

Innovative, Effective, Enjoyable?

Creating the evidence base to deliver productive academic workplaces

Professor Simon Austin



Project overview

- 18 month HEFCE funded project (started May 2008)
- Multidisciplinary team, lead by Loughborough University in collaboration with Nottingham Trent University & University of Leicester
- Aim: To develop an evidence base to support the delivery of innovative, effective & enjoyable academic workplaces, focusing on:
 - procurement and delivery process, design team, stakeholder engagement
 - the physical outcomes (buildings and layouts)
 - the subsequent effect the workspaces have on the academic community

So what's the project really about?

We're addressing questions such as:

- What are the current trends in HE workspace design?
- What makes a good academic work environment?
- How do innovative work settings impact on academic occupants?
- What makes for a successful design process?
- What role can occupants play in the design of their workplace?
- What learning can we gain from other sectors?

What approach are we taking?

Case study methodology:

Core data collection techniques:

- Walk-through
- Stakeholder interviews
- Questionnaire surveys

Supplementary techniques:

- Participant observation
- Participatory mapping
- Social network analysis
- Q methodology



What projects are we interested in?

- Academic/research office environments in HE sector
- New builds and refurbishments
- Current or recently completed projects

Principle criteria: Innovation

We're aiming to obtain a diverse range in terms of:

- Budget
- Format/features
- Occupants



What will the project deliver?

- Briefing handbook presenting best practice guidance on the delivery process and user engagement
Target Audience: Design/project managers, occupants
- Best practice guide about the physical product
Target Audience: Designers, users, estates managers
- Strategic briefing document for developing new types of academic workspaces
Target Audience: Estates developers and HEI senior managers
- White paper with recommendations on facilitating the development of new academic workspaces

What else are we doing?

HEI build database, in collaboration with AUDE

- Launch end of 2008

Forum for Academic Space design

- Aim: To provide a platform for exchanging thinking & best practice regarding HE workspace
- Still in planning stage - we'd welcome your input

Contact us!

www.academicworkspace.com

info@academicworkspace.com

Prof Simon Austin
s.a.austin@lboro.ac.uk
01509 222608

Dr Jennifer Parkin
jennifer.parkin@ntu.ac.uk
0115 848 2562

