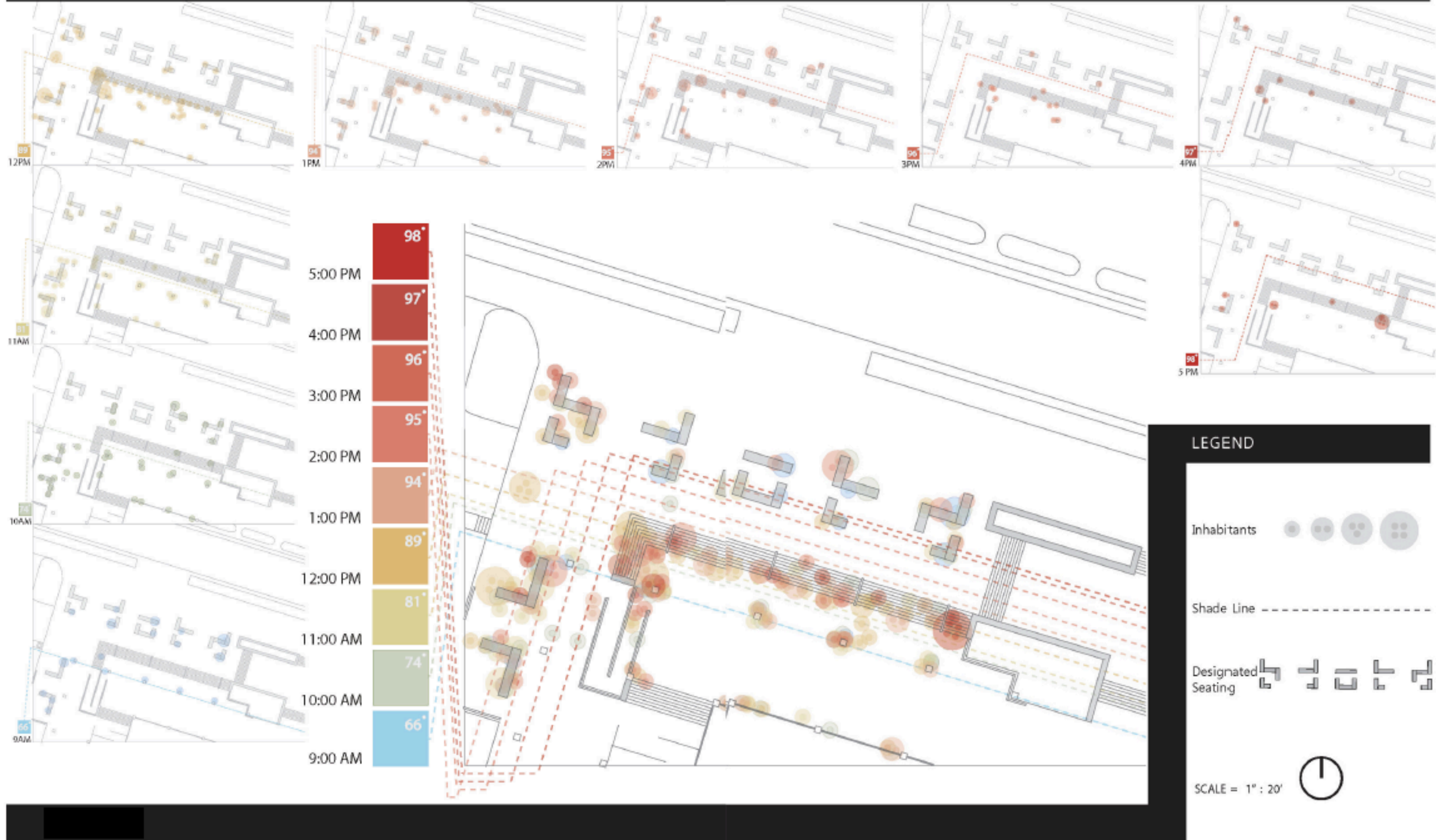


THESIS:

Wescoe beach is a perceptual and social phenomenon that can only exist within the established relationships of Wescoe Hall and its surrounding. Wescoe Halls' central location on the main campus of the University of Kansas, proximity to student dining services and covered exterior spaces create the frame work in which Wescoe beach can occur. Unlike a "real" beach, Wescoe beach requires its inhabitants as well as viewers to create and identify a separation of moving and stationary parts. With the first step of separation, a perceptual coastline is created. Further, the stationary inhabitants of the coast line must create a recognizable difference from the normalcy of Wescoe Hall; transforming the atrium and courtyard space into a perceivable "beach". Wescoe beach only occurs when a viewer or group of viewers recognizes the horizontal assimilation of individuals and groups within the courtyard and atrium space of Wescoe Hall.

As Simon Unwin states, "thinking of architecture as identification of place accommodates the idea that architecture is participated in by more than the individual. In any one example (a building for instance) there will be places proposed by the designer and places created by adoption by the users (these may or may not match).

In case of Wescoe beach, the horizontal assimilation of individuals and groups on Wescoe Halls' front stair case is the adoption and habitation of architectural elements for alternative reasons. This adoption has a direct connection with the shade line that is produced from the casted shadow of Wescoe Hall. Adoption also depends on weather conditions, time of day, campus population, temperatures and desired UV protection. As temperatures rise and the shade line is moves toward the designated seating areas, users adopt the staircase creating a perceivable coastline resembling the iconic representation beach dwellers along a natural coast line. This linear assimilation is a recognizable attribute of a "real" beach by a viewer or group of viewers, thus, resonating with the term beach. In the case of the 8.29.12 study, Wescoe beach is recognized and established between the 11am and 1pm readings. As seen, when conditions are right a transformation occurs that converts space of Wescoe Hall into Wescoe beach.



Wescoe Beach Phenomenon on 8.29.2012