

# STUDENT LIFE & ACADEMICS UNDER 5,000 SQ.FT.

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ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN FIRM: N/A

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AUID WEBSITE: N/A

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# STUDENT LIFE & ACADEMICS

## UNDER 5,000 SQ.FT.

**PROJECT TITLE: Abeng Multicultural Lounge**  
**SQUARE FOOTAGE: 1,000 SF**

### PROJECT STATEMENT:

The Abeng /ə'ben/ Multicultural Lounge, originally established in 1971, was the first minority culture lounge in the Multicultural Lounge program. The word "Abeng" is a Twi word from Ghana, meaning an animal horn or musical instrument. Abengs were used by slaves in the West Indies and Jamaica to communicate with each other and call secret meetings. The Abeng later became a symbol for the enslaved community in the United States, symbolizing a "call to action". The Abeng Multicultural Lounge honors the powerful significance of the abeng and celebrates the advocacy and fight for freedom, racial equality, and justice by the Black and African American community.

This space was originally in the lower level of the building with little natural daylight, far from the center core of the building, and too small to host programs and events. The lounge was moved up to an open lounge off the main corridor of the building and enclosed the space to have private events and programs. This project budget was \$400,000 which included general FF&E, enclosing the new location which affected other adjacent spaces as well as lightly refreshing the old lounge space. The old lounge space now serves as a general building lounge space. This was a collaborative design process with Housing Diversity and Inclusion, student feedback sessions, and student organization input. This design features custom woodwork, rich earth tones in materiality, and graphics. Other design elements such as quotes, poems, song lyrics, and modern art by a local artist and student author physically represent Abeng and its messaging. The new space honors and celebrates what was originally created over 50 years ago.

### ACCOMPLISHMENTS OR SPECIAL FEATURES:

Special design features of this project include custom wood shelves and a wood/acrylic table. This table was inspired by the design concept of the original lounge and was a way to tangibly represent how enslaved individuals traveled from one land to another via a body of water. Two pieces of raw wood (land – Africa, North America) are connected by an inlay of swirled acrylic (body of water - Atlantic). This was custom-designed with Wood Statements. This process took months of mock-up samples, discussion, and feedback with student groups and special material selections.

A special accomplishment of this space was relocating this to the first floor off the main entrance has increased the visibility and foot traffic to the space, spreading awareness of this Multicultural Lounge. This design is so special to the students as they feel they have a space that represents them in the physical environment of their living space.



BEFORE – EXISTING SPACE



BEFORE – NEW LOCATION



BEFORE – NEW LOCATION



BEFORE – NEW LOCATION

Abeng Multicultural Lounge



AFTER

Abeng Multicultural Lounge

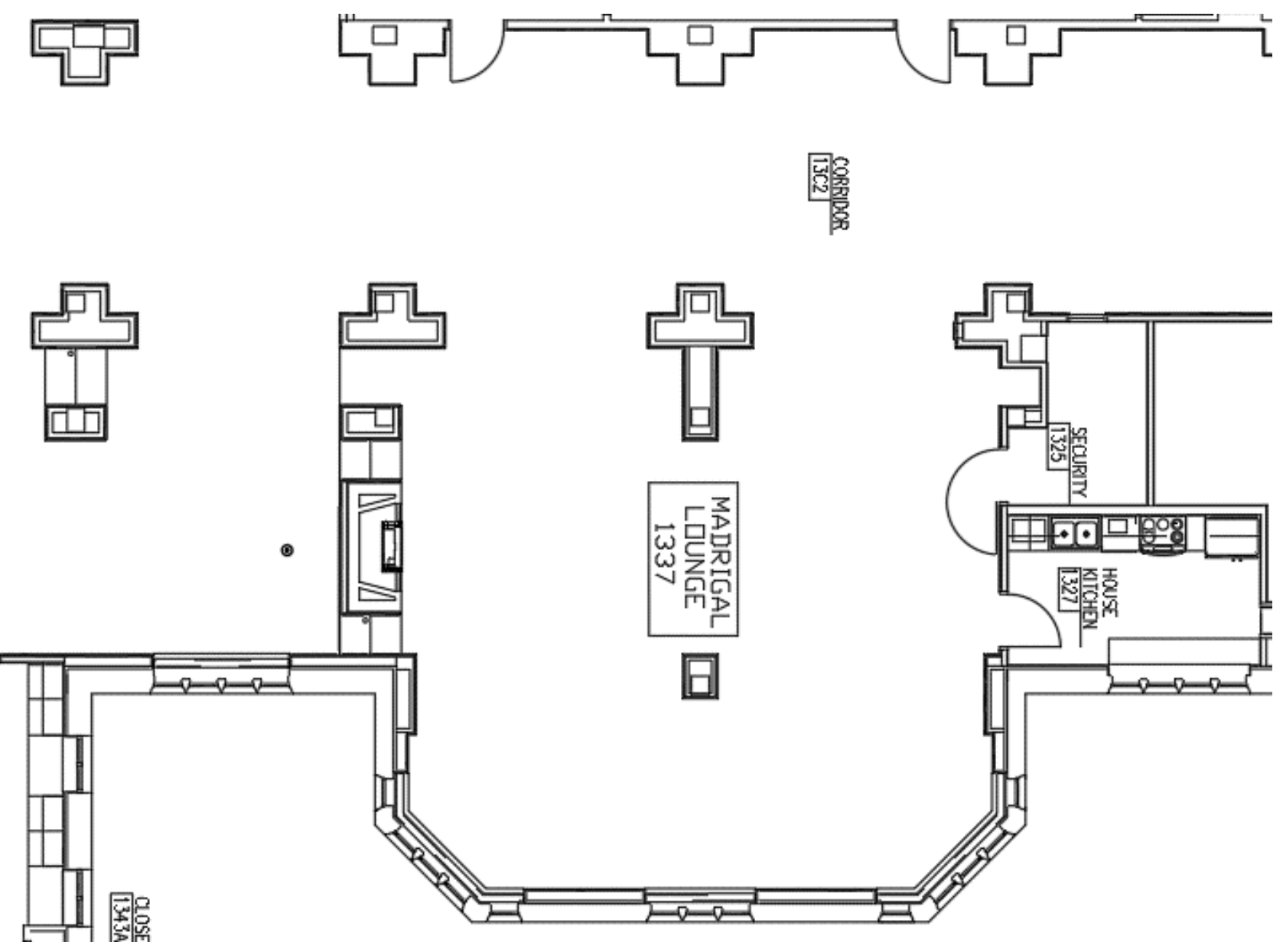
**PORTION OF PROJECT DESIGNER IS RESPONSIBLE FOR:**

- PROGRAMMING
- BUDGET PREPARATION
- BUDGET MANAGEMENT
- SPACE PLANNING FURNITURE LAYOUT
- FURNITURE SPECIFICATION
- FINISH SPECIFICATION
- WINDOW TREATMENT SPECIFICATION
- WALL TREATMENT
- GENERAL SIGNAGE
- SPECIALTY SIGNAGE
- MILLWORK-CUSTOM CASE PIECE DESIGN
- SPECIALTIES: CUSTOM FURNITURE DESIGN, CUSTOM SIGNAGE, GRAPHICS
- PROJECT COORDINATION AND REVIEW

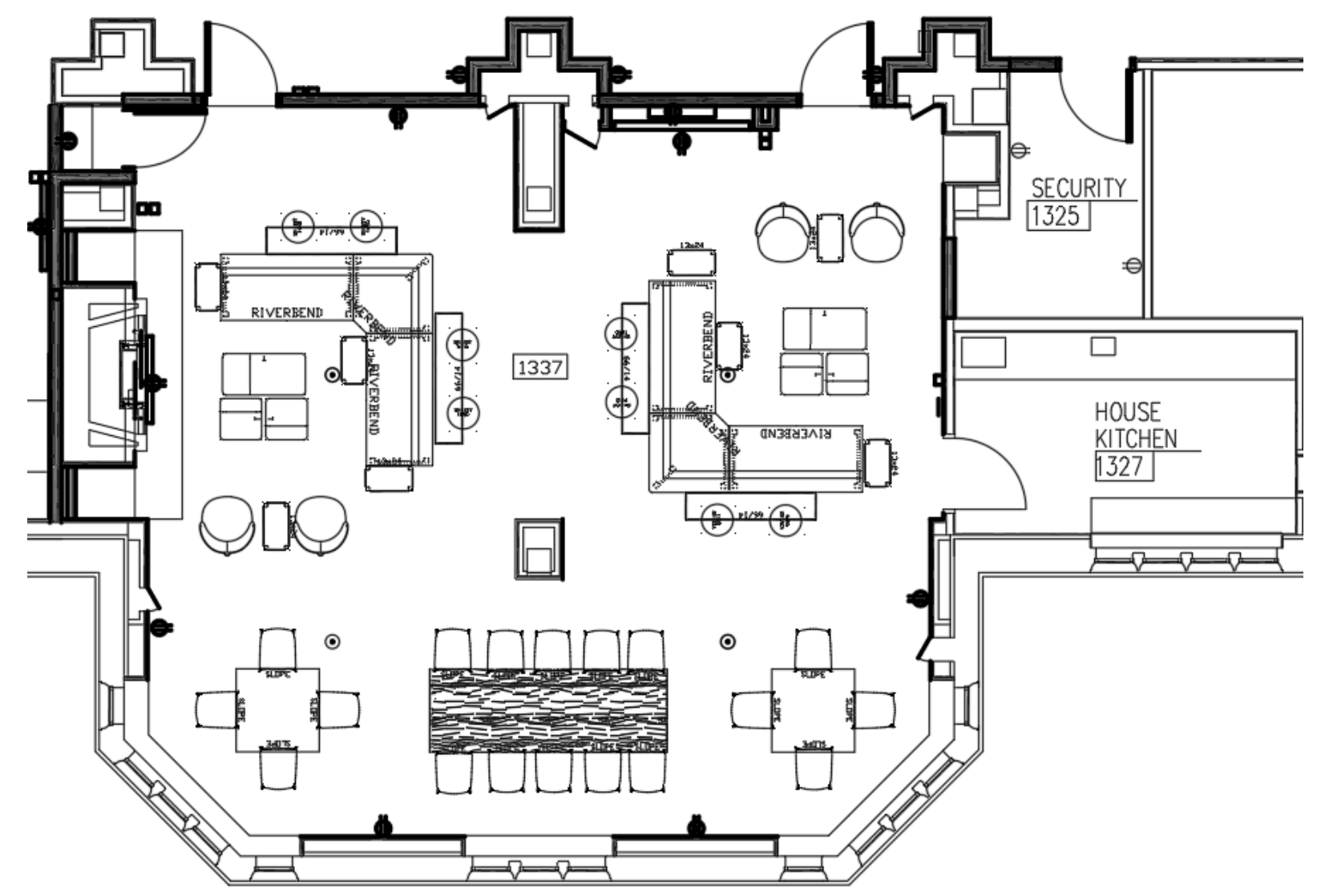


BEFORE - existing lounge

Abeng Multicultural Lounge



BEFORE – new location of lounge



AFTER – new location of lounge