

Space

Guiding Question:

How can school facilities be designed so students aren't locked into an outdated paradigm?

We can learn a lot about the future of school facilities by observing new uses of space in workplaces and other locations where people gather, learn, and work.

Step 1 – Research

Brainstorm a list of inspiring and unconventional work and learning spaces in your community or region. Consider colleges and universities, libraries and museums, coffee shops and co-working spaces, community centers, restaurants and retail locations, and modern studios, offices, or workshops. Talk to local architects and visit their offices. Include spaces where students learn after school or on weekends. Visit as many as you can, and observe how people use these environments in various ways. Make sure students are part of your visits!

Step 2 – Reflect

Share your thoughts and takeaways with your team and discuss these questions:

- Which work and learning spaces seem to be places where people work particularly well and productively? Where did you see people working individually, in pairs, in clusters, in larger groups?
- What makes those spaces conducive to work and learning? What makes them inspiring?
- How do those spaces accommodate entrance and egress, social distancing, and other safety considerations?
- Which features might work well in your school and support your vision for teaching and learning? Why?

Date of Visit	Place Visited	Observation	Questions
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Top Insights

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