

Winter 2026 / 3 credits
Monday and Wednesday
8:30a to 10:30a
Room in A&AB

Instructor:
Joy Knoblauch, PhD
jknoblau@umich.edu

GSI:
TBD

ARCH 323 History II Making the Late-Modern Subject

In the Introduction to his book on *Responsive Environments*, Larry Busbea writes that “the attempt to model and optimize the transactional points of contact” between object and subject was the core project of design by the end of the 1960s.¹ Funded by the military industrial complex, architects, engineers, and psychologists created new knowledge and new designed objects that would be responsive to a cybernetic landscape. This course explores the question of design as interface in three units: chair, population, and energy between 1950 and 2000. We will ask: how do we characterize the entanglement of geopolitics, finance, form, and psychology from the second half of the 20th century? How old are these assemblages? Students will become familiar with a few key examples of architecture and design and while studying and reframing an interface (chair, window, room, hallway, street) of their choice.

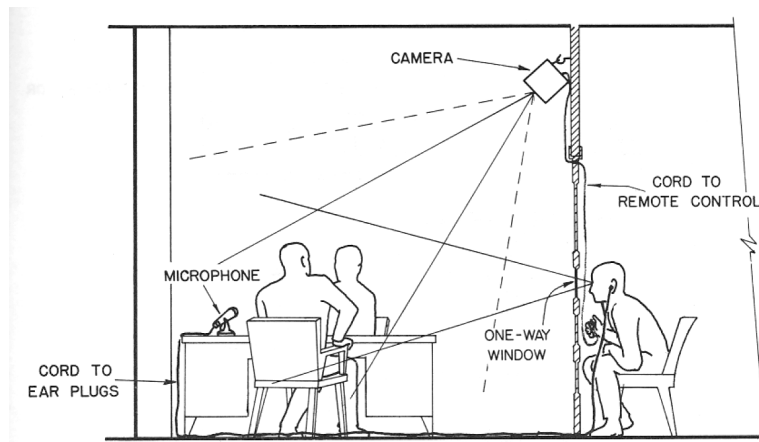


Figure 3. Interview office showing placement of camera and observer.

Above. Schematic of Interview Office for psychological research of interview training in Edward T. Hall's Handbook for Proxemic Research (1974) in Larry Busbea, "Pattern Watchers" The Responsive Environment. Design, Aesthetics, and the Human in the 1970s. (University of Minnesota Press, 2019), 59.

¹ Larry Busbea, *The Responsive Environment. Design, Aesthetics, and the Human in the 1970s*. (University of Minnesota Press, 2019), xiv.