

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

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**SCHOOL:** University of Michigan

I HAVE RECEIVED PERMISSION FROM THE ARCHITECT FOR USE OF PHOTOS OF THEIR WORK TO BE DISPLAYED ON THE AUID WEBSITE: N/A – no architect used.

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PLEASE EMAIL POWER POINT ENTRY DOCUMENT TO AUID DESIGN COMPETITION EMAIL:

[info@avid.org](mailto:info@avid.org)

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# STUDENT LIFE & ACADEMICS

## UNDER 5,000 SQ.FT.

**PROJECT TITLE:** Asubuhi Multicultural Lounge Renovation

**SQUARE FOOTAGE:** 1,250

**PROJECT BUDGET:** \$250,000

**DID YOU WORK WITH AN OUTSIDE FIRM OR CONSULTANT? IF YES, LIST COMPANY NAME:** No.

### PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Established in 1981, the West Quad Asubuhi Council has long served as a vital community hub for residents of West Quad, offering a space for social, recreational, and educational activities. The Council adopted the name "Asubuhi," meaning "next morning" or "new beginnings" in Swahili, reflecting its mission to foster unity and new opportunities for all. In 1985, the Council successfully established West Quad's own multicultural lounge, providing a sanctuary for students of color to gather, process, and reflect on both campus and national events. This space has been a beacon of solidarity and cultural pride within the community. Jon Onye Lockard, a distinguished faculty member and artist, was instrumental in designing the lounge and contributed an original mural that continues to inspire students today. As part of a larger renovation in 2015, the Asubuhi Minority Culture Lounge was relocated to a more spacious area on the first floor of West Quad, further enhancing its role as a cornerstone of the community.

The most recent renovation of the Asubuhi Minority Culture Lounge took place in the summer of 2023, with a comprehensive update budgeted at \$250,000. The goal was to refresh the lounge's design and enhance its storytelling capabilities. The renovation included new furniture, fixtures, lighting, technology, and art. A standout feature is a full-room mural by a local artist, complemented by original works from Jon Onye Lockard and a new piece inspired by the future of the space. The design process was deeply thoughtful and collaborative, drawing inspiration from sunrises to symbolize new beginnings. This influence is reflected in the updated color scheme and design elements, which aim to create a calming and welcoming environment that honors the lounge's legacy while addressing contemporary needs. Given the lounge's long and narrow layout, the renovation introduced fixed millwork elements like a "breakfast nook" and a "kitchen counter." These features anchor the space and subtly evoke the comforts of home, adding a sense of warmth and familiarity. Accessibility was a key consideration in the renovation. The updated lighting includes dimmable fixtures to accommodate different activities and sensory needs. Additionally, height-adjustable laptop tables were installed to support various postures, ensuring the space remains inclusive and accommodating for all users. This thoughtful and comprehensive approach ensures that the lounge continues to be a vital and inviting space for everyone in the community, blending comfort, functionality, and artistic expression.



BEFORE



BEFORE



BEFORE

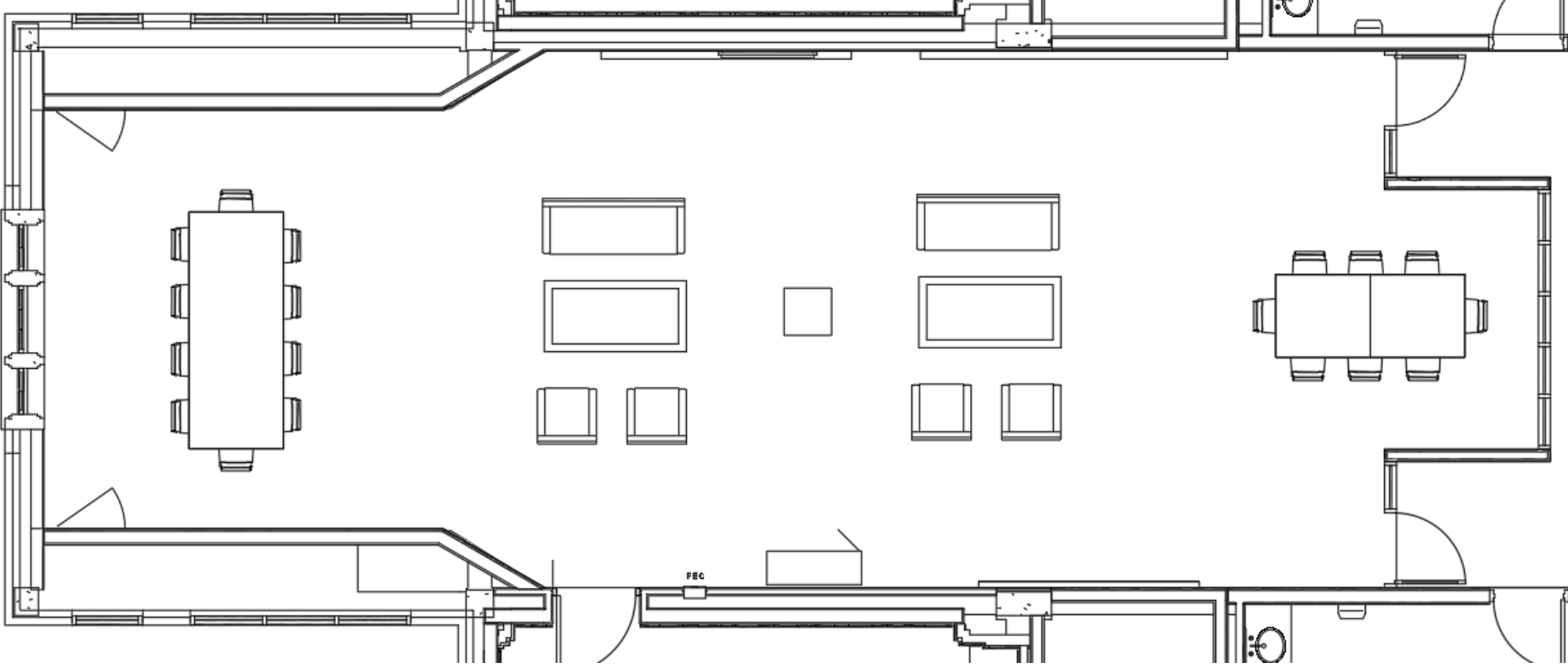
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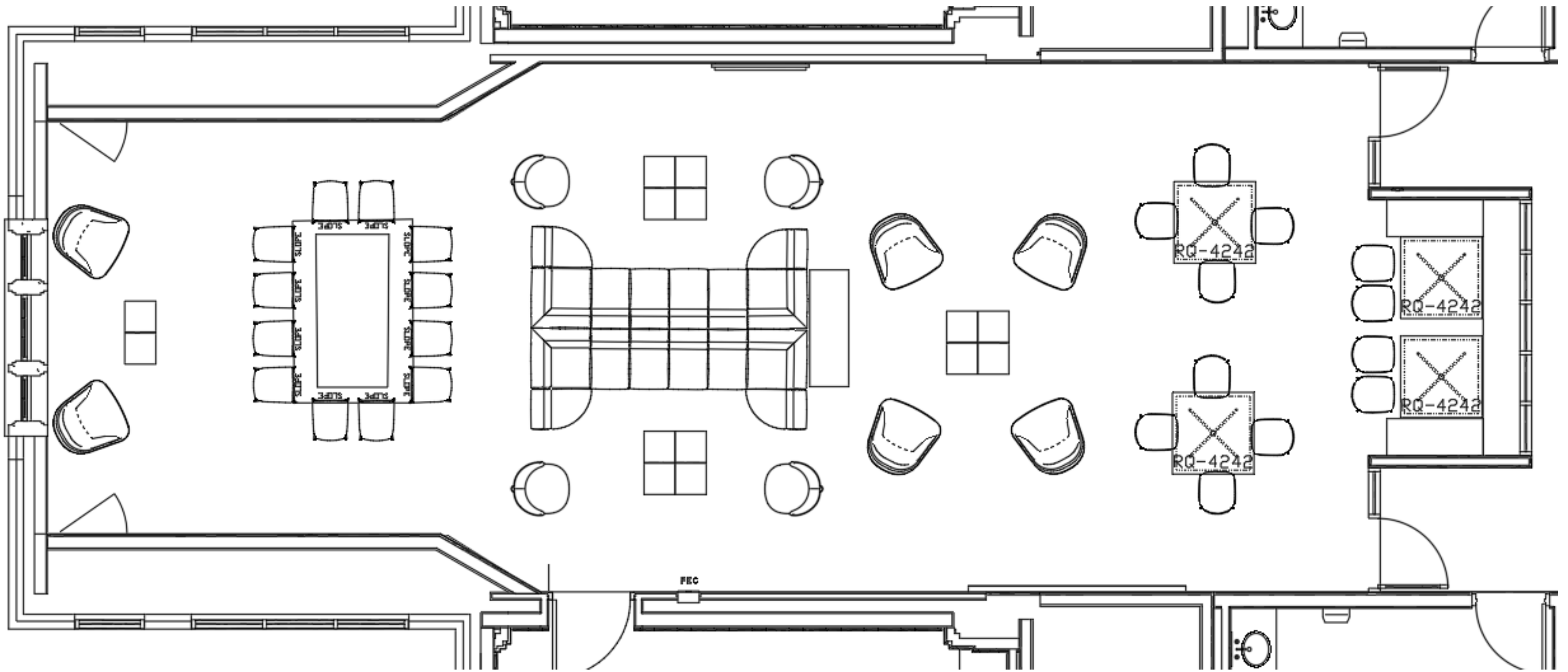
Asubuhi Multicultural Lounge Renovation

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

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



BEFORE



AFTER