

# *Patient Laundry and Cooking*

*If patients can't get involved in simple, daily activities, they will really feel institutionalized.*

In the inpatient unit it is important that facilities for daily living be provided. Typically the laundry and kitchen, if they exist, are located outside of inpatient units and are not available for patients to do their laundering or prepare a snack in their evening leisure hours. The more visible they are, the more patients will be drawn to use them.

Social interaction of patients with other patients, and patients with staff, must take place within the inpatient unit. The kitchen and laundry are ideal

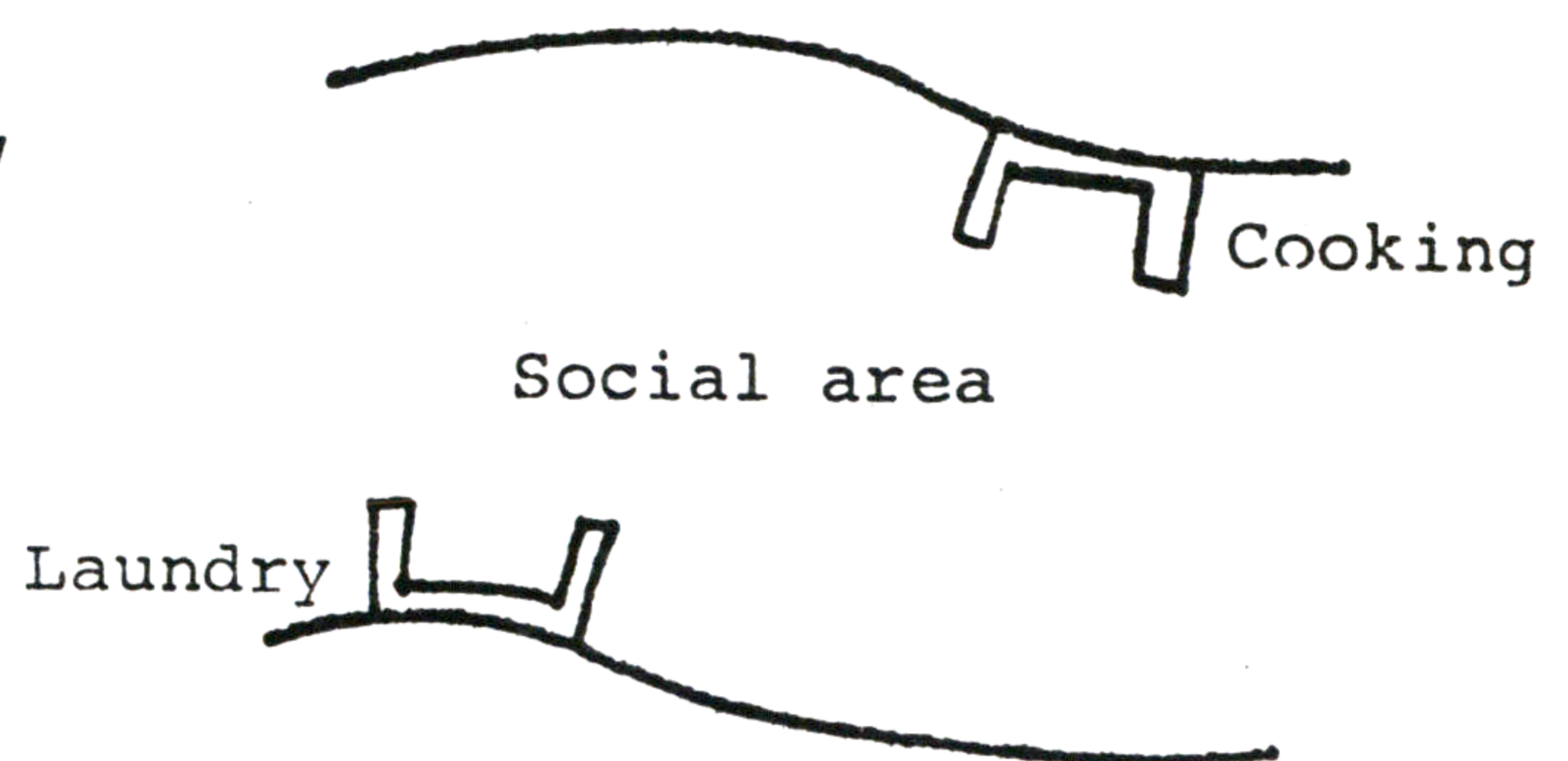
for conversation and sharing settings.

Ideally, both these spaces should be too small to contain individual tables. One large table in the social area can serve as table for ironing, mending, sewing, making food, having a cup of coffee, playing cards, thus bringing the patients together.

## **Context**

Social area for inpatient unit in a mental health center.

*Therefore: Provide a laundry (laundry sink, two machines, and freestanding ironing board) in the mainstream of the social area, available to all patients, clearly visible, and a domestic kitchen (food preparation, counter, storage, and stove) also in the main stream of the social area.*



Both kitchen and laundry are, ideally, smaller spaces which open directly into the social area with no door or barrier between.

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*By: Clyde Dorsett and Friedner Wittman*

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*This pattern is tentative. If you have any evidence to support or refute its current formulation, please send it to the Center for Environmental Structure, P.O. Box 5156, Berkeley, California 94705; we will add your comments to the next edition.*