

Participant 4

Within this contextual inquiry, Tim interviewed one of his roommates. Living in an apartment has been challenging for college students as they are used to going to campus every day and working from areas such as libraries. Understanding and empathizing with students will be essential for our team.

Questions

What is living in a small spaced environment like?

- He grew up living in an apartment, so living in a small space is normal.
- The cost has always been the biggest concern in terms of finding a space that was affordable.
- How much they spend for what they get is drastically less than bigger, larger areas.

What are the challenges of living in small spaces?

- Privacy has always been the biggest challenge.
- In the apartment that he lives in at home, he doesn't have his own room to live in.
- Not enough space in terms of family space for everyone to live comfortably due to the price.
- Had to always stack things on top of each other.
- They had to be cautious about what they bought because they just didn't have enough room for a large assortment of items.

If you look around you, what part of the apartment do you think has the potential to be redesigned? Kitchen? Dining table? Living room?

- Tim's bedroom seems to lack the amount of space needed. 2 people need to work out in the living room and have their offices there, so it is increasingly difficult to work when guests might be over or if others want to use the shared space.

Observations

- Shares an office space with his roommate in his bedroom
- Roommate plays video games loudly, so it can be difficult to work in his room at times because of this
- Living with 3 other roommates, finding privacy and space is difficult to do in an apartment setting in Seattle