

*So if you're a robot and you're living on this planet, you can do things that you can't do in real life - things that you wished you could do: like fly; like have a car that flies; like have furniture that is alive.*  
William Joyce

Assignment Worksheet  
Space/Device

Combining the interactive capabilities of the Lego Mindstorm NXT kit with two to three physical materials, create an installation that changes a users response to a physical space in Ryder Hall. Your material intervention must not permanently alter the space and be designed for quick installation and de-installation. You will work in groups of 2 or 3.

Select a location within the building to where you can install the device and materials. If two groups choose the same location, negotiate to find ways to share the space.

We as users of this building and buildings like it are intimately and intuitively familiar with why certain spaces exist. We are familiar with what to do in these spaces and we have concrete expectations. We know how to safely and effectively navigate through space (how to sit/which direction to face, for example) in accordance with the activities suggested by the objects existing in the room and the intended use of the room. For this project you will need to investigate a specific space, its attributes and characteristics in order to change it. Specifically, you want to change, in an interesting way, your audience's understanding of what that space is, what happens in that space and their experience of that space. How radical that change is, to what end, to what goal...is up to you.

*Consider: Movement/Traffic, Use, Routine, Expectations, Surprise, Intention, Comfort, Discomfort, etc.*

*Analysis*

1. As you walk through take notice of the spaces and consider how a device with sensors to detect sound motion, touch can be used to allow the space to be modified, adjusted, enhanced, or otherwise mediated.

*Design and implement*

2. Sketch the space and use this to design your installation.
3. Construct using material you select. Choice of materials can be paper, cloth, string, found objects. Things that make a noise are possible – in some spaces. The only limitation is that everything should be light weight, easy to assemble and safe to handle.
4. Install the materials in a way that you can remove the MindstormNXT and reconnect it the next morning.
5. Installations need to remain in place for three days in the last week of the semester.

**Grading**

You installation will be graded on the following criteria.  
Depth of thinking about the space and now it can be mediated  
Broadness of thinking and openness to experimentation  
Teamwork and cooperation for goal achievement