


USING NATURE TO REDESIGN PLACE OF WORSHIP IN MUNCIE, IN
POST OCCUPANCY EVALUATION REPORT
ISLAMIC CENTER OF MUNCIE,
IMMERSIVE LEARNING GRANT



5141 HESSLER RD, MUNCIE, IN 47304
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PROJECT BACKGROUND:

This project integrates the environment, economy, and society to develop a more sustainable and healthy place of community worship. Adhering to the professional code of ethics for interior design and construction management (health safety and welfare).

POE Survey

1. *Physical Conditions:*

- a. Is the temperature adequate? Are there drafts from old windows? Thermal Comfort:

Poor 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 Perfect

Notes:

Basement is very cold- windows are not insulating any heat, the walls are also not very insulated. The rest of the building (upstairs is fine/equal). Although, there is not much air flow throughout the whole building. The upstairs was hot and the downstairs was extremely cold. Opening up walls and areas could help fix this.

All photos were taken downstairs below:

Image 1: (This window is leaking cold air around the seams of the window - The darker purple colors demonstrate the cold air.)



Image 2-3: (This is an image of a basement door connecting to the exterior. This door is leaking cold air around the frame- the purple color.)



Image 4-5: (This is another image of the basement window. It has the same issue with leaking cold air around the seams. The cold air entering the windows causes higher bills for heating and drafty rooms.)



Image 6: (This is a picture of the interior walls of the basement. This shows that there is not proper installation within the walling. The purple areas demonstrate where installation is lacking tremendously.)



Image 7-8: (Are a few windows upstairs near the basement staircase. The purple areas demonstrate where installation is lacking tremendously within the wall around the windows. The windows themselves are also leaking cold air around the seams.)



Image 9: (This is an exit that is located upstairs near the basement staircase. The purple areas demonstrate where it is cold meaning that the door does not seal properly)



b. Is the lighting correct for the setting? Is it too bright or too dim?

Poor 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 Perfect

Notes:

Lighting is dim and makes the environment depressing in the basement. Too much use of LED lights.

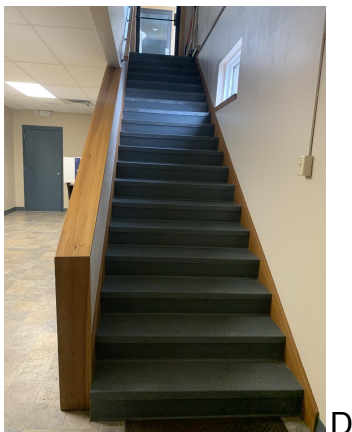
The lighting in the entrance works well and is inviting, but throughout the building the lighting could use some work. The fluorescent lights need to be replaced with lights that will help guide people throughout the building since it is so confusing downstairs.

Hallways and stairways need to be brightened up as well.

There is not much natural light throughout the whole building.

Stairway from basement to entrance:

Small window for natural light.



Common space in basement:

Little to no natural light. Bright artificial lights.



D

Gathering space in basement:
No natural light creates a non-relaxing environment.



G

c. How is the quality of the artificial light?

Poor 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 Perfect

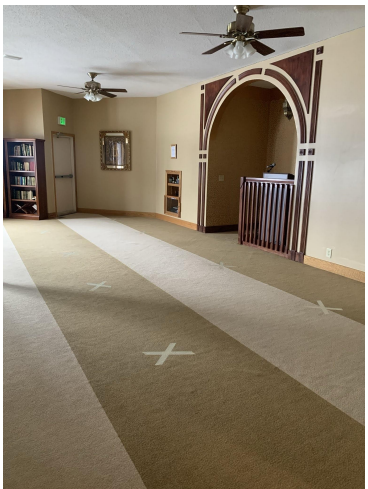
Notes:

Downstairs- The lighting is awful and is not inviting at all. The smaller classrooms are very dark and do not have much natural light coming in through the small windows at the top of the walls.

Upstairs- the lighting is much better, especially through the entrance area and the coat room, but the library could use better lighting. The men's worship room has a well lit area from natural and artificial lighting, but the girl's worship room needs more natural lighting.

Since the window between the two worship rooms is tinted enough you are unable to see through it, it could be removed and replace the windows in either worship room to allow in more natural light.

Women's Worship Room: (M)



Cubby area at main entrance: (C) This room has good lighting; area is very bright and well lit).



Hallway to the basement staircase: (G) hallways could use different lighting (LED), the hallways are a little dim.



Kitchenette downstairs: (M) Lighting is very minimal. Makes the area seem gloomy.



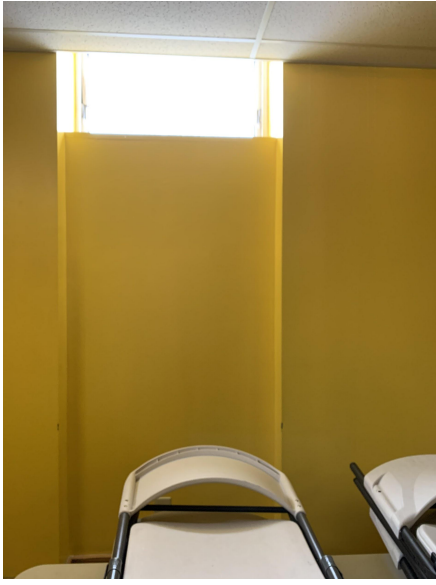
d. How is the quality of the natural light?

Poor 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 Perfect

Notes:

Downstairs- There were windows but located in weird spots. There is not much natural lighting coming from the small windows and the lighting that is coming in is not working well with the space.

Upstairs- Could be more natural lighting upstairs but overall ok. The men's worship and the library have the most natural lighting, but there could be more implemented in the women's worship room and the coat room. The coat room could be redesigned to have windows on the exterior wall and have glass panels between the entryway to let in the natural light.



(basement window)



(N: women's pray room area)



(C: cubby room by entrance)

- e. Do the acoustics travel well throughout the building? Is there too much background noise in the building?

Poor 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 Perfect

Notes:

The acoustics travel well upstairs but in the basement the noise echoes and there is a lot of background/loud noise. If kids are trying to play in the front of the basement, the people in the back having meetings and other gatherings are going to have a hard time blocking out that noise. You cannot hear anything from the basement upstairs though.

- f. Indoor Air Quality:

Poor 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 Perfect

Notes:

Very stuffy and still- air did not move. We found it to be very sticky and still upstairs but downstairs was extremely cold. There needs to be a way to circulate the air through the basement and the upstairs.



(N: Pray Room) - there are several fans, but the air still is not moving throughout the building. Is having so many fans effective? Or should we find a new solution to circulating the air?

- g. Is there good airflow/ventilation within the building?

Poor 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 Perfect

Notes:

Very still- airflow did not flow at all. The ventilation was placed in awkward areas of the building. There was little to no ventilation and was not designed to have the airflow throughout the entire building. It is designed to have air flow room to room but not from room to the rest of the building so certain spaces are staying at the temperature of the room next to them.

h. Is everything up to code? Are there any safety hazards?

Poor 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 Perfect

Notes:

- Bathrooms are not up to code/inclusive - lighting in bathrooms are poor, the shelving could be harmful, no handle bars for inclusivity, paper towel and soap dispensers can be positioned better and censored for inclusivity. Showers are very small, with no handles, no privacy, water could easily flood the flooring.
- The showers were also not clean at all. Looking into something that is more commercial material and more durability would work better. A material that does not get dirty as quickly or easily is recommended.



(H: bathroom in basement)

- Ramp in the back does not look safe at all- very old wood in the back
- Flooring is different in every area- not a lot of contrast within the area (not visually pleasing or visually inclusive) Some flooring in the basement was a wood vinyl that should be carried throughout the building for a non-slip safety.
- Some doors do not have handles or locks on them.
- There are no ramps in the front of the building
- No access to the basement other than stairs. (Both interior and exterior)

i. Do the doors meet ADA requirements? Is it suitable for everyone to access?

Poor 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 Perfect

Notes:

-Some of the doors downstairs do not have handles or locks on them, there is no ADA button for automatic opening of the main entrance/ exit.

- There is no way for one in a wheelchair/ walking impaired to access this building or basement without facing stairs.

-The doors have no ability to prop open and they are very heavy.

Several of the doors open in the wrong direction into the room as well. The door is blocking the space instead of walking into the space.

The doors in the basement are heavy.

j. Is the flooring a nonslip, appropriate material for high and low traffic areas?

Notes:

Some of the flooring was ok. Parts of the basement had a vinyl flooring- but some flooring was old and needs to be updated for non-slip qualities.



(L)



(M)

The upstairs had much better flooring in the entrance and the worship rooms, but downstairs is mostly unfinished and needs a flooring that is going to be more safe for children.

k. Are the emergency exits easy to locate? Are they well marked?

Notes:

Most of the exits are labeled upstairs- some of the basement doors were missing exit signs.

Some of the basement doors did not open either. Exit off of the prayer room is damaged and is very hard to open. Once the door is open it leads to an old decayed ramp.



(ramp leading from the women's prayer room)

- I. Are there accessible trash removal options? Is there recycling?

Notes:

Small trash cans were located in the bathrooms but there were no large trash cans visible. Did not find recycling at all.

2. Space:

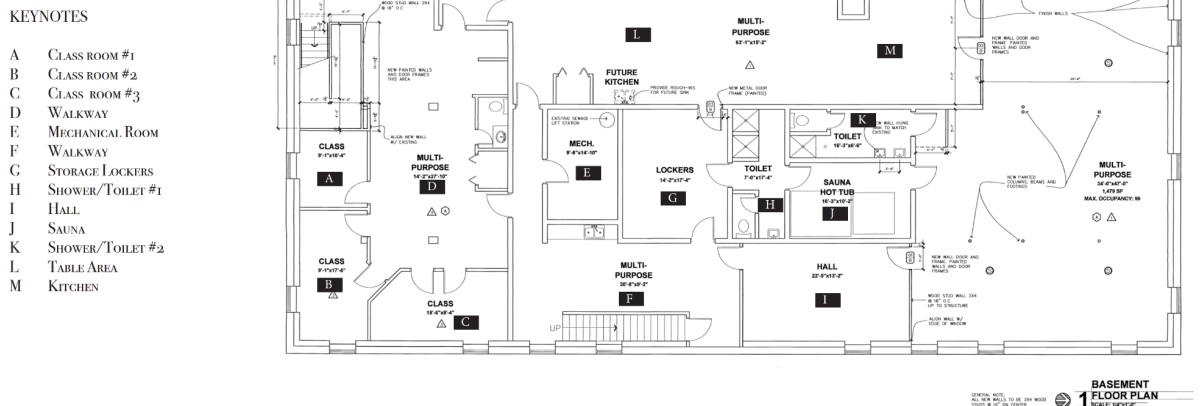
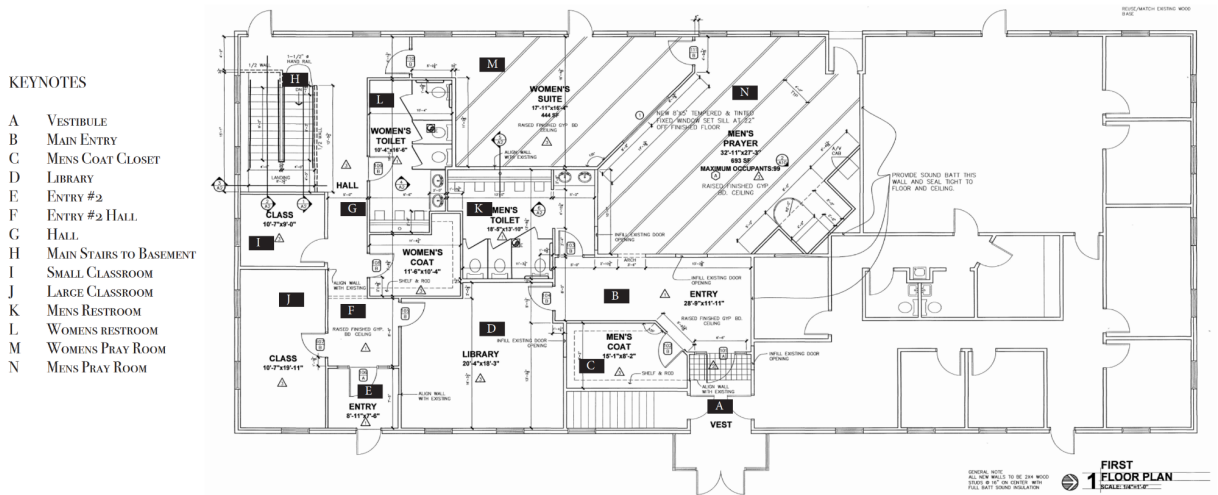
a. Is the floor plan well thought out?

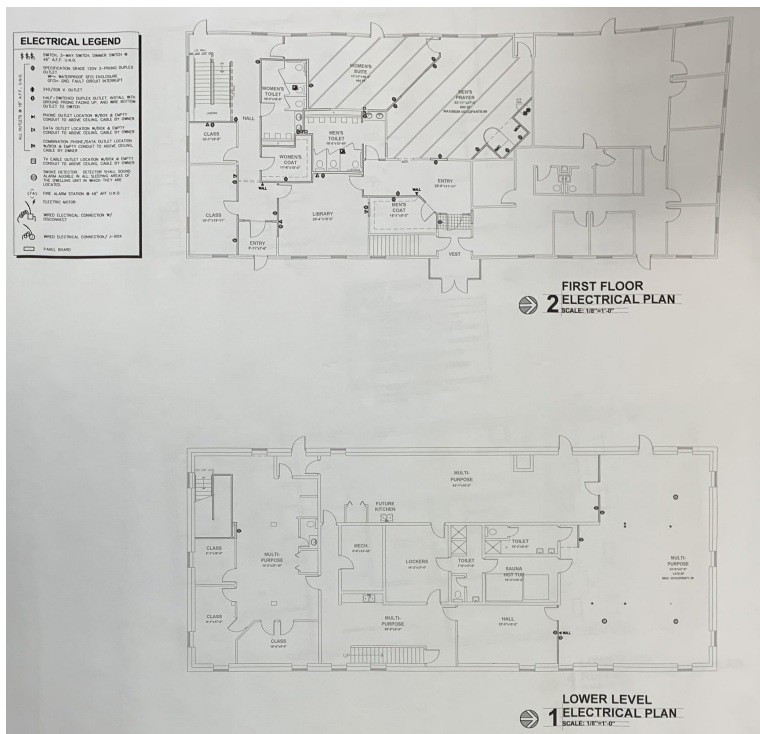
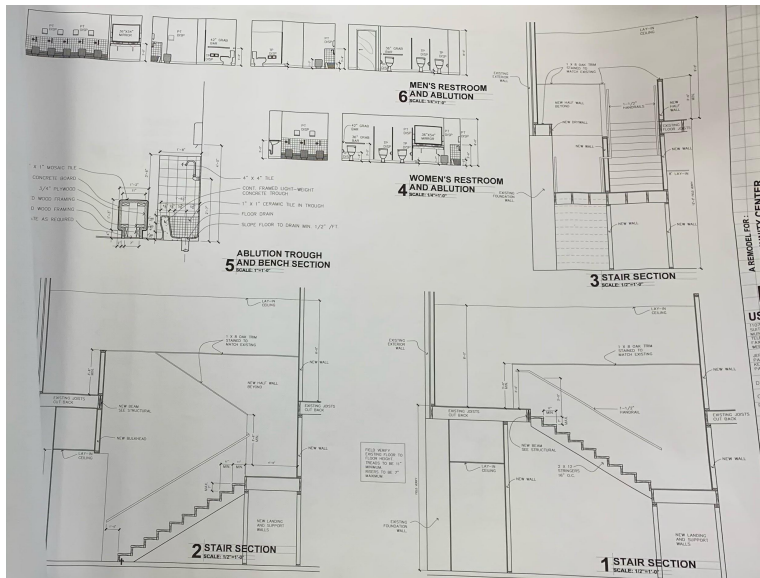
Poor 1 2 3 4 5 **6** 7 8 9 10 Perfect

Notes:

Overall, there is a lot of space throughout the building and is completely able to provide the functions the client is asking for, but the way it is laid out right now is not particularly thought out. The basement specifically is very confusing and has no sort of wayfinding. The bathrooms are hard to locate and most of the doors are industrial doors without labels on them.

(FLOOR PLANS FOR REFERENCE)





b. Do all the rooms serve a purpose in the current design?

Poor 1 2 3 4 **5** 6 7 8 9 10 Perfect

Notes:

-In the basement each area was very closed off and not easy to access. There are no ADA entryways. Walls cut off other rooms. The area is very confusing and hard to follow- could benefit to be more open creating a more friendly, welcoming environment.

-Kitchen downstairs is a very awkward shape and could use a redesign for a more inclusive, efficient layout.

-The upstairs was also closed off but very small. The entrance could be more beneficial if opened and the layout could be more organized maximizing the space.

Most of the rooms in the basement were left vacant and had little to no purpose shown and the rooms that had stuff in them were not well organized or inviting. It was hard to tell what each room was used for besides the kitchens, bathrooms, and meeting rooms. There were several rooms that could be removed or combined with another room to make them more useful. Some of the play rooms were too small for more than four kids to play in there with social distancing regulations.

c. Are there rooms and areas where users can get privacy?

Poor 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 Perfect

Notes:

There were lots of separate rooms but none for just a few people. All rooms seemed like public areas, the community bathroom stalls didn't have doors and neither did the showers. In most rooms there were multiple entrances making it harder for having some areas private if needed.

There also were not many locks on the doors.

Bathrooms did not have gender signs.



(H)



(H)



(M)

d. How many users can the building comfortably fit and stay within code?

Poor 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 Perfect

Notes: Still needs to be asked- CM director was going to ask board the maximum amount of people allowed within building

e. Is there priority parking close to the entrance for different users?

Notes:

There are close parking spaces to the main entrance of the building but none are specifically for individuals with disabilities.

The ramp is in the back of the building and very hard to locate and use. There is not a ramp to get on the sidewalk either.



(Images show the only two handicap parking spots in the corner of the lot and the sidewalk right across from the spots. There is no smooth transition for wheelchair to get up on to)

- f. Are there accessible ramps to the entrance?

Notes:

There were no ramps in the front of the building- there was only a single set of stairs. There was a ramp in the back of the building allowing access to the first level but the ramp was an old, wooden wrap- would be beneficial to fit a ramp within the main entrance for inclusivity.

As said earlier, there is not a ramp to get to the basement.

Back entry ramp:



- g. Do the doors on the entrance have an ADA sensor for automatic doors?

Notes:

There are no sensors on any of the doors and most of the doors are heavy.

- h. Do the doors fit ADA standards (36") ?

Notes:

The front door was a double door that fit ADA size standard- the rest of the doors within the building were also ADA ok for size- but some were heavy.



- i. Are there any easy access ramps or elevators for areas it may be hard for one to reach?

Notes:

-There is only one ramp and that is located in the back of the building but the ramp is not up to code. The exterior back ramp is also extremely hard to access.
-There is not a ramp to access the basement of the building.



(H) stairs going to the basement.

j. Rating of overall safety of building:

Poor 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 Perfect

Notes:

-There are many areas that need to be improved such as the front entrance, bathrooms, kitchens, etc.

-The wayfinding of the building as a whole should also be improved- it is very confusing to get around.

3. Ergonomics:

- a. Does the flow of traffic make sense?

Poor 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 Perfect

Notes:

-The flow of traffic does not make sense. The entrance is very small and crowded- the hallways are confusing and the basement is very closed off and confusing to get around.

- b. Does the furniture get in the way of the flow of traffic?

Poor 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 Perfect

Notes:

-Yes, the furniture was not made or chosen specifically for the space. In most areas, the furniture is in the way of walkways leaving approximately 2'-3' of space to move around.

-The furniture is also located in unnecessary areas where it can be easily ran into.

-Although, a few spaces in the basement could use more furniture that helps complement the space - the small classrooms typically have a table and two chairs randomly placed which does not make the space feel inviting.

- c. Does the furniture have inclusive features for everyone to use?

Poor 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 Perfect

Notes:

-The furniture was very temporary furniture. Not inclusive at all. Needs to be updated and well thought out.

-Speaking during prayer is a volunteering option by anyone who chooses to do so, but the space behind the microphone is elevated and has very little room to maneuver.



(L)



(I)



(N)

d. Are there any options to reduce ergonomic risk factors within the area?

Notes:

-Yes- the floor plan needs to be opened up and the furniture needs to be thought out to better represent the culture and significance of the building.

-There are unnecessary doors that need to be removed.

4. Aesthetics:

- a. Is the public comfortable when entering the building?

Poor 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 Perfect

Notes:

- The entrance to the building is slightly confusing due to there being 3 doors with steps located in the front.
- When you enter the building there are beautiful rugs but all rooms are closed off and there are no signs or labeling.
- When you enter you see a blank wall with a huge closet with a bench in it on the right. The closet size is unnecessary and could be shrank to open the entrance up.
- The vestibule was very small and full of random materials (tools, plants, salt, etc). It was also very closed off.

(small cubby area off of entrance)



(C)

(vestibule area -second time we went items were removed)



(A)

- b. Does the color theme make sense and/or aesthetically pleasing?

Notes:

- Every wall is the same color
- The flooring is all different material and is very unpleasing to the eye
- The trim and wood features could be painted or stained a different color to brighten the area up.
- Wall decor that is cuterally okay could be used to add texture and color to the environment as well.

c. Is the environment aesthetically pleasing?

Poor 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 Perfect

Notes:

-The rooms all look the same and the colors that are currently existing in the space are very boring. They are not well planned and make the space seem dull.

-Walking into the space, it does not have the aesthetic of an Islamic worship center. It seems as if the furniture, decorations, colors, and materials were what was used in the building prior to the Islamic Worship Center.

d. Flooring

Poor 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 Perfect

Notes:

-Flooring is not all the same and does not match. Not visually pleasing.

-Flooring in the restrooms could use the most repair. The rest of the building has flooring that is not very aesthetically pleasing, but is in good condition.



e. Walls

Poor 1 2 **3** 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 Perfect

Notes:

- The walls and trim are all the same colors throughout the building. Very boring. There is a lack of decor.
- A few rooms in the basement have very vibrant colors that bring excitement but do not mesh well with the rest of the building.



(G)

f. Ceilings

Poor 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 Perfect

Notes:

- The ceilings were a good height, they changed levels depending on if the space was public or semi-private.
- The color of the ceilings a shade of white which is fine for the space.
- Some of the ceiling in the basement is falling out- needs to be updated.
- Some of the ceiling tiles are stained
- The ceiling in the library is a bit low and makes the space feel crowded.

g. Furnishings

Poor 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 Perfect

Notes:

- The furniture looks to be temporary pieces. They are not very durable and not made for the space.



(L)



(N)



(G)

-The furniture that was present was not great quality and seemed temporary.

h. Is the quality of materials used durable for the certain environment?

Poor 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 Perfect

Notes:

-No, the high traffic areas are filled with temporary furnishings.

-There is no thought put into the furniture or finishings of the building.

i. Overall Quality of material and furniture present:

Poor 1 2 3 4 **5** 6 7 8 9 10 Perfect

Notes:

-Furniture is plastic and the finishes are old and run down.



(N)

a. Overall Satisfaction from teams perspectives:

Gen- Needs improvement and a better layout. The building needed updating. The floor plan of the basement and materials used could be rearranged for a more welcoming, friendly environment. Overall all the finishings need to be updated and united throughout the building- nothing is matching nor visually pleasing. The lighting and natural light also needs to be updated to optimize the area and make it less depressing. The overall furnishings need to be updated and the placement needs to be well thought out. There also needs to be a better connection with biophilia. The use of plants and water features would create a great touch to the environment as well as some kind of noise machine. The landscape could also be worked on - adding more trees and plants will increase the visual connection with nature as well as have more wildlife creating habitats. Birds chirping and the sound of nature would be a great addition to this building. The pond in the back could also add a water fountain for noise.

Elkah- Overall Satisfaction: The space definitely could use a better layout, there are lots of unnecessary walls and doors all throughout the building. The aesthetic of the environment is dark and plain creating an unwelcoming experience. The temperature definitely needs improvement. When walking into the basement it felt as if we were walking outside, it was freezing and there was no air flow. The natural light is decent on

the main level but if very minimal in the basement. Safety was also a big concern when walking throughout the building, the entrance steps were steep, there were no door sensors to open any of the doors, all the doors were extremely heavy, no ramps to access the building other than in the back of the building but that ramp was a hazard of its own and there was no proper way to get to the exterior ramp. No elevators or ramps were available to access the basement. The basement did not have any labeled rooms or doors so if anyone was new it would be difficult to get yourself around the building. Overall the basement was pretty creepy and unsafe.

Emma - The space could ultimately be more mindful of ADA requirements and biophilic elements, as well as some renovations of basic things like materials. Beginning near the entrance there is not a ramp for those with walking disabilities. Instead, the ramp is located in the back of the building and is rotting in some areas which can be hazardous. The ramp could also be wider on the turns. Upon entry, the space is average however there could be much more biophilic elements. The space seems outdated and not as aesthetically pleasing as it could be. There are some windows letting in natural light, however the basement has very little natural light. The windows down there are small and sometimes only one per room. Some rooms have zero windows. There is no access to the basement for those in wheelchairs. The learning spaces for children do not seem like a fitting environment because of the little natural light and cramped space. A start to renovating the inside would be new lighting, flooring, and paint. The outdoor entrance has good biophilic accents; if some of those could be brought inside in a literal or more abstract way the building would be more inviting.

Madison- Overall Satisfaction: The Islamic Center has an entrance that is inviting, but could use more elements of biophilia with some windows that bring in natural light. There are multiple rooms that do not have windows or hallways where the ceiling cuts off the windows. The windows downstairs also need to be upgraded or caulked as there is heat loss. There needs to be improvement in the accessibility of the building itself as there is one ramp that is not even accessible to the public because its located on the backside of the building. There is also no ADA compliant entrance to the basement. In regards to the basement there needs to be a better floor plan. None of the rooms are labeled, inviting, show relations to biophilic design or have adequate lighting. The lighting needs to be upgraded to become more bright as the basement is dark with many rooms having no windows.

Cylie - Overall Satisfaction: The Worship Center did not feel as if it was a place of worship, but more of a small, rundown daycare for children. The most significant part of the building was the two worship rooms which makes sense, but outside of the worship rooms does not feel like a worship center. Downstairs, the layout of the building is tremendously confusing, even after being in there twice. I would say the bathrooms are the worst part about the building, especially the female restrooms. The showers do not

seem very sanitary and there is not much privacy when it comes to any of the restrooms. Overall, the building needs more attention to the aesthetics than it does the structure. It does not feel inviting or cared about and with a good cleaning crew and some new furniture and decorations, the space could be brought together much more seemingly. Although, ADA needs to be considered in many more ways, especially the ramp situation. There is not a way for wheelchairs to get down to the basement and that is where most of the building is located. The ramp in the back of the building is not safe for people to be on and does not have an adequate turnaround space around the corner or in front of the door. It is not a very inviting space other than the worship room.

6. *Biophilia:*

I. *Nature in Space Patterns*

- a. Is there a visual connection with nature? (plants, windows, natural views, etc)

Poor 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 Perfect

Notes:

- There were a few plants in the vestibule but there more plants would create a better connection with nature- especially downstairs.
- The basement has little to no visual connection with nature because of the small windows.
- A use of a water feature within the lobby would also be a great way to add an acoustical connection with nature as well.
- The prayer room upstairs overlooks the yard in the back of the building.

Basement Windows:



Prayer Room Windows:



- b. Are there improvements that could be made to improve areas where the lack of nature is present:

Notes:

- Yes- the lobby needs to be the focal point. Plants and details could be added to make a more welcoming environment.
- Bringing in fake plants would be a good option for the basement since there is not much natural light down there and the plants in the lobby area are not well taken care of.



(A)

- c. Is there a non-visual connection with nature? (birds, nature, wind, sounds, etc)

Notes:

-There is no-visual connection with nature. This can be improved by adding trees to the back landscape as well as water features for noise.

-Some ominous music playing in the background of the lobby area or cubby room would set a nice tone for the building. The same could be said for the area downstairs.

- d. Is there non-rhythmic sensory stimuli? (reduces stress, improves productivity)

Notes:

-There is no non-rhythmic sensory stimuli. This can be improved by adding a sound machine.

- e. Is there thermal and airflow variability (can the windows be opened, are there fans, working AC and Heater)

Poor 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 Perfect

Notes:

-The airflow was very stagnant in the building. The windows were old and may not be able to be opened.

- f. Is there a presence of water within the building? (water features, water sounds, etc)

Notes:

-There is no presence of water within the building. An interesting wall water fountain would be a great touch in the lobby.

- g. Is the dynamic and diffuse light overall pleasing?

Poor 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 Perfect

Notes:

-The lighting downstairs needs major improvement. It is very dark in some areas and the LED lights create an unwelcoming environment.

h. Is there a connection with natural systems (wind, weather, sunlight) ?

Poor 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 Perfect

Notes:

-The windows do provide some sunlight but they are all located on one side of the building. The windows seem old so it is possible that they do not open making no sound elements from the outdoors.

(large windows off of the prayer room provide a lot of natural light)



(N)

-These windows are found above the staircase leading to the basement.



(H)

-(There is a lot of potential with the landscaping off of the prayer room. The area is very open and there is a pond in the back. Adding landscapes such as trees and/or sculptures will add a more visual pleasing yard as well as help limit the noise coming from the road.)



II. Natural Analogues Patterns

- i. Is there Biomorphic Forms & Patterns present (patterns that relate to nature, patterns that are disguised as nature, etc.)?

Poor 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 Perfect

Notes:

-There are patterns but they do not relate to nature. The only pattern found that could relate to nature was this pattern- could be referred to as a flower pattern.



(N)

(This flooring imitates stone which is a natural pattern)



(F)

I. Is there a material connection with nature? (using recycled items, skylights, plants within the building, natural furnishings)

Poor **1** 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 Perfect

Notes:

-There are no recycled materials, or skylights. There is one plant in the building which is located near the entrance but it is fake.

(plant found near main entry) (plants found outside)



(A)

j. Is there complexity & order? (variation of materials, designs, furnishings, etc.)

Poor 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 Perfect

Notes:

-The design of this building is very basic and the furnishings need to be updated.
-The chairs and tables are plastic. The flooring has a variety of different materials and the wall paint is all the same color.

III. Nature of the Space Patterns

k. Is the building open and freeing (Prospect) ?

Poor 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 Perfect

Notes:

-Needs improvement. There are unnecessary walls and doors.

l. Does the environment present a feeling of refuge? (safety, comfort)

Poor 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 Perfect

Notes:

-Right now this building is standard. It has a lot of potential to create a safe welcoming environment.

- m. Can the individuals travel deeper into the environment when using the building (sense of mystery)?

Poor 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 **9** 10 Perfect

Notes:

-Yes because the basement goes from a kids area and on into a large gathering area, a sauna, a kitchen, and other private bathrooms and showers. The space could use much more detail from the religion and this could also be a form of wayfinding since the basement is so confusing.



(A)

- n. Is there any risk/peril? (dangerous aspects, walkways, exits, materials, etc.)

Poor 1 2 **3** 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 Perfect

Notes:

-There are lots of risks throughout the building such as crowded walkways, steep stairs, heavy doors, no ramps or elevators and no exit signs in the basement.

(The staircase found outside on the back wall is rotten as well as the wooden ramp on the back side of the building.)



RECOMMENDATIONS:



The priority recommendations would be focusing on the ramp on the back door, installation, lighting and windows. The other recommendations are cosmetic that would create a more welcoming environment but are not crucial.

1. Install better installation in the walls, especially around the windows to prevent heat loss.
2. Caulk or replace the windows, to create a tighter seal preventing drafting and heat loss.
3. Create a more open basement floor plan in order to achieve a more welcoming and spacious area. The basement is very closed off making the wayfinding hard and it creates an unwelcoming area. Removing some of the walls that are not structural, and adjusting other suggestions about lighting will make a huge difference. Find a way to incorporate more natural light into the basement.
4. The lighting needs to be adjusted throughout the whole building to create a warmer, more welcoming place. LED lights would be recommended for brightness. The switches in the basement should also be rearranged to create a safer environment. Many areas in the basement, such as the room off of the kitchen, have switches in random areas. A switch should be located at each door so people have light when entering a room.
5. The ramp in the back of the building also needs improvement. It is currently rotten and needs to be widened to meet ADA standards. There are a few suggestions depending on budgets. The first suggestions would be moving the ramp to the front of the building on the left side, replacing the stairs to the side door. This provides an accessible ramp and would be ADA approved. (Location is shown in image below). The second option would be keeping the old ramp but adding more support under it and replacing the rotten planks of wood. In addition, some kind of grip strips should be added to the surface of the ramp to make it more safe. When it rains or snows the wood can become slippery.



6. New furniture that has a more biophilic design to it would create a more welcoming and inviting environment. The chairs and tables found downstairs are very temporary furniture creating an unwelcoming feeling to the basement. Adding some lounge furniture in large areas as well as more permanent dining furniture is recommended.
7. Paint and flooring correlating with each other throughout the building would be recommended as well. Research would need to be done to make sure colors connect with the history and religion.
8. Landscaping is another key point that would add a more biophilic touch to the building. Adding trees and more shrubbery would limit the busy noise from the road right next to the building as well as create more habitats for wildlife. This will eventually lead to more peaceful noises, such as bird noises.

QUESTIONNAIRE:

1. Do you feel that the colors in the space connect with history and religion?
2. When walking into the entry and using the storage/cubby space is more room needed?
3. Is the lighting sufficient? How would upgrading to LED lights make the environment feel? More bright and inviting?
4. Are there patterns in the space that connect with nature?
5. How important is it to have more lighting and/or light switches in the basement?
6. Is there a specific type of flooring want/needed for the basement, entry areas or hallways?
7. Is the landscaping at the entrance welcoming?
8. How do you feel about the temperature in the building? Is it even throughout?
9. Do you like the privacy that the walls/hallways provide, or would you rather the building be more open?
10. Do you think there are enough accessible entry points to the building?
11. Do you feel that the space is functional? Are there areas you think could be improved?
12. Upon entry, is the space calming and comforting?