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Can You Photograph Belonging?

From Nonclusive by Design #17, Spring Challenge. Live: contribute through the form at tally.so/r/obOl91, or run it as a group exercise.

WHAT IT IS

An exercise built around one question: **can you photograph belonging?** Look for a place or a detail where design expresses that you (or someone else) already belong, or where it expresses the opposite. Photograph it, give it a belonging score from 1 to 5, and describe what you noticed.

HOW TO RUN IT

1. **Alone:** open the form (tally.so/r/obOl91), photograph, score, describe. A few minutes, any time.
2. **As a group:** agree on the question, walk for half an hour, photograph, then compare what different people saw in the same environment.
3. **Close on the comparison:** the same corridor produces very different photographs depending on who is looking. That difference is the material. **What do you take with you?**

WHY IT WORKS

Belonging is usually silent: design that welcomes you rarely announces it, while design that doesn't often does. Learning to see that difference, and to catch it in a photograph, is the exercise's real work.

Contributed photographs (with your permission) join the research corpus behind my work on categorisation and belonging.