Learning can and should happen everywhere on campus – from the classroom to the library to faculty offices. In between these destination sites are lounges, hallways and other informal areas that can be so much more than transition spaces. They can be flexible, friendly learning spaces for individuals and groups – all smart ways to better leverage valuable campus real estate.

Lounge spaces also should be used as great attractors, spaces where students can meet and work with others and build that most precious of campus commodities: a community. These spaces are remarkable for their energy and activity; even a small lounge area can buzz with the enthusiasm of a small team at work or a few students engaged in animated conversation.

To make any in-between space a learning space, consider each space in terms of control, comfort and collaboration.

Control. Allow students a measure of control over how they use the space, where furniture can be positioned and how it’s used. To support students as they work in groups, pairs and individually, offer spaces that work for both collaborative and solo study.

Wi-fi is a given; power access should be too. Today’s students tote laptop and tablet computers, mobile phones and other portable devices and are constantly looking for places to plug in.

Comfort. Traditional soft seating and hardwood hallway chairs are limiting and typically poorly suited for the work done in today’s in-between spaces. Learning involves a variety of postures: stand-up conversations, groups gathered in discussion, a long project work session around a table covered with materials, etc. People are most comfortable (and most productive) when they can move in their chair and still have good support and when furniture easily adjusts to suit various workstyles and postures.

Lounges and other intermediate spaces are often in open areas, so seating and worksurfaces can take many forms, from stacking chairs and meeting tables to ergonomic task chairs and mobile project tables. Seating for collaboration is especially useful since it’s designed to support impromptu communication and information sharing.

Collaboration. A frequently missed opportunity with in-between spaces is to make them useful for the project work that has become integral to so many classes today. Students need tools that support collaborative learning both before and after class: methods for sharing digital and analog content; tools for informal brainstorming such as whiteboards and tackable surfaces; worksurfaces that accommodate computers, books and other materials.

"Our hallway lounge/collaboration space is the one place on campus where you’ll always find people, even during semester breaks."

UNIVERSITY DIRECTOR OF PLANNING AND CONSTRUCTION
tips for in-between workspaces

Leveraging real estate in lounge spaces, hallways and common areas is simple: give users the means for control, comfort and collaboration. These attributes can change the simplest in-between space into a multi-purpose workspace, allowing students to maximize space and support choice and control over their learning.

PRIVATE/ALONE

1. Students and educators typically have to quickly vacate a room at the end of class to make way for the next group. Small collaboration spaces located outside the classroom invite students to continue class discussions.

2. Informal seating areas near classrooms give teachers convenient places to provide timely feedback.

PUBLIC/ALONE

3. Informal areas located outside the classroom are inviting spaces for students and teachers.

PRIVATE/TOGETHER

4. Mobile tables, chairs on casters, seating that nests or stacks and portable whiteboards let users set up quickly for the work at hand.

Furniture should support the various postures students use while studying and working: standing, leaning, working at a table, seated in group discussions, hunched over a keyboard, etc.

Students fill booths first because they offer larger worksurfaces and privacy for users.

Connecting corridors with daylight-streaming windows attract students and can be easily equipped for study with tables, booths and comfortable seating.

Power to the people: it’s almost impossible to provide too many power outlets for today’s tech-loving students.

Whether students need focus time, team time or me time, Campfire offers them the choice. The furniture moves easily, so students can rearrange it for the big group collaboration or to handle studying with two or three of their friends.

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Collaborative choices

From standing-height tables to collaborative seating, this lounge provides students a variety of spaces from which to choose.

The Campfire Big Table can be used as a meeting place or a workstation for six people. It comes with a full top or is available with a technology tray and power for a great place to power up and study.

The Campfire collection provides spaces with a wide range of private or open solutions. Here, a more private space offers students a getaway from other, more public lounge spaces.

Comfort space

This is a highly social lounge space where students can intentionally and by coincidence connect with faculty or fellow students.

The Bob lounge chair offers a more modern design, giving this lounge space a unique style of its own.

The Bob lounge chair is designed for collaboration, offering students the ability to orient themselves to their fellow collaborators without taking away their focus or sacrificing comfort.

featured products

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Bob lounge chair: 115
(2) collaborative seating: 117
Bob side table

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Collaboration

This media:scape lounge turns the traditional lounge into a hardworking, collaborative space where large groups can connect to discuss and plan important campus initiatives and activities.

- Media:scape lounge seating with ledge offers a second row for collaborators to participate.
- The dual monitor media:scape is ideal for students to share, compare content and co-create.

Control

Here is a unique lounge aisle with small collaborative tables on the left and soft seating with tables with power built in on the right, offering students and educators choice and control over where to work.

- A variety of spaces gives students the ability to choose where and how they want to relax, study or socialize.
- The Bix lounge offers comfortable seating in a booth-like setting. Its high back offers privacy from other nearby spaces.
- Power in the Lottus tables offers students the ability to work in this area as long as they need to.

**Featured products**

- Enea stool ........................................ 109
- Media:scape lounge seating with ledge... 118
- Enea table........................................ 126

- Enea Lottus chair ................................ 109
- Bix lounge ....................................... 114
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informal learning spaces/in-between

Collaboration

Learning expands beyond the four walls of a classroom. Making use of in-between spaces allows every space to become a learning space.
In-between space can – and should – be more than just space for occasional learning. At Summit Public Schools’ two San Jose high schools, a space between four break-out rooms is an integral part of the learning experience. Called The Intersection by faculty and students, it’s 3,800 square feet of learning space with a variety of seated- and stool-height furniture that supports students as they work alone or with peers and engage with instructors.

This learning space is part of the school’s pilot of blended learning, or as they call it, optimized learning. “It’s been so successful as an approach for teaching math that we’re moving to teaching all subjects this way in our new schools,” says Linda Stevenin, M.A., an architect and director of facilities development for Summit, a public charter school system in northern California.

“Forget past assumptions. Forget the word ‘classroom.’ Instead think about what kind of spaces kids need to support learning.”

LINDA STEVENIN, M.A.
DIRECTOR OF FACILITIES DEVELOPMENT

The Intersection includes a range of learning spaces:

- two-person and four-person spaces with Move seating and Alight ottomans
- lounge spaces created with Campfire Big Lounge and Screens and low tables
- counter-height Groupwork “tutoring bars” for students who need a teacher’s assistance
- stand-up height Groupwork tables and Move stools
- seated collaboration furniture, Campfire Personal Tables and Alight ottomans that configure to fit any size group
- Verb rectangular tables with side docks and hooks for team project work

“There are areas for small and large group collaboration, places for individual work, and areas expressly for teachers and students to work side by side. Our overall approach was, what kinds of spaces will kids enjoy working in?”

Their approach is based on constructivism: teachers actively involve students and guide them to construct meaning as they make their own discoveries during the learning experience. “In sync with self-directed learning, we want students to have choices. If they take responsibility for their own learning, they develop self-awareness as a learner and what places and methods work best for them for learning different subjects. Maybe an individual learns best working with a peer for math but learns English best on their own. The furniture choices in The Intersection support the various ways students work and learn.”

“Instead think about what kind of spaces kids need to support learning.”

LINDA STEVENIN, M.A.
DIRECTOR OF FACILITIES DEVELOPMENT

“‘The stool height tables are the most popular places to work. The students think of them as café settings. It feels more relaxing than sitting at a desk. They can easily see what’s on the students’ laptops and tablets and so they can help keep the kids on task. They’re at eye level with the students; it’s a more personal experience for the students and teachers. Teachers feel the students are not just looking over their shoulder; they’re helping them learn.”

Practically all the furniture – chairs, tables, tutoring bars, etc. – is on casters or light enough (ottomans, personal tables) to pick up and move easily. “We can rearrange The Intersection based on what needs to happen each day,” says Stevenin. “Recently, student volunteers and teachers rearranged the entire Intersection in one hour. That’s pretty cool to be able to do that.”

“Making in-between spaces integral to learning: The Intersection, a space between four break-out rooms, includes spaces for learning individually, in pairs and in groups, as well as settings for assessment and instructor guidance.”

“Forget about the assumptions from past experience and be open to what’s possible. Forget the word ‘classroom.’ Instead, think about what kind of spaces kids need to support learning.”

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“The stool height tables are the most popular places to work. The students think of them as café settings. It feels different working there. The key is that they can choose, they have control. That supports the independent and collaborative work they have to do, which in turn helps prepare them for the same type of work they’ll have to do in college and, of course, in the real world,” says Stevenin.

There’s an added bonus to the café-height workspaces. “They also help teachers. As they move around the room, they can easily see what’s on the students’ laptops and tablets and so they can help keep the kids on task. They’re at eye level with the students; it’s a more personal experience for the students and teachers. Teachers feel the students are not just looking over their shoulder; they’re helping them learn.”

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