



EDUCATION

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Change is a constant on today's campus. It's occurring in classrooms, libraries, residence halls, and is impacting the very nature of learning and teaching. As this change accelerates, campus spaces continue to play a key role in attracting and keeping students and projecting a school's spirit, culture, and image.

Herman Miller works closely with college and university leaders to address change on campus. We have since the 1970s. Our problem-solving, research-driven approach keeps us in tune with the evolving trends and issues and the leaders charged with addressing them. Every solution we present considers the type of pedagogy taking place today—and beyond—to create learning spaces that respond to changes in teaching and learning.

Through our work, we have identified six characteristics of space we believe are essential to creating successful learning environments.

SOCIAL

ADAPTABLE

STIMULATING

HEALTHFUL

RESOURCEFUL

SUSTAINABLE



People are social creatures, and learning is a social activity that happens in many places beyond traditional classrooms. Campuses reflect this more and more. Community areas mingled among classrooms and lecture halls, small cafes spread throughout campus, and lounge areas in libraries support the social nature of learning.

Learning isn't only a one-dimensional or individually based activity. Collaboration and teamwork promote creativity, problem solving, and productivity, and enrich ideas through a merging of minds and disciplines. Lecture-based teaching still occurs, but so does group discussion. Environments need to support methods for interaction and learning through collaboration.

How can the design of your campus and learning spaces help develop a spirit of community? How does the design of your learning environments encourage collaboration among students and faculty?

SOCIAL
spaces keep minds,
voices, and projects
moving.



The demands placed on learning spaces evolve along with methods of teaching and styles of learning. Lectures are accompanied by class dialogue; memory and recall are balanced with discovery and critical thinking.

Learning spaces, too, must keep pace with the multitasking nature and habits of students. A mixture of relaxed discussion and study areas, spaces that expand or contract depending on need, and private or group spaces can coexist in the same place. Furnishings need to move and morph and support the immediate task at hand.

An adaptable space also allows for personal control. Teachers can manipulate the environment depending on the assignment or activity for that day. Students may also want to rearrange furniture and adjust equipment in order to work in larger or smaller teams.

What learning and teaching methods are you engaged in now? How about in the future? What types of activities do your spaces need to accommodate? If you could adapt

ADAPTABLE
spaces support
the people, places,
and activities
within them.



Learning spaces need to stimulate thinking. They can be loud or quiet, crowded or sparse. They are effective as long as they stimulate, motivate, and keep people thinking. The very arrangement of a learning space sets expectations of the activity that will occur there. Stimulating environments draw us in. They are the places we want to be.

A college's overall image strengthens its success in competing for top-notch faculty and students. Imaginative and careful design of learning environments can be an effective tool in attracting and retaining students, faculty, and funding.

What are the most stimulating learning spaces you've seen? What was it about them that you found stimulating? What ways can the design of your institution attract people to study, teach, and work there? How can the design of your learning spaces reinforce your institution's image and culture?

STIMULATING
spaces draw us
in and spark
creative thinking.



Campuses today reflect a myriad of societal influences and architectural patterns—from the turn of the century to the last significant construction boom of the 1960s and 70s. Many of our existing buildings don't reflect things that have become more relevant to us in recent years. We have learned about the effect of space on our psychological and physiological well-being. We know that natural light and access to windows help increase attention span and decrease eyestrain, that color can affect behavior, and that indoor air quality can affect health.

Understanding and promoting the long-term benefits of ergonomically designed work and study areas are essential. While ergonomically designed furniture helps support long study hours, it is only one component of a healthful learning space. As people spend more time computing, for example, providing training on the risks of poor posture and behaviors becomes critical.

How do your facilities positively affect the physical and emotional health of students, faculty, and employees? How can you educate your students, faculty, and employees about ergonomically sound work

HEALTHFUL
spaces incorporate
ergonomic systems
and sustain our
physical well-being.



Resourceful means doing the most with what you have. Enriching the experiences and opportunities of students and faculty with a tight budget calls for resourceful planning. It is no small challenge to balance fiscal, functional, and educational needs.

There are ways to plan and allocate resources wisely and with an eye to the future. Flexibility in spaces and furnishings adds long-term value, as environments can adapt without having to change the architecture. Purposeful design allows for future changes in infrastructure and technology without requiring significant renovation. Standards programs can simplify management of multiple facilities among several campuses. And electronic procurement can help streamline planning and specification.

In what ways are you required to be more resourceful? How could the design of your existing spaces be transformed to support multiple uses? What are some of your critical technology and infrastructure issues? How can you plan for future changes?

RESOURCEFUL
space promotes
wise use of
assets now and
into the future.



Herman Miller takes environmental sustainability seriously. Our partners in education do so as well: Creating environmentally sustainable facilities is chief among current design criteria at learning institutions.

Following green building principles provides ways for all of us to make a difference to the environment. Our facilities are designed to meet U.S. Green Building Council standards. How products are designed and manufactured also makes a difference. We follow cradle-to-cradle principles, requiring that we consider the environmental impact of all stages of a product's life, from its production to its recyclability.

Buildings exist for decades. We owe it to ourselves and to those who will inhabit these buildings long after us to be responsible for their impact on the environment.

What kinds of environmental initiatives are under way on your campus? What are your questions about designing environmentally sustainable facilities?

SUSTAINABLE
spaces make a
difference to the
world outside them
and the quality
within them.

HermanMiller

People + Pedagogy + Place = Possibilities

Herman Miller researches trends within Higher Education. From that research, we are able to develop knowledge and insights that help our clients develop meaningfully different solutions so they can create their own possibilities. It's part of what we're doing for a better world around you.

We look forward to the opportunity to uncover possibilities for your campus.

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