

N&DO

TIED BY CONNECTION

SUMMARY

We are presenting NODO, a redesign of "The Corner" at NABA. The goal was to create an even stronger space for community and the exchange of ideas, reflecting NABA's open and creative spirit. NODO is a flexible context , a "knot", where choice is the essence, allowing different needs, such as focus and community, to coexist in balance. The project's core claim is TIED BY CONNECTION.

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1 CASE STUDIES

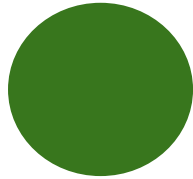
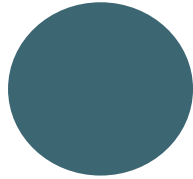
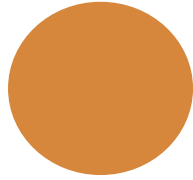
CASE STUDIES

1 COMBO milano

Hostel with a solid co working space. Cafeteria, seamless wifi and different seating arrangement.

KEYWORDS

Soft and muted light
Indoor plants
Outdoor work space



CASE STUDIES

2 FOTOGRAFISKA tallinn

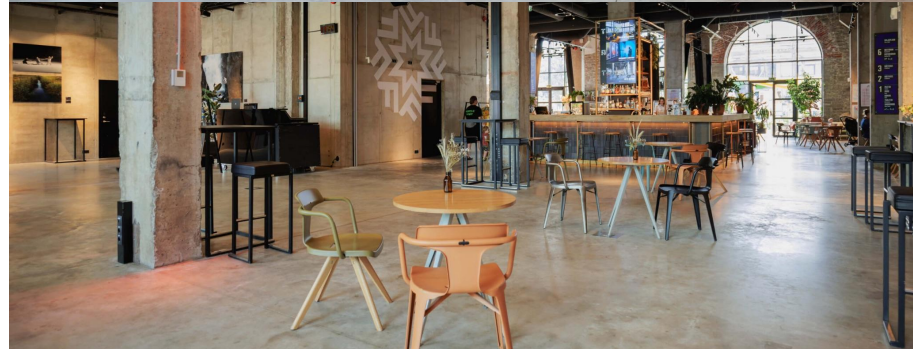
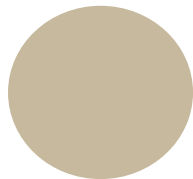
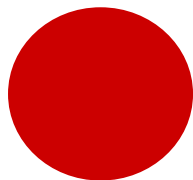
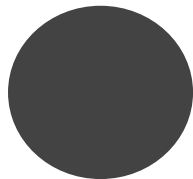
Coworking space connected to a museum. Large open areas for work, as well as private rooms available for booking.

KEYWORDS

High ceiling

Wide view

Open-space plan,
industrial feel.



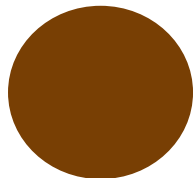
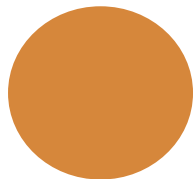
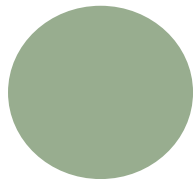
CASE STUDIES

3 SARPI OTTO milano

A café with a coworking area.
Larger seating zones and
smaller ones, offering different
types of comfort.

KEYWORDS

Plenty of greenery
Lots of natural light
Minimalistic design



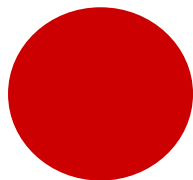
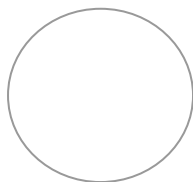
CASE STUDIES

4 SPAZIO IVY milano

Co working space for creative activities with access to 3D printer and sewing machines.

KEYWORDS

Creative environment
Playful
Spacious and welcoming



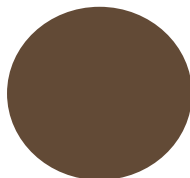
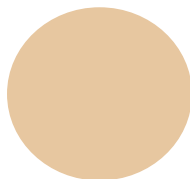
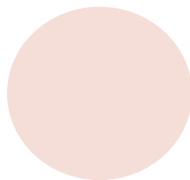
CASE STUDIES

5 KNOTEL london

Coworking space in a historic building. Varied seating arrangements with an adjoining café. Possibility to book meeting rooms.

KEYWORDS

Raw material palette
Textural contrast
Relaxed ambiance



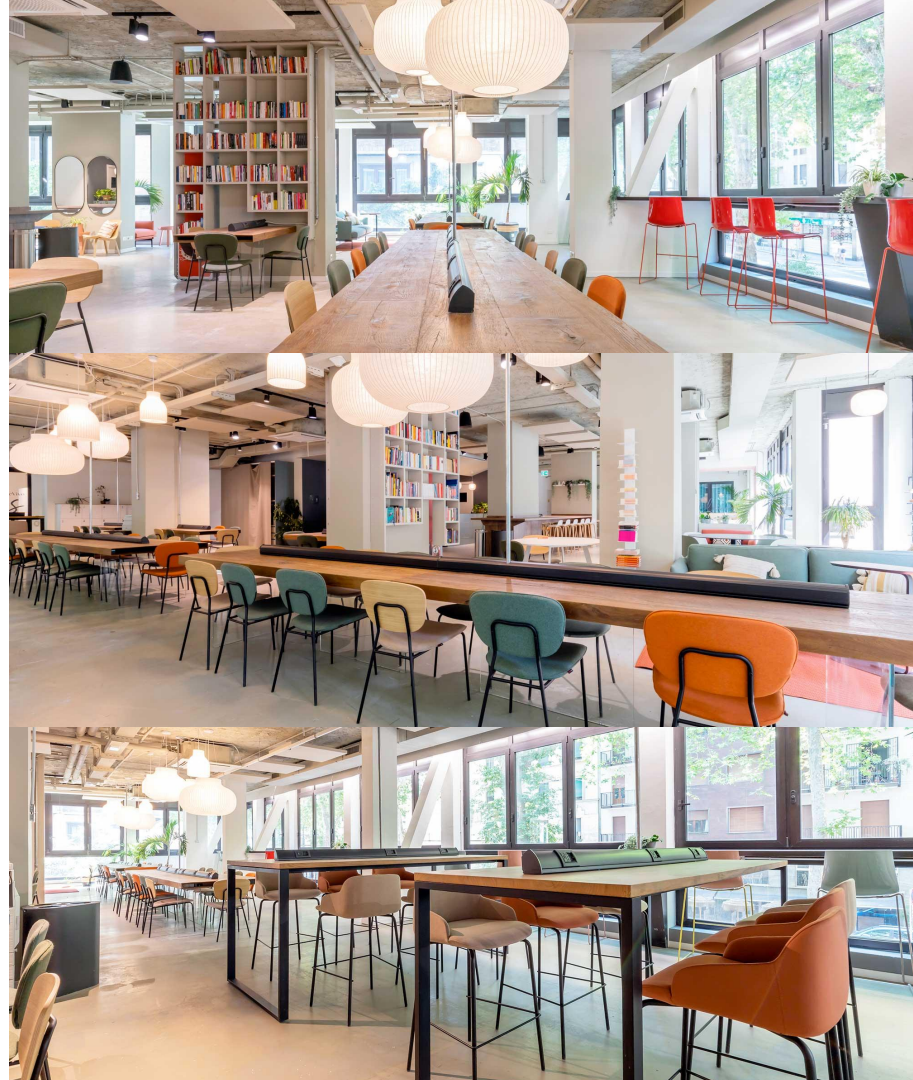
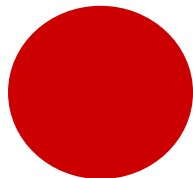
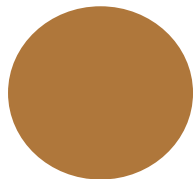
CASE STUDIES

6 OPEN milano

An extensive co working space with over 50 desks. Designed for good ergonomic and focus.

KEYWORDS

Open floor plan
Various kind of seats
Good lighting



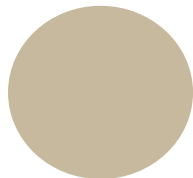
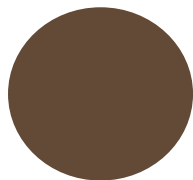
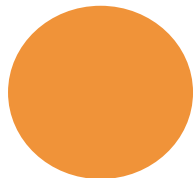
CASE STUDIES

7 GOGOL&COMPANY milano

Coworking space combined
with a bookstore and café.
Seating areas nestled among
the books and spots
overlooking the ground floor.

KEYWORDS

Multi-use environment
Dynamic atmosphere
Library feel



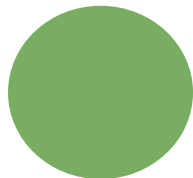
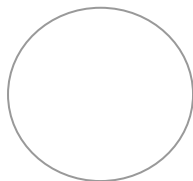
CASE STUDIES

8 YOROOM milano

Co working space of 2500 sqm with flexible desks and five private meeting rooms.

KEYWORDS

Sealing window
Clean and calm
Open and stripped down



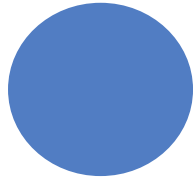
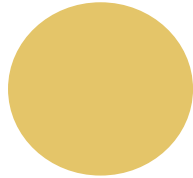
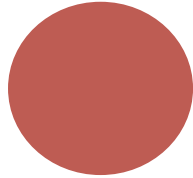
CASE STUDIES

9 BLUE FIN london

Spacious coworking area with a wide variety of seating arrangements. Access to computers and private rooms, as well as cozier zones for a more relaxed work atmosphere.

KEYWORDS

Colorful and cheerful
Big windows, natural light
Spacious & high ceilings



CASE STUDIES

10 CASCINA CUCCAGNA milano

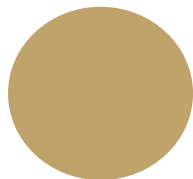
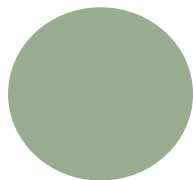
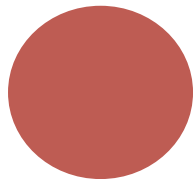
Coworking space that extends both indoors and outdoors. Open-plan layout with an adjoining café and bar. Large windows and open entrances create a indoor-outdoor atmosphere.

KEYWORDS

Industrial calmness

Raw textures

Fluid boundaries



CASE STUDIES

COMFORT



SIGHT



SOUND



SPACIOUSNESS



MOVEMENT



ALIVENESS



2 **WHAT WE LEARNED**



ERGONOMIC FURNITURE

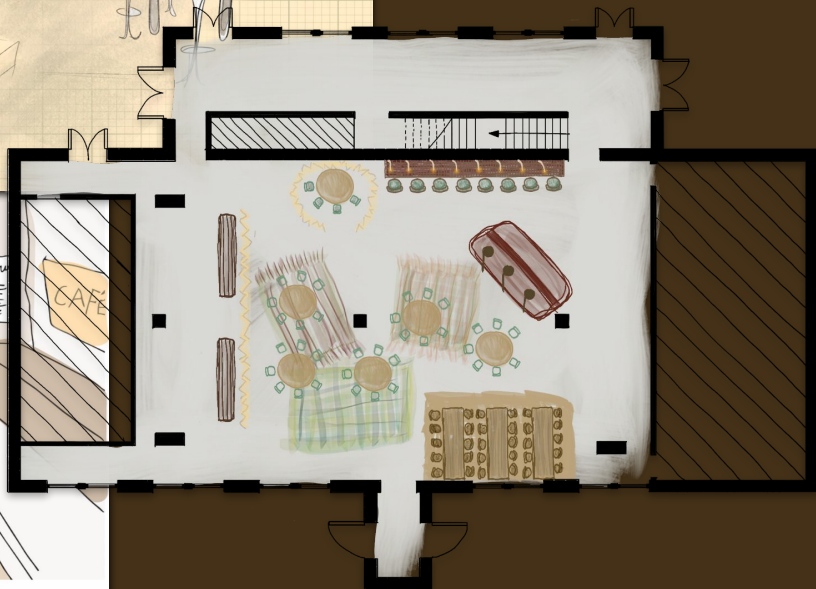
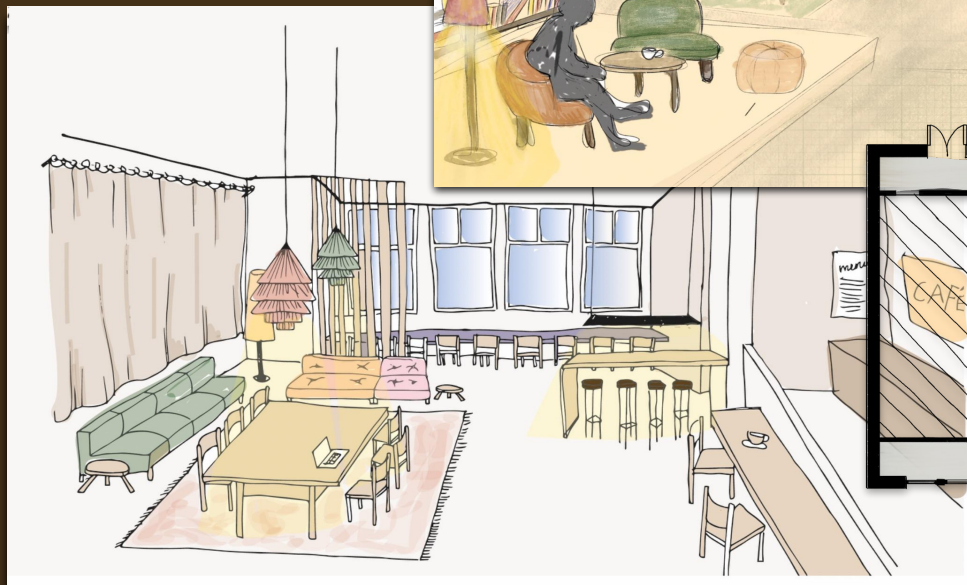
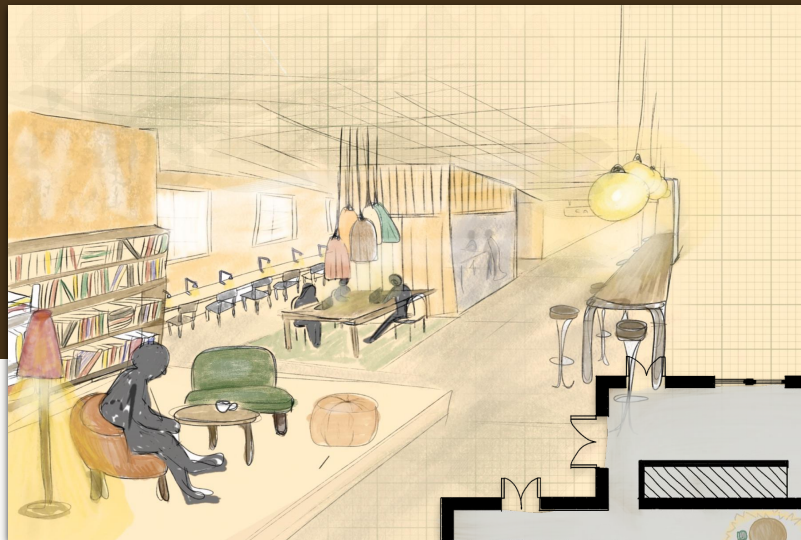
FLEXIBLE SEATING

UTILIZE NATURAL LIGHT

OPENNESS BALANCED WITH PRIVACY

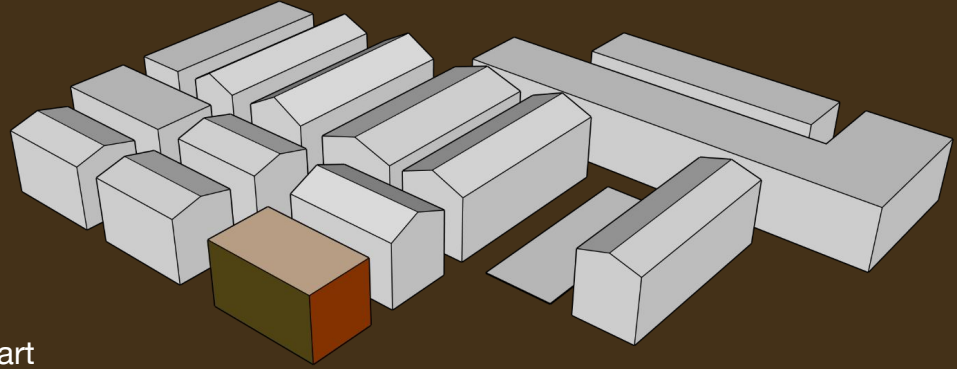
WELL-ADJUSTED SOUNDSCAPE

3 FIRST SKETCHES



4 LOCATION

LOCATION



NABA's campus in Milan is located in the heart of Navigli, and brings together students from all over the world. On campus you'll find The Corner, the café and restaurant that has long served as a meeting place for students and faculty. With its three levels, a dining hall, a mezzanine, and a sunlit terrace, it has functioned as a social hub where people can enjoy a coffee, share lunch, or work.

LOCATION



Our visits to The Corner confirmed the need for transformation, where we experienced the environment as harsh, dark, and cold. The existing acoustics created a noise level that was a major obstacle to focus. Now, The Corner is entering a new phase of transformation. We are redesigning the café to better reflect NABA's open and creative spirit, and to create an even stronger space for community, exchange of ideas, and international energy. We present: NODO

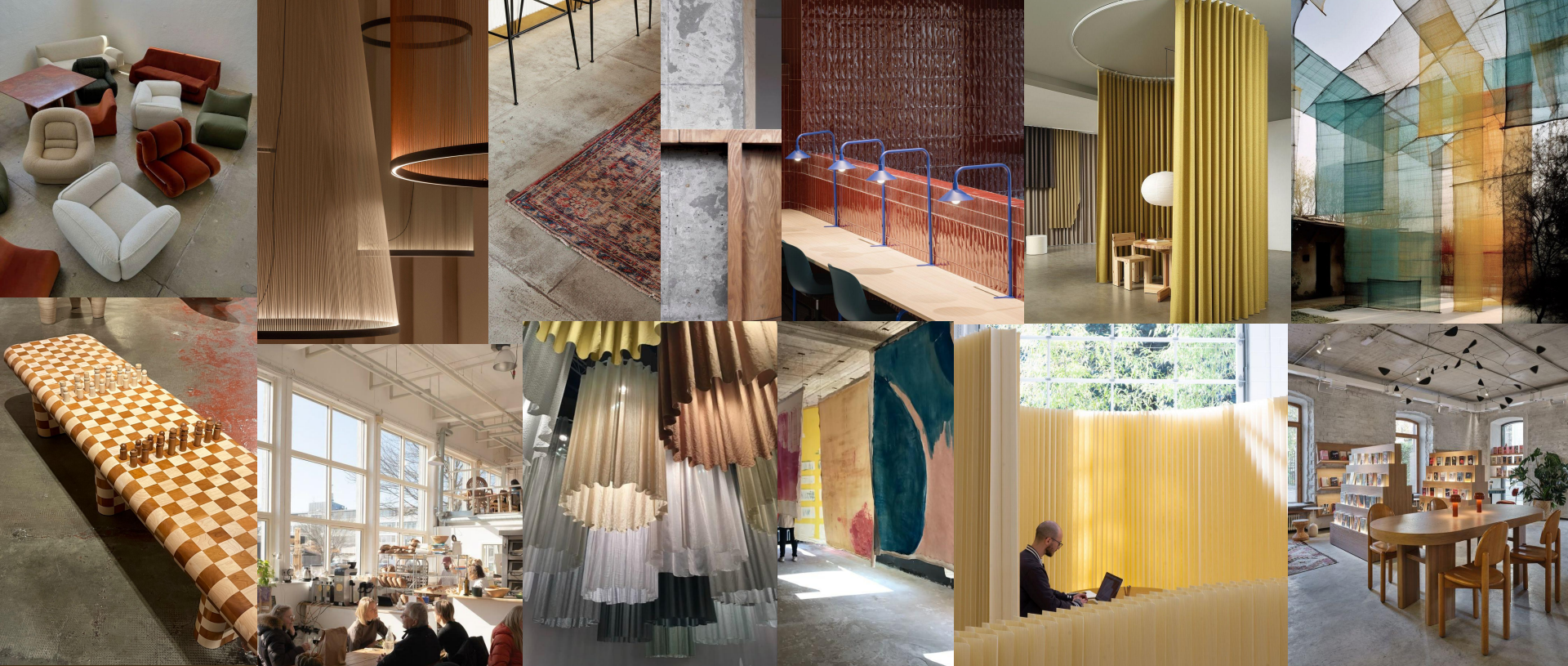
5 MOOD BOARD

MOODBOARD

Hard meets soft.

Cold meets warm.

Focus meets relaxed.



6 CONCEPT

CONCEPT

NODO is not a place you enter, it is a context you step into. A knot that gathers different needs and lets them coexist, tied together. Here, choice is the essence. To focus, to connect, to share, or to retreat, each rhythm finds its place without hierarchy. The space adapts, listens, and offers what you need in the moment.

NODO is not divided, it is whole. A living composition where individuality and community are held in balance. A knot of possibilities, designed for the many ways we work, meet, and belong.

7 CLAIM

TIED BY CONNECTION

“Tied” signals structure and cohesion. “Connection” represents both the human and the spatial, how light, sound, materials, and people interact. Together, they express a flexible, responsive context where every choice is possible, but nothing stands alone.

8 LOGO
DESIGN

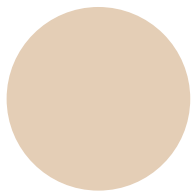
LOGO DESIGN



The NODO logo is a visual metaphor for a knot, not hard or fixed, but open, elastic, and inviting. By intertwining the letters in a soft, looped motion, it forms a shape that doesn't tie down, but ties together. It reflects a context where different needs coexist, with choice at the core.

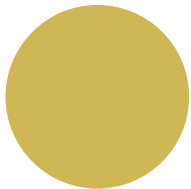
9 COLORS

COLORS



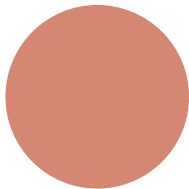
SOFT BEIGE

Pantone 468 C
HEX: E4CEB6



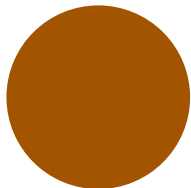
MUSTARD

Pantone 7752 C
HEX: CEB754



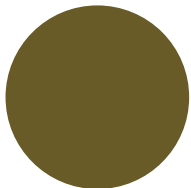
CORALL

Pantone 7612 C
HEX: D58771



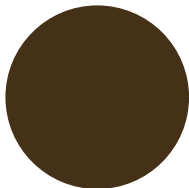
TERRACOTTA

Pantone 7510 C
HEX: A25401



OLIVE BROWN

Pantone 4485 C
HEX: 685B27



ESPRESSO

Pantone 448 C
HEX: 443118

The colors are chosen to create a warm and inviting atmosphere that supports diverse ways of working. The palette contributes to visual calm, reduces contrast fatigue, and enhances focus. It gives the space a distinct character without dominating it, acting as a unifying element across different zones.

The colors are also selected with consideration for natural light, materials, and acoustics, to reinforce the room's function and overall experience.

COLORS

NºDO



NºDO



NºDO



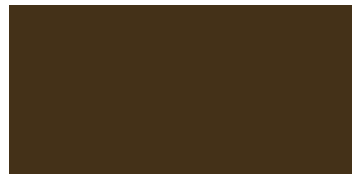
NºDO



NºDO



NºDO



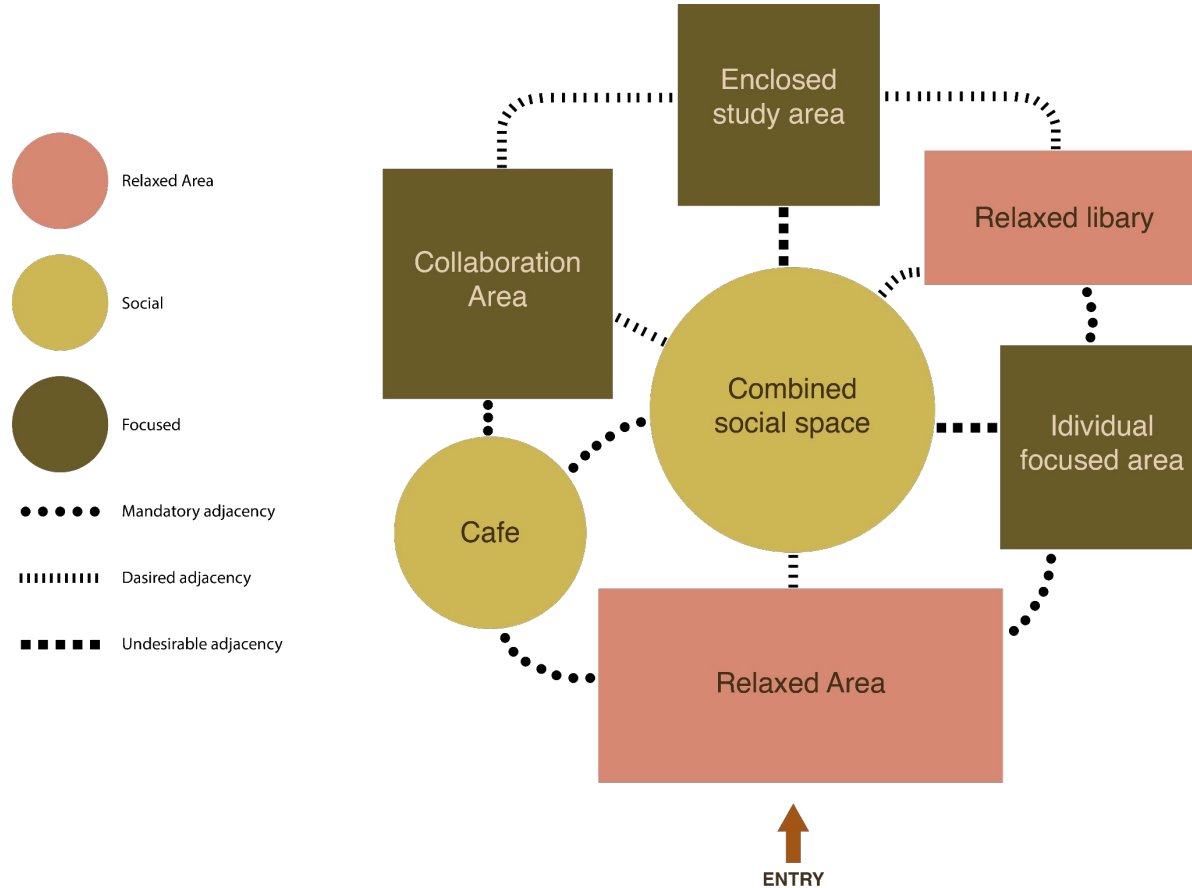
10 SOLUTION

SOLUTION

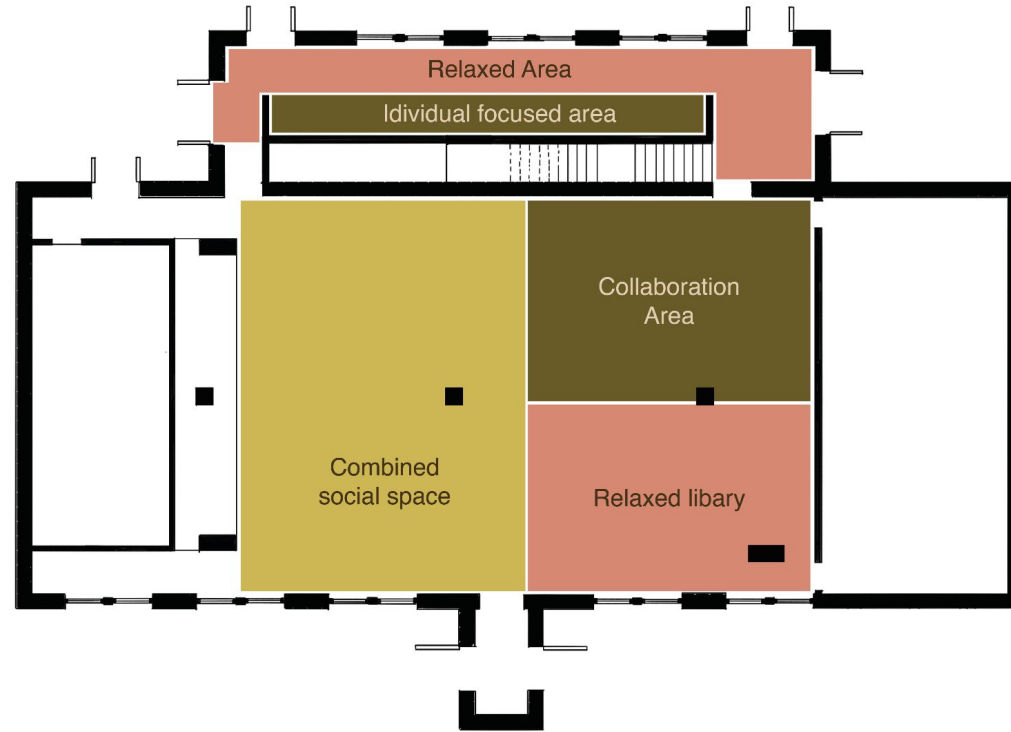
From our case studies, we learned that using noise-absorbing and soft materials is essential for creating a calm environment. In line with our concept "Hard meets soft. Cold meets warm.", we introduced a material palette and color scheme that creates a warm and inviting atmosphere. We work with textiles on the ceiling and walls to actively improve the soundscape and achieve a pleasant environment.

To support the project's essence, where choice is the essence, and where different needs must coexist in balance, we have divided the space into clear zones. We use strategically placed room dividers in thin wood and bookshelves that function as spatial separators, which creates semi-private zones and balances openness with privacy. Through these design choices, we ensure that NODO becomes a flexible context where everyone can find their place.

ADJACENCY DIAGRAM

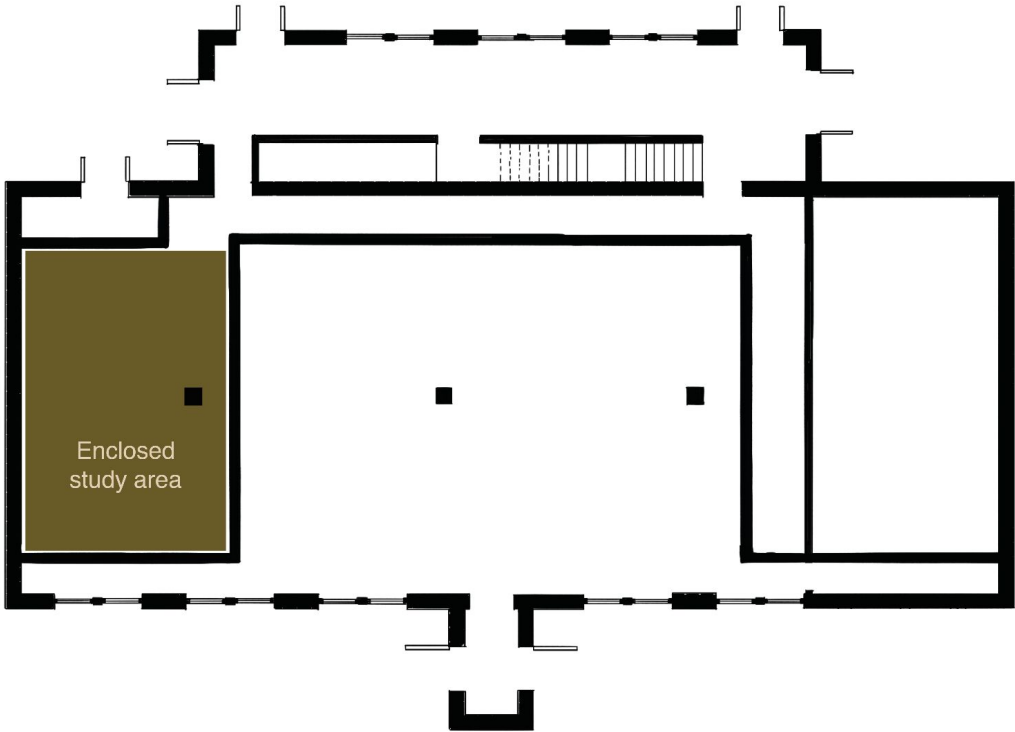


FLOORPLAN



GROUND FLOOR

FLOORPLAN



FIRST FLOOR

11

**PERSONA
LENA**

LENA, THE FOCUSED LEARNER



22
Lena, a girl from Germany, who has moved to Milan to study marketing at NABA. She rents a small room that doesn't have the space Lena needs to study for her upcoming finals week

MOTIVATION

She is looking for a good spacious area to study for her upcoming final exams. She also wants a space that is calm so she can have a focused study sessions

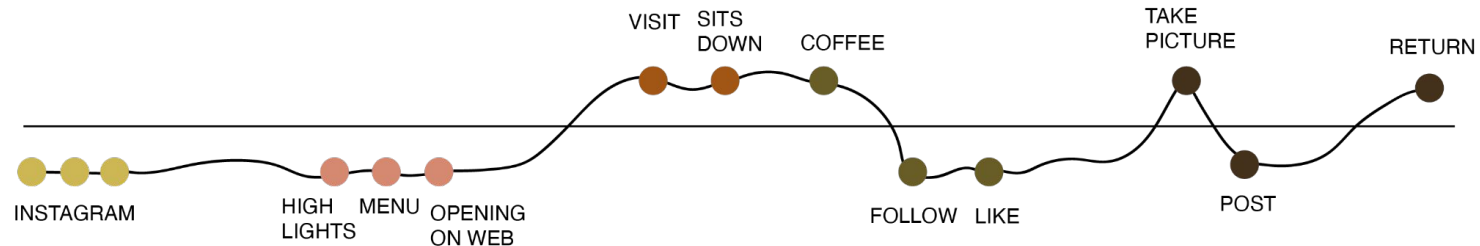
GOALS

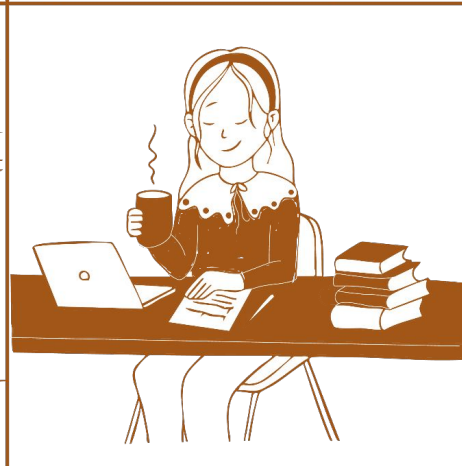
Her goal is to prepare efficiently for her finals, complete all her projects without distractions, and feel confident going into exam week.

STEPS

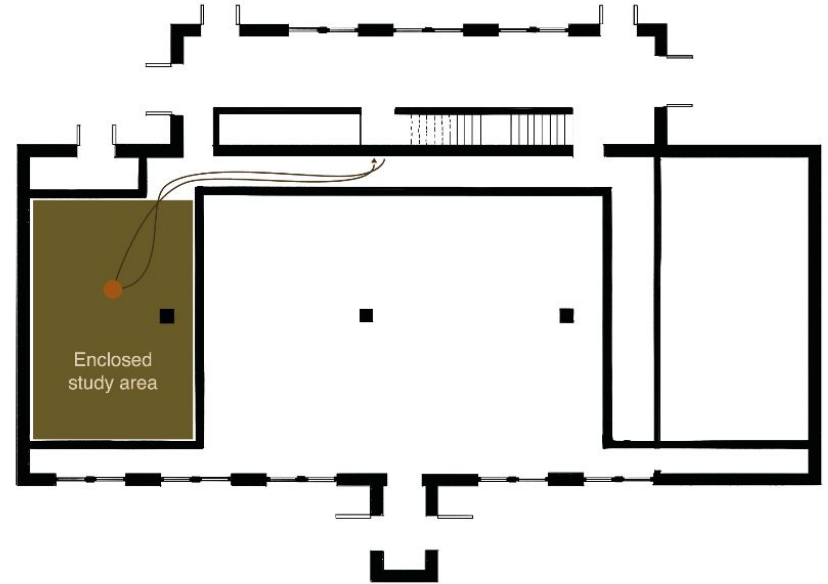
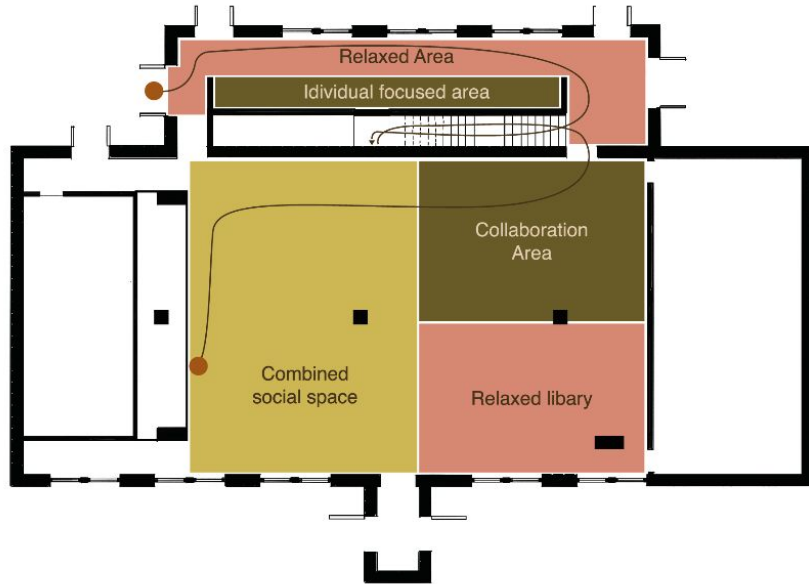
AWARENESS	CONSIDERATION	TRIAL	RELATE	COMMITMENT
Sees NODO on instagram ad Scrolling through the instagram Seeing her friend tagging NODO on instagram	Looking through highlights at NODOs instagram to get a sense of the atmosphere Looking through the menu Going to Website link & seeing the opening schedule	Visit the coworking space Searching for a good focused spot to study Sits down on a focus area to study	Buys a coffee Follow on instagram to be updated Liking the posts	Taking pictures at the cafe Posts on instagram and tag the cafes instagram.

TOUCHPOINTS





LENA, TOUCHPOINT DIAGRAM



**12 PERSONA
VERONICA**

VERONICA, THE EDUCATOR



45

Veronica, a mom of two and architecture teacher at NABA. Each day she steps into a bustling lab. Her days are long and physically demanding & lack a calm space for break between classes.

MOTIVATION

She is looking for a calm and comfortable space with access to a cafeteria for breaks through the day.

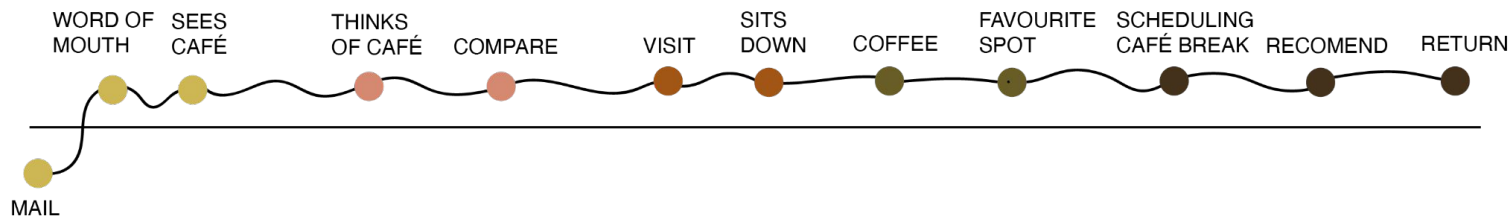
GOALS

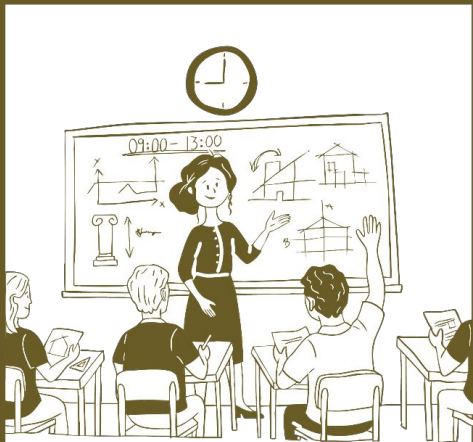
Her goal is to find a peaceful and comfortable space on campus where she can recharge between classes, enjoy a coffee, and return to teaching feeling rested and focused.

STEPS

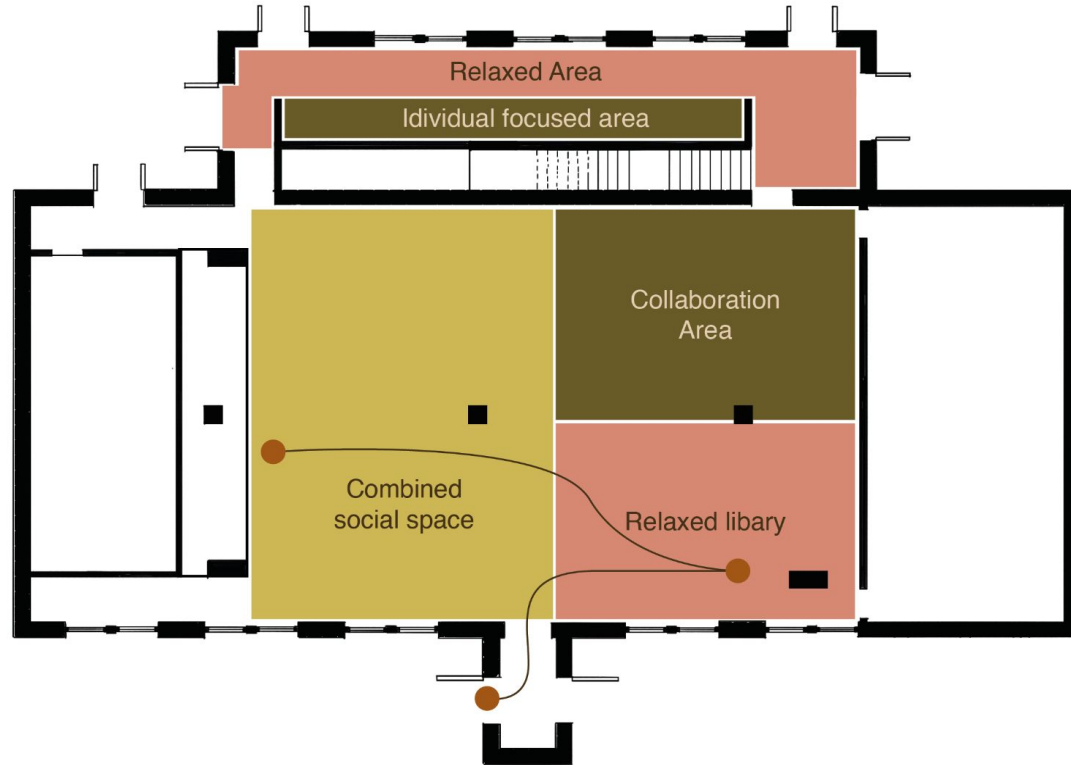
AWARENESS	CONSIDERATION	TRIAL	RELATE	COMMITMENT
Newsletter mail from naba Recommendation through words of mouth Sees cafe when she pass through while walking to class	Time between classes and thinks of naba cafe Compare other optional places at NABA for a rest and consider the cafe the best	Visiting on her break between classes Sits in the relaxed area and reads her book and enjoys the time in the relaxed area. Stays the whole break.	Buys a coffee and a pastry Find her favourite spot in the cafe	Scheduling the naba cafe as her break area between classes through the week. Starts to recommend the cafe to her colleagues

TOUCHPOINTS





VERONICA, TOUCHPOINT DIAGRAM



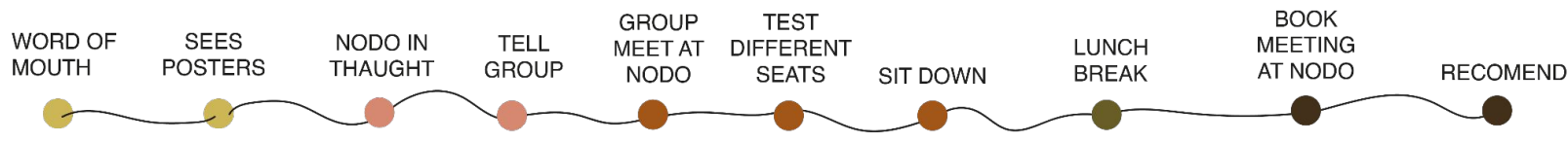
13 PERSONA PAOLO

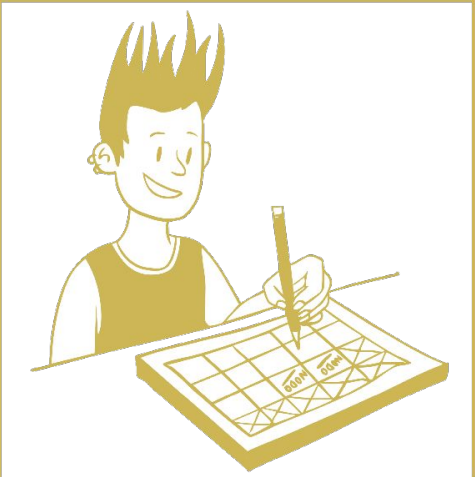
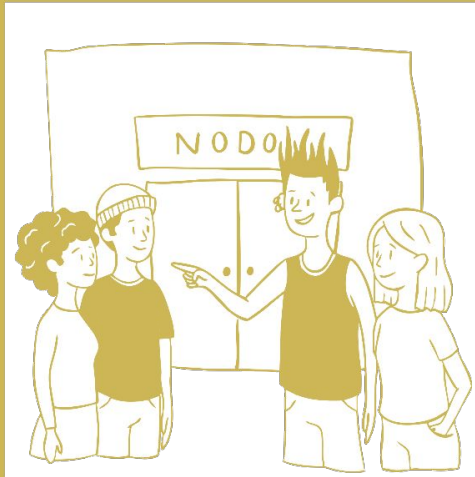
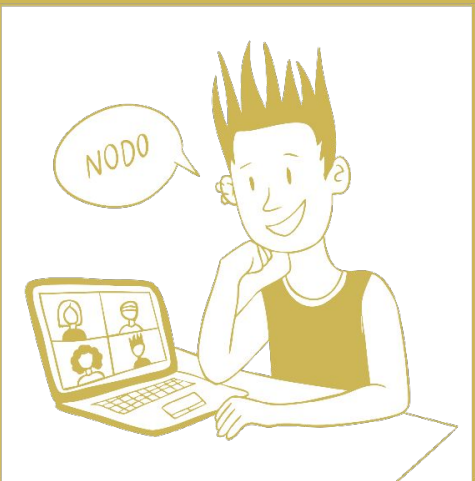
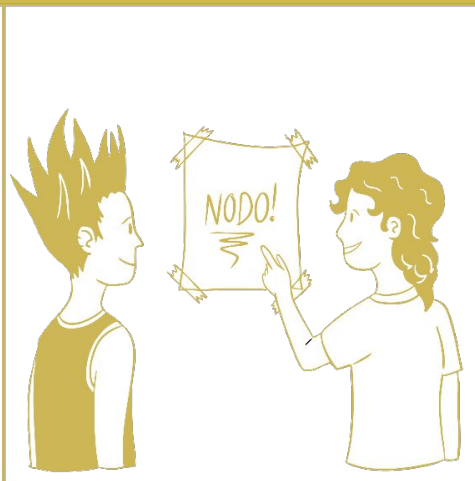
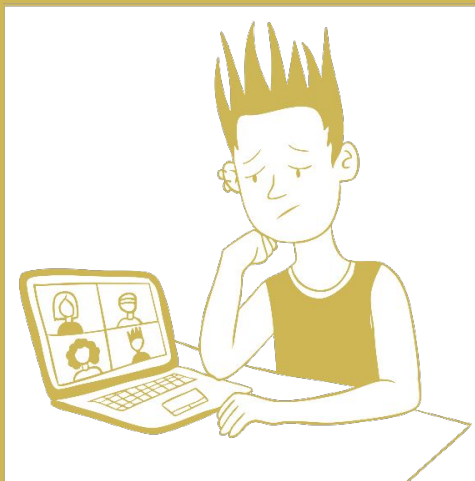
PAOLO, THE CO-WORKER  29 Paolo is a master's student in fashion at NABA who often takes part in group projects. He and his classmates all live in small apartments and usually work together over Zoom. Hard to create over zoom	MOTIVATION He is looking for a spacious space for his project group to have their meetings, collaborate and to create together.	GOALS His goal is to establish a recurring way of working where his group can meet physically, work efficiently, and build stronger collaborative relationships, independent of access to private homes or digital solutions.
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STEPS

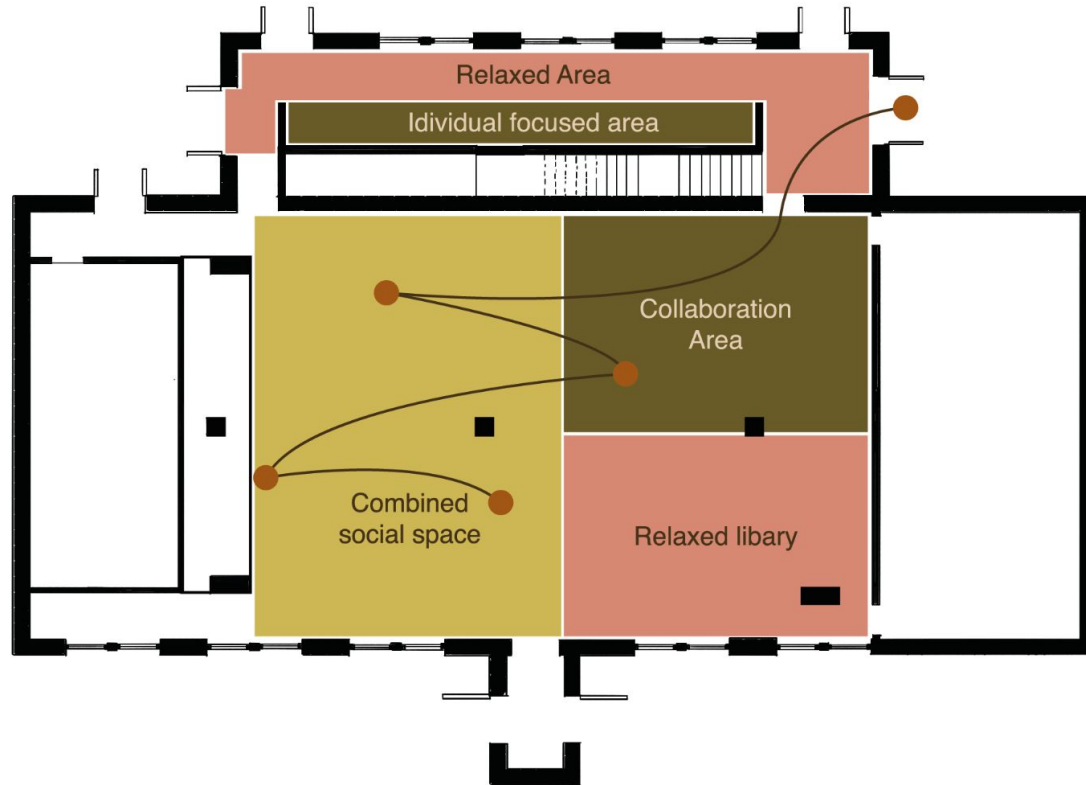
AWARENESS	CONSIDERATION	TRIAL	RELATE	COMMITMENT
Word of mouth Get in touch with the posters on the campus.	Wondering if NODO is a good spot for his study group Tells study group about NODO	Study group meet at NODO. Testing different seating arrangements and noticing that the noise doesn't disturb the conversations. Choosing a group arrangement to sit.	Take a break to buy and eat lunch at the cafe.	Books another meeting with the group at NODO and starts to study there alone. Recommend NODO for other groups in his class.

TOUCHPOINTS





PAOLO, TOUCHPOINT DIAGRAM



14

SAMPLE BOARD

SAMPLE BOARD

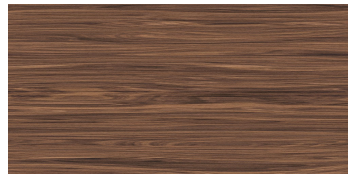
OAK



THIN WOOD



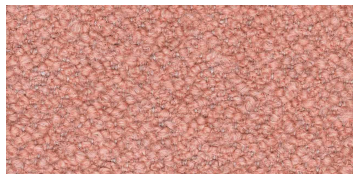
OAK WITH WALNUT STAIN



COCCIOPERLA



WOOL BLEND



CONCRETE



THIN LINEN



WOOL BLEND



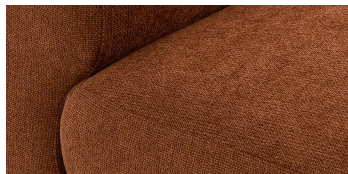
MATTE VELVET



PINE



LINEN BLEND



POLISHED CHROME



15 OUR FURNITURES

CHAIRS, BENCH & SIDE TABLE



The lounge chairs are selected for their comfort, distinct forms, and strong character, creating balance without competing.

The bench adds flexibility and a sense of craftsmanship, acting as a natural link between zones.

The side table frees up space and offers function without disrupting the overall composition.

TABLES & CHAIRS

The furniture is selected to support focused work and study in a flexible coworking environment.

The three tables, rectangular, round, and trapezoidal, offer spatial variation for both individual and collaborative use.

The chairs differ in design but share a unified material expression, providing ergonomic options without visual noise.



LOUNGE & DETAILS

The sofas are chosen to create a relaxed feel, generous in form, distinct in color, and inviting for pause or conversation.

The café bench with table offers a simple, accessible spot for short meetings or coffee with a clear public character.

The chess bench combines calm and play, a low-intensity activity that supports both focus and social interaction.



The book divider functions as both a spatial element and a content carrier, adding structure without enclosure.

The bookshelf defines the library zone, contributing function and engagement.

LIGHTNING & DIVIDER

The ceiling lamps are chosen to create a soft, cohesive light flow, varied in shapes.

The two floor lamps add atmosphere and direction, each with a distinct character and material presence.

The table lamp provides focused lighting for tasks or reading.

The room divider in thin wood defines space without enclosing it. Its translucent material lets light pass through and enhances the natural light of the room.



OUR FURNITURES



N&DO

FURNITURE CATALOGUE

LIGHTNING & CHAIRS



TABLES & BENCHES

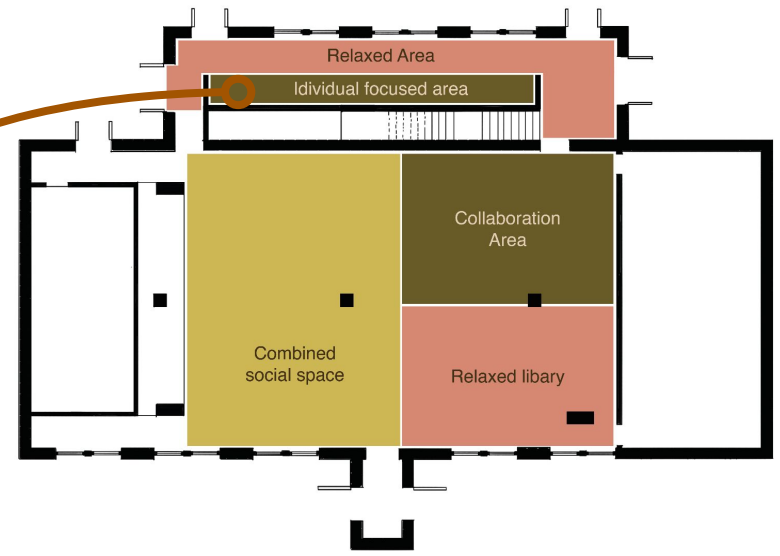


LOUNGING & DETAILS



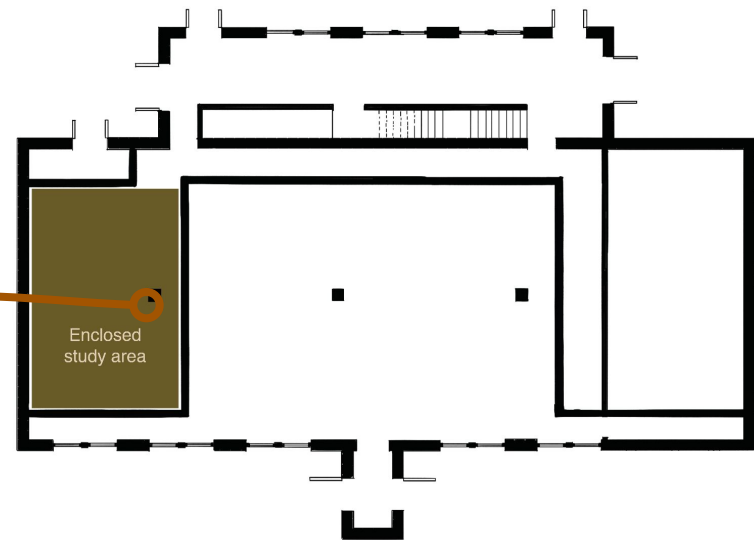
16

**INTERIOR
VISUALISATION**

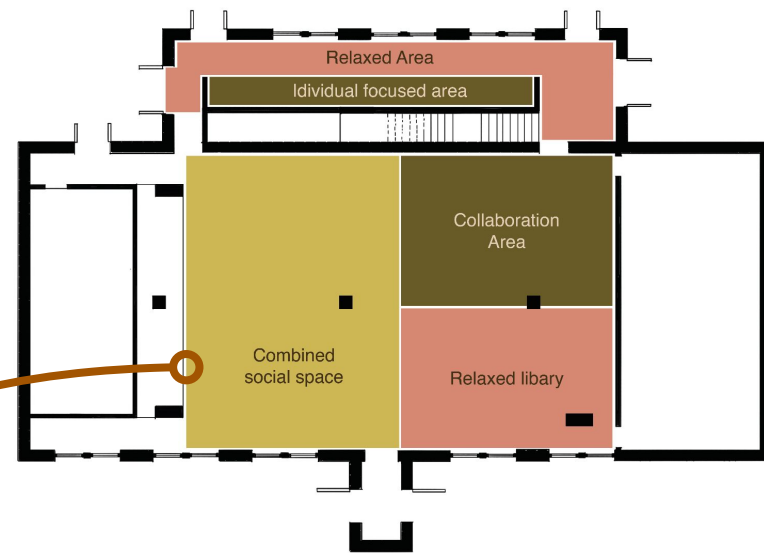


Here is a place where focus is central. The long wooden desk offers individual workstations, each with its own desk lamp, positioned light designed to enhance concentration.

Concrete walls, wooden surfaces, and textile rugs balance the hard with the soft. It is a space where one can sit alone, yet not be lonely. A shared focus area that fosters calm, presence, and productivity.

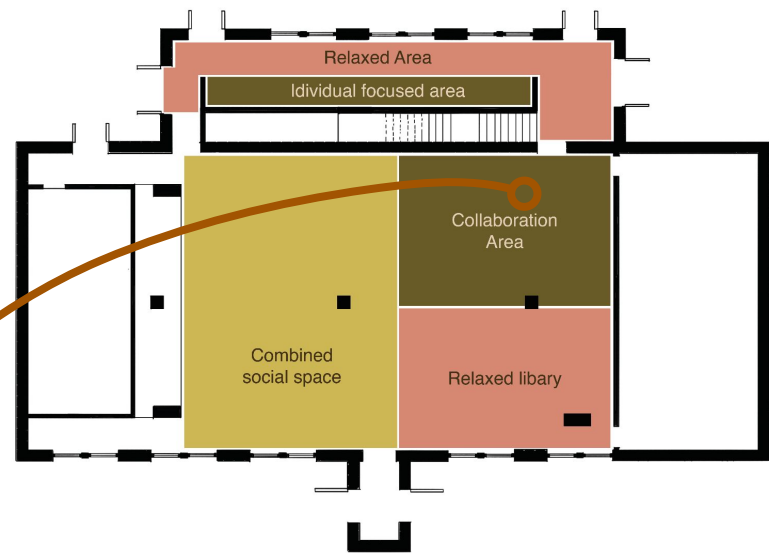


On the second floor, the furniture arrangement is the same as before. Here, the table is positioned against a railing with a view of the lower level. Due to the open feeling created by the view, we have chosen to use fabrics in the ceiling to make the area somewhat more secluded. As before, this is a space intended for focused work.

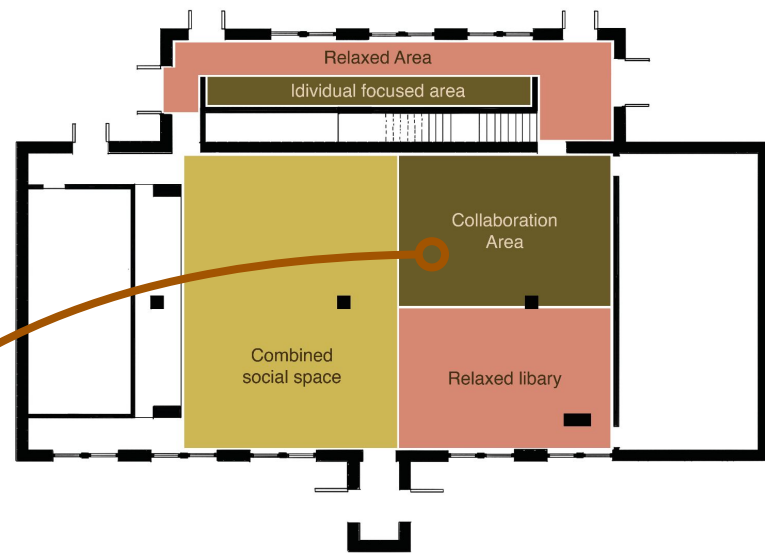


This area is positioned opposite to the café and serves as a visual and functional boundary from the rest of the space. The long bench with individual seats and small tables defines a clear zone for short breaks.

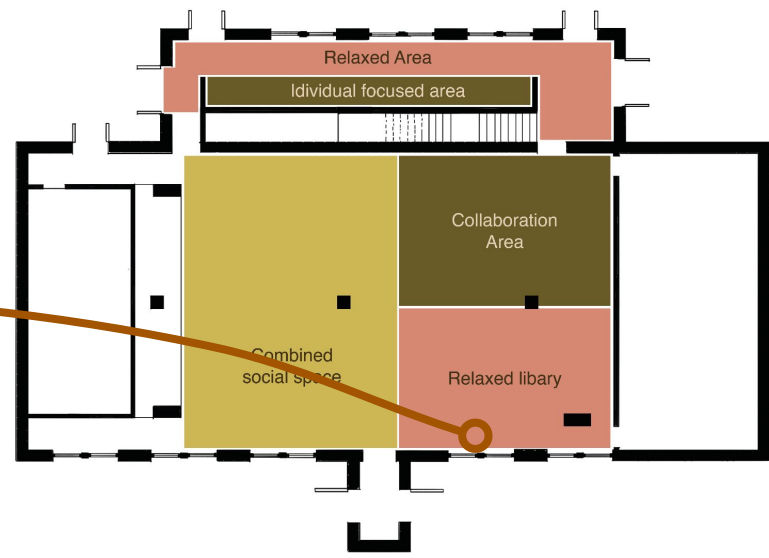
Its placement makes it easy for visitors to understand where the café ends, especially for those who simply want to grab a quick coffee or take a brief lunch break without moving further into the space.



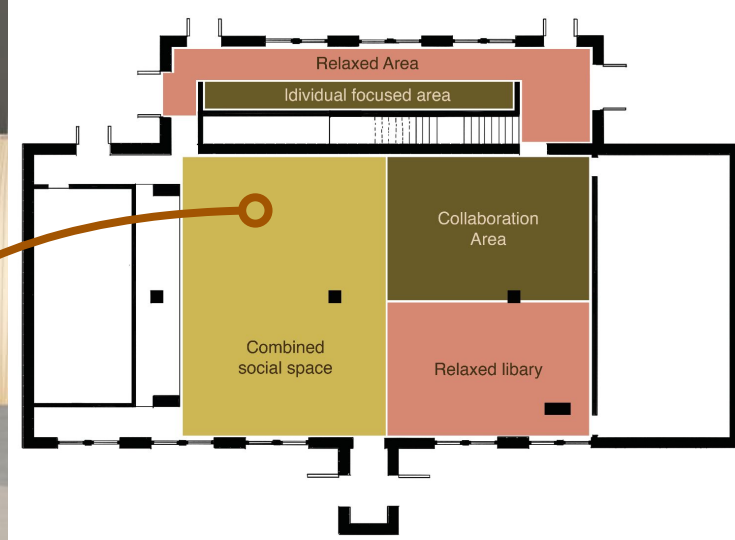
This image shows an open collaboration area designed for group work. Bookshelves are strategically placed and act as spatial dividers, creating semi-private zones within the larger room. Overall, the setting supports collaboration, movement, and access to materials.



This area is designed as a more enclosed collaboration zone for group work that requires increased concentration. The round table facilitates communication within the group, while being placed inside a partition that clearly defines the zone. The partition is made of a thin wooden material that allows natural light to pass through, maintaining the room's brightness and openness.



This area is placed on a raised platform and is a relaxed zone within the larger room. It is furnished with lounge arrangements, making it suitable for quiet breaks, relaxation, or activities such as a game of chess. The choice of materials, textiles, wood, and subdued lighting, helps maintain a low noise level and creates a library-like atmosphere. The location and design of the zone make it particularly well-suited for reading, quiet conversation, and individual recovery.



The combined social area is furnished with large tables in various shapes to encourage interaction among people. It is also designed to accommodate larger groups, such as classes or project teams.

**BY LISA HERMANSSON
& TUVA KRAVOS**