in the corridor are traces of the diversity found in the users of this hall.

What does it feel like to walk down the corridor?

It is constantly changing. There is a fluctuation in the quantity of pedestrians present in the corridor. The fluctuation is caused by time of day, times of classes, the cross walk on Mass. Ave., the weather, day of the week, etc. It can feel incredibly crowded, busy and somewhat claustrophobic or very peaceful, quiet and contemplative. In the more busy times, there is a sense of schedule one can feel. Everyone appears to be in a rush. There is a clock over the main entry of the corridor in Lobby 7 which tends to reinforce this feeling. Late at night, when it is just one person in the hall, it is peaceful. It is the only time that one can clearly see both ends of the corridor. When the hall is in use, it almost has the feeling of "infinity". Neither end can be seen.

What does Jacobs see?



1: Questions

What does Jacobs see?

Does the corridor directly relate to a street or sidewalk?

Is the Infinite Corridor MIT's most vital organ?

Is the corridor safe?

How much opportunity is there for crime in or around the corridor?

Is there an unconscious, casual surveillance occurring in the corridor at different times of the day?

Are there turfs present in or around the corridor?

2: Essay

A city sidewalk means something only in conjunction with the uses that border it and its safety relies on the amount of users during the day and night. If I take this understanding and apply it to the Infinite Corridor I am not convinced that the quality of the corridor's space or its safety are adequate.

The corridor has very few uses bordering it...the Student Services Center, an Athena Cluster, The Building 4 Coffee Shop, Lobby 7 and Lobby 10. I do not include the many offices along this corridor because the doors are always shut and thus, become a part of the wall. One's back is turned to the corridor upon entering the Student Services Center or the Athena Cluster which subtracts from the activities of the space outside. The coffee shop takes users out of the stream of traffic momentarily also subtracting from the corridor's activity. Out of the two lobbies, only Lobby 10 adds to the activity and life of the Infinite Corridor. During the day, it is active with various groups trying to reach out into the constant flow of pedestrians. During the night, the lobby is used as a space to play or rest. Both of these activities make this one spot on the long line of the corridor more pleasurable because of the interaction it brings.

The safety of the corridor during the day is fine. The amount of traffic supplies so many eyes that it would be shocking to hear of a crime. The safety of the corridor at night is another issue all together. Unlike a well balanced city sidewalk with bars and restaurants circulating users throughout the area late at night, the corridor supplies no eyes. Everything shuts down and everyone goes home. If no one is watching, it is potentially a dangerous place. There are opportunities for crime found in the side corridors, down the stairwells or behind shut doors. This is something to worry about.



What does Mitchell see?

1: Questions

What does Mitchell see?

How many people wear headphones, talk on their mobile phones or email while walking down the corridor?

Are we on camera, being projected into another space and time without our knowledge?

How many signals of other peoples interactions invisibly dance around us in the corridor?

How long will it be before we blend into the architecture of the corridor?

How long will it be before the walls of the corridor begin to be windows into other places and times?

Is the corridor filled with a web of unseen space?

Will the corridor ever physically quiet down because there will be no need for students to physically come to class?

2: Essay

The Infinite Corridor, MIT. One, two, three students pass, back-to-back, all wearing headphones. Each in a different world I cannot hear. Another student passes completely immersed in conversation with someone that is not walking next to him. Only a phone held in his hand and a wire connecting to his ear. Where is the other end of this conversation taking place? A line has formed at the Athena Cluster. All waiting to communicate with some one in another room, city, state, country. The ones at the computers are hitting "Send" now, shooting off words into cyber space.

Imagine what is happening inside these walls, in the ceiling above, in the air you just breathed. There are electromagnetic waves of information surrounding you. And you can't even tell. Someone in Spain just whispered unheard words in your ear. An image of a grandchild just moved through your chest. A syllabus just floated by right behind you.

This corridor could be made more enjoyable for us cyborgs. Let's line the walls with LCD panels and let the world in. Since there aren't many windows, this would be a nice change. Wait. Don't stop there. Make our wireless connections perfect throughout the corridor. Computerize all the doors so we just have to think "open" rather than physically pull it. Get the coffee shop up to date so we can send in our orders before we get there. Have videophones installed for our use. There are going to be more and more of us. Get ready.

Conclusion:

After completing this assignment I turn to the questions posed in the assignment...

How can one be confident that one's own knowledge is true of and in the world outside oneself?

I don't think that one could ever be confident about this. Even if extensive research was done, there is no guarantee that the final knowledge would be completely true and all-encompassing of the world.

Which is the more productive view: that knowledge of the world is contained in the world or that it is triggered in our mind by it?... Objectively true or construction that we make?

I think the more productive view is that the knowledge of the world is contained in the world. In this case one could objectively look at the world and find the needed information. However, do I think that's realistic? No. In this assignment alone I have demonstrated three different ways of looking at the same thing. And who knows how many more views are out there?