Imagining an Innovative Learning Environment

Dr. Susan Crichton  susan.crichton@ubc.ca

Approved September 2012, the Innovative Learning Centre (ILC) at UBC’s Okanagan Campus, consists of integrated components – design studios, incubators for pedagogical innovations, and a learning lab. Each component is synergistically linked by the mandate of providing appropriate tools and spaces for educators, entrepreneurs, dreamers and tinkers to imagine and explore innovations in teaching and learning.

Its goal is to (1) engage the entire UBC Okanagan community (town and gown – academics across disciplines, educators both public and private, and industry), in all aspects of innovative pedagogy, (2) support economic growth in the region, and (3) continue to advance the proven educational practice?

Thinking Guiding The ILC Design

While educators have always worked in challenging times and varied contexts, it is acknowledged that currently society is in an unprecedented time of substantial change due to a variety of circumstances including globalization and ubiquitous access to information. As other sectors seem to adopt innovative practices and embrace change, educators tend to struggle to change even the most basic aspects of classroom practice, and it is well recognized that teachers typically teach in the ways in which they themselves were taught (Britzman, 1991). As Dewey noted “If we teach today’s students as we taught yesterday’s, we rob our children of tomorrow.”

The ILC is a studio-based learning environment that encourages experimentation and engagement with materials and resources to make personal meaning. By including academics, educators, and industry into the learning space, the authentic, contextual learning that Dewey (1938), Papert (1978), Trilling and Fadel (2009) and others describe is possible. Those working in the ILC are encouraged to tinker and explore together and design new ways of knowledge building.

A Studio Environment, Allows US To Understand The Power And Excitement Of Design Thinking ...

http://www.designthinkingforeducators.com/design-thinking

The design process is what puts Design Thinking into action.

It’s a structured approach to generating and developing ideas.

The five phases of the design process:

1. Define
2. Schemata
3. Generate
4. Scrutiny
5. Synthesis

The following materials are available to choose from:

- Seat w·h·d
- Seat w
- Foot ring and particularly ergonomic 3D rocking mechanism, i.e. with soft or damped sideways tilting.
- Equipment and options.
- PantoMove
- PantoMove-VF Plus, Series 600 storage
- Table top (laminate décors). All steel parts are powder-coated. Single table with floor-level adjustment screws.
- Consisting of welded round steel-tube legs, a rectangular steel-tube frame and an intermediate shelf of LIGNOpal consisting of welded round steel-tube legs and a rectangular steel-tube frame. All steel parts are powder-coated. Single table with floor-level adjustment screws.
- Seat shell made from sturdy, durable and extremely scratch-resistant polypropylene, fully recyclable. Slight seat recess, filled with soft plastic foam for comfort.
- Stool made of double-walled, structured polypropylene (LuPo) for comfortable sitting with air-cushion effect. With concealed anti-slip coating. All models with height adjustment and swivel facility.

From your perspective:

What questions should we consider / what have we missed?

Please use the sticky notes provided and add your thoughts / questions ...