

Coliving Certification Guide



Coliving Hub
2025-26 Version 1

Guide Outline

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Overview

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Certification Categories and Criteria Definitions

Infrastructure

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Sustainability

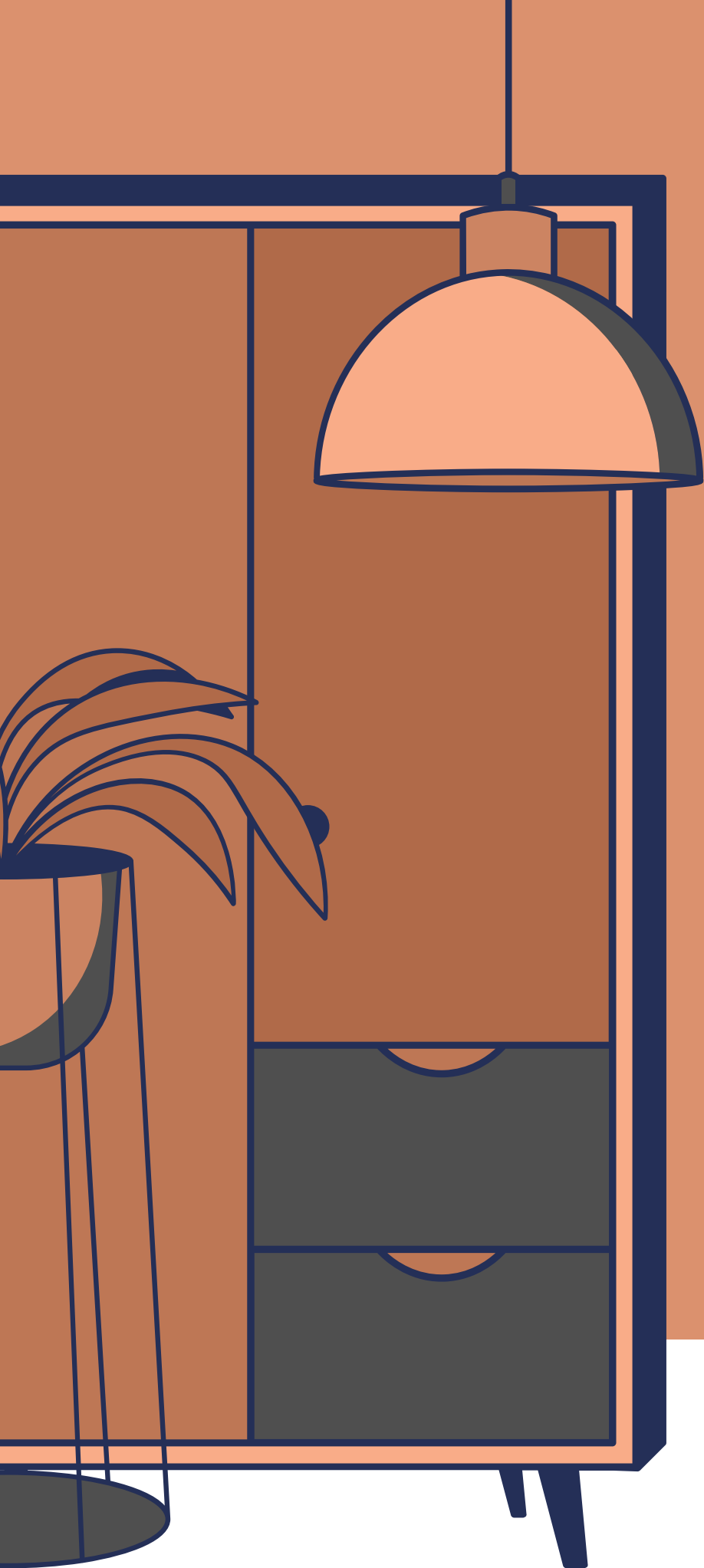
Wellbeing

Accessibility & Safety

The Why

1

Our Value Proposition



Why We're Here

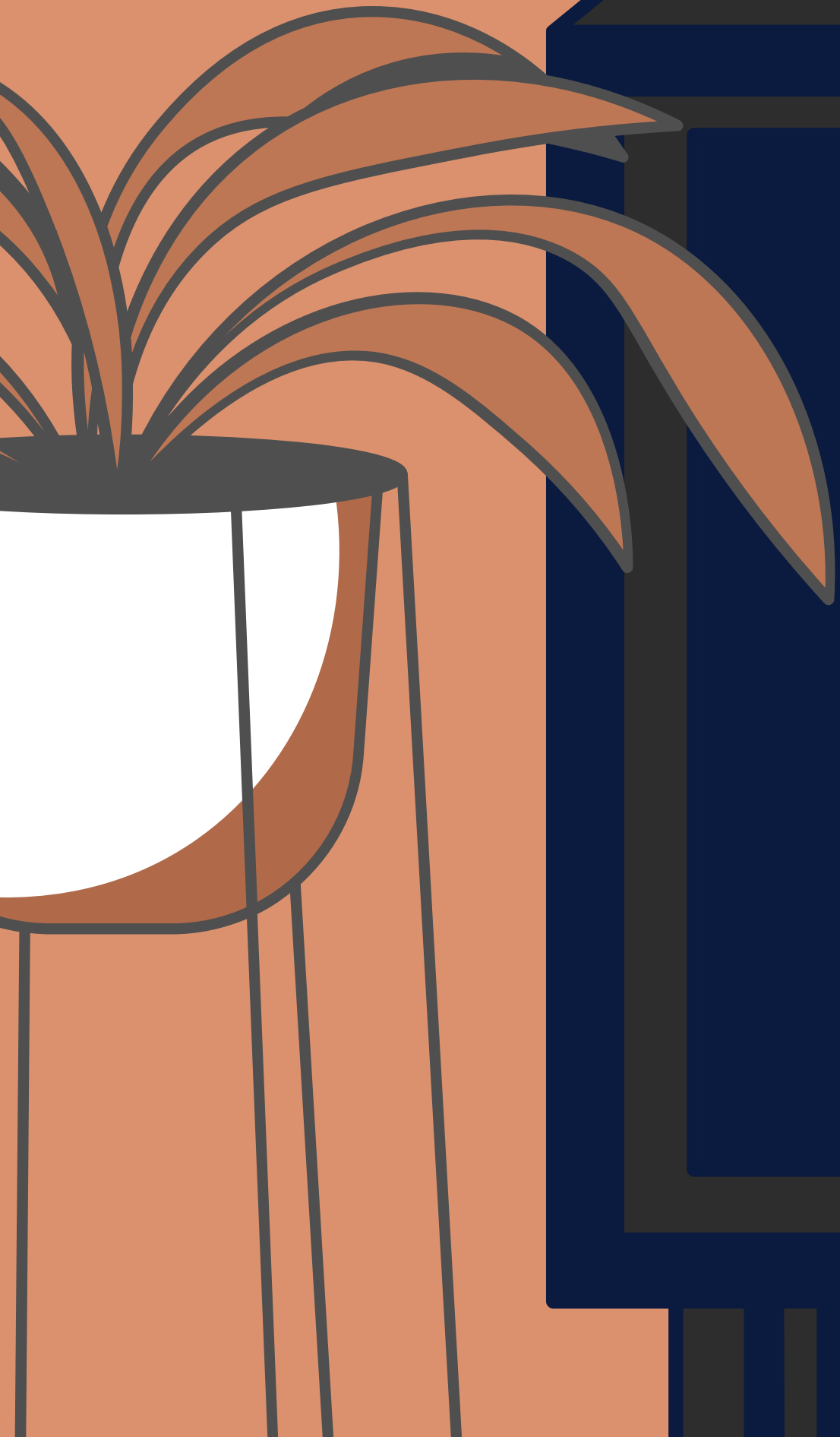
- 2021 Coliving Manager Retreat
 - Many operators discussed how this was an important way to distinguish themselves apart from residential and the general term; coliving “washing.”



Why Get Certified

- Set your coliving apart from a sea of coliving-washed spaces
- Market your coliving
- Gain competitive advantage
- Professional credibility
- Improved reputation





**“The best way to
predict the future is
to create it.”**

-Peter Drucker

The background is a solid light orange color. On the left, there is a white vase with two green leaves on a small wooden table with two legs. Above the table is a circular mirror with a dark frame. On the right, there is a dark grey dome-shaped lamp hanging from the ceiling and a bookshelf with a few books. The title 'Certification Process' is written in a large, bold, dark blue font in the center.

Certification Process

2

The Un-painful Process

Overview

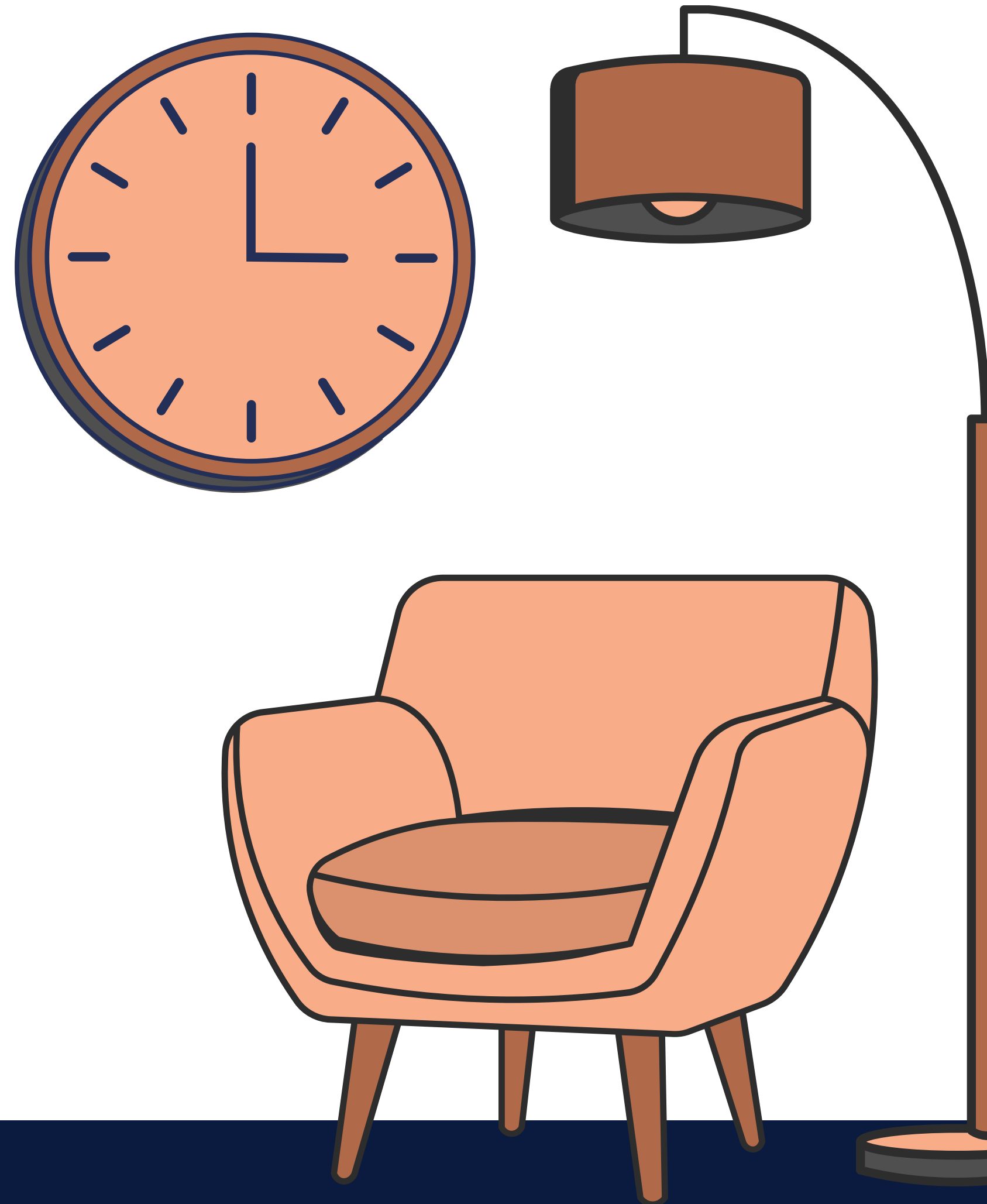
- Create an account and register your project
- Complete the survey by evaluating your coliving
- Gather documentation required
- Submit for review
- Review will take 1-3 months
- Certificate level awarded

***TIP: Read the guide, gather your docs, start the survey**



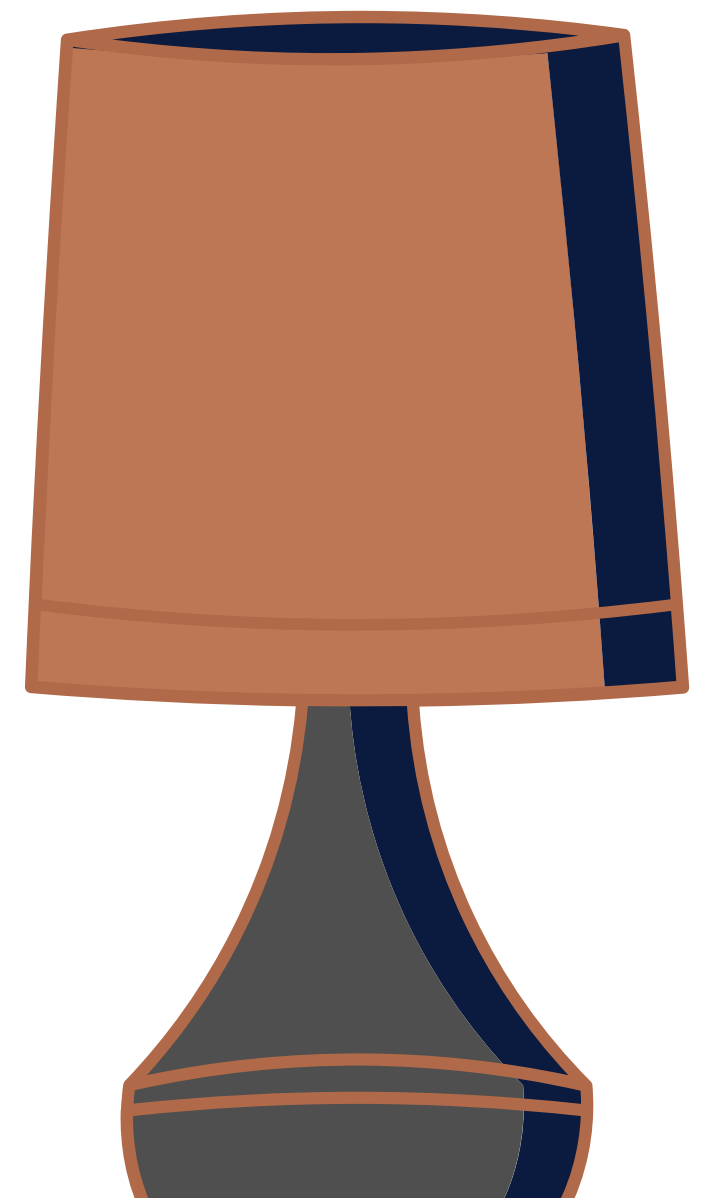
Create

- Create your free account on [ColivingHub](#) and register your project
- Registration fee is valid for 3 years:
 - For members: 200 €
 - Non-members: 300 €
- Once the fee is paid, you will receive a link to start the process



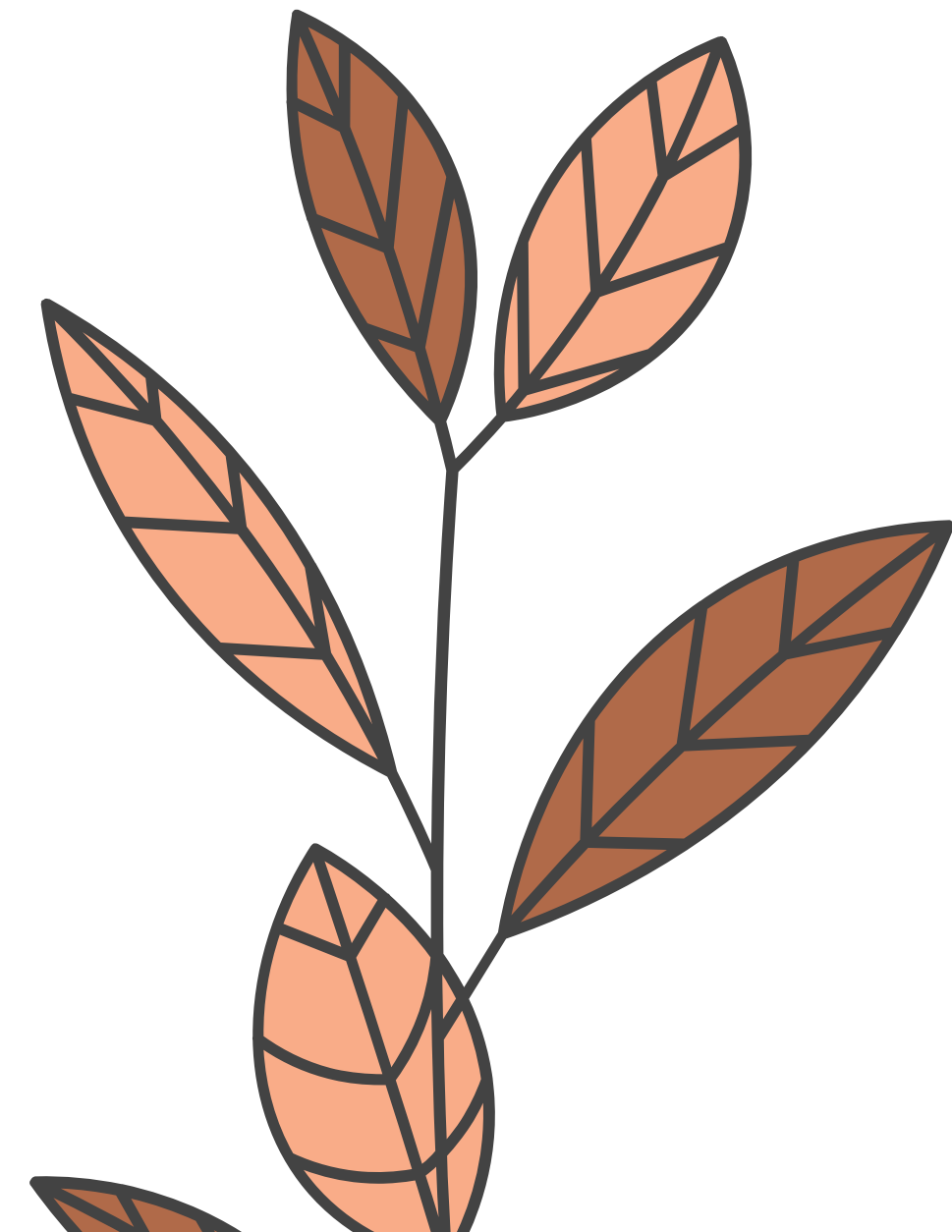
Evaluate

- Assess your project against each of the certification categories and criteria under the Gather section
- During this process, if questions arise, you can find definitions under section 3
- You are able to start and stop without losing your place in the survey



Gather

- Collect data, photos, documents, and videos for each criteria to provide evidence of your answers
- The types of documentation are defined on the following pages
- Any information collected needs to be within the last 90 days, unless only collected on a yearly or bi-yearly basis. Photos and screenshots should be time stamped.
- Paper documents need to be official receipts, invoices, contracts, etc



Gather cont..

Documentation to collect:

- **Infrastructure**

- Photos: all physical spaces listed in questionnaire
- Link to site to support ability to host retreats; photos are okay too

- **Services**

- Photos: all items listed
- Testimonials from colivers: Weekly cleaning, community meals and activities (Can be a pdf, image of site, written note, etc)
- Job Contract (roles and responsibilities) for community manager, maintenance, and cleaning team

Gather cont..

Documentation to collect:

- **Community**

- PDF describing what and how all items have been implemented, including photos, receipts, contracts
- Testimonial from community manager: family meetings (Can be a pdf, image of site, written note, etc)
- PDF of onboarding and offboarding
- Copy of resident satisfaction surveys, interview transcript from feedback session whether given in person or via online survey, or online reviews such as Google. Online review must be 4.5 or higher.

Gather cont..

Documentation to collect:

- **Minimum Stay Required**

- Screenshot of website: minimum stay

- **Minimum Size**

- Screenshot of website: listed occupancy
- Screenshot of website: how many bedrooms are available

Gather cont..

Documentation to collect:

- **Sustainability**

- Invoice, emails, contract, and or receipt: generate positive impact to the local community, to the environment
- Photos of cleaning supplies and general list of ingredients
- Photos: recycling and compost bins, shared and working bicycles, rain water capture, low flow fixtures, solar panels, charging station for electric vehicles, and energy rating on appliances, lighting, operating equipment
- Video of sensor operated light fixtures
- Screenshot of map with distance: public transportation

Gather cont..

Documentation to collect:

- **Wellbeing**

- Application to stay at the coliving: show area where colivers can put dietary requirements
- Screenshot of map and photos: opportunities for exercise
- Photos: showcasing natural light in rooms and windows open for fresh air, workspace with ergonomic furniture, visit to farmers market, shared meals
- Receipts to confirm where food is bought from and if it is organic or not (can be screenshot of credit card purchase)

Gather cont..

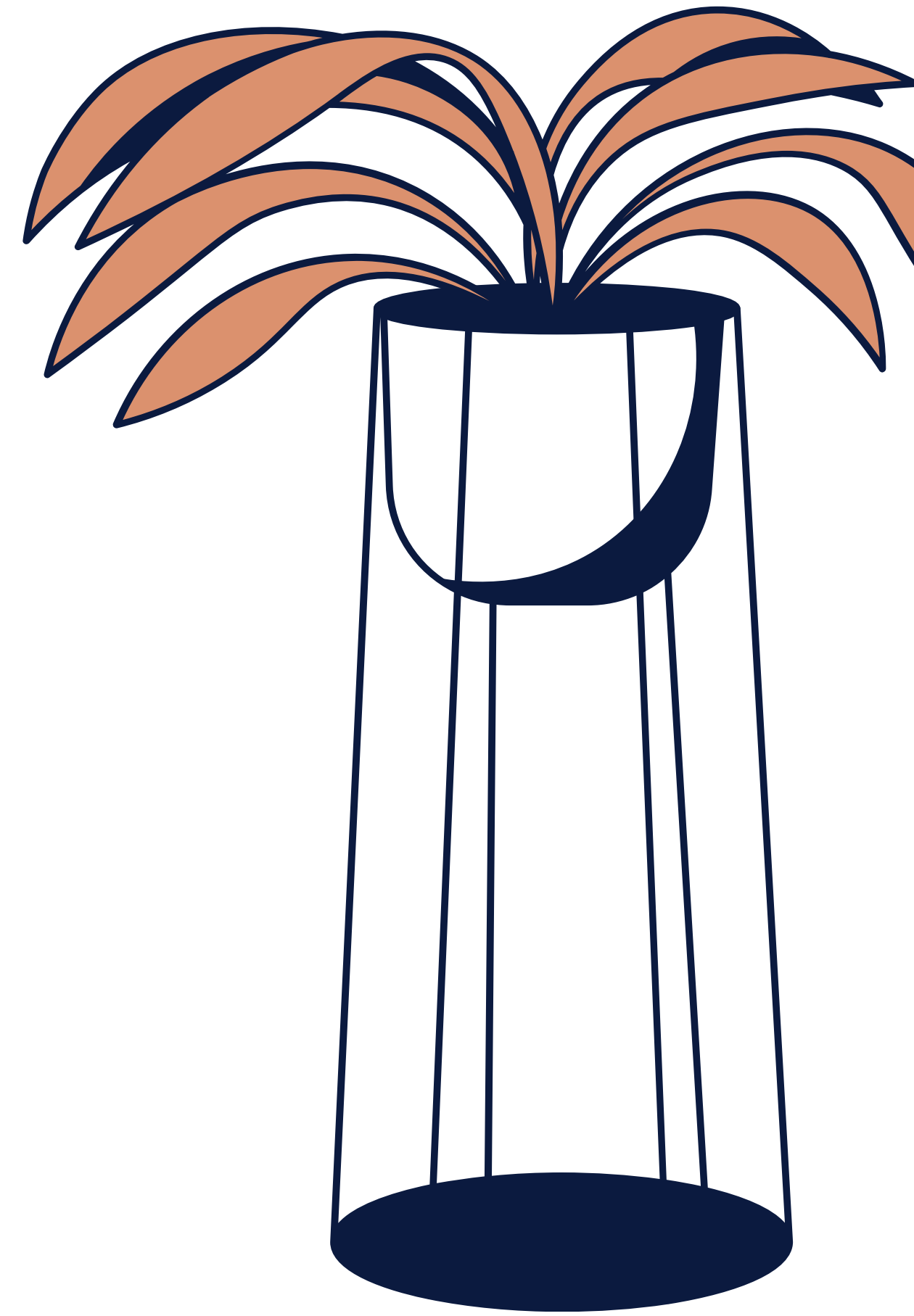
Documentation to collect:

- **Accessibility & Safety**

- Map with distance noted: site easily accessible to public transportation and distance and accessibility by bicycle, small kiosk or market
- Photos: Maintained roads, exterior property cameras, interior fire suppression system, listed protocols in event of emergency, ramps, brail plaques,
- Testimonials: Colivers who have biked to location (Can be a pdf, image of site, written note, etc)
- Instructions or videos if site is not easily navigable by GPS
- PDF or written note and photos illustrating the variety of spaces such as quiet or phone room; if teh property can accomodate families

Submit

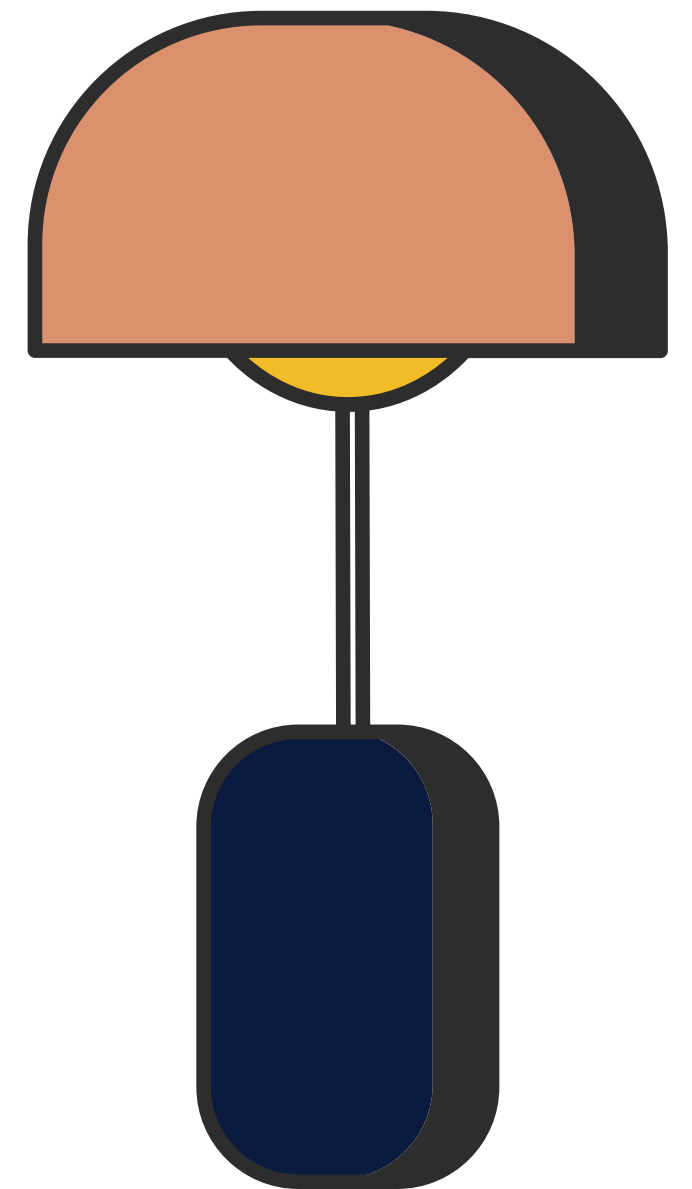
- Upload required documentation during the questionnaire
- Submit your responses
- Wait 1-3 months while the team reviews the information
- We may reach out if we need clarification



Review

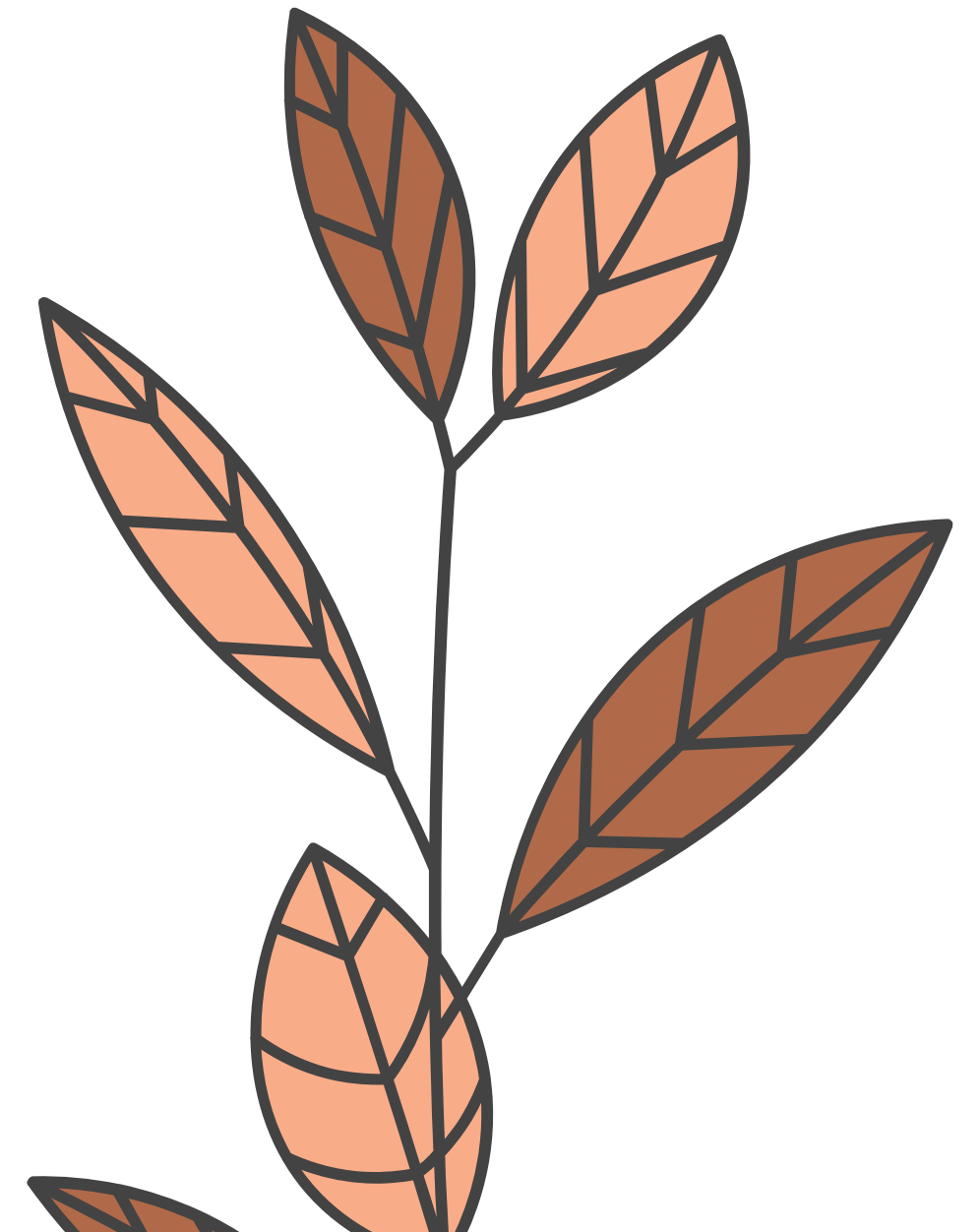
- Your submission will be reviewed by ColivingHub volunteer staff
- You will be contacted if any additional information or clarification is needed
- Reminder! The process will take 1-3 months

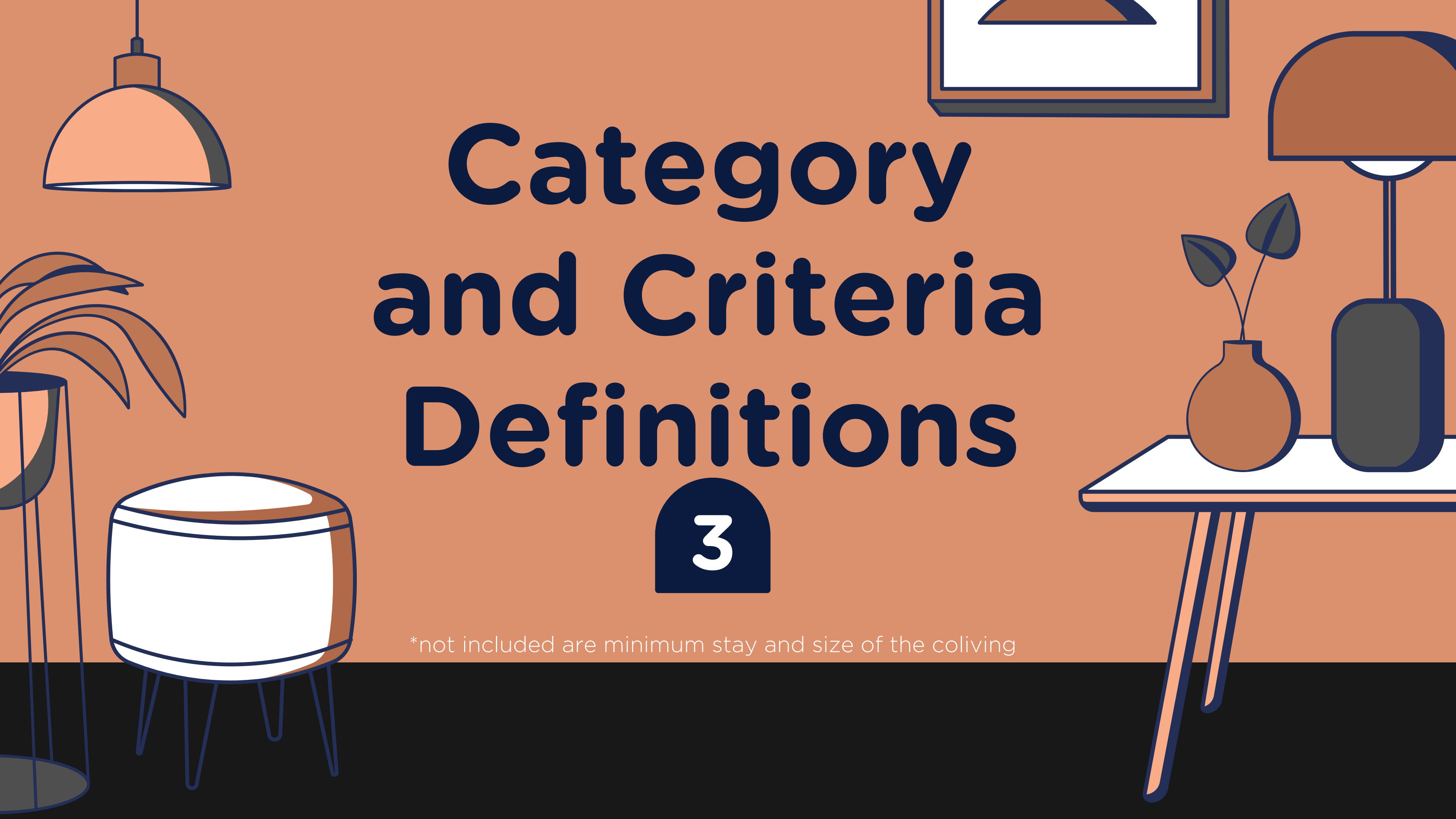
*Interested in becoming a volunteer reviewer?
Contact: hello@colivinghub.co



Certification

- You will receive an email that your property is certified and what level it receives! There are 129 total points possible.
- The review committee designates the project with a numerical score and associated rating.
- The levels are as follow:
 - Committed: 97-109 points or 75%
 - Engaged: 110-122 points or 85%
 - Leading: 123-129 points or 95%
- Your certification is valid for 3 years





Category and Criteria Definitions

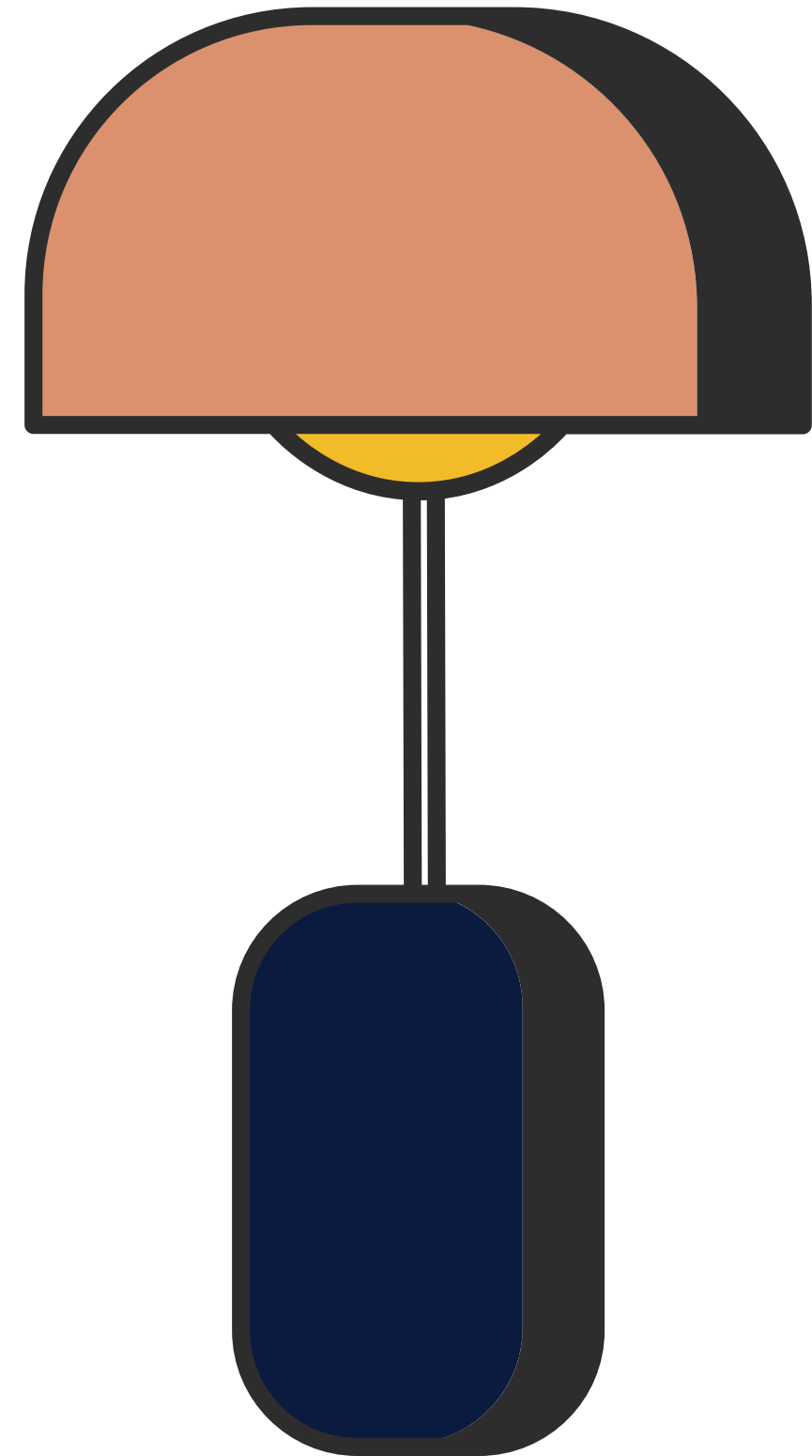
3

*not included are minimum stay and size of the coliving

Infrastructure

Infrastructure in the context of coliving properties refers to the physical and technological systems, facilities, and amenities that support the daily functioning and well-being of residents within a shared living environment.

This encompasses a wide range of elements designed to enhance comfort, convenience, safety, and connectivity for individuals living in a communal setting.



Infrastructure Cont...

1. Shared Kitchen

Located within the property where residents can cook, eat, and socialize with others. Equipped with basic cooking essentials such as appliances, utensils, and food storage, the space fosters a sense of community by sharing culinary experiences and meals.

2. Shared Living, Social Area

A common space within the property designed for relaxation, entertainment, and social interaction among residents. Furnished with comfortable seating, conducive to conversing, and entertainment such as TV or gaming consoles.

3. Shared Dining Space

A designated area within the property where residents can enjoy meals together. Examples of this area are a dining table, breakfast bar, or outside space.

4. Shared Workspace

The shared workspace is a dedicated area within the property designed for residents to work, study, or engage in professional activities. Equipped with desks, ergonomic chairs, power outlets, and WIFI, this space provides residents with the ability to focus or collaborative.

5. Can Host Retreats

A coliving property that can host retreats refers to a facility capable of accommodating organized gatherings or events focused on relaxation, personal development, team building, or other retreat activities.

6. Different Types of Rooms and Different Size Rooms

Coliving properties offer a variety of room types and sizes that suit colivers' lifestyle, budget, and privacy requirements. This may include single rooms or shared rooms of varying sizes, layouts, and configurations.

7. Different Types and Sizes of Bathrooms (Shared, Private)

Coliving properties feature bathrooms of different types and sizes to accommodate the needs of residents. This includes shared bathrooms and private bathrooms attached to individual rooms or suites. Offering a range of bathroom options ensures convenience, comfort, and flexibility for residents while managing occupancy and ensuring hygiene standards.

8. Accessible Outdoor Space Available for Multiple Activities

Coliving properties provide accessible outdoor spaces that residents can utilize for various activities and recreation. Whether it's a garden, terrace, patio, or rooftop deck, these outdoor areas offer opportunities for relaxation, social gatherings, fitness activities, or simply enjoying nature; enhancing the overall living experience and well-being of residents.

9. Space for Exercise

Coliving properties incorporate spaces dedicated to exercise and physical activity to promote residents' health and wellness. This may include a fitness room, yoga studio, and / or outdoor workout areas.

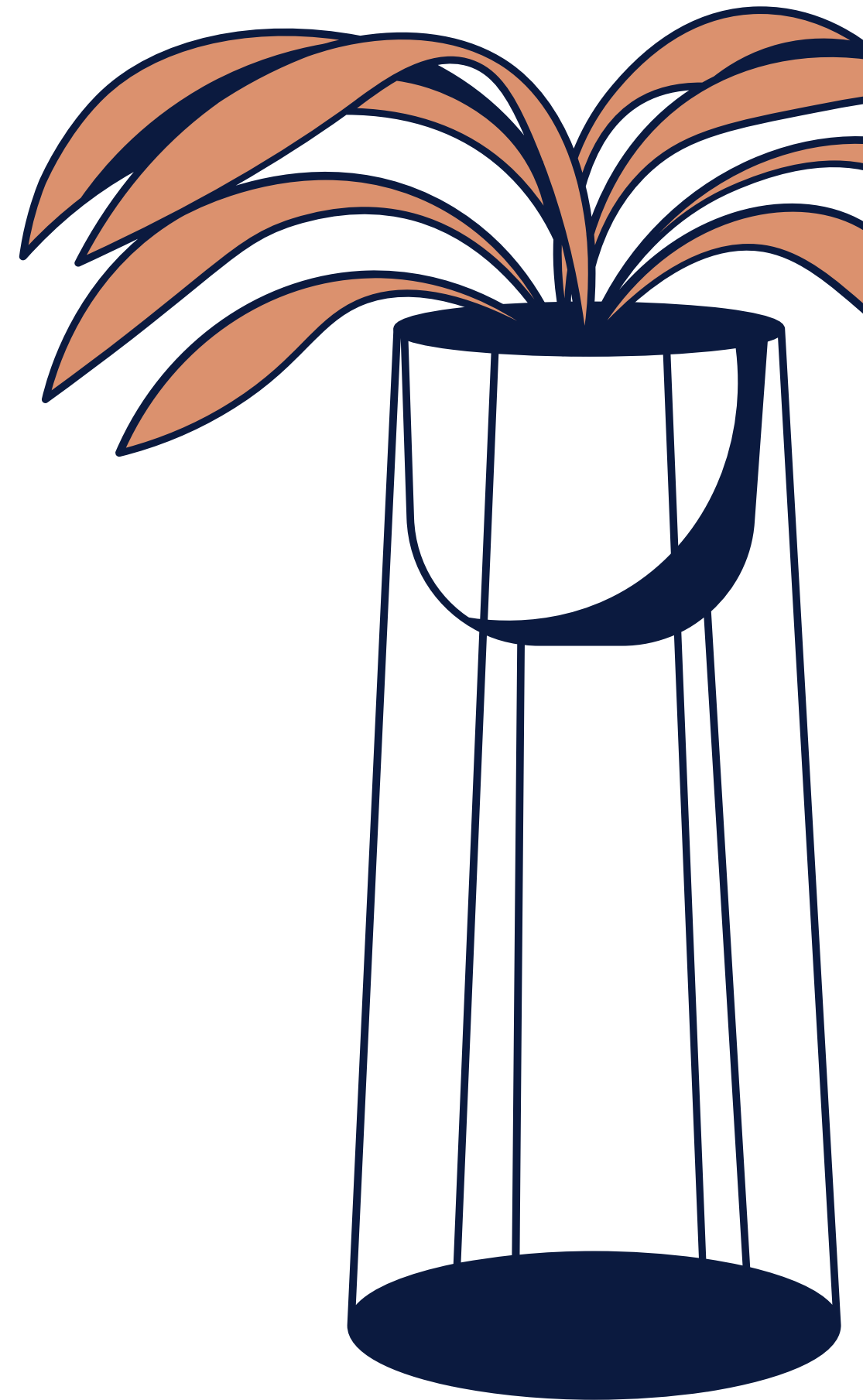
10. Secure Storage Space

A secured space located on the coliving property for colivers to safely store personal items.

Services

Services in a coliving property encompass a comprehensive range of offerings designed to enhance residents' living experience and meet their diverse needs.

By providing various services, coliving properties strive to create a welcoming, comfortable, and supportive environment for residents to thrive in their shared living spaces.



Services Cont...

1. Coffee and Tea

Coliving properties provide complimentary coffee and tea to residents as part of their amenities. This service allows residents to enjoy a hot beverage at their convenience, whether to kickstart their day, relax during breaks, or socialize with fellow residents in communal areas.

2. Weekly Cleaning of Bedrooms, Bathrooms, Shared Spaces, etc

Cleaning services in coliving properties encompass regular maintenance, sanitation, and upkeep of communal spaces, shared facilities, and individual rooms.

3. Community Meals

Community meals are organized dining experiences within the property where residents come together to share meals prepared or planned by the community host, by themselves, or as family potluck-style gatherings.

4. Community Activities/Calendar of Events

A curated calendar of community activities and events aimed at engaging residents, fostering connections, and engaging with the local community.

5. Exercise Classes

Coliving properties may offer exercise classes and fitness programs to support residents' health and well-being. These classes may include yoga, group workouts, or specialized programs to support various need and fitness levels.

6. Coworking Space

Coworking space is a dedicated area within the property equipped with desks, ergonomic chairs, and WIFI at minimum. This space provides residents with a professional and collaborative environment to work.

7. WiFi (include minimum 50 mbps high speed)

WiFi is a fundamental service provided by coliving properties to ensure residents have reliable internet connectivity throughout the premises.

8. Cooking Basics (pots, pans, oil, spices, salt, pepper)

The property must provide access to kitchen essentials such as cookware, utensils, appliances, and basic pantry items.

9. Laundry (whether free or small fee)

Washer and dryer are provided for colivers to launder their personal items.

10. Community Manager or host (may be the proprietor); can be full or part-time

A staff member of the property who facilitates activities, onboards and offboards colivers, and manages or coordinates daily property operations.

11. Utilities are included (water, sewer, electricity)

The cost of essential services (utilities) are covered by the rental fee to provide convenience and clarity to the coliver.

12. Maintenance is included

The property owner is responsible for covering the costs and arrangements for the upkeep, repair, and general maintenance of the property.

Community

Community in the context of coliving refers to a dynamic and interconnected network of residents who share a common living space and engage in collaborative, supportive, and meaningful interactions.

It encompasses a sense of belonging, mutual respect, and shared responsibility among individuals who come together to form a cohesive and inclusive social environment within the coliving property.



Community Cont...

1. One Event/ Activity a week, such as Skills Sharing

This refers to the organization of a regular, weekly event or activity designed to bring colivers together, promote social interaction, and enhance the sense of community. Events can vary widely, including workshops, cultural outing, game nights, movie nights, and or creative projects.

2. One Community Meal a Week, facilitated by the community host and or colivers

A community meal is a scheduled, shared dining experience held once a week where residents gather to enjoy a meal together. This event serves as a platform for socializing, cultural exchange, and fostering a sense of belonging. The meal can be prepared by residents and or the community host.

3. Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging Goals

These goals are commitments made by the coliving community to create an environment where all residents feel respected, valued, and included, regardless of their backgrounds, identities, or experiences.

4. Weekly Family Meetings, led by community manager

Weekly family meetings are regular gatherings where residents come together to discuss community matters, share updates, and provide feedback. These meetings serve as an open forum for communication, allowing residents to voice concerns, suggest improvements, plan events, and make collective decisions.

5. An engaged and proactive community manager

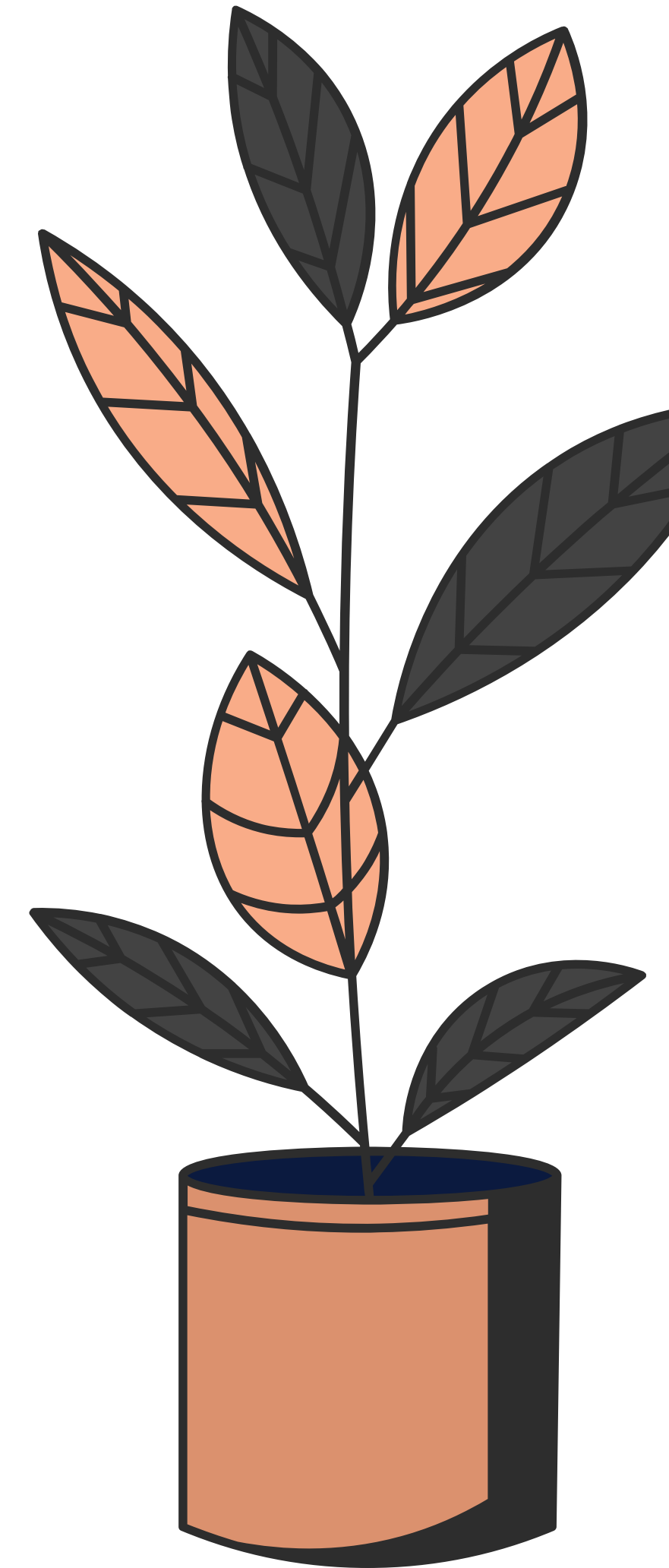
This type of manager is a dedicated individual responsible for fostering a positive and supportive community atmosphere. They actively engage with residents, including onboarding and offboarding activities, facilitate events, and day trips, and address any issues or concerns that arise.

6. Onboarding and Offboarding carried out by community manager

Welcoming and saying goodbye to a coliver is an important part of the experience. This allows new colivers to feel welcomed into the community and provides a chance for them to share any feedback as they depart.

Sustainability

Sustainability refers to the practice of meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. It involves responsibly managing natural resources, minimizing environmental impact, and promoting social equity and economic prosperity to ensure long-term well-being and resilience for both current and future generations.



Sustainability Cont...

1. Generate a positive impact to the local community

Coliving properties strive to contribute positively to the local community by engaging in initiatives that support local businesses, foster community development, and promote social integration. This can include organizing volunteer events, supporting local artisans, participating in community projects, and creating partnerships with local organizations to enhance the well-being and vitality of the surrounding area.

2. Generate a positive impact to the environment

Coliving properties aim to minimize their environmental footprint through sustainable practices that protect and preserve natural resources. This involves implementing energy-efficient systems, reducing waste, conserving water, and promoting eco-friendly habits among residents.

3. Use non-toxic cleaning supplies

Using non-toxic cleaning supplies means choosing cleaning products that are free from harmful chemicals and pollutants. These eco-friendly alternatives are safer for residents' health and reduce the release of toxins into the environment, promoting a healthier living space and minimizing environmental impact.

4. Offer recycling

Providing recycling facilities involves setting up designated areas where residents can separate and dispose of recyclable materials such as paper, cardboard, glass, plastics, and metals.

5. Offer composting

Offering composting means providing residents with facilities to dispose of organic waste, such as food scraps and biodegradable materials, which are then processed into compost. This reduces landfill waste, decreases greenhouse gas emissions, and produces nutrient-rich soil.

6. Close to public transportation

Being close to public transportation means the coliving property is conveniently located near bus stops, train stations, or other public transit options. This accessibility encourages residents to use public transportation, reducing reliance on personal vehicles, and lowering carbon emissions.

7. Offer shared and working bicycles

Providing shared bicycles and maintaining them in good working condition allows residents to use bicycles for commuting and recreational purposes. This promotes sustainable transportation, reduces traffic congestion, and encourages a healthier, more active lifestyle.

8. Capture rainwater

Capturing rainwater involves installing systems to collect and store rainwater for later use, such as a rain barrel. This water can be used for watering plants, flushing toilets, or other non-potable purposes.

9. Low flow fixtures

Low flow fixtures refer to water-saving devices installed on faucets, showers, and toilets that reduce water consumption without compromising performance. These fixtures help conserve water and lower utility bills.

10. Prioritized material reuse

Prioritizing material reuse means incorporating reclaimed or repurposed materials into the construction, renovation, or furnishing of the coliving property. This practice reduces waste, conserves resources, and supports a circular economy by giving new life to existing materials.

11. Minimize single use plastic and products

Reusable items such as glasses, cups, mugs, utensils, plates, straws, etc should be prioritized. When ordering food or beverages to go, when grocery shopping, etc pack reusable bags, minimize purchasing items in plastic packaging, and choose biodegradable, or recyclable alternatives. Plastic wrap and styrofoam are not recyclable.

12. Energy efficient appliances

Energy-efficient appliances are devices that use less energy to perform the same tasks as their standard counterparts. These include ENERGY STAR-rated refrigerators, dishwashers, washing machines, and other household appliances that reduce energy consumption, lower utility bills, and decrease the property's carbon footprint.

13. Energy efficient fixtures

Energy-efficient fixtures refer to lighting and other electrical installations that use less energy, such as LED bulbs and motion-sensor lighting. These fixtures can lower utility bills.

14. Energy efficient operating equipment

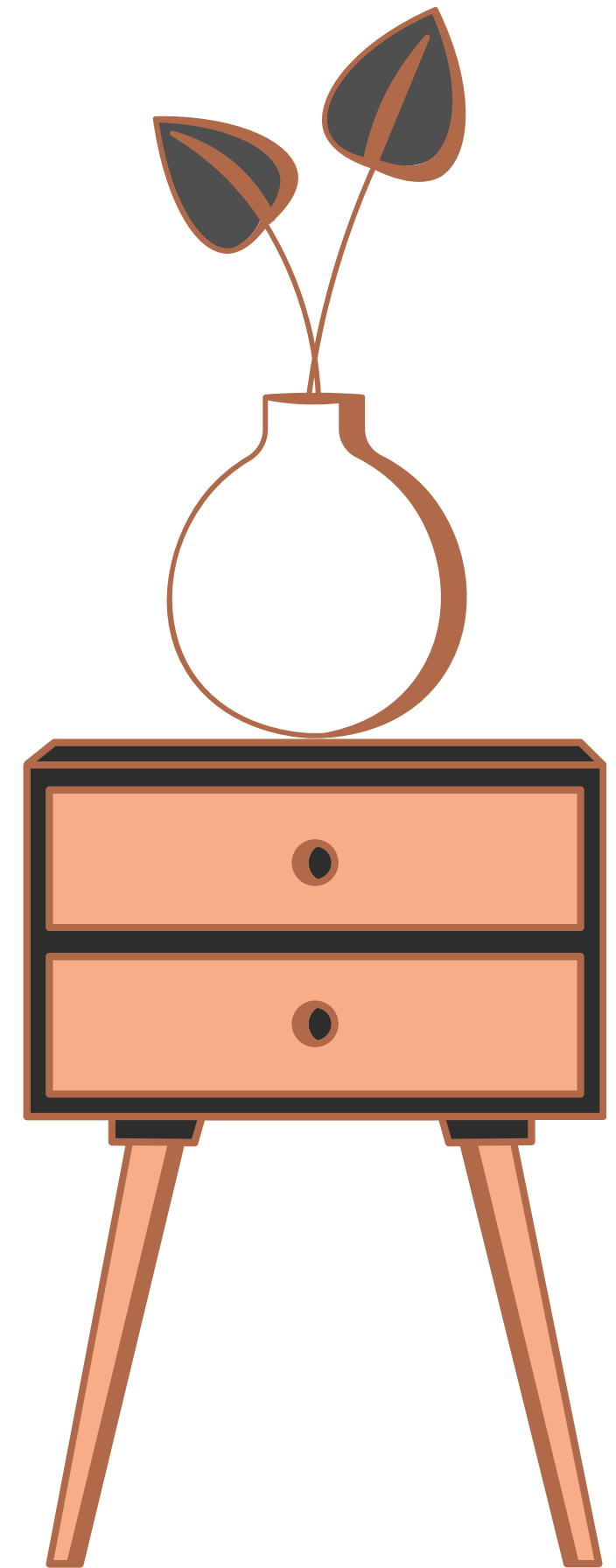
Energy-efficient operating equipment includes systems and machinery used in the maintenance and operation of the coliving property that can lower utility bills. This can include heating, ventilation, and air-conditioners.

15. Charging Stations

Charging stations are designated areas equipped with charging points for electric vehicles (EVs). Providing EV charging stations encourages the use of electric cars, supporting sustainable transportation, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and catering to the needs of environmentally conscious residents.

Wellbeing

Wellbeing refers to the comprehensive health and wellness of individuals within a built environment, covering physical, mental, and emotional aspects. The following criteria are aimed at prioritizing human health and overall wellness.



Wellbeing Cont...

1. Inquire about dietary requirements before arrival

This involves asking residents about their specific dietary needs, preferences, allergies, and restrictions. By gathering this information in advance, the coliving property can ensure that meals and food options are inclusive, safe, and considerate of each individual.

2. Opportunities for exercise

This refers to providing residents with access to facilities and programs that encourage physical activity. This can include on-site gyms, yoga studios, outdoor exercise areas, organized fitness classes, and sports activities. These opportunities promote a healthy lifestyle and community engagement.

3. Provide options to source local, in-season food at community meals

This means offering residents the chance to enjoy meals made with locally sourced, seasonal ingredients. By prioritizing local and in-season food, the coliving property supports local farmers and producers, promotes sustainability, and provides fresh, nutritious meals for residents.

4. Provide resources of where to purchase

This involves offering residents information and guidance on where to buy local and sustainable products, including food, household items, and other necessities. Providing resources such as lists of local markets, shops, and farms helps residents make informed choices and support the local economy.

5. Access to natural light

Ensuring that the coliving property is designed to maximize exposure to natural light in every accessible space. Natural light can lower utility bills and has numerous benefits for mental and physical health, including improved mood, better sleep, and increased productivity.

6. Access to fresh air within the coliving space, includes bedrooms, shared spaces, and coworking space

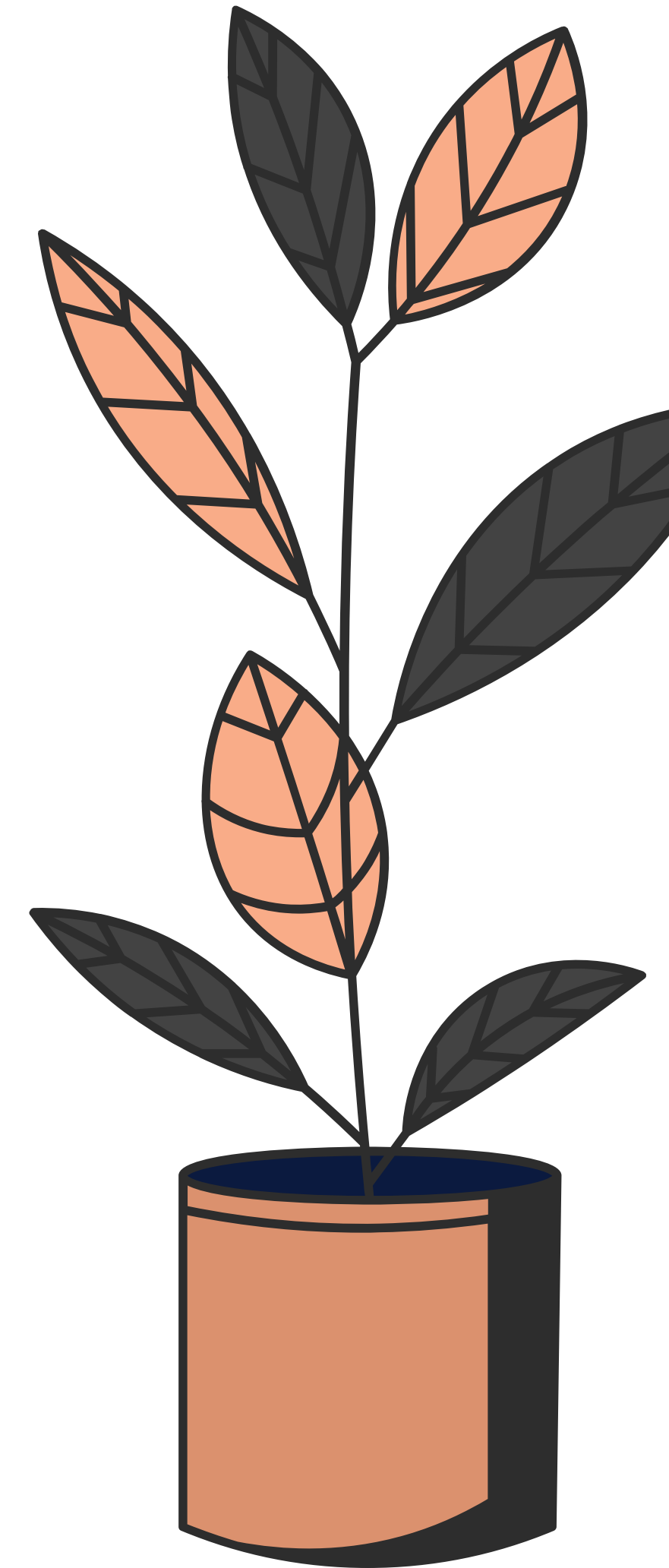
This refers to ensuring that all accessible spaces have access to fresh air through open windows. Good air quality is essential for respiratory health.

7. Support remote work ergonomics

This means offering residents ergonomic furniture and equipment to support comfortable and healthy remote work setups. Providing adjustable desks, ergonomic chairs, monitor stands, and other ergonomic tools helps prevent strain, promotes better posture, comfort, and productivity for residents.

Accessibility & Safety

In the context of mobility issues, neurodivergence, and public transportation, accessibility and safety refer to ensuring that individuals with diverse needs and abilities can navigate the property safely, comfortably, and independently.



Services Cont...

1. Site is accessible to public transportation

This means that the property is located near public transit options such as bus stops, train stations, or metro lines for those not able to or prefer not to drive.

2. Roads are maintained to property

Proper road maintenance includes smooth surfaces (does not need to be paved), clear signage, and appropriate lighting. This ensures colivers do not need specialized all-drive or four wheel drive vehicles.

3. Colivers can bike to the location

This means that the property is accessible by bicycle, with safe and convenient bike routes leading to and from the location. The property may also offer bike storage facilities and support a bike-friendly environment.

4. Easily navigable by GPS

The property is easily located using GPS navigation systems. Accurate and updated location information ensures that residents and visitors can find the property without difficulty, enhancing convenience and accessibility.

5. Exterior safety; cameras at the front and or back of the house

This refers to the installation of security cameras at key exterior points of the property, such as the front and back entrances. These cameras help monitor and enhance the security of the property, deterring unwanted visitors, and providing a sense of safety for residents.

6. Interior safety; fire suppression system & safety protocols in the event of an emergency and/ or fire

This means the property is equipped with safety measures such as fire suppression systems (e.g., sprinklers, fire extinguishers), smoke detectors, and clear safety protocols for emergencies. Residents are informed about emergency procedures, exits, and assembly points to ensure their safety in case of fire or other emergencies.

Services Cont...

7. Accessible to all spaces for those who have impaired physical mobility

The property is designed to be accessible to individuals with physical mobility impairments, featuring ramps, elevators, wide doorways, and other accommodations that ensure all areas of the property are easily reachable.

8. Accessible to those who are visually impaired

This means the property includes features that assist visually impaired residents, such as tactile indicators, braille signage, audible signals, and well-lit pathways. These accommodations help visually impaired individuals navigate the property safely and independently.

9. Accessible to those who are acoustically impaired

The property includes features to support individuals with hearing impairments, such as visual alerts for alarms, hearing loops, captioning for common area media, and written communication options. These features ensure that acoustically impaired residents can fully participate in the community.

10. Property can accommodate neurodivergent individuals

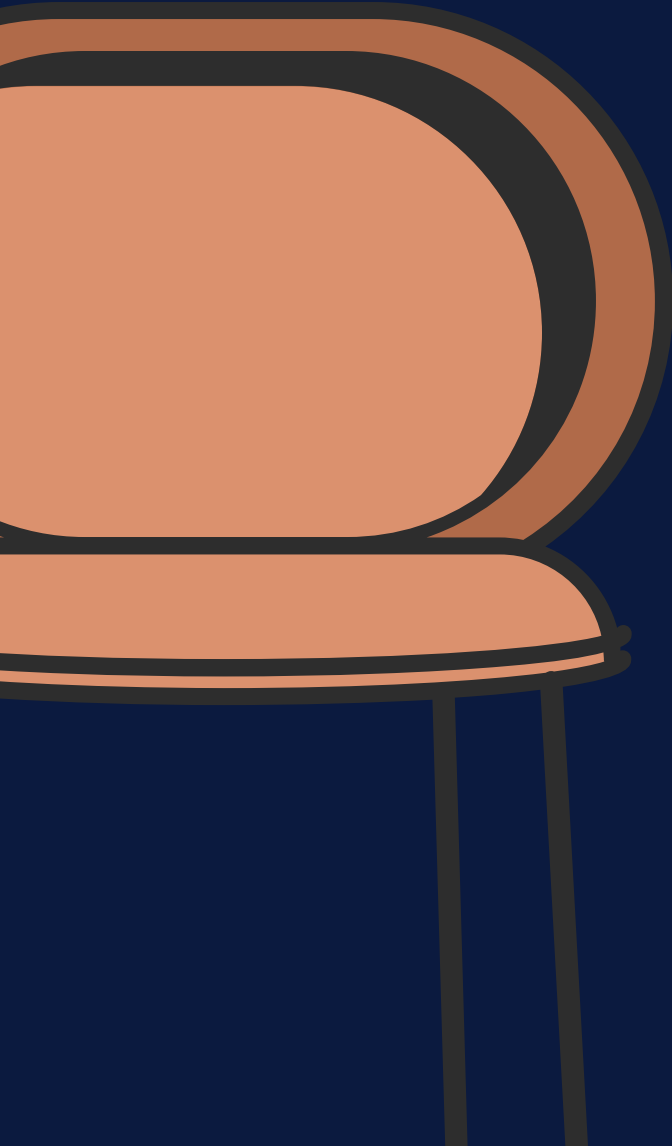
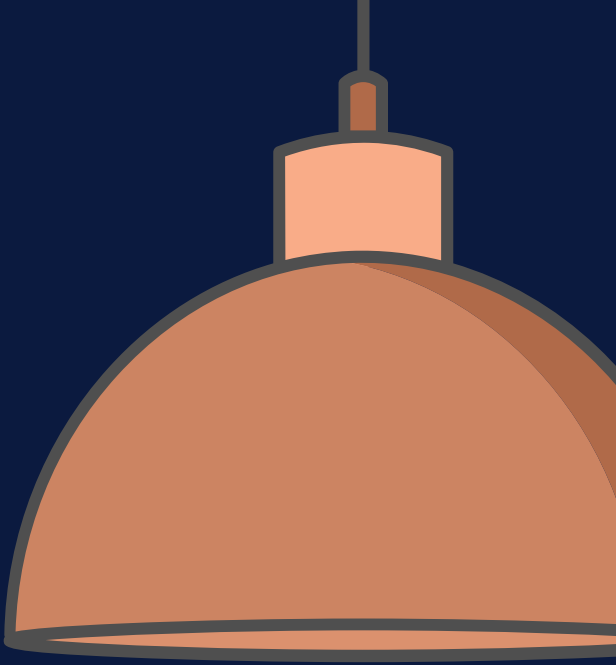
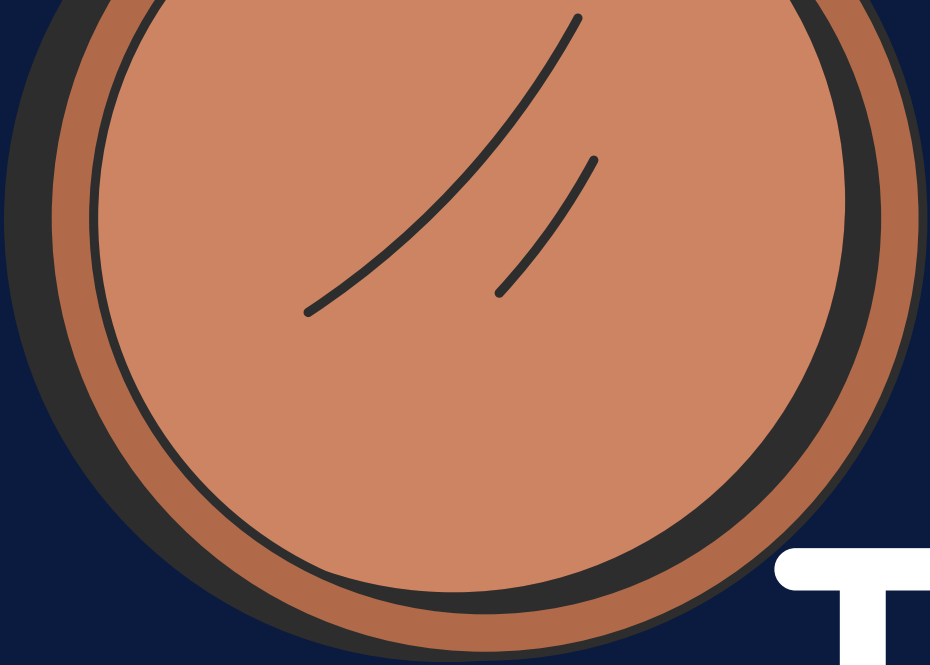
The property is designed to be accommodating for neurodivergent individuals, offering sensory-friendly interior environments such as, quiet zones, clear signage, and minimally designed spaces with low lighting and calming colors. Staff may also be trained in neurodiversity awareness and inclusive practices to support the unique needs of these residents.

11. Property can accommodate families or pets

This means that the coliving property is family-friendly and pet-friendly, offering facilities and policies that welcome children and pets. This includes family-sized living spaces, playgrounds, pet amenities, and policies that support a family and pet-inclusive community while keeping other non-family or non-pet residents comfortable.

12. Within walking distance to basic food and hygiene necessities, such as kiosk or small market

The property is conveniently located within a short walking distance to essential services, such as grocery stores, kiosks, or small markets that provide basic food and hygiene products. This proximity enhances the convenience and quality of life for residents, ensuring they can easily access daily necessities.



Thank you for elevating our community!

Don't hesitate to ask any questions!

email: hello@colivinghub.co

