mood. It’s not about style, but feeling, of humanity and warmth back into society.

The pleasure and intimacy of being together is charged by the sounds of life revolving around us. These places are islands of respite rather than refuge, pause not escape. The contentment we feel when we walk down our local street, stopping to talk to familiar passerby, is hygge; to experience a sense of intimacy and comfort in the good intentions of others.

Hygge (hue-gah) noun
1. a quality of presence and an experience of belonging and togetherness. It is a feeling of being warm, safe, comfortable and sheltered.
2. an experience of selfhood and communion with people and places that anchor and affirm us, give us courage and consolation.
3. a feeling of engagement and relatedness, of belonging to the moment and to each other, it is about being not having

Shelter: The pleasure and intimacy of sheltering is charged by the sounds of life revolving around us. These places are islands of people rather than refuge, pause not escape.

Comfort: Like animals returning to the familiar haven of their den, we also move towards an enclosed, softly illuminated place. The quality of material that surrounds us is essential.

Wellbeing: The contentment we feel when we walk down our local street, stopping to talk to familiar passerby, is hygge; to experience a sense of intimacy and comfort in the good intentions of others.

Simplicity: Its, leaned virtues are practicality, simplicity and purity. Commons of folks can encourage kindness of mood; it’s not about style, but feeling and atmosphere.

Survey: Comfort and Winter Perceptions
This semester, I was privileged enough to visit The Forks, a city park and community gathering space in Winnipeg, Manitoba. I analyzed this area through panoramic images, trying to determine why people experienced this place during winter. I concluded that areas with high transparency, dynamic lighting, and breaks in a building facades attracted the most amount of people. I also concluded, through observation, that people are attracted to the river, areas of high interest such as museums, and outdoor activity (such as skating). This semester I was able to conduct a survey with Red River Valley residents on their winter perceptions and views on comfort. The survey was taken by 120 participants from multiple cities and towns in the Red River Valley. This was my hope that this research would be able to learn more about northern people’s preferences in the built environment during winter.

Belonging
We have used our ability to make meaningful connections, and need to find alternative ways to consume and connect. Hygge introduces the idea of humanity and warmth back into society.

Survey: Comfort and Winter Perceptions
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Below you will find some questions from the survey that I was able to draw conclusions from. One conclusion is that the participants generally liked “warmer” materials, such as brick and wood. Color’s ability to be viewed as comfortable was based on personal preference, but participants specifically found orange and white light comforting. Participants were willing to walk outside during winter, but spent less time with friends outside of their homes. There were also key elements that they found to be missing from their neighborhoods:
1. Winter Outdoor Activities
2. Winter-Specific Festivals and Events
3. Areas of Shelter
4. River Use in Winter
5. Tree Coverage
6. Closer Access to a Mixture of Venues
7. Community Gathering Spaces

Other Potential Small Winter Cities

1. Bend, Oregon
Average Low Temperature: 27°F

2. Yakima, Washington
Average Low Temperature: 21°F

3. Billings, Montana
Average Low Temperature: 17°F

4. Rapid City, South Dakota
Average Low Temperature: 17°F

5. Jamestown, North Dakota
Average Low Temperature: 13°F

6. Mason City, Iowa
Average Low Temperature: 17°F

7. Petoskey, Michigan
Average Low Temperature: 17°F

8. Watertown, New York
Average Low Temperature: 17°F

9. Bangor, Maine
Average Low Temperature: 17°F

1. Canadian Museum for Human Rights
2. Sledging Hills (very popular with families)
3. Parking
4. Market Place (indoor shopping center)
5. Skating Areas (including river)

1. Through design, encourage vibrancy through human interaction with the environment and each other.
2. Through building material and orientation, create a comfortable neighborhood for residents that responds to climate.