

Task #5: Visit to a Site

Analyzing a Site in Need of a Makeover.

Task #5 introduces the second half of the tasks in which students will create a new design for their chosen site in school.

5.1 Choosing a Site

The first team task is to choose a place in school that in their opinion needs to be remodelled. It could be indoors or outdoors. In order to keep the workload manageable, choose a place on an appropriate scale – rather one space or part of a space than several spaces or a whole floor. Prefer a place that is used by many people and would really benefit from an upgrade (in this case, more people will be interested in your idea). If necessary, organize a collective tour of the building and discuss the choice of site on the spot.

5.2 Visiting the Site

Architects, engineers, builders, project managers, consultants, experts, and all kinds of other professionals working with buildings and environments visit the object they are working on every once in a while (or more often). The work of an architect begins and ends with visiting the site – at first, to observe the place and get to know it before starting to design anything, and, finally, to discuss issues that arise during construction and monitor the progress.

In the course of this exercise, everyone will visit their chosen site in the school. Take the sheets with the questions, a pencil (to answer the questions, sketch and draw designs and plans), measuring tape or laser measuring tool, ruler, camera, or a smartphone).

5.3 Presenting the Results

Submit the completed questionnaire (including a floorplan of the chosen site) and 2-3 photographs before the deadline.

Good luck!

Task #5: A Visit to the Site

Analyzing a Site in Need of a Makeover Questionnaire.

1. Why is this place important in the school? What are the aspects that make it essential to many people? Would the school be able to exist without this place and what would it be like?

2. Who is using this place the most? Is the user group of this place diverse (students, teachers, girls and boys of different ages and with various interests)? Or is it rather homogenous? What are people doing in this place?

Observe the site for 10 minutes. How many people can you count? Who are they? What are they doing? Write down the time of the observation. How could the time of the day possibly affect the observation results?

3. What three words are uniquely descriptive of this place? Avoid generic characteristics; instead, try to describe the feeling of this place with words that could not be used about other places. These attributes don't necessarily have to be positive. Observe if the place has an effect on the body position and posture of the people spending time here or passing by. How does it affect it?

4. How do people walk here? What is the pace? What directions are they taking? To describe this, accompany your answer with a diagram.

Does the room seem to impact the movements of people who spend time here or move through it? How?

5. What are the furnishings of this place like? Do they support the activities taking place here? Or on the contrary? Is there something missing? Something superfluous?

6. How does this place sound? What kind of sounds and voices can you hear here? How do people speak? What are they talking about?

7. How does it smell here? It may seem at first that there is no smell, but try to focus and make full use of your nose. Closing your eyes may also help. Is this smell always here?

8. Observe the light situation. Is it well-lighted or dim? Is it due to weather, design, or the size of the windows?

9. How does this place make you feel? Try to specify why it makes you feel good, bad, comfortable, etc.

Measure your site. Draw a plan. Don't forget to note down the height of the room.