

Talk to the Experts

Research –

R1 – All you ever wanted to ask or Wonder about Designing Effective Spaces for Learning – Julia Aitkin

Join us for an open exploration of each other's burning questions.

R2 – So, What will Learning Look Like in this Place? – Graham Wilson

In the absence of property constraints, schools have the opportunity to think about the best ways of promoting learning. This session looks at the process of moving from discussions about learning to designing the spaces that make up the new school.

R3 – What Makes a Future School? – Jerome Partington

Business as usual is too easy. To achieve different outcomes we need to walk in a different direction. By understanding the big picture we can imagine success and set goals accordingly. The schools of the future will help empower communities and students to create restorative communities. What are the key elements for delivering restorative educational environments?

R4 – A Research Perspective on the Impacts of Space Designs on Learning – Helen Anderson

This session will involve discussion of a series of research projects that address the question of evidencing the impacts of space designs on learning and the decision making process needed to get the greatest learning benefit from different spaces. The discussion will range across topics related to "what makes a difference" and what are the often "conflicting pressures" around innovative use of space and traditional practices.

Education

E1 – Learning in a 1:1 Network Class – Fiona Grant

Learning is not a secret - when all of your students and their whanau/family have 24/7 access to the Internet and web-based applications that support collaborative learning what is the impact on pedagogy?

E2 – Emerging Insights: What's Possible in Open, Agile Learning Spaces? – Sarah Martin

To maximise the opportunities inherent in open learning spaces, existing mental models of teaching and learning have needed to be challenged. What underpins the synergy that emerges in a learning space where teachers and learners collaborate powerfully, learners are equipped with the strategies to advance their own learning, and space is used flexibly and creatively? What we thought was possible and what we have learnt during our two year of operation has been enlightening.

E3 – Architects: Are they Really Numpties? – Simon Cruickshank

Reference Design: The benefits of a reference designs far outweigh those of a bespoke, one off nature. Given the pressures on public funds and the developments in Modern Learning Environments design, presenting schools with a range of options specifically designed to meet the differing pedagogies operating in schools across New Zealand offers far more long term benefits for all.

E4 – How do you work with what you have and still allow for 21st Century Practice? – Daniel Birch

You may only have a box or you may have a brand new MLE. How do you make the most of it, discuss the practice of 21st Century learning and it's relationship to space.

Design

D1 – The Design Consultation Process: Are we asking the Right Questions? – Chris Bradbeer

A slide, giraffe, Minecraft and a doughnut eating table! How do we authentically engage children, teachers and the parent community in the consultation process and what questions should we be asking them? How can we ensure that stakeholders' ideas about learning spaces are valued and reflected in the design? Come and share your thinking and learn how one school went through their own consultation process.

D2 – A Change of Perspective – Spaces Designed from the Student's Point of View – Irene Nigaglioni

This session will discuss the merits of including students of all ages in the school design process. In addition, examples of ways to engage them will be shared, and examples of outcomes after students have been engaged shared with the group.

D3 – How GREEN is Your School? – Alec Couchman

Alec will explore ideas and concepts, from a professional consultants viewpoint, about how schools and campuses can make a real difference, from primary through to tertiary. Education providers, as long term property and facility owner-operators, have a key role to play if the next generation of learners (the so-called Gen-Y and beyond) are to cope with and mitigate the unknown environmental changes which now seem inevitable. The range and scale of issues to be tackled are staggering but can be simply broken down to strategic, operational and personal initiatives. It is at the strategic level where meaningful and lasting change can happen. Principals, educators and communities working alongside facilities managers are uniquely placed to have a long-lasting and inter-generational impact.

D4 – Boss, Leader, Builder – John Sofo

Umair Haque, author of a post on the Harvard Business Review blog entitled “The Builders’ Manifesto” it is not leaders that we need, but “builders.”

“What leaders ‘lead’ are yesterday’s organizations. But yesterday’s organizations... are broken.”
“Today’s biggest human challenge isn’t leading broken organizations slightly better. It’s building better organizations in the first place. It isn’t about leadership: it’s about “buildership”.

This led me to reflect on how we go about designing, building, running and operating schools in New Zealand.

The first PPP Schools project in Hobsonville is an interesting case study of process and organisational change in all these components of educational delivery.