
NSCAD Student Workstation

Human Factors for
Designers

Sepideh Ansari

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Project #3

Location

'Logia' located at the main level of NSCAD Port campus, Halifax, NS (Fig 1). 'Logia' is a long rectangular shape space in front of the entrance door. It has high ceilings with large and bright suspension lamps. The floor is cement and the long side walls are on one side from wood and the other side from window glasses that open to the street. The window side also has a long sitting area (bench) made of wood. On the other side of the wood wall two open entrances to the second floor exist: one a long slope and the other by stairs. A small space is available next to the entrance door that could be considered part of the 'Logia'.



Fig 1. Logia – Main level of Port Campus (a) view from the entrance (b) view from the backend (c) small space next to the entrance door (d) Long wooden bench next to the window side

Users

Main users of 'Logia' can be considered as: Students, Teachers or Staff and Guests.

Students: NSCAD students will form the main group of users. Students may come within different disciplines such as Design (Graphic Design, Product Design and etc), Fine Art (Sculpture, Ceramics, Painting and etc) and Media.

Teachers and Staff: Mainly NSCAD teachers and staff may use this place if intended.

Guests: Guests may use this facility if 'Logia' is designed to accommodate guests (not only students and teachers).

General Usage

My intended usage for 'Logia' is to create a relaxing area where students and teachers can talk in group or study in a semi-private manner while having a coffee shop at the extra small space next to the entrance door.

Required Functionalities

I will categorize the required functionalities of the workstations used in 'Logia' based on its related users:

Students

Reading and Writing: Students should be able to read and write comfortably while seating in the workstation.

High-tech devices: Students often use their laptops; therefore they should be able to place their laptops in a safe and suitable position.

Drawing and Sketching: Many of the art students may need to spend time drawing new sketches. As this activity is to some extent similar (not the same) to writing it will be considered in the design.

Food and Drink: As 'Logia' is not going to become a library, food and drink will be allowed. Therefore students can have their food and drink while studying and chatting together.

These activities can be done in two different modes: Private and In-Group. In the private mode the students study on their own workstation but in the in-group mode the students share a large workstation to work within a group of students.

Specialized activities (e.g. sculpturing) which require broader spaces will be excluded as they are assumed to be done in their specialized studios.

Teachers/Staff and Guests

Most of the teachers and staff requirements are similar to the students. Sometimes teachers or staff may have large meetings such as after conference gatherings, small showcases and even a class meeting.

Objects

Two types of workstations will be designed for 'Logia': One as the private studying desk and the other as the in-group working table.

Private Desks

These desks will be mounted on the wood wall (approximately 2 to 3 of them). They will be fixed to the walls but their height and tilt can be changed. The private desks will accompany by a regular padded stool chairs with a lumbar extra pad.

Reading/Writing/Sketching: The adjustable height will be used to conform to different human heights and the adjustable tilt will make the desk suitable for reading/writing and even sketching. These desks will have two semi-closed sides which makes them more private. A wide reading lamp will help the students to read with more focus. An extra projected lower border of the desk will prevent the objects (books, laptop and etc) on the desk from falling (slopping) down.

Laptops: The private desks will be equipped with an electrical outlet plus an internet connection. The wood made desks will use the natural color of the wood that will ease using an optical mouse without a mouse pad.

Food and Drink: An extra circular wire will project out of the desk so the students can place their drinks in it. This way the drinks will never spill on the laptops or the assignments!

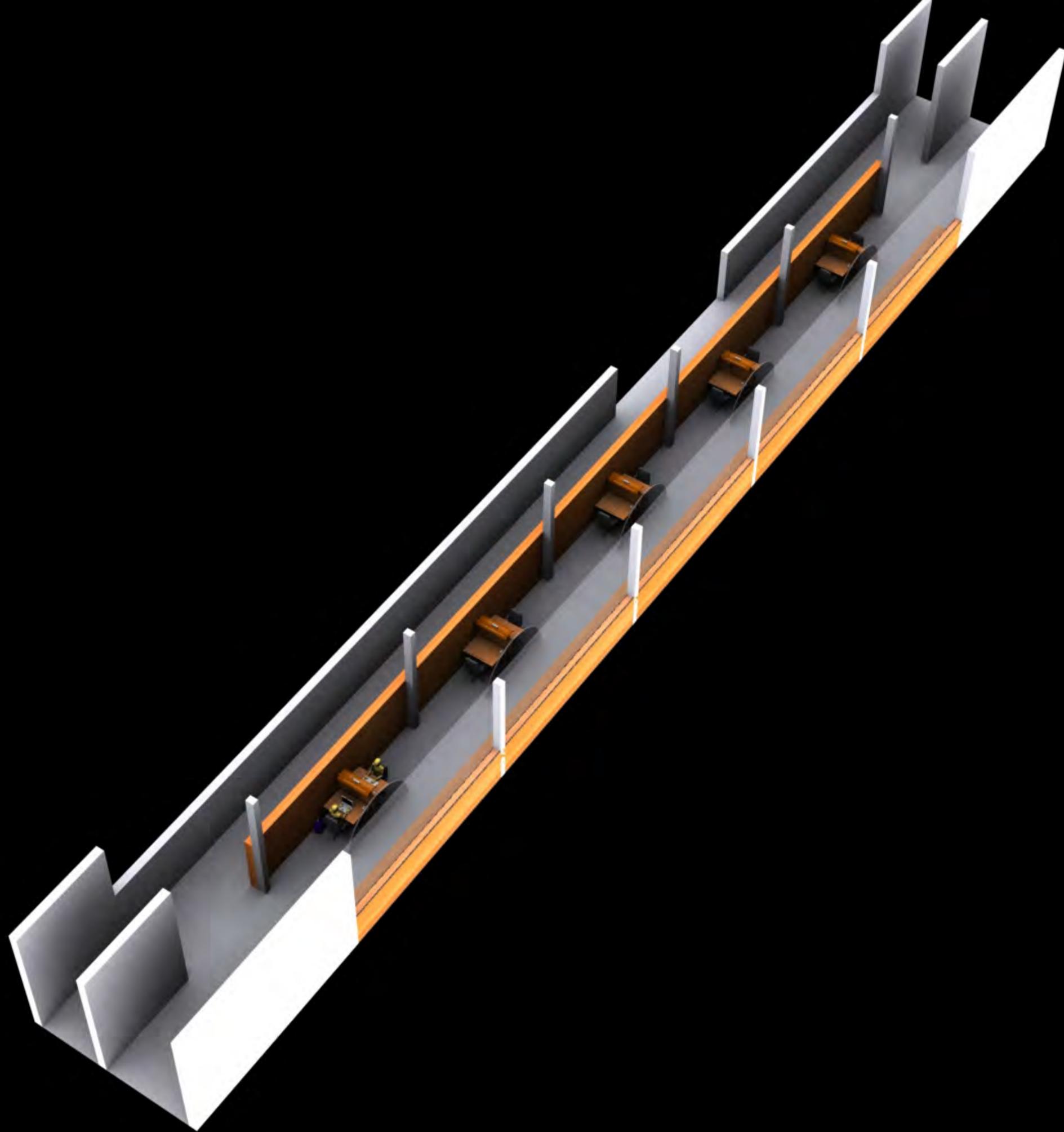
Group Tables

Group tables will be placed next to the available long wooden bench (approximately 2 to 3 of them). They are moveable and they can be attached together to make longer tables if necessary. Although the existing bench can be used as a seating area, couple extra stools will be used in order to provide seats around the table.

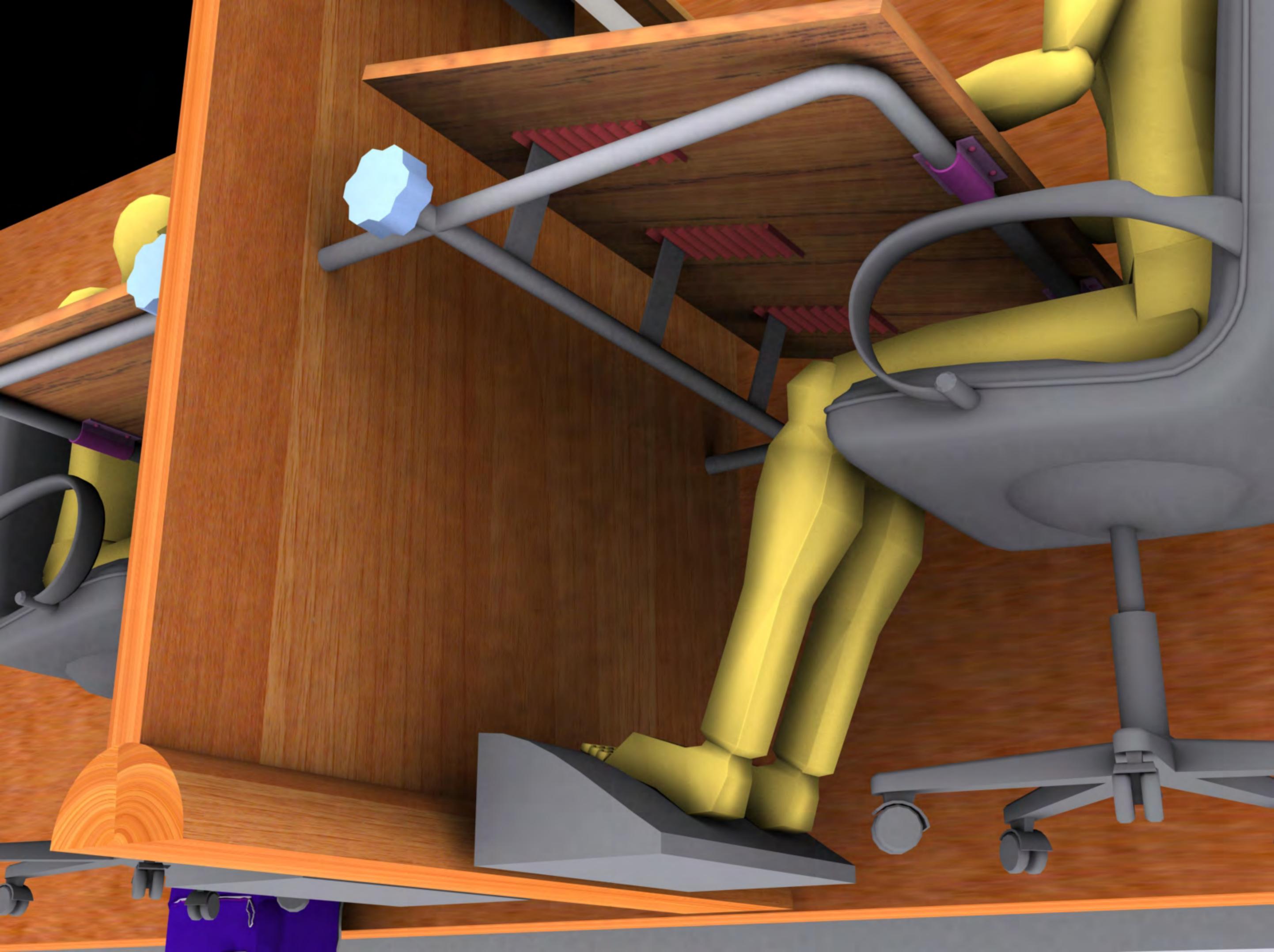
Reading/Writing/Sketching: No extra design for these activities except the height adjustment feature. The wide surface of these tables gives the students the opportunity to share and present their art works to each other. They can work in groups and have enough space to put their objects on these tables.

Laptops: Unfortunately it is not possible to include an electrical or internet outlet for these tables as we want these tables to be moveable. The outlets will be placed on the lower part of the lengthy bench.

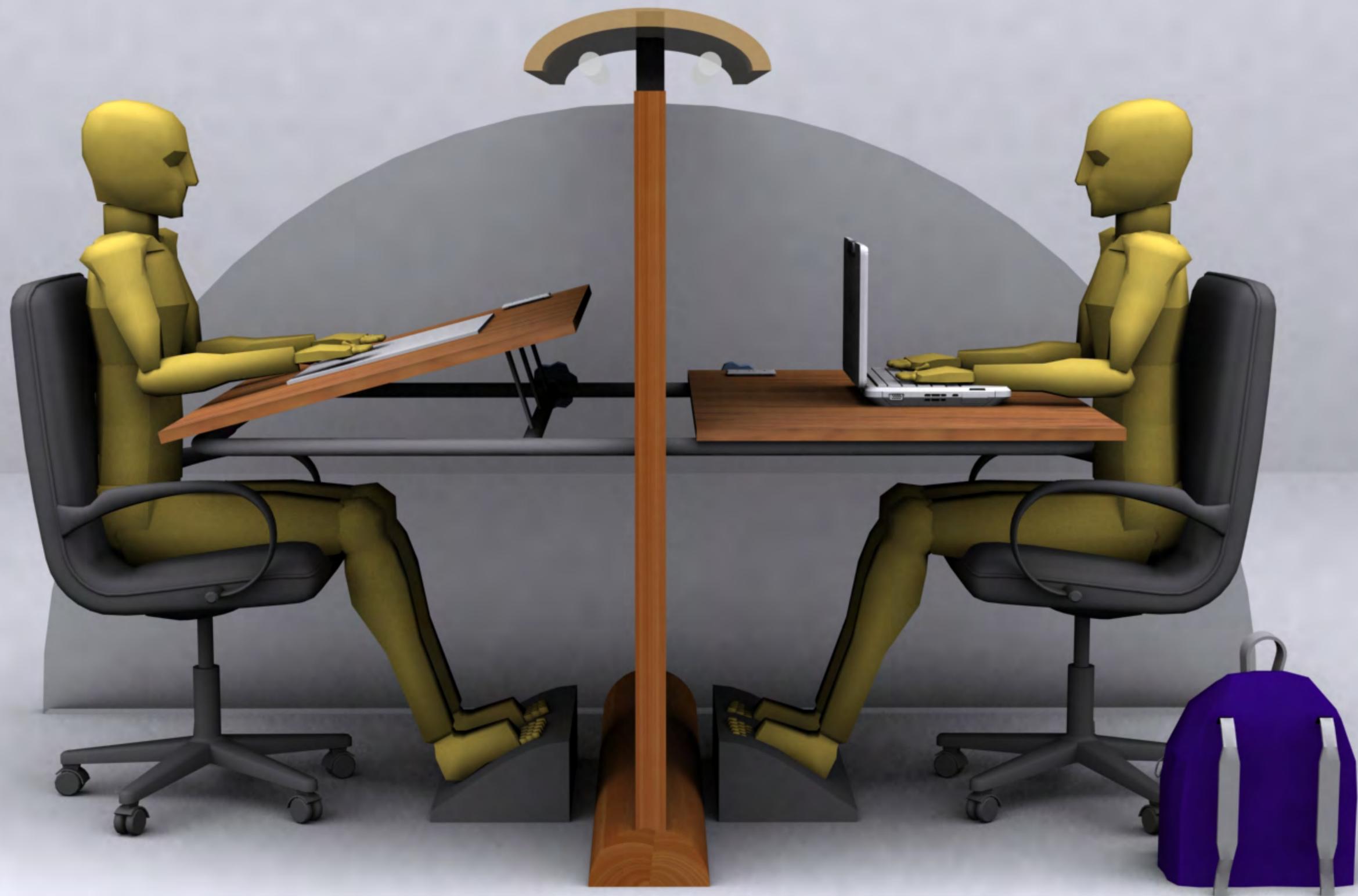
Food and Drink: Extra cup holders will be designed within the surface of tables to prevent the drinks from spilling on the table.

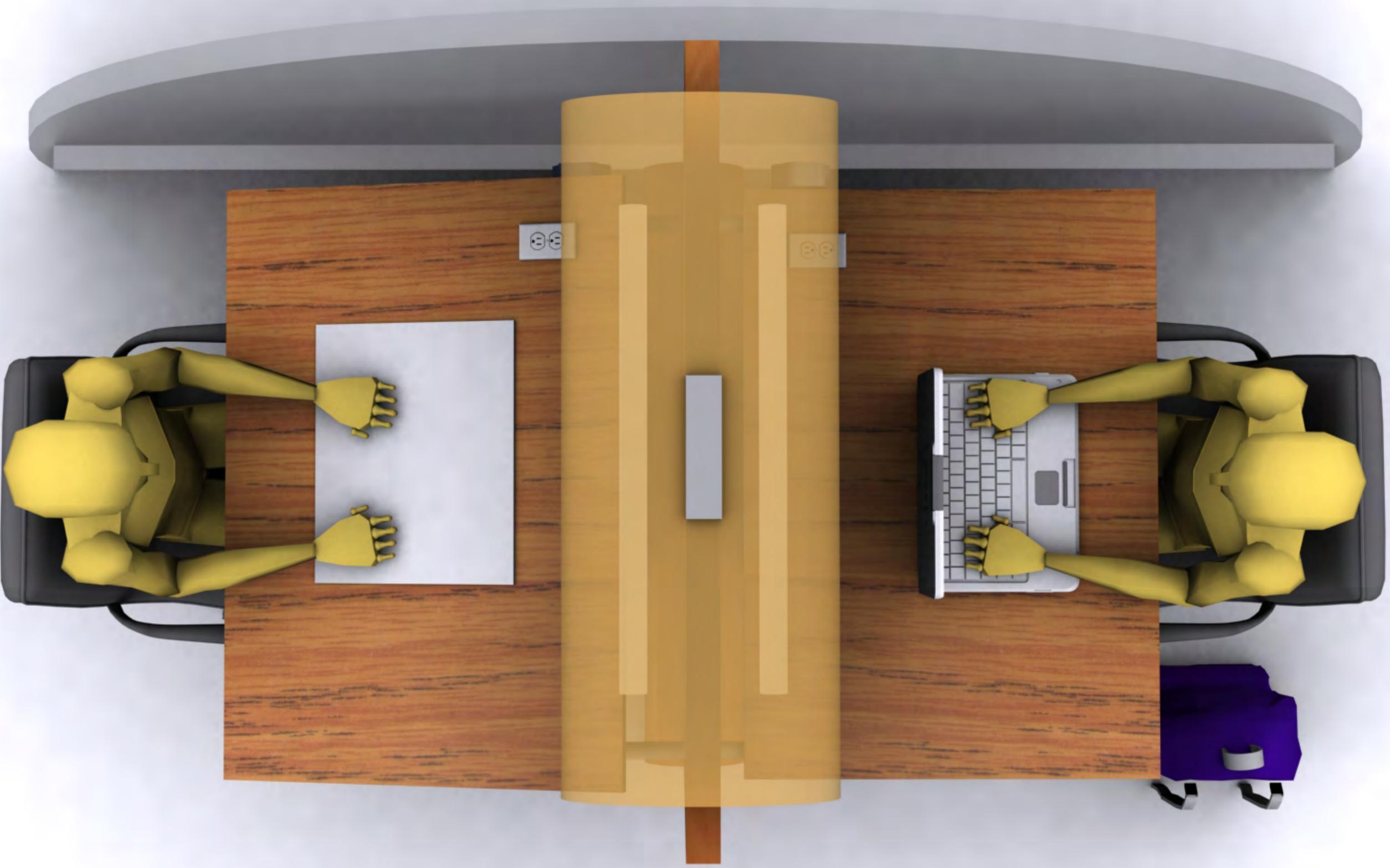


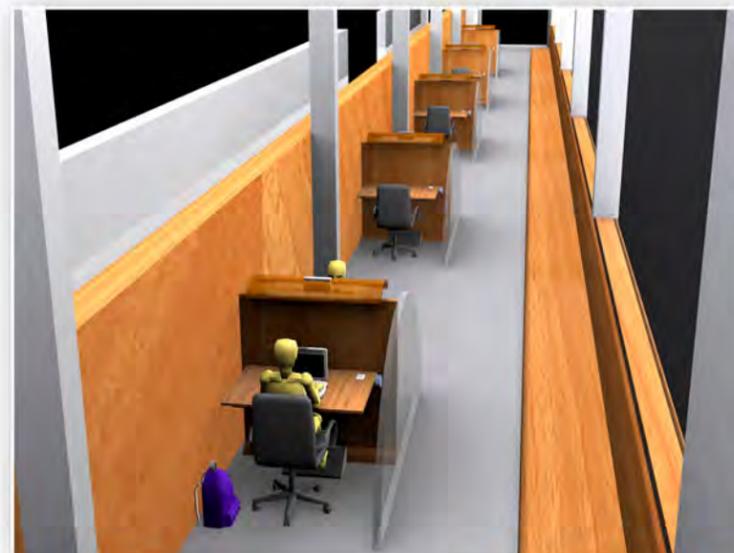
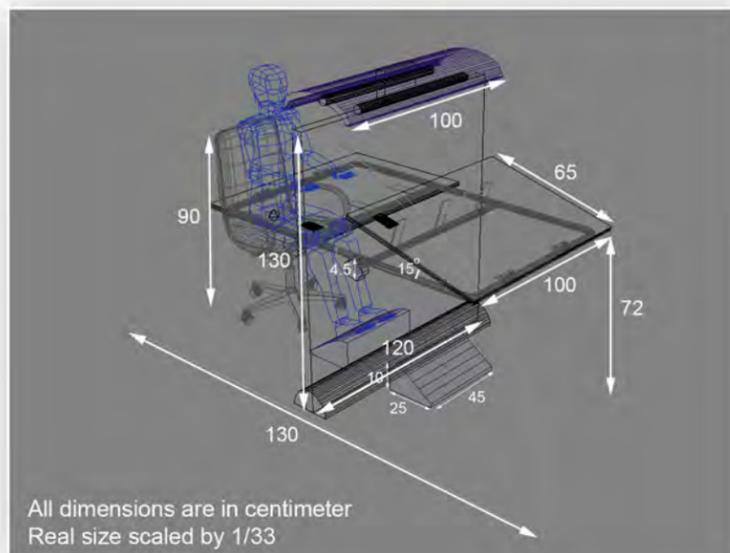
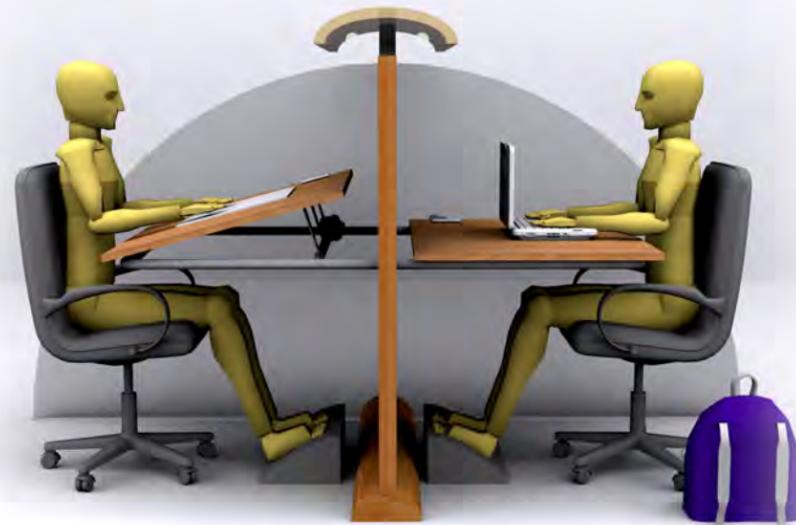
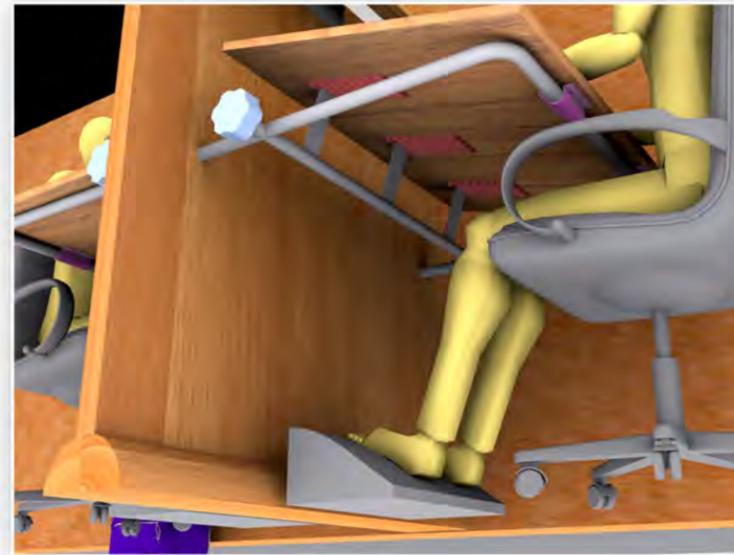
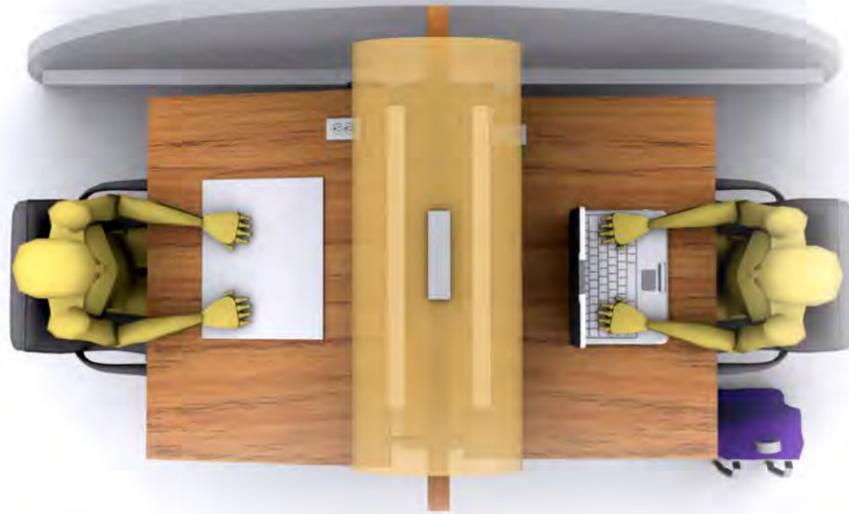












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Users

NSCAD students will form the main group of users. Students may come within different disciplines such as Design (Graphic Design, Product Design and etc), Fine Art (Sculpture, Ceramics, Painting and etc) and Media.

Required Functionalities

Reading and Writing: Students should be able to read and write comfortably while seating in the workstation.

High-tech devices: Students often use their laptops; therefore they should be able to place their laptops in a safe and suitable position.

Drawing and Sketching: Many of the art students may need to spend time drawing new sketches.

Workstation

These desks will be mounted in pairs. Each pair will be fixed to the walls while their individual height and tilt can be changed. The workstation will accompany by a regular padded stool chairs with a lumbar extra pad. The adjustable height will be used to conform to different human heights and the adjustable tilt will make the desk suitable for reading/writing and even sketching. The tilt can be adjusted by turning a side knob which is easy to grab as it is made of soft plastic and fits in the palm. These desks will have one semi-transparent side which makes them more private. A wide reading lamp will help the students to read with more focus. The workstations will be equipped with an electrical outlet plus an internet connection. The wood made desks will use the natural color of the wood that will ease using an optical mouse without a mouse pad.

Accessibility

Wheelchair users can use the workstations easily as the workstations do not have legs and therefore do not limit the movement of the wheels. The workstation is suitable for both left and right hand users as enough room is provided. A separate foot rest will help the users to keep their posture in a suitable position. The design dimensions are based on human ergonomic standards. Enough room is provided for the proper use of the logia bench and the walking space beside the workstations.