

OUTLINE OF COMPUTER PROGRAM
for
FURNITURE LAYOUT

Center for Environmental Structure
September 1985

Computer is a normal screen, high resolution if possible, with color.

Equipped with light pen if possible. If not, mouse or other graphic input.

The the following, C stands for Computer, and O stands for Operator.

1. Program opens.

Blank screen, at scale of 200 feet across the screen.

C asks O to draw a map of the office space. This is done with light pen if possible. Other method if not.

Drawing is made roughly, and computer then asks for certain dimensions to be inserted.

2. C shows redrawn office space, at scale of 1" equals 16 feet.

3. C creates three possible scales, for displaying the same plan. One scale is 1/16th, 1/8th, and 1/4. In the following interaction, plans of the office will be shown alternately at different scales, as needed.

4. While displaying 1/16th scale, C shows total area of the office space, in square feet.

5. C asks for total number of people working in this space. S types in number. C shows average number of square feet per person. If this number is between 50 and 200, everything is OK. If less than 50, C types comment "Please check, there may be too many people working in this space".

6. C now asks O to type in names of principal groups which have to be in the office, together with number of people working in each one. Thus:

ADMINISTRATION	2
FINANCE	3
PRODUCTION	6
BILLING	1

7. C now asks O to name any other main functions which may be there, by choosing from a default list. This list includes

ENTRANCE
RECEPTION
COFFEE ROOM
STORAGE
XEROX ROOM
THICK WALLS
etc.

8. Computer now prints a space buidget, which shows each of these areas, (both names of groups, and ancillary areas), with a number of square feet, prorated by number of people, with default numbers for ancillary items.

9. C displays the statement

"These square footages are based on an average distribution assuming that each person has the same amount of workspace. It is also based on simple assumptions about other spaces. Please correct these numbers, to conform to the real situation in your office".

10. C makes corrections to maintain a correct total in the numbers.

11. Now C says, please show rough positions you want for these different groups. O is required to make a dot at the approximate center of gravity of the different things. with the name of the appropriate function.

(Input is not so simple here).

12. C now displays a possible layout, by showing shaded thick walls as boundaries, and names of different areas neatly typed.

Color will be relevant here. For example, one color for walls, another for areas; another for groups.