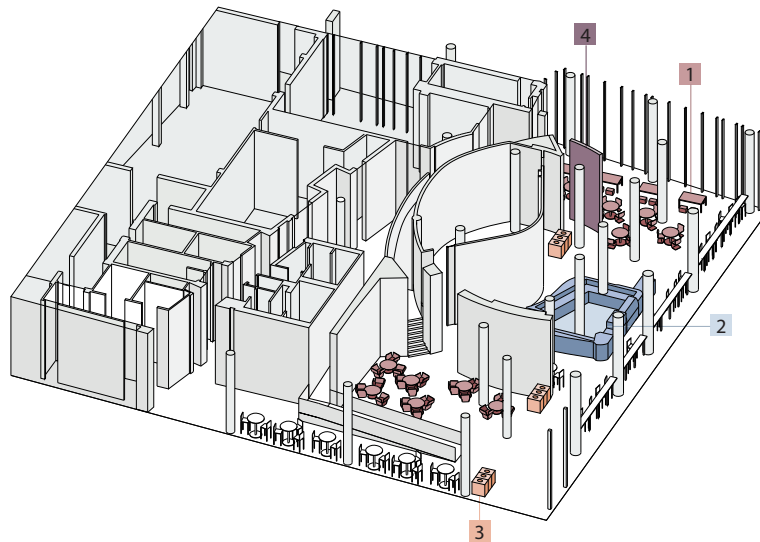


# DEFINING SOCIAL SPACE

Christine Zhu

One's personal space can be defined by his behavior, but other times, the environment is also a contributing factor to how one interacts with space. One intangible feature of many cafes including Tazza D'oro as a direct influence to behavior are Hours of Operation. This general set of rules dictates patterns of human use, where operating times

influence what foods people choose and whether their time is spent more on social events like eating, in contrast with later times when food is no longer served. These after-hours change the main activity to become studying, where people engage in different space defining activities.



1 Actions are a motivating force to how people react to the environment. When someone is studying, social space is defined by their intentions of studying either in groups (loud group work), or individually (being quiet and keeping to themselves). This contrasts with those who solely come to Tazza D'Oro to eat.

2 Objects such as the counter, coffee machines, and presence of food at the designated cafe area and register tacitly label this space as somewhere to obtain food. The named area leads to the distinction between the workers and customers, where specific social norms are connected to job titles.



3 Objects such as trash cans and recycling bins are very common in a cafe area. These objects influence personal consciousness, where one is pushed upon the decision to choose between three receptacles to dispose their trash in. This makes one aware of their own actions and have a consciousness of their surrounding space and environment.



4 The location of the whiteboards scattered around the seating area at the far side of Tazza give the impression that these areas can be utilized as study spaces. The social space is defined by whether people partake in group study or have individual use of the whiteboard. The whiteboard is a signifier for collaboration and independent study.