

Senior House

4 Ames Street, Cambridge

You don't have to be a senior to live in Senior House. Just about anyone is welcome, but you're not supposed to be a cat.



Senior House is on the east side of the MIT campus. This means that the dorm is close to classes (convenient during unfavorable weather), but it is also on a separate block from the main buildings, which sets it apart from the Institute somewhat. Senior House is the closest dorm to the subway system, downtown Boston, Paris, London, and Rome.

One of the major features of Senior House is its age. Not age like your grandmother, but **AGE** like the pyramids: inscrutable, sturdy, eternal. Beyond the metaphysical implications of this fact lie some very practical advantages. For one, the walls here are thick. Six inches of reinforced concrete separate your stereo from your sleeping neighbor. This means that you don't have to listen to your neighbors and their oboes, and they won't have to put up with your Pink Floyd obsession. Second, time has allowed ivy to climb the walls of the building (on the outside). Thus the exterior of the dorm looks quite like that prestigious Ivy League institution that your parents think they're sending you to.

Senior House is home to roughly 180 students. It's an L-shaped building, divided into six vertical entries, an arrangement which seems to strike a good balance between the isolated suites of some dorms, and the long, anonymous hallways of others. The physical structure encourages the development of natural social groups, and the dorm is small enough that you can know everyone, or at least feel that you do.

Senior House is solid enough for waterbeds; painting rooms is a matter of individual taste; bolts in the wall are permitted (with the manager's approval). Of course, the disadvantages of this are that you occasionally see patchy, peeling purple and chartreuse paint, or find last year's bolts still in the wall. The advantages include the ability to paint murals, build lofts, or do something that no one has yet thought of. Tearing down the walls is generally frowned upon (not to mention being nearly impossible).

Residents may choose a room from a large collection of singles, three-room doubles, or suite-like triples. Some places have fire doors which may be opened to combine several doubles into huge, entry-spanning living spaces. Most rooms have sinks, a few have fireplaces, and some have balconies. Some have fire escapes which occasionally become balconies. Most (sometimes all) floors are coed, but we all respect each other's rights and usually manage to live in harmony.



Social events of all shapes and sizes take place here. Parties range from small study breaks hosted by tutors, to large rowdy super-events with live music.

Steer Roast, a springtime feast where six hundred pounds of beef are cooked and served in the courtyard, is well known around the Institute. Each year, almost five hundred people attend, including residents, former residents, non-residents and faculty. There is live music, good food, and congeniality all around. How one partakes of this atmosphere is, once again, a matter of personal taste.

There are two ovens in the basement, but they're no better than the computer terminals.

One of the entries has tied all of its stereos together into a giant network for a "wall of sound" on occasions which call for it.

Some rooms have view of the courtyard or the Charles River. Some have a view of warehouse roofs.

Some of the residents still think that they're living in the 1960's, some think they're still in the 1970's, and some are still living in the 1990's.

Innovation is supplemented by, but never overshadowed by, lore and tradition.

Of all dorms on campus, Senior House has the least lounge area; the courtyard and the stairwells aren't counted as such, but that doesn't stop anyone.



We have lots of facilities here, including a darkroom, a pinball/video game room, a ping-pong table, two pianos, and a music practice room. We also have the undisputed best tire swing at MIT (it's also the only tire swing at MIT, but that's not the point). We'll show you how to mega-wrap, if you like.

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Our heating system bangs every hour, on the hour, all winter. It's a good way to tell time.

Some people call Senior House a working anarchy. Others call it a loafing anarchy.

There are many living groups at MIT, so it is easy to find a place to STAY for four years. Senior House is a place to LIVE for four years.

If low rent, large rooms, age, life, and freedom attract you more than age, dirt, and disorder repel you, visit us.

By the way, did you know that vaseline glows under blacklight?

If you have any questions, write to:

Amazing Dorm Offer
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