



In airports or building lobbies, the new glass booths can be installed in "island" groups with opaque panels at the end.

*A new glass-wall telephone station—
larger and more comfortable than tra-
ditional wood booths—is designed to match
the architecture of modern office buildings,
hotels and airport terminals.*

The New Look In Public Telephone Stations

K. D. Bartley

COIN TELEPHONES AND BOOTHS in public places are necessities for today's busy traveling society. The familiar wood booth in building lobbies has enabled many a rushed executive to confer with an associate in a distant city.

Although the need to telephone has not changed, American architecture has. The wood booth is an anomaly in the lobbies of modern glass-wall buildings. For some time a new type of enclosure has been needed to match the spacious look now popular in American architecture.

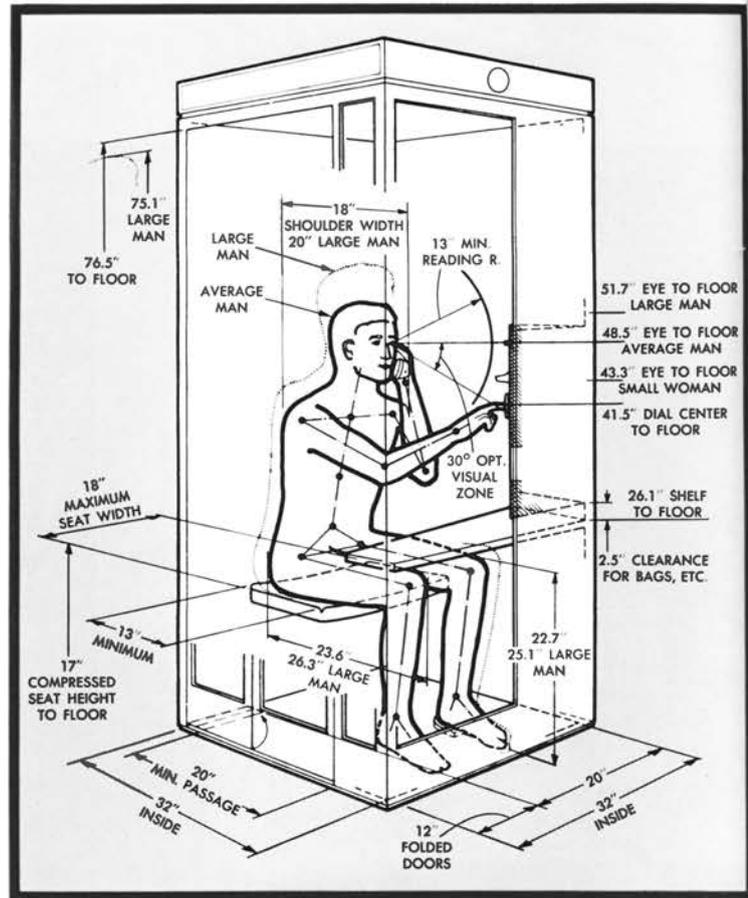
To answer this need, Bell Laboratories recently designed an indoor glass-wall station with a decor and an open look that make it an integral part of its surroundings. To help achieve this effect, the booth base may be omitted and the surrounding carpet or tile used as a floor.

But a successful design is functional as well as attractive, and a public telephone station must allow people to make their calls easily and in comfort. Thus the designer must know; first, how people sit and move when they telephone and second, what kinds of lighting, ventilation, seating and storage space are required to make the caller comfortable.

The way people sit and move determines the dimensional relationships between the coin telephone, the seat, the shelf, the size of the doors, and the overall size of the enclosure. Because callers may be short or tall, stocky or slender, the telephone station designer looks for statistics on the average man.

These statistics show, for example, that the average person is 5 feet, 9½ inches tall and has shoulders 1 foot, 6 inches wide. To comfortably fit this average person and also, the larger person, the doors of the glass-wall booths have been made 6 feet, 4½ inches high by 1 foot, 8 inches wide and the booth is 2 feet, 10 inches square by 6 feet, 11 inches high. It is the largest and the most comfortable telephone enclosure ever manufactured for the Bell System.

Comfort is in large part due to the careful consideration designers gave to lighting, ventilation, and other environmental requirements. For example, the lighting is indirect, diffused through a ceiling fixture from two 40-watt circular fluorescent lamps. This keeps down glare and allows people to read directories and instructions easily. With light on at all times the booth is easy to see



since the surrounding area is illuminated through the glass panels.

The same fixture contains a concentric blower that controls ventilation in the booth. The blower forces in outside air at the rate of twice the booth volume per minute to clear out cigarette smoke and stale air. Fresh air at outside temperature comes in through an opening above the booth doors.

Seating is luxurious compared with the plain wood support used in traditional booths. In the glass booth the caller sits on a half inch thick foam cushion covered in black, ribbed plastic and supported by a contoured aluminum seat. The plastic does not show dirt and the seat is cantilevered so that the floor can be cleaned easily.

Storage space is greater than in previous booths. As they telephone, people can keep a large supply of coins in front of them, take notes or store large objects on a sturdy glass shelf that extends along one entire side of the booth. The shelf is hard to scratch, cannot be damaged by burning cigarettes, and can be cleaned easily.

Interior trim was also chosen with the caller's comfort in mind. An aluminum alloy with a black

The new glass-wall telephone station harmonizes with the decor of modern office buildings, hotels and airports. The booth is erected by bolting together aluminum wall frames, securing glass in the frame, and finished by snapping on trimming strips.



Statistics, such as these on the average and the large man, determined the proportions of the glass-wall telephone station.

A contoured, padded seat and a long glass storage shelf are some of the features that help make the new glass-wall station one of the most comfortable Bell System telephone enclosures.

oxide coat, it does not reflect light, harmonizes with most modern decor and hides dirt marks.

The black trim sets off three corners of the booth. At the right rear corner, both inside and outside, full length metal panels form a right angle. Telephone and power lines from the floor, side or back of the booth are brought up inside the panels.

Multiple booths can be assembled where they are being installed. Two manufacturing techniques make this possible; the booth wall frames are formed by welding together vertical and horizontal aluminum extrusions; and various types of finishes can be "snapped on" in the form of metal trimming strips.

By putting together any of five frame assemblies, telephone installers can create multiple booth arrangements in wall recesses, along walls or as islands in the center of building lobbies. Single booths are assembled at the Western Electric Company supply house to reduce on-site assembly time.

After the frames have been built up, glass panels are placed in rubber molding strips and fitted into grooves in the top and bottom columns.

The bottom column is then bolted to the lobby floor.

Next, trimming strips are snapped over slots in the columns and then crimped on. This feature makes it possible to standardize manufacturing procedures (except for the fabrication, stocking and assembly of the strips); replace the trim if it is scratched without having to take the booth out of service; and offer several types of finish. The booth comes in stainless steel, satin aluminum, anodized aluminum medium bronze, and a bronze trim which can be oxidized to match surrounding decor.

The first of these glass stations was installed at the New York World's Fair and at airport terminals in the New York area. Units are now in service in many modern office buildings, hotels and airports around the country—wherever the need exists for matching new architecture. In the future, other special needs will probably require modification of this design and perhaps even radically changed public station enclosures. The Bell System will continue to be aware of these needs, for new architecture, new planning and changing public travel habits, require public telephone station development to be a continuing program.