

Title: The Coffee House Revisited

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Since its origin in 1554, the coffee shop has evolved from a grand, large-scaled place where one discussed religious ideals to a simple, small-scaled shop and the social hub for the renegade (Parlington 2009, Oral 1997). Today, the modern coffee shop has been labeled as a place for productivity and community, especially with the rise in the number of people self-employed (DeGuzman and Tang 2011). As noted in the *Social Transformation of Coffeeshouse*, “people increasingly use coffee houses as both a social sphere and a private zone to work, read, and use electronic devices” (Dilks, Lozzi & Woldoff 2013).

In the early 1990s, Ray Oldenburg described a third place as “a great variety of public places that host the regular, voluntary, informal, and happily anticipated gatherings of individuals beyond the realms of home and work” (Waxman 2006). Arguably then, the coffee shop, regardless of its purpose, has become a third place, and Waxman (2006) builds on this idea suggesting a model for place attachment, which identifies sight lines, natural light and appropriate furniture as key components in creating a successful coffee shop. My research investigates how the coffee house has transformed over time in conjunction with Waxman’s and Oldenburg’s descriptions and the ways in which they use these ideas. Specifically, this work investigates how a co-working space can effectively be integrated into a coffeeshouse, how a coffee shop would maintain its allure for productivity while still promoting a sense of community, and how these two types of spaces combine programmatically?

Methodologically, case studies are identified, investigated and quantitatively analyzed. The case studies were selected to capture methods for organizing and creating volumes of space, reasoning for seating and table selection and studying transitions between spaces for different purposes. Square footages were measured, and the resulting calculations for the persons per sq. ft. are described. In summary, this study showed that the spaces in coffeehouses should focus on an organization and delineation of space based on the need of the user and/or of the proposed use by the owner. Specifically, I found that the spaces used specifically for individual work must be visually and acoustically connected to the restaurant area itself, and thus from this research, an ideal program, using the model of Sankt Oberholz (2013) and the associated ratio between the restaurant and the co-working space, is suggested to not only describe the spaces needed to accommodate particular functions effectively but to create a sense of place for a community as well.