Scenes from Life at MIT

As a senior, I wanted to use this final project to reflect my past four years here at MIT somehow, and after looking at some of the projects from past years, I decided on making a photo collage of sorts. The background of my collage is Next Dining, a place where I have spent quite a bit of time eating, socializing, holding meetings, staying up till all hours of the night (and morning) working on problem sets. Each of the windows is a snapshot of some part of my life at MIT: images of the Infinite and Killian Court, group shots with friends, and pictures from events I have organized and trips I have taken.

The background panorama was created with the Photomerge tool in Photoshop, discovered after several hours of trying to match the photographs up manually. Out of the 36 pictures that I originally took, the tool only required 10 of them to create the panorama. I tweaked with the brightness and coloring a bit to make the space feel brighter, as most of the light was coming in from the windows and did not quite reach all of the space.

To fit all of the pictures into the windows, I created a separate layer and set up vanishing point planes for each of the windows. Photographs were then resized and copied into the planes so that they would have the same perspective as the window. The windows were then cut out from the original layer so that the inserted photographs would show through. For the most part, I tried to make it look like the pictures were in the plane of the window pane, though due to size and proportion constraints, a few of the pictures are on different planes (two are moved up to the edge where the windowsill meets the seating, as seen by the lack of window curtains for those pictures)

Overall, I like the way the project turned out. There are some spots where the perspective makes the photographs seem a bit odd. The main problem with the collage, I think, is the light coming in from the windows that you can still see on the windowsills and tables. If I had had more time, I would have tried to reflect the pictures on those lighter spots to make it seem more realistic and to incorporate the pictures further into the overall collage.