Homework 1: Pictures around the Siebel Center

**Picture 1:**
Digital Thermostat used throughout Siebel Center. You know that an everyday household appliance is bad when you need to read the user manual in order to use it. Even after reading the manual @ https://agora.cs.uiuc.edu/display/tsg/Siebel+Center+Temperature+and+Lighting+Controls I still wasn't able to use it, it just seemed to scroll the words “Space”. A traditional thermostat is much better since it is obvious how to change the set temperature.
This is a picture of the power outlet in Siebel 1404. There are two problems with the power outlets in 1404. First, there are far too few. Approximately 4 people in the lecture room can use the power at any given time. Since is a large lecture room mostly used for lectures where having a laptop would be useful, this if woefully inadequate.

The second problem is the location. Most of the items people in the lecture hall want to power will be located on their desk. If the power was on the desk, it would be more natural for people since they wouldn't be required to bend down to plug/unplug cords.
This is a picture near the entrance of 1404. The problem is that the room number sign is covered by the door when it is open. This could be very confusing to someone new to the building trying to find a lecture a few minutes before class starts when many other students are entering the room. This could easily be fixed by moving the sign to a better location.
These pictures show signs in the Siebel basement. The format for the room numbers is inconsistent. A newcomer to Siebel could be confused by the differing formats and think that room 207 is different than 0207.
The upper left image is a picture of the fire extinguisher in Siebel. It is not easy to determine that a fire extinguisher is inside that cabinet. It is very similar to the electrical boxes seen else where in Siebel (top right picture). In case of a fire someone in a panicked mood searching for a fire extinguisher could easily run past the one in Siebel. Compare this to the easy to spot fire extinguisher in the bottom left picture.
In this picture you see the entrance to a typical TA office. Often students are instructed to slide their homework under the door to the office. This is a problem in large classes with >50 students because the area underneath the door becomes so jammed with paper, no more papers can fit. A better solution would be a mail slot in the door.

The mailboxes next to the office can't be used for this purpose because a malicious person could easily steal someone else's homework.
In this picture you see a very long wall of bulletin boards. The problem with Siebel is that there are too many bulletin boards and not a single central location for posting announcements. For people posting, that means they must print out many copies of their announcement and post it all over the Siebel center. For people interested in the announcements, they must go all over Siebel and read all the bulletin boards to make sure they haven't missed anything.
In this picture we see a door with no label in the Siebel basement stairway. A label saying “To maintenance area” would prevent people looking for a classroom to go through this way.
In this picture we the electronic locks used on doors in Siebel. These locks don't do a good job of differentiating a response of “Keyswipe valid, access denied” and “Keyswipe invalid, access denied”. When I got swipe access to the ACM office, I tried swiping my card many times and couldn't get in. I went back to TSG thinking they didn't add my id card to the system, but the guy from TSG walked down to the door and instead showed me that I wasn't swiping properly.
This picture shows the entrance to the Siebel Center computer lab area. For some reason the left door is locked but there is no visible notification that it's locked. People will often try to open that door.

This could be fixed with a simple sign saying “Please use other door” or unlocking the left door.