

THE ARMENIAN ~~KALLANG~~ WAVE

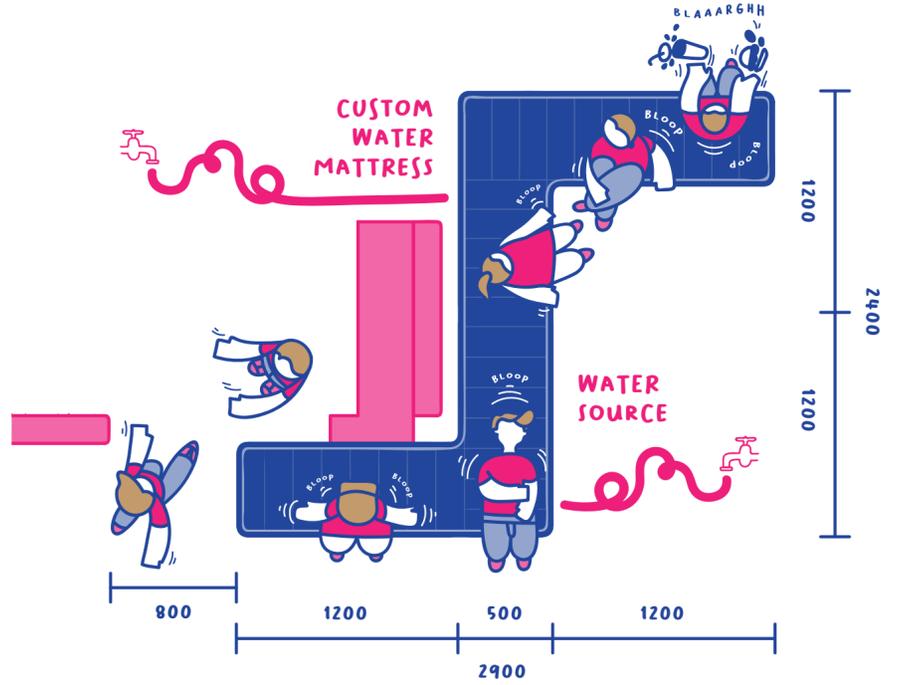
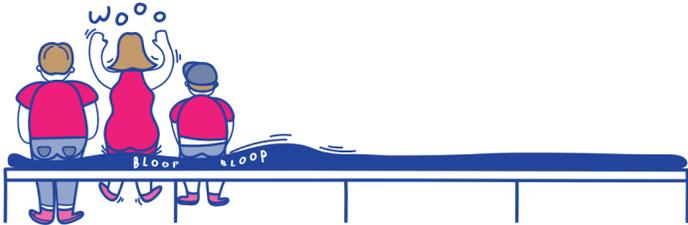
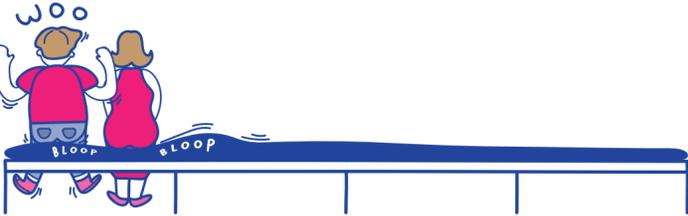
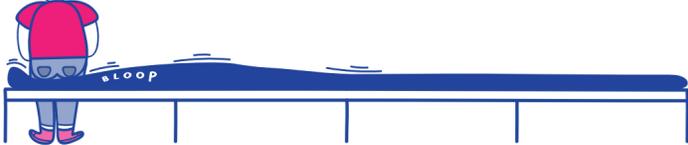
HOW DOES ONE OCCUPY A PUBLIC SPACE WITHOUT COMPROMISING ITS USE BY OTHERS IN THE SAME SPACE? HOW DOES ONE FIND THE BALANCE BETWEEN WHAT IS YOUR SPACE AND WHAT IS MINE? WHERE DOES ONE DRAW THE LINE AND WHO DETERMINES THESE IMPLICIT BOUNDARIES? WHO GETS MORE SPACE, WHO GETS LESS AND WHO GETS NONE AT ALL? CAN YOU PLAY SOCCER WHILE SOMEONE ELSE IS DOING TAICHI? WHO LEAVES AND WHO STAYS? WHY ARE YOU THE ONE THAT HAS TO LEAVE? WHAT DO YOU MEAN YOU CAN'T PLAY SOCCER HERE? IT IS A PUBLIC SPACE, RIGHT? A SPACE, OPEN AND FREE FOR USE, RIGHT?

FROM PERSONAL EXPERIENCE, WE KNOW THAT EACH PUBLIC SPACE DIFFERS FROM THE OTHER AND EACH COMES WITH THEIR OWN SET OF RULES, EXPLICITLY STATED OR IMPLICITLY UNDERSTOOD. IN MOST PUBLIC SPACES OUR ACTIONS AND ACTIVITIES AFFECT HOW OTHERS ARE ABLE TO USE THE SPACE AS WELL. IF ONE IS HAVING A FUNERAL IN THE SPACE, YOU CANNOT EXPECT TO HOLD A WEDDING CEREMONY THERE AS WELL. WHEN SOMEONE IS STUDYING AT THE COMMON AREA, COMMON SENSE SHOULD TELL YOU THAT MAYBE YOU SHOULD NOT BE BLASTING YOUR TECHNO MUSIC OUT LOUD. WELL, YOU COULD BUT THAT IS WHEN THE CONFLICT OF INTEREST COMES IN.

JUST AN UNASSUMING BENCH...



WAIT A MINUTE...



GUARANTEED EASY TO INSTALL! EASY TO DISMANTLE!

4X WOODEN BENCH WITH MILD STEEL STRUCTURE



THIS PROJECT REPRESENTS THE CONFLICT OF INTEREST THROUGH THE USE OF A WATER-MATTRESS-BENCH (WMB). THE WMB IS THE METAPHORICAL PUBLIC SPACE THAT JIGGLES AND WOBLES AND TAKES UP WHATEVER FORM SUBJECTED TO IT BY THE USER. IT IS A COMICAL REPRESENTATION OF HOW THE PUBLIC SPACE IS FLEXIBLE AND FLUID IN ITS USE.

SITTING ON THE WMB, MAKES ONE MORE ACUTELY AWARE OF THEIR ACTIONS SINCE ANY SLIGHT MOVEMENT GENERATES WAVES AND JIGGLES THROUGHOUT THE ENTIRE WMB. THIS AWARENESS IS HEIGHTENED WHEN THERE ARE OTHERS ON THE SAME WMB. EVEN AT THEIR OWN SEATS, IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO DO ANYTHING WITHOUT AFFECTING THE SEATS OF OTHERS ON THE WMB. SHOULD ONE BE BOUNCING UP AND DOWN WHILST SOMEONE ON THE OTHER SIDE IS EATING? WILL ONE'S FARTS CREATE VIBRATIONS AND RIPPLES THROUGHOUT THE WMB?

THIS EXAGGERATION OF CAUSE AND EFFECT IS A PLAYFUL REPRESENTATION ON THE PSYCHOLOGY OF HOW WE USE PUBLIC SPACES AND WHY PUBLIC SPACES ARE HIGHLY CONTESTED SPACES.



THE WMB IS STRATEGICALLY LOCATED ALONG A PUBLIC WALKWAY, AFFECTING THE NATURAL FLOW OF HOW THE WALKWAY IS USED. PASSER-BYS WOULD NEED TO SKIRT THE BENCH TO THE OTHER SIDE OR MAYBE TAKE A SEAT IF THERE IS A QUEUE TO PASS THROUGH. THIS SITTING QUESTIONS WHAT ONE CAN DO OR SHOULD DO IN A PUBLIC SPACE. ARE TRANSITIONARY WALKWAYS, ALTHOUGH PUBLIC STILL CONSIDERED A SPACE? IF SO, SHOULD ONE BE ABLE TO APPROPRIATE IT AS HE SEES FIT? HOW WILL THAT CHANGE THE CONDITION OF THE SPACE? HOW MUCH CAN ONE APPROPRIATE A PUBLIC SPACE SUCH THAT IT IS NOT AN INCONVENIENCE TO OTHERS? DOES IT EVEN MATTER? IT IS AFTER ALL, PUBLIC. FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED, RIGHT? TAKE A SEAT AND LET'S FIND OUT!