

# DESIGN DOS AND DON'TS

**The following pages identify *Design Dos and Don'ts* by spatial program type and correlate directly to the *Trauma-Informed Design Principles*.**

These recommendations are a result from the site engagement process with Brandy Hill, Hawthorne Place, POAH Cincinnati, and Flat 9 at Whittier. It is important to note that the core concept and principles of trauma-informed design are intended to be universal, adaptable, and should be implemented based on the unique characteristics of the project context and community.

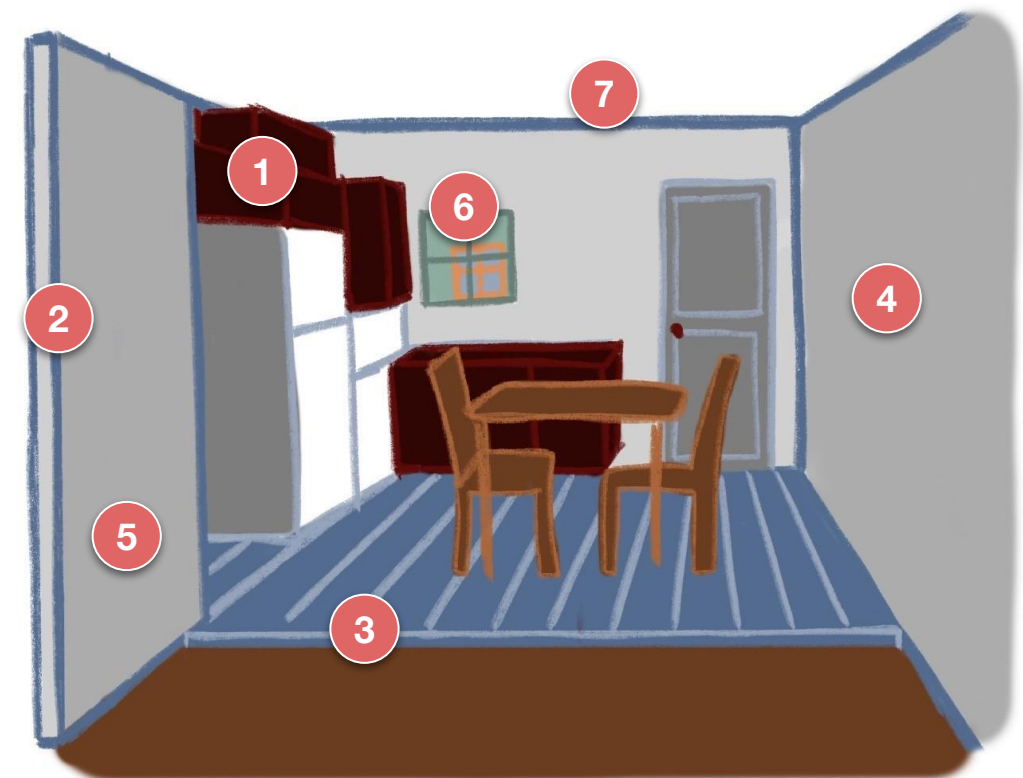
# DESIGN DO'S AND DON'TS | HOMES

## DO



- 1 Specify long-lasting, high quality counters, surfaces, and materials
- 2 Invest in high acoustical separation of dwelling walls and floors
- 3 Design for openness with clear circulation and slip-resistant materials
- 4 Encourage personal decorations and cultural expression
- 5 Leverage the full color palette from the Basis of Design i.e. look at the interior as a whole and allow residents to choose their own paint colors
- 6 Design for safety and privacy with peep hole in home entrance door
- 7 Offer light-filled spaces throughout the home, provide easily operable window blinds, and allow for light modulation, and temperature control

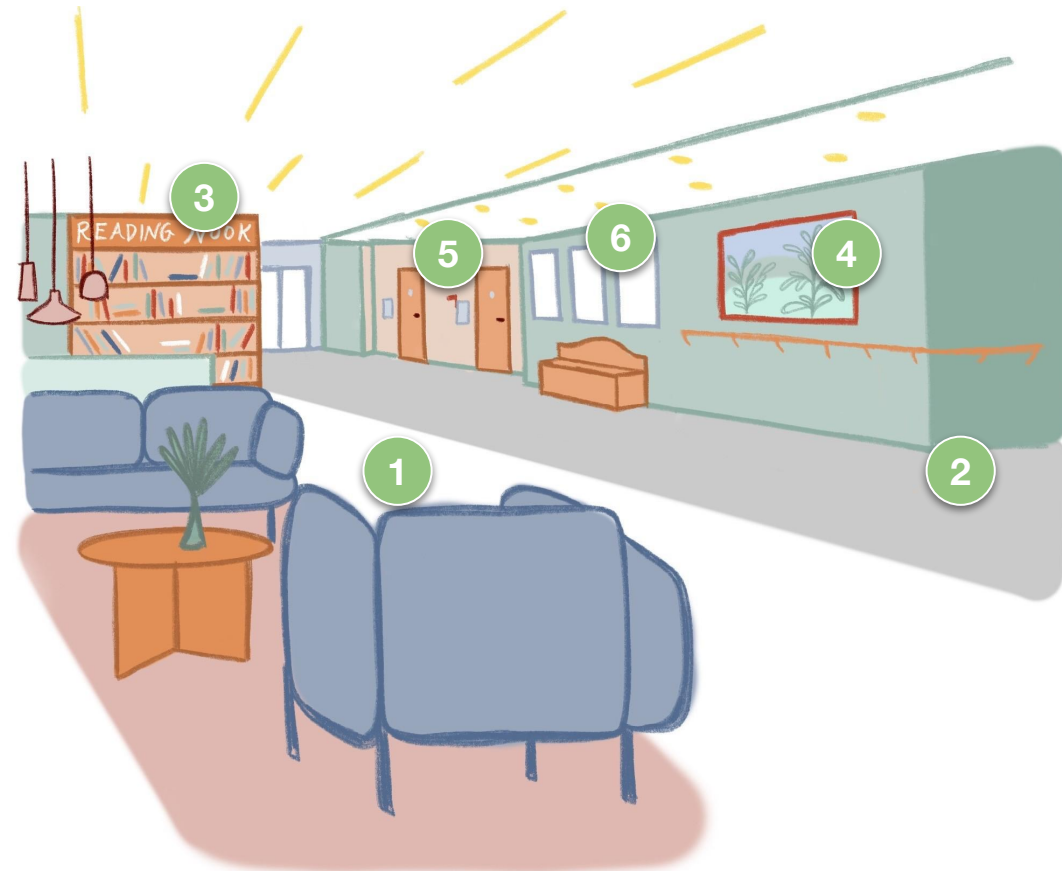
## DON'T



- 1 Specify dark colors, counter, and materials
- 2 Specify minimum acoustical separation of dwelling walls and floors
- 3 Use flooring that restricts free circulation through the spaces, which might cause trip hazards
- 4 Limit decorative or personal elements
- 5 Limit paint color palettes
- 6 Face windows directly into neighbors' living spaces
- 7 Underestimate interior lighting

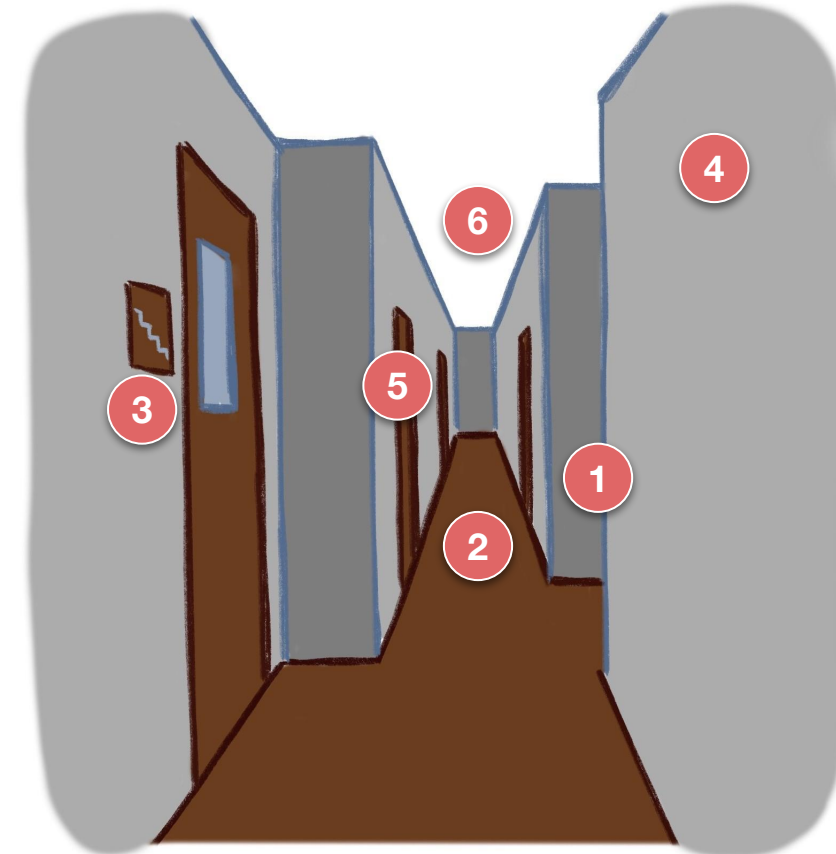
# DESIGN DO'S AND DON'TS | COMMON SPACES: CORRIDORS

## DO



- 1 Offer a spatial experience with clear sightlines and spatial openness
- 2 Design visible, varied, and accessible circulation
- 3 Provide clear signage and visibility of spaces
- 4 Provide positive distractions, access to nature, and elements of cultural expression that honor the building's local context and community
- 5 Design home entrances that are bright, clearly visible, and offset from major circulation paths to allow residents to take their time to enter their home
- 6 Design light-filled, naturally ventilated spaces

## DON'T



- 1 Block major sightlines or conceal available spaces around sharp corners
- 2 Design dark, narrow, double-sided corridors
- 3 Skimp on signage elements along corridors or common areas
- 4 Limit paint colors to single tone
- 5 Cluster home entrances along narrow, dark corridors
- 6 Underlight spaces or stagnate airflow

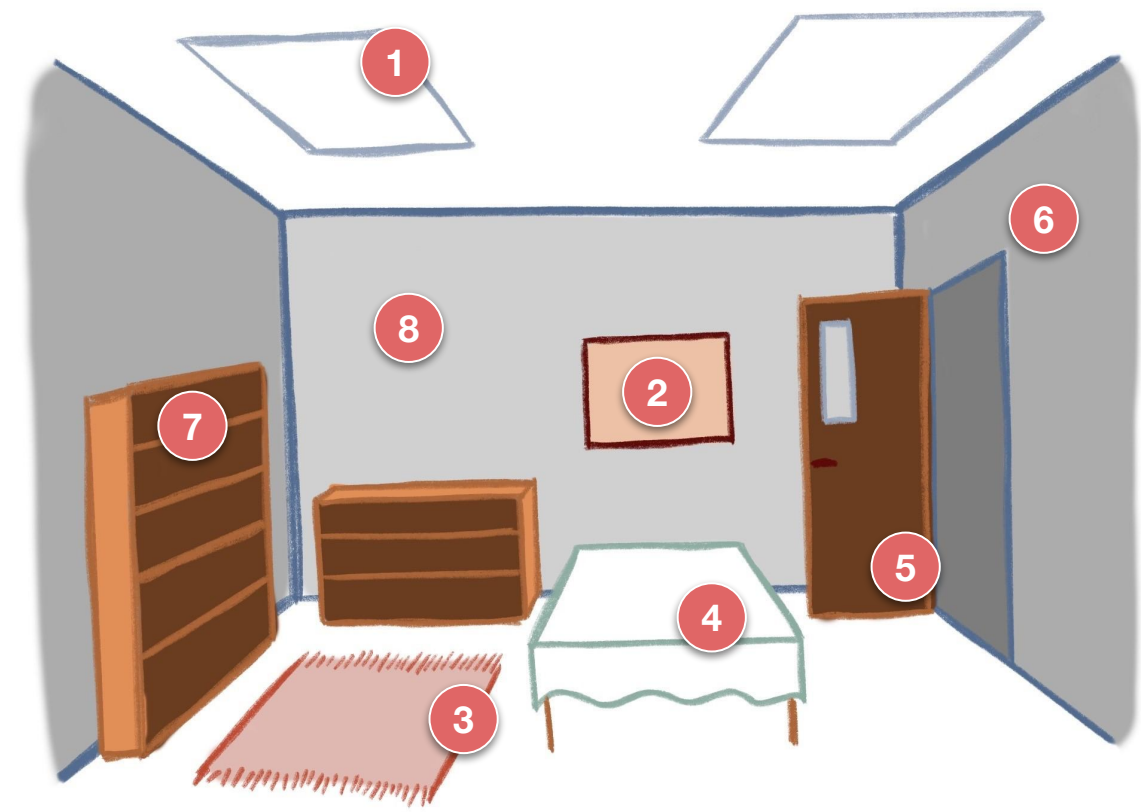
# DESIGN DO'S AND DON'TS | COMMON SPACES: MULTI-PURPOSE/COMMUNITY ROOM

## DO



- 1 Design light-filled, naturally ventilated spaces
- 2 Allow residents to bring life and activity by contributing to the space
- 3 Provide cues for possible activities to do in multi-purpose spaces
- 4 Provide lightweight, movable, comfortable, inclusive furniture
- 5 Design for spatial openness and multiple points of access
- 6 Allow community artistic expression
- 7 Design spaces for intergenerational learning, engagement, and play
- 8 Allow views and access to outdoors

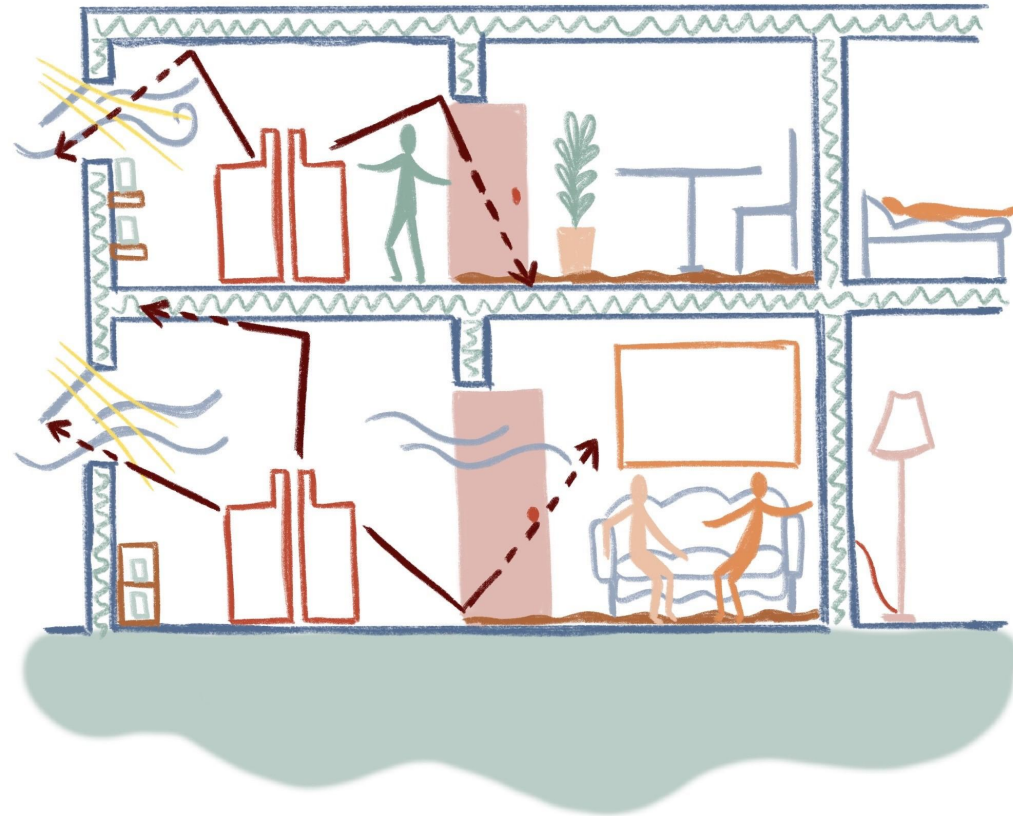
## DON'T



- 1 Use singular, harsh lighting sources
- 2 Neglect the curation of activities and programming
- 3 Specify generic decor not informed by the local context
- 4 Provide non-inclusive or inaccessible furniture
- 5 Design a single point of access with limited visibility into/out of the room
- 6 Use dark, monotone colors
- 7 Create exclusive spaces for only one age group
- 8 Neglect designing daylit spaces

# DESIGN DO'S AND DON'TS | SERVICE SPACES

## DO



- Provide comfortable adjacent seating / waiting space
- Design for adequate ventilation and lighting, both natural during the day and artificial at night, during all hours of operation
- Provide acoustic barriers and sound absorbing materials, and strategically locate loud equipment away from homes to minimize disruptions
- Provide opportunities for organized communal storage of necessary items
- Provide FAQ, contact information, and other useful guidance
- Prioritize residents' experience and privacy

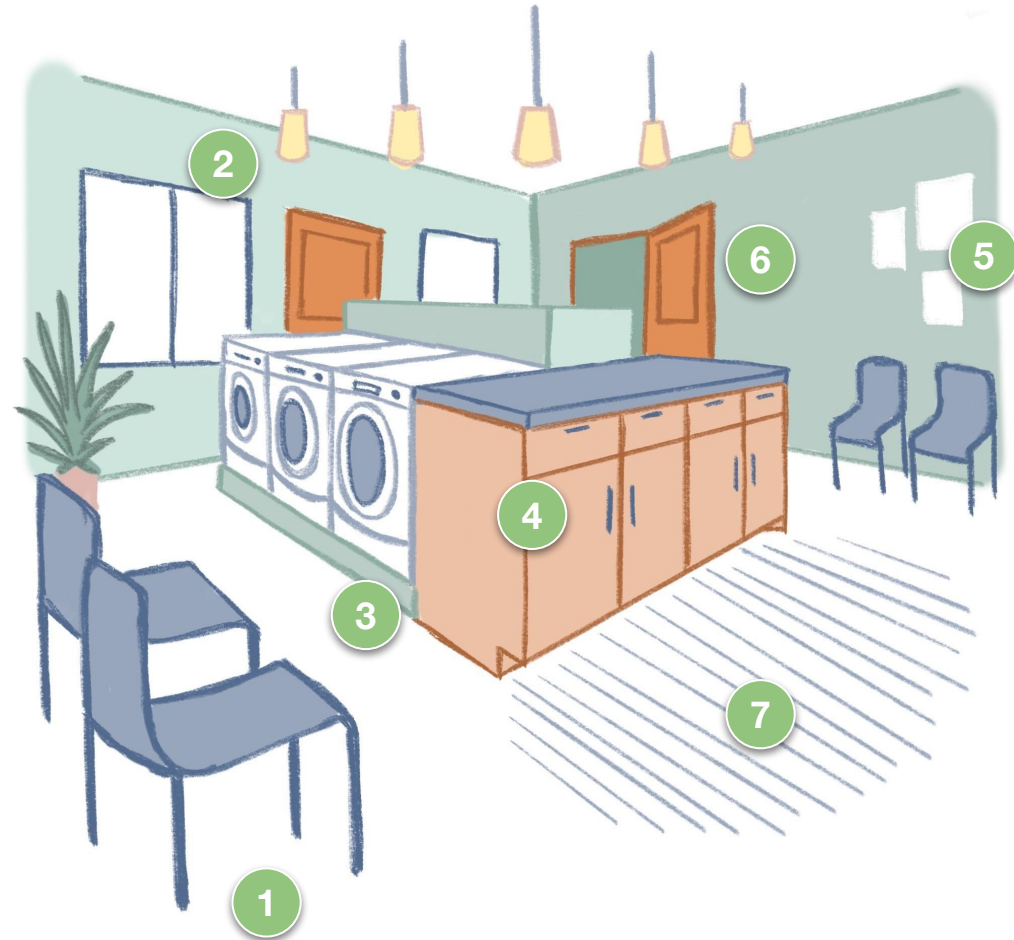
## DON'T



- Restrict ventilation and natural light
- Design tight or cramped spaces without views or windows
- Forget to consider acoustical adjacencies and the impact of loud equipment in nearby homes
- Underestimate resident needs in service spaces by not providing enough counter spaces, surfaces, etc.
- Assume proper use of spaces without written guidance
- Neglect resident experience and feedback of space use

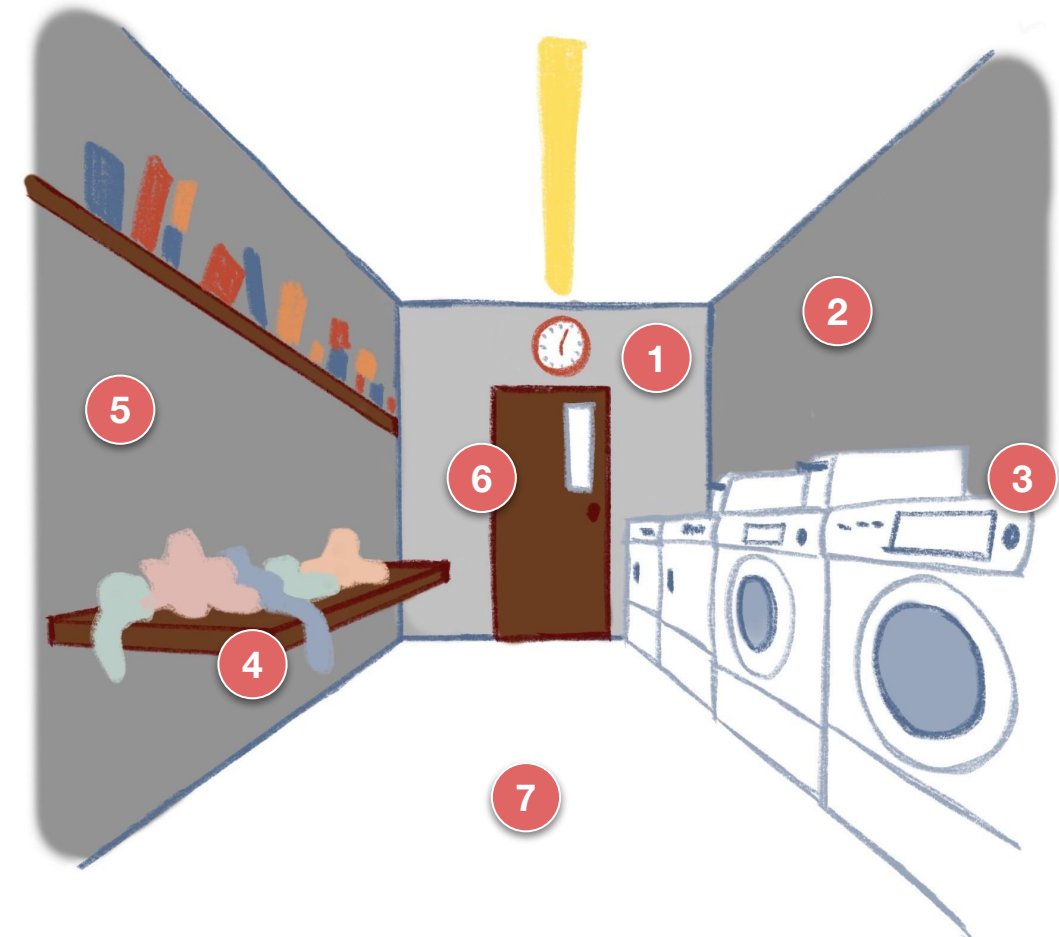
# DESIGN DO'S AND DON'TS | LAUNDRY ROOM

## DO



- 1 Provide comfortable adjacent seating / waiting space
- 2 Design for adequate ventilation and lighting, both natural during the day and artificial at night, during all hours of operation
- 3 Provide acoustic barriers and sound absorbing materials, and strategically locate loud equipment away from homes to minimize disruptions
- 4 Provide opportunities for organized communal storage of necessary items
- 5 Provide FAQ, contact information, and other useful guidance
- 6 Prioritize residents' experience and privacy
- 7 Specify easy to clean, non-slip flooring

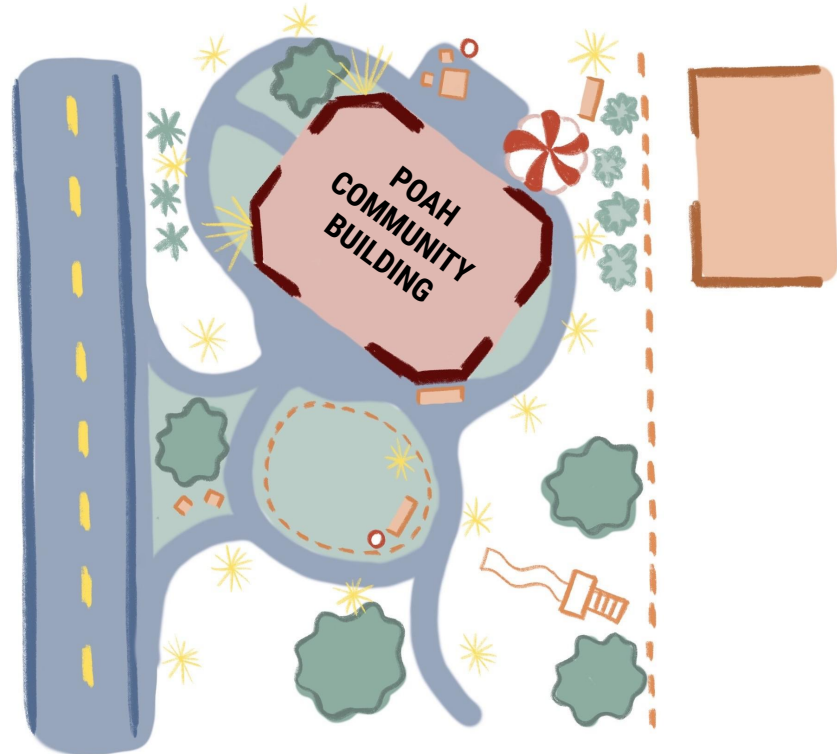
## DON'T



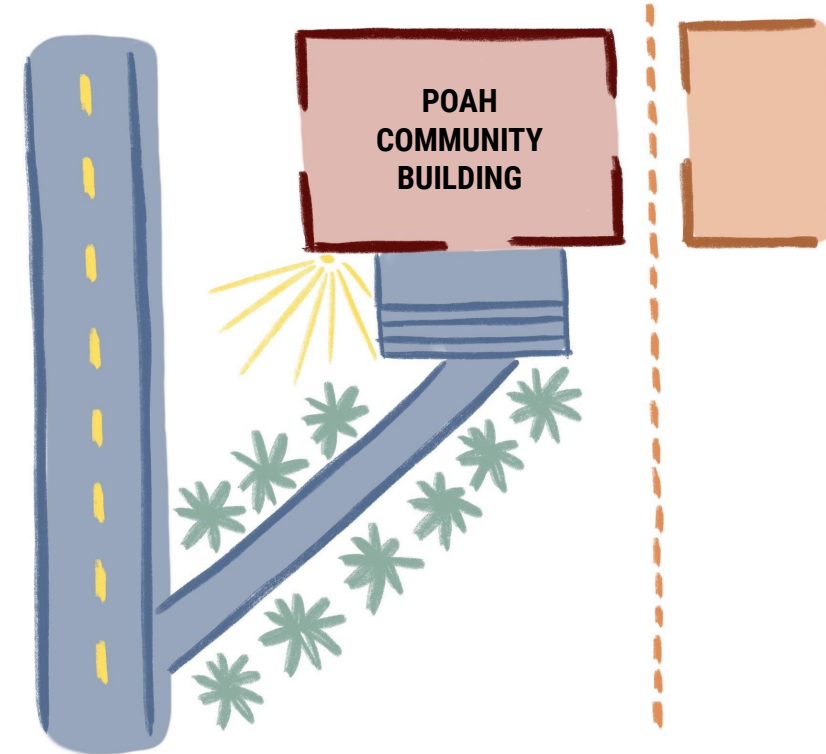
- 1 Design tight or cramped spaces without seating and views or windows
- 2 Restrict ventilation and natural light
- 3 Forget to consider acoustical adjacencies and the impact of loud equipment in nearby homes
- 4 Underestimate resident needs in service spaces by not providing enough counter spaces, surfaces, etc.
- 5 Assume proper use of spaces without written guidance
- 6 Neglect resident experience and feedback of space use
- 7 Specify slick flooring

# DESIGN DO'S AND DON'TS | OUTDOOR SPACES

## DO



## DON'T



- Provide a variety of outdoor destinations and types of spaces, i.e. benches, playgrounds, bike racks, courts, dog park, trails, etc.
- Provide plentiful community trash cans and doggie bag / waste stations
- Provide weather-protected seating options
- Create an inviting, welcoming entry
- Consider transition from street to POAH community
- Provide clear sightlines and visibility to all outdoor spaces
- Curate variety of local vegetation, hard- and softscape
- Install exterior lighting that promotes safety but doesn't disrupt neighbors

- Limit types of outdoor space offerings for residents
- Forget outdoor service amenities i.e. trash cans, doggie waste bins, etc
- Neglect to provide shaded amenity spaces
- Create only one route in and out of the building
- Design harsh, sharp boundary between street and POAH community
- Restrict sightlines that might surprise or startle
- Use single type of plantings
- Use one single source of exterior lighting

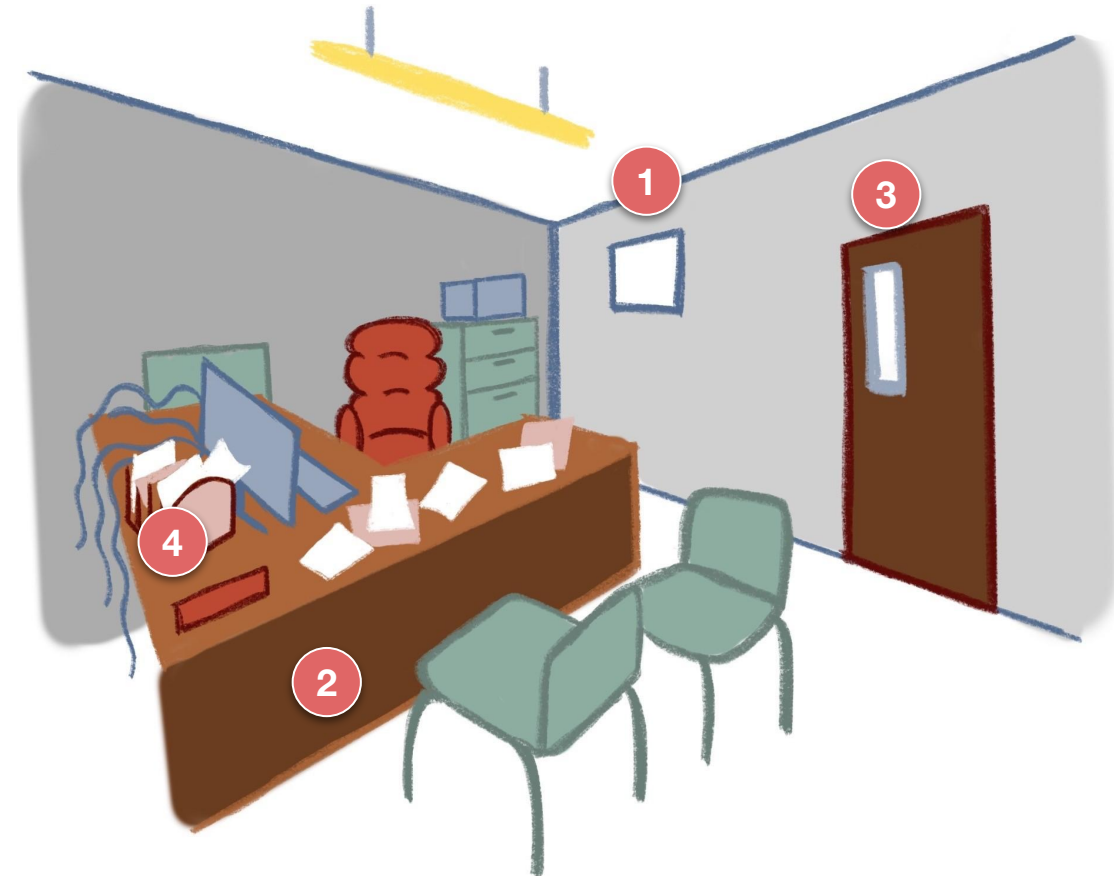
# DESIGN DO'S AND DON'TS | STAFF WORK SPACES: PRIVATE OFFICES

## DO



- 1 Design light-filled, naturally ventilated spaces
- 2 Provide lightweight, inclusive, comfortable furniture
- 3 Invest in high acoustical separation of office walls
- 4 Provide plentiful, lockable storage

## DON'T



- 1 Design windowless offices and specify singular, harsh overhead lights
- 2 Provide uncomfortable, non-inclusive, heavy furniture
- 3 Specify minimum acoustical separation of office walls
- 4 Underestimate storage needs



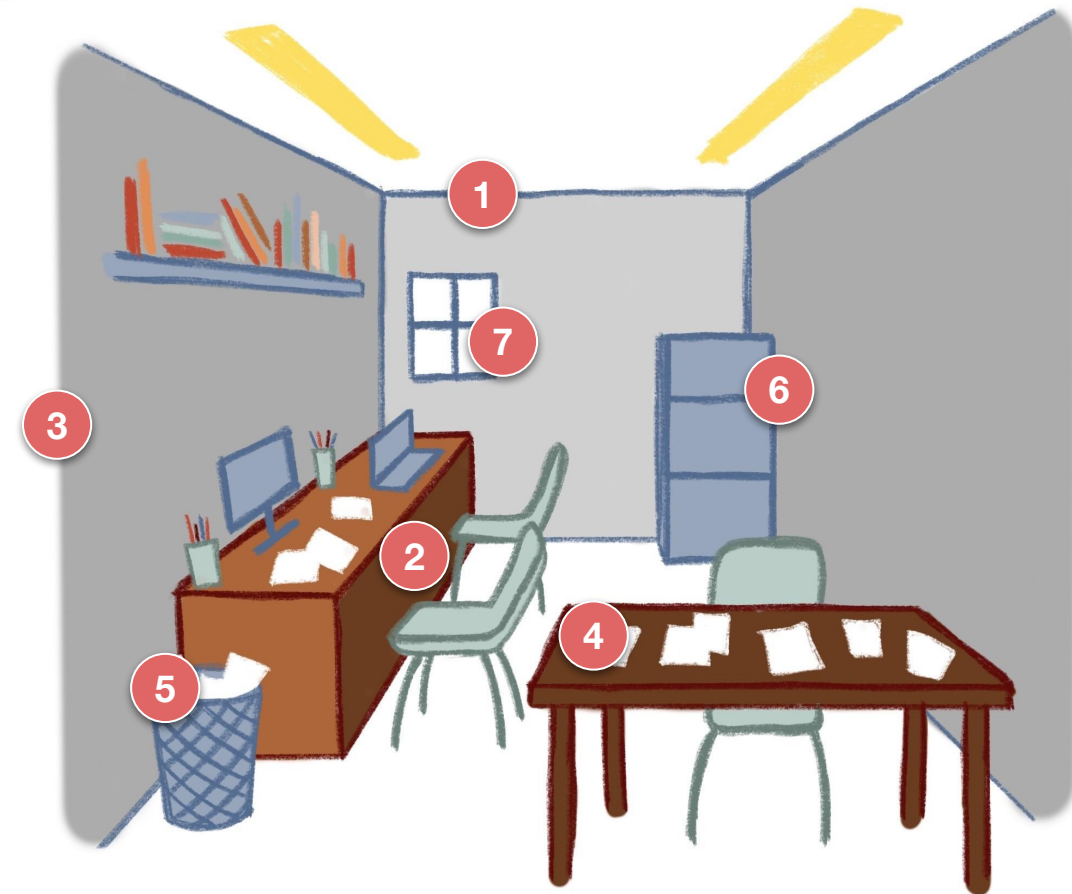
# DESIGN DO'S AND DON'TS | STAFF WORK SPACES: SHARED OFFICES

## DO



- 1 Design light-filled, naturally ventilated spaces
- 2 Provide lightweight, inclusive, comfortable furniture — adequately spaced
- 3 Invest in high acoustical separation of office walls
- 4 Provide a variety of available, adaptable spaces that allow for private conversations to happen as needed
- 5 Provide artful spaces and connections to nature
- 6 Provide plentiful, lockable storage
- 7 Offer positive distractions and space for discrete socialization

## DON'T



- 1 Design windowless offices and specify singular, harsh overhead lights
- 2 Provide uncomfortable, non-inclusive, heavy furniture in a cramped space
- 3 Specify minimum acoustical separation of office walls
- 4 Overestimate the ability to adapt a single space type to accommodate various staff needs i.e. staff taking calls in a shared office disrupts other coworkers focused work time
- 5 Neglect look and feel of a shared workspace
- 6 Underestimate storage needs
- 7 Forget to offer an area for respite