

**VALUES AND ARCHITECTURAL ARRANGEMENT OF  
LIVING QUARTERS AS DETERMINANTS OF MUTUAL  
FRIENDSHIP CHOICE IN RESIDENCE HALLS**

**BY**

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VALUES AND ARCHITECTURAL ARRANGEMENT OF LIVING  
QUARTERS AS DETERMINANTS OF MUTUAL FRIENDSHIP  
CHOICE IN RESIDENCE HALLS

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In Partial Fulfillment  
of the Requirements for the Degree  
Master of Arts  
in Education

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by  
Lois Jeanne Mather  
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To the Graduate Council:

I am submitting herewith a Research Paper written by Lois Jeanne Mather entitled "Values and Architectural Arrangement of Living Quarters as Determinants of Mutual Friendship Choice in Residence Halls." I recommend that it be accepted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Arts in Education.

  
Major Professor

Accepted for the Council:

  
Dean of the Graduate School

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## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION TO THE PROBLEM

Two purposes are manifest in this study. The first is to determine whether architectural differences between suite-type and gang washroom-type residence halls have an influence on proximity of mutual friendship choices. The second is to discover whether similar values are a significant factor in mutual friendship choices.

Several studies have been conducted to determine whether proximity is a factor in mutual choices. Some studies were conducted in gang washroom type residence halls. Other studies used the proximity of residences in housing complexes. No study has been conducted in which a comparison of suite-type residence halls and gang washroom type residence halls has been a parameter in the proximity of mutual friendship choices. Results of many studies indicate that mutual friends have similar values. This study duplicates earlier studies in this area.

#### Definitions

Terms used in this study are defined as follows.

##### 1. Suite-type residence halls

Two individual rooms are joined by a common washroom facility. The facility includes a toilet, wash basin, and shower. Each room has two doorways: one to the washroom facility and one to the central hallway. Stairs are located at each end of the central

hallway.

2. Gang washroom-type residence halls

All rooms in this type of residence hall open onto a main corridor. Large washroom facilities with many wash basins, toilets, showers, and bath tubs are centrally located. In this study, central washrooms are located on each end of each floor's main corridor. The stairs are located at each end and at two midpoints of the main corridor.

3. A Value

A cluster of attitudes organized around a conception of the desirable (Feldman, Newcomb, 1969).

4. Mutual Friendship Choice

If individual "A" chooses individual "B" as a friend and individual "B" chooses individual "A" as a friend, then "A" and "B" are considered mutual friendship choices because of their choice of each other.



## CHAPTER II

### REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Several authors speak of proximity as a factor in the development of friendship among individuals.

Hall (1959) found that propinquity is the basis of a good many friendships. Newcomb (1961) states that proximity facilitates communication and allows individuals to discover each other's common attitudes. In a small rooming house, there were at first (but not following close association) significantly more friendships among the men on one floor and the men on the other than between the men on different floors (Newcomb, 1961).

Chickering (1967) found that, after intimate acquaintance, general values and interests become as important as proximity. Newcomb (1961) states that reciprocated high attraction, in the long run, depends upon what common attitudes the individuals hold. He also proposes that interpersonal attraction varies according to the perceived similarity of values and interests on all levels of acquaintance. Newcomb (1969) reports further that friends who are mutually attracted to each other tend to be similar with respect to various attributes--especially values, attitudes, and interests. Values are important in continuing friendship (Newcomb, 1969).

Another factor in the acquaintance process is the arrangement of living units in relation to each other.

Chickering (1967) found architecture to be a factor in the range and intensity of associations formed. According to Chickering (1967) placement of living units with respect to one another influence a student's selection of friends, the groups he associates with, and the variety of persons with whom he can have meaningful relationships. Menne and Sinnett (1971) found that the central location of the toilets and showers within each residence hall corridor affects the flow of traffic through the corridor, increasing the opportunity for contact and interaction among the residents.

## CHAPTER III

### STATEMENT OF PROBLEM

As illustrated in the review of the literature, a relationship exists between the architectural arrangement of a residence hall and a student's choice of friends. Some research indicates that the placement of living facilities can also influence the diversity of individuals with whom the student can have significant encounters (Chickering, 1967).

The literature also shows a relationship between mutual friendships and similar values. Continued friendship depends on the values of the individuals.

One purpose of this study is to discover whether the physical arrangement of a residence hall is a contributing factor in the distance which mutual friends live from each other. Another purpose is to establish whether mutual friends have highly correlated values as determined by the Allport-Vernon-Lindzey Study of Values.

#### Limitations

This study was conducted using a limited number of subjects who were either freshman or sophomore women at Austin Peay State University during the spring term of 1971. It compares only two residence halls: one houses only freshmen and the other houses only sophomores. Lack of participation on the part of some residence hall members was also a problem. Only half of the members on the four floors of the residence halls participated in the study.

The Allport-Vernon-Lindzey Study of Values was used to determine the value orientation of each subject. The Study of Values has limitations because of its ipsative nature. It is also dependent on a complimentary view of man's character. It neglects the pleasure-seeking type of individual. Therefore, the present scale may give an optimistic picture of personality composition.

### Hypotheses

1. There is no significant difference between the proximity of mutual friendship choices in gang-washroom type residence halls as compared to suite type residence halls.
2. The values, as determined by the Allport-Vernon-Lindzey Study of Values, are not more similar for mutual choices than they are for all other choices the mutuals could have made.



## CHAPTER IV

### PROCEDURE

#### The Sample

The sample used in this study consisted of those women from the second and third floors of Blount and Harned residence halls at Austin Peay State University who volunteered to take the Allport-Vernon-Lindzey test. Thirty-four women from each residence hall participated. The women of Blount Hall were sophomores and the women of Harned Hall were freshmen. The test was administered in May of 1971.

#### Description of the Instruments

The Allport-Vernon Lindzey Study of Values was used to measure the women's value structures. Using the 2 transformation, the test has a mean repeat reliability coefficient of 0.89 (Manual, 1970).

Adaptations of the Study of Values have been successfully used to determine friendship choices (Newcomb, 1961). Newcomb found a positive correlation between mutual friendship choices and perceived values of the friends. Numerous studies have explored the individual's value structure. Most of these studies have used the Allport-Vernon-Lindzey Study of Values as a means of determining value structures of individuals. The Study of Values measures the relative importance of a value to an individual, rather than the "absolute" importance of each value (Newcomb, 1969). For college populations, where the information sought is a broad dimension of an individual's

interests and values, the Study of Values will be a helpful tool (Hundleby, 1965). The Study of Values has a satisfactory reliability. It is a good instrument to use to secure a first impression of an individual (Radcliffe, 1965). It is designed to measure the relative importance of six basic interests in personality: the theoretical, economic, aesthetic, social, political, and religious. The theoretical man is a searcher of truth, the economic man is interested in that which is useful, and the aesthetic man values form and harmony. The social man values philanthropic love, the political man is interested in power, and the religious man values unity.

A sociometric device was used to obtain the mutual choices. Each participant was asked to name her three closest friends on her floor, excluding her roommate. According to Northway (1952) sociometric devices measure the numbers of associations of which a person is a part, but not their strength. The sociometric device measures the width of a person's friendships, but not the depth of his social worth as seen by others. The proportion of mutual choices is a general indication of the cohesiveness of the group, provided there is a minimum of exclusive personal relationships.

#### Administration and Scoring

The instruments were given to each group of women by this researcher. The Study of Values was given

according to the directions in the manual. The three friendship choices were written on a separate sheet of paper. The Study of Values was scored by this researcher according to the instructions in the manual. The sociogram was drawn by competent professional help.

## CHAPTER V

### RESULTS

Each woman's numerical scores for the six values tested by the Allport-Vernon-Lindzey Study of Values were converted to a rank. Her rank was then ordered according to the layout of the answer sheet. The order of each rank is Theoretical, Economic, Aesthetic, Social, Political, and Religious. Each woman's score was compared with her mutual's score and also with all of the other possible choices she could have made on her floor. The Spearman Rho rank order correlation technique was employed to compute the correlation coefficient. Because the number of tied ranks was large, a correction for the tied ranks was made in the rank correlation coefficient (Edwards, 1967).

Table 1 summarizes the mutuals' correlations as compared to all their other possible choices on their floor.

TABLE 1

Mutuals' Value Correlations as Compared to  
All Possible Other Choices

Floor	Average z' Value For Mutual Choice	Average z' Value For All Other Possible Choices
100	0.2065	0.1592
200	0.1450	0.0909
300	0.8856	0.4294
400	0.2310	0.2998



A correlation or rho was determined for the mutual friendship choices. The rho was then converted to a  $z'$  value (Edwards, 1967). An average  $z'$  was determined for the mutuals as compared to all of their other possible choices. Please refer to Appendix A for a comparison of each mutual to an average of all the other persons she could have chosen.

The scores in Appendix A were converted from  $z'$  values to standard scores. A T-test for the significance of the difference between two means was used to compare the mutuals' standard scores with the scores of all the other persons they could have chosen. A Z of 1.163 was obtained.

A sociogram was drawn for each floor studied. Mutual friendship choices were determined from the sociograms. The sociograms show the breadth of the participants' friendships. The sociograms are contained in Appendix B to this paper.

A four-fold contingency table was used to compute the significance of the physical distance between the mutuals in the suite residence hall and the gang-washroom residence hall. Physical distance was determined by counting the number of doors apart the mutual friends lived. Directly across the hall or the next door on the same side of the hall was counted as one door. The mutuals in the gang-washroom residence hall had a significantly greater dis-

tance between them than did the mutuals in the suite-type residence hall. The Chi square obtained is 6.792 and is significant at the .01 level. The data on physical distance is given in Table 2.

TABLE 2  
Proximity of Mutual Choices

Hall	One Door Away	More Than One Door Away
Suite Type Hall	13	2
Gang-Washroom Hall	4	9

## CHAPTER VI

### DISCUSSION

The values of the mutual friends were not significantly more similar than the values of all the possible choices they could have made. The lack of participants could be a factor in this result. As indicated by the sociograms, fifty-one girls were chosen who did not take the Study of Values test.

The correlation of the mutuals' value rankings was negative in nine of the twenty-eight mutual pairs. This finding is in disagreement with the findings reported in the review of the literature. Newcomb (1969) indicates that close friends commonly share one or more important values. In reviewing the data, it was found that five of the nine negatively correlated mutual pairs did have one value in common. Their numerical scores on the study of values were similar in a particular value, and that value was of prime importance to each girl in her own rank order. For example, girl A and girl B might both have a score of 38 for the social value. In each girl's rank order of the six possible values, the social value ranks first.

In the suite-type residence hall, a closed clique was found on the third floor. All of the women chose others within their group and no one chose anyone outside of the group. It was noted that this clique resides in an annex which has only one main door leading to the central

hall. The four rooms of the annex share a common washroom facility. There were seven mutual friendships in this clique. Four of the mutual friends have negatively correlated value rankings. Two of the four negatively correlated pairs have a common important value. No other cliques were found in the other two annexes which the suite-type residence hall housed. The gang washroom-type residence hall had no annexes.

An open clique was found on the third floor of the gang washroom-type residence hall. Three girls chose each other, but one also had a mutual friendship with another girl on her floor.

The researcher analyzed the values' correlation between roommates. University rules allow women to choose the person with whom they wish to live, but for the purposes of this study, they were not allowed to choose their roommates as closest friends. Thirty-two percent of the roommate pairs had negatively correlated value rank orders. The average correlation of values was a positive 0.258.

Mutual choices in the gang washroom-type residence hall had a greater physical distance between them than did the mutual choices in the suite-type residence hall. This difference in distance was significant at the .01 level. Menne and Sinnett (1971) indicate that centrally located washroom facilities affect the flow of traffic through the central corridor. This affected traffic flow increases the opportunity for contact and interaction



among the residents. The average  $z'$  for the gang washroom-type residence hall mutuals was higher than the suite-type residence hall mutuals.

## CHAPTER VII

### SUMMARY

The purposes of this study were to determine the relationship of values and proximity in the formation of mutual friendships.

The selection of instruments - the Allport-Vernon-Lindzey Study of Values and the sociogram - was based on their reliability and widespread use in educational settings and on their use as criteria in many previous studies.

When the correlation coefficient of values for mutual friends was compared with the correlation coefficient of values for all the other possible choices they could have made, a  $Z$  of 1.163 was obtained. This indicates that the mutuals' values were not more similar than the values of all the possible other choices they could have made.

A significant difference was found when the physical distance between mutual friends in the suite-type residence hall and the gang washroom-type residence hall were compared. The mutuals in the gang washroom-type residence hall lived further apart than the mutuals in the suite residence hall. The difference in distance between the mutuals was significant at the .01 level.

In light of the results of this study, it is concluded that mutual friendships are not necessarily dependent on similar value structures as measured by the

Allport-Vernon-Lindzey Study of Values. It is also concluded that the architectural arrangement of a residence hall has a significant influence on the proximity of mutual friendship choices.

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## APPENDIX A

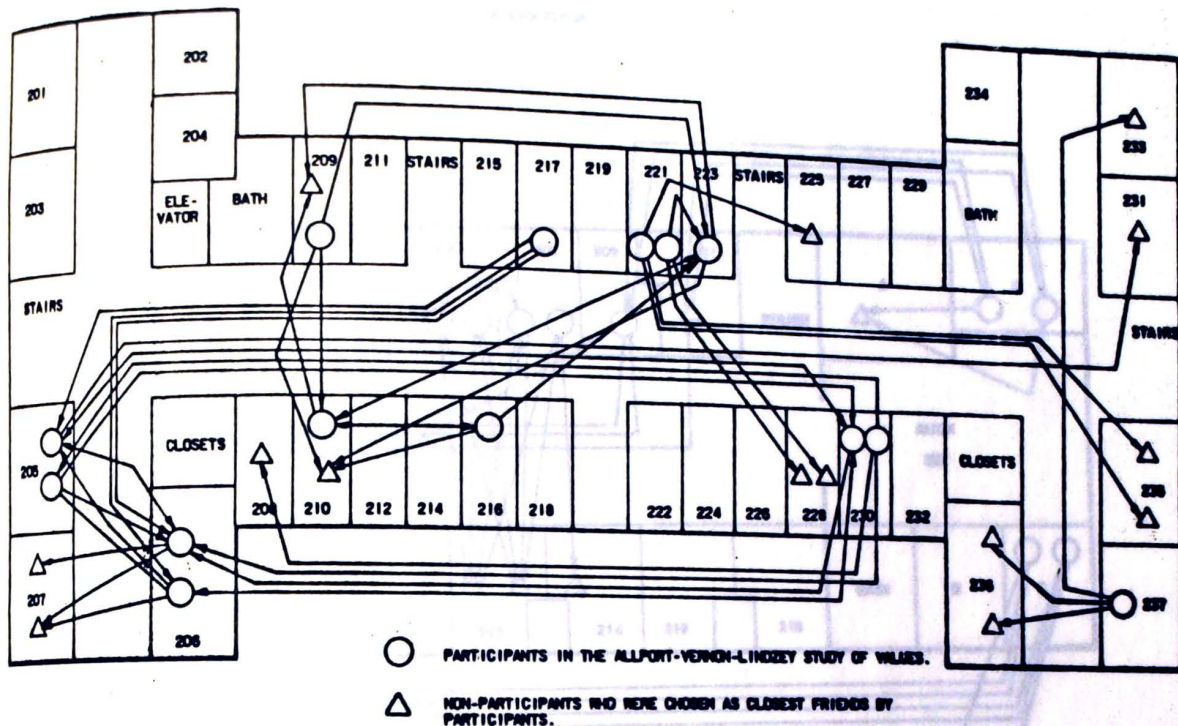
<u>Girl Designation</u>	<u>Mutual z'</u>	<u>Average z' For All Other Possible Choices</u>
112	0.619	0.1808
113		-0.0455
115	-0.206	0.1463
116		0.3554
211	0.675	0.3151
213		0.4032
212	0.368	0.1079
213		0.4178
214	-0.549	0.0792
222		-0.3856
215	0.029	0.1820
222		-0.4131
223	1.738	0.1219
226		0.3736
224	0.325	0.3702
225		0.0144
227	-1.182	0.2065
232		-0.3693
228	0.216	0.5076
229		-0.1067
229	-0.280	-0.0830
230		0.3645
230	- .263	0.3637
232		-0.4381
230	0.980	0.3295
233		0.3998
231	0.503	-0.4482
232		-0.4496
231	-0.674	-0.3921
233		0.4785

<u>Girl Designation</u>	<u>Mutual z'</u>	<u>Average z' For All Other Possible Choices</u>
311	-0.299	0.6027
313		-0.5330
311	0.363	0.5476
322		0.5000
314	1.022	0.5627
322		0.4067
316	1.222	0.5886
317		0.5483
316	2.120	0.5138
321		0.5566
413	-0.473	-0.1726
427		0.2816
414	-0.086	0.4367
423		0.1627
415	0.236	0.2296
418		0.5465
415	1.132	0.1798
430		0.2034
417	0.662	0.3598
418		0.5228
418	0.320	0.5418
430		0.2485
419	-0.549	0.0244
421		0.4886
420	0.609	0.320
421		0.4242

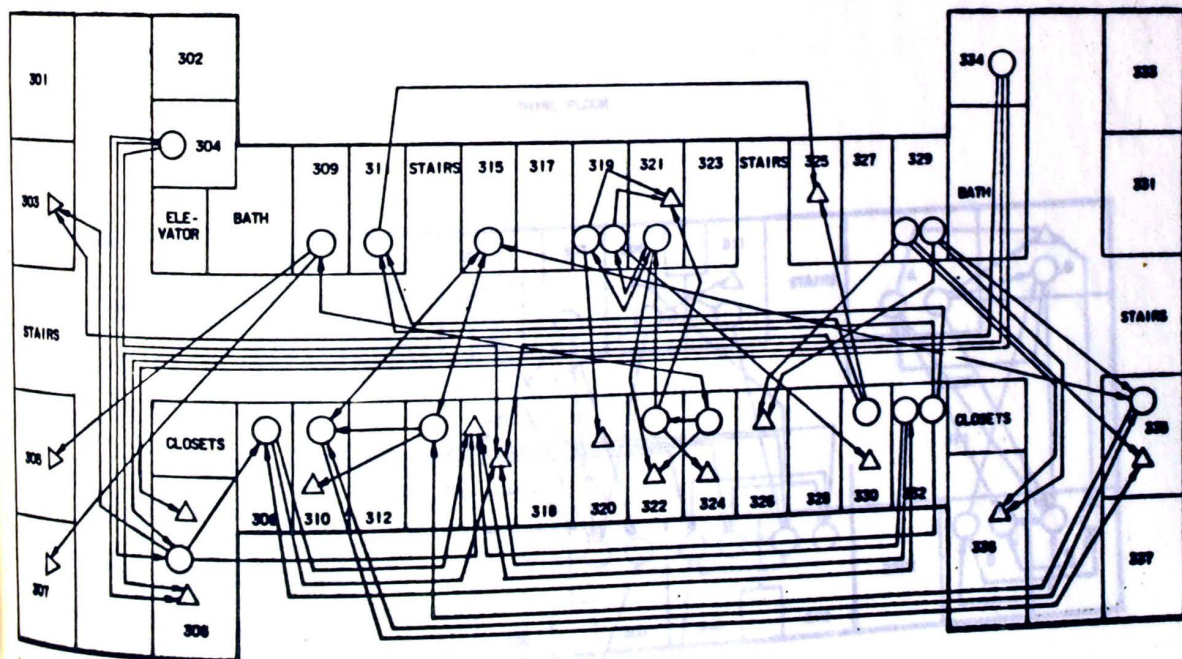
# HARNED HALL

(BAND BATHROOM-TYPE RESIDENCE HALL)

SECOND FLOOR



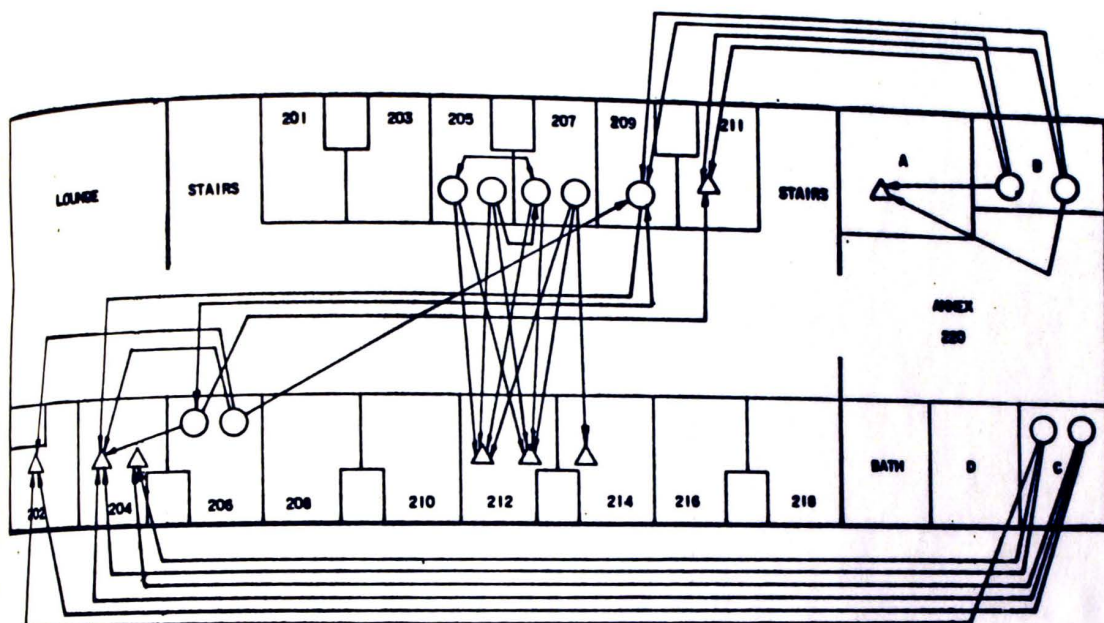
## THIRD FLOOR





(SUITE TYPE RESIDENCE HALL)

## SECOND FLOOR



O

△

### THIRD FLOOR

