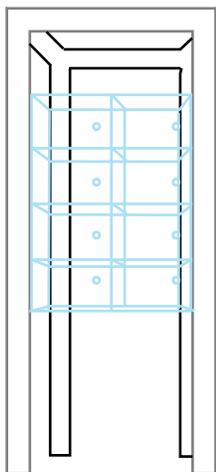
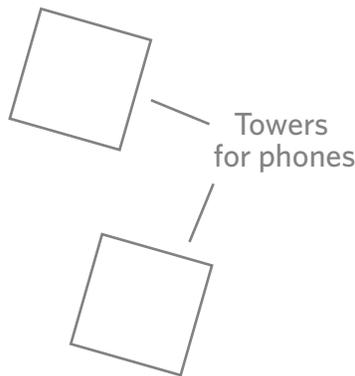
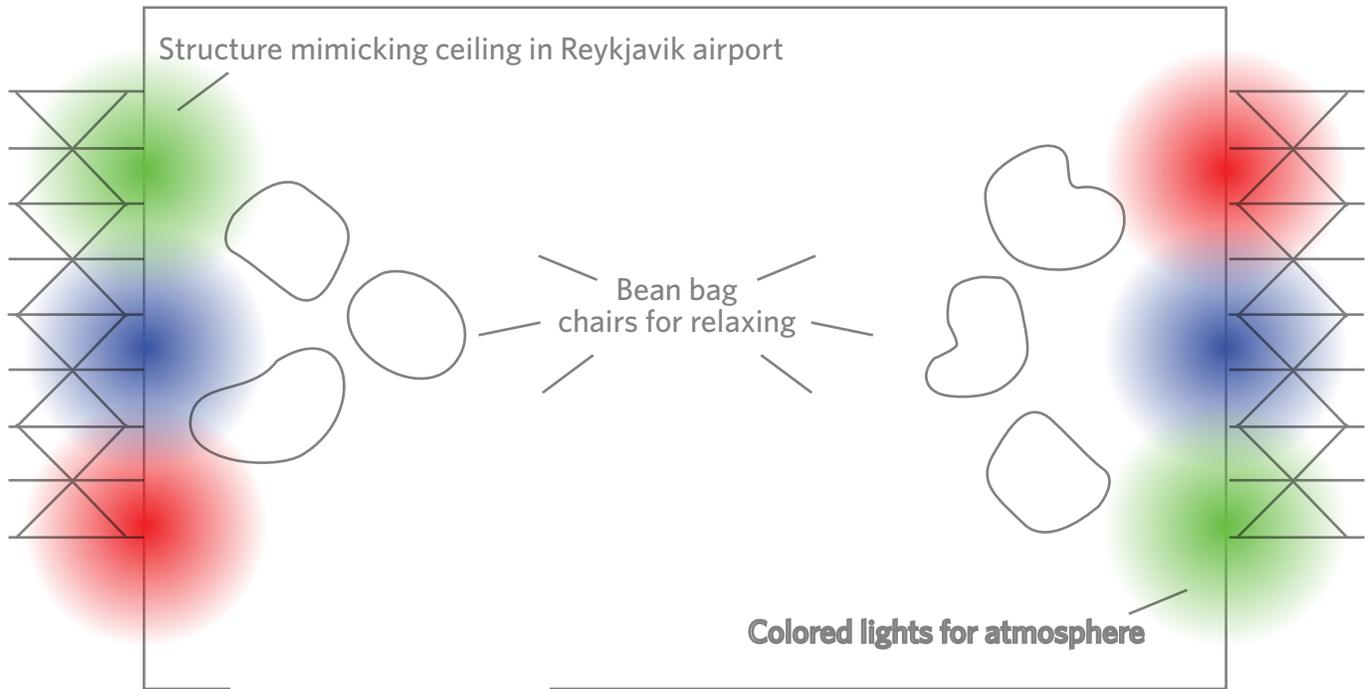


plexiglass
boxes
lock up
plumes

"Limbus" 2016



Floorplan for "Limitas"
2016
Cyane Tornatzky

*Specifications: Enclosed room large enough for 7' structure;
Entryway where phone towers and attendant sit;
Outlets in large room for LED lights;
Ability to staff installation with attendants;*

*Materials: Two steel towers with plexiglas cabinets;
Two 7' x 4' structures;
Two sets of LED lights;
Bean bag chairs;
Training for attendants;*

"Limbus"
2016
Cyane Tornatzky

We move about our world half in it and half out of it. We meet and greet those in front of us, but we are only partially present. We are also connected to those far-flung from us - those who beckon from our pockets, purses, backpacks. I might laugh at your joke and then look down at my phone to text my old friend back. Split between two worlds, the digital becomes the axis that we center our understanding of how to navigate around.

"Limitas" is an experiment that invites the public into a space for the physical only. Upon entering the threshold, an attendant will take your phone and place it into a Plexiglas cubicle set inside a tower. We can see our phones as if they were pets in a cage, but we can shut out their chirps and calls - even if only for a minute. The public is then invited to enter a room with low lighting, soft sounds and bean-bag chairs. The idea is to step outside of the constant stream of data and engagements and to experience the pure physical moment.

This use of the word limbus comes from a philosophical theory that describes what happens to a group of individuals when they are removed from their daily lives and placed together in limbo. We see this in cultures that group boys together before circumcision, we see this when sororities and fraternities practice hazing, we see this any time a group is isolated in a natural disaster. Taking someone out of the context of their lives and placing them in an unfamiliar situation with others allows for a connection between individuals - it allows for a sense of community found through a shared struggle.

This installation is an existential experiment that tries to better understand of what it means to filter our experience through the digital. How are we affected by the presence and the absence of our phones? How do we perceive the world around us with or without our phones? Does some remove from them highlight their cultural influence? Do we connect more with others in a similar plight?

The idea for this installation came from an experience in the Reykjavik. After spending months abroad in 2014 without a smart phone, I found myself waiting in the airport. I sat there without a cell phone or book or kindle or computer and instead took in my surroundings. I felt peaceful. I knew I was going somewhere, and knew where I had come from. I was there with other travelers affected by the same weather, the same daylight, the same need for food/water/shelter, the same need for a place to pee. We were in it together, if only for a while.