

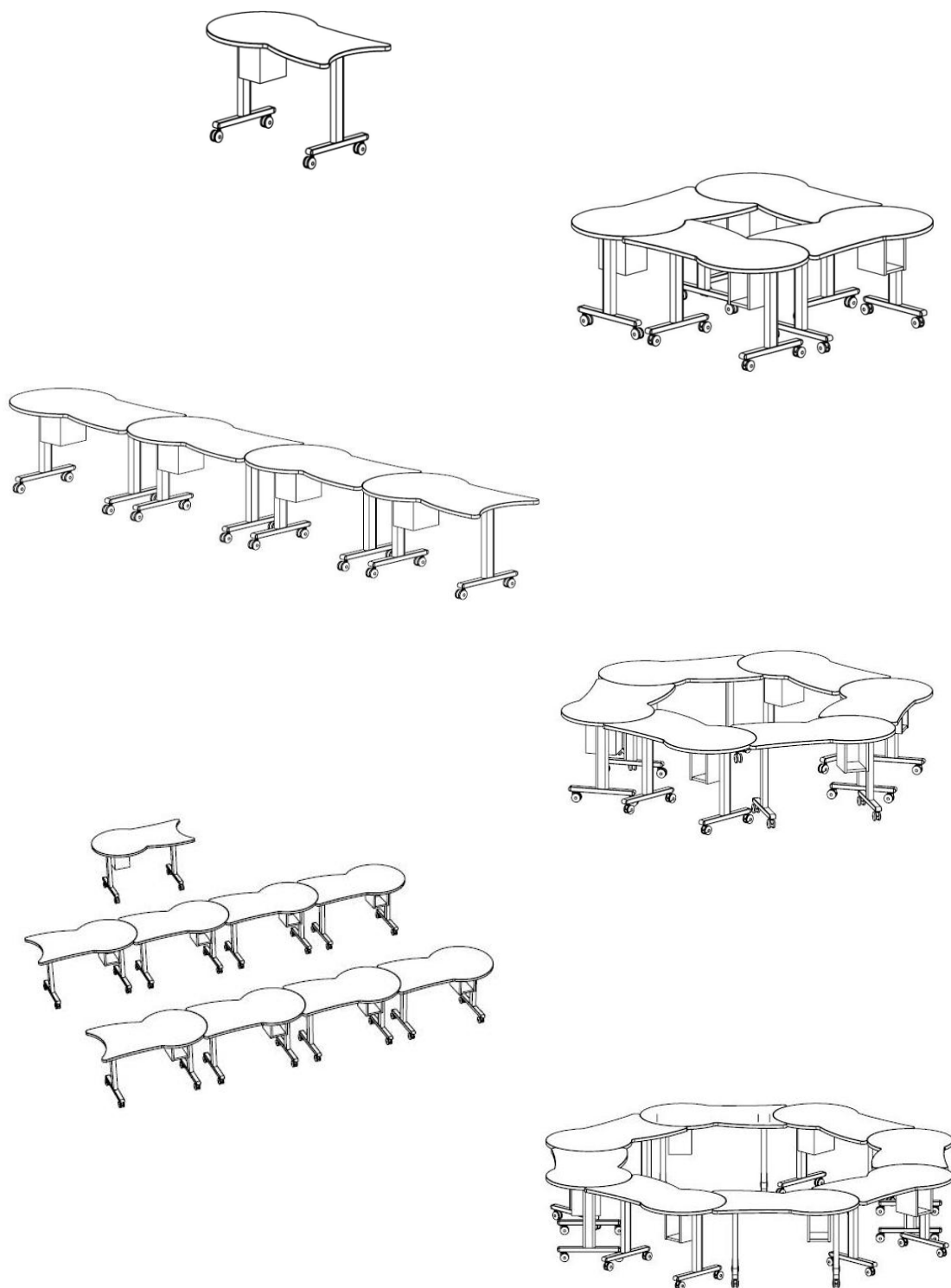
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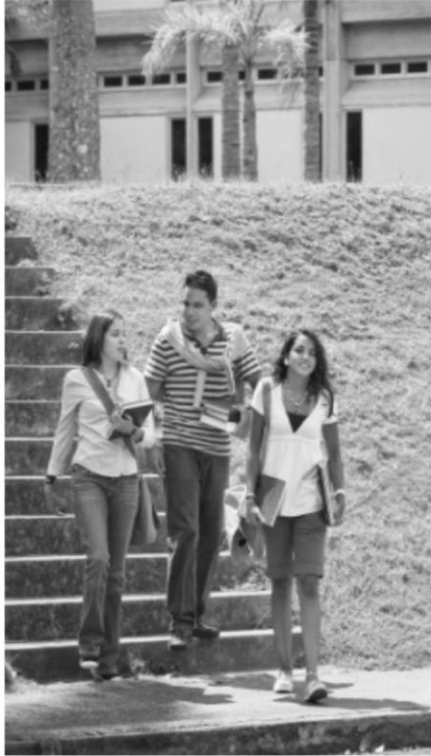
The Changing Face of the College Campus

New Learning Styles Promote Configurability in the Classroom



The use of reconfigurable furniture gives the teacher of today the ability to go from rows, to small groups, to circles or semi-circles. This allows the classroom to morph from a place for test taking, group projects, discussions, or lectures and presentations.

21ST CENTURY SKILLS FROM A 21ST CENTURY CAMPUS



What is the effect of classroom space, furnishings, technology, and campus in-between spaces in today's higher education learning environment? The changing face of education continues to challenge the educators and designers to create entire learning environments. This facelift extends from the classrooms thru the entire campus, with the goal of incorporating technology, flexible furniture, and the influx of new tools to support learning. The educational transformation will have a direct correlation with the use of space with schools and institutions beginning to challenge the status quo. Effective classroom design is indeed a crucial element in learning.

Planners and decision-makers at schools and institutions continue to design classrooms and campuses that reflect outdated modes of teaching. This shift in the teaching methodology will be instrumental in helping to facilitate the academic challenges to create a learning centered environment. There is a need to incorporate students, teachers, methods, technology and space. These learning spaces must also reflect a network of connected places outside the classroom, where learning can flow from one space to the next.

“Every year, some one million students leave before earning a high school degree. Many drop out because they struggle academically. But large numbers say they dropped out because they felt their classes were not interesting, and that high school was unrelentingly boring. In other words, they didn’t believe high school was relevant, or providing a pathway to achieving their dreams. This crisis has been likened to a “silent epidemic” that is undermining the very future of America.”¹ Nearly 70 percent of high school graduates now go to college within two years of graduating. Only about 4 in 10 Americans have obtained either an associate’s or bachelor’s degree by their mid-twenties. Roughly another 10 percent have earned a certificate. Still, this is a sobering situation. Only 56 percent of those enrolling in a four-year college attain a bachelor’s degree after six years, and less than 30 percent of those who enroll in community college succeed in obtaining an associate’s degree within three years.²

GENERATION Y - MILLENNIALS

Driven by the students need for constant communication, technology and collaboration, higher education faces many challenges, driven by how technology is used in the learning process. The advances in mobile devices and wireless technology allow learning to occur anywhere. The entire campus can be considered a learning space and designed accordingly. The Millennials, first to come of age in the new millennium, are uniquely different from other generations due to their profound digital exposure. The modern classroom can be created by understanding the ways students use technology and integrating those uses into teaching and learning.

- **71% of teens age 12-17 have a cell phone**
- **More than 8 of 10 sleep with their cell phone**
- **38% send text messages daily**
- **25% send daily messages via social networks**
- **93% of them go on-line**

LEARNING HAPPENS EVERYWHERE



Every space on today's campus is a learning space. Hallways, common areas, cafés and other in-between spaces are extending the learning experience. Space designed to support learning includes lounge areas, cafeterias, and gathering spaces of all sorts and sizes. The right design will create the ability to learn everywhere and areas where informal meetings and project work can take place. Through the use of furniture with mobility and ease of reconfiguration common spaces can become learning centers. To take this one step further and add tables, chairs and whiteboards the students and faculty now have the option to continue classroom discussions, meet and interact about projects. These areas will facilitate student meetings and additional interaction beyond the classroom. These informal spaces also need to support technology, provide versatility, and create success.

CLASSROOM FLEXIBILITY



Learning spaces and the form they take will play a role in the transformation of today's campus. Classroom design plays a role in the diversity of learning styles, new teaching styles, and enabling new ways of learning. We need to look at making changes in how education must be delivered to become more effective, space design can support educational changes and work towards keeping students engaged in learning. A classroom with one space, but many uses provides flexibility for learning. Flexibility and reconfigurability are directly linked to the quality of the teaching and educational experiences.

Duke University has applied team-based learning (TBL) lecture halls. These lecture halls differ from the standard lecture halls because of the breakout space that is provided within each room. There are two rows of seats on each tier with tables between them to allow students to move from listening to lectures to engage in small group discussions by swiveling their seats. This approach outlines the importance of defining learning spaces for much broader uses. This helps to ensure the ultimate teaching objective of educating the students by gaining cost effectiveness and establishing the true value of the learning space beyond the traditional student-per-square-foot evaluation.

Libraries are changing, evolving from the book warehouses to additional spaces for group and individual learning.

IT TAKES A VILLAGE...

In an effort to improve student success by creating a community of learning we will strengthen our country's competitive position for the future. Integrating planning for classroom spaces with planning for informal and social spaces across a campus assists in the establishment of an entire learning ecosystem. Changes to teaching methods and to classroom and campus designs can help students connect the dots. By challenging the standard campus configuration it becomes increasingly evident that the design, both in and out of the classroom plays a role in achieving educational goals. Learning space requirements need to be customized to the learning institute.



1 - *The Silent Epidemic*, a 2006 report prepared by Civic Enterprises in association with Peter Hart Associates, dramatically illustrates this problem. Surveys conducted as part of this report found that 81 percent of dropouts felt that efforts to make high school more relevant—including opportunities for real-world learning and connecting school to work—would have encouraged them to stay in school.)

2 - Rates were calculated using 2006 graduation rate data from the National Center for Higher Education Management Systems and NCES/IPEDS.

FLEXIBLE FURNITURE – ACCOMMODATING DIFFERENT LEARNING STYLES



These photos illustrate a project completed at the Rochester Institute of Technology. The flexibility of this product is endless and the casters allow for easy mobility to go from rows, to circles, to semi-circles to small group settings to facilitate all the different learning styles.



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