How Educational Environments Impact Learning

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Have you tried to convince a client that daylight is beneficial to a classroom experience or that students acquire skills more effectively in a space with more flexible furniture? With huge expenditures at stake and constantly fluctuating spending policies, how do we make the right decisions about designing environments that positively impact learning and student performance? In this session, expert panelists define the challenges, opportunities, and potential beneficial impacts of research in neuroscience and educational design.

I. ABSTRACT

Traditionally, educators have focused primarily on pedagogy and technique while designers have focused on the shaping of space and the two spheres of influence remain relatively disconnected. Recent academic and industrial research and the growing field of neuroscience, focusing on brain response and development through environmental stimulus, are breaking through this traditional barrier. As the influence and impact of learning environments on student well-being and performance is increasingly understood, more meaningful interaction between designers and educators is becoming a necessity. It is increasingly evident that without a synergy between the design of the space and the pedagogy employed within it, the user groups – both teachers and students, teach and learn in spite of, rather than supported by the space they are in.

This panel discussion addresses the challenge of environmental research in sorting through the many contributing factors to student performance –including economic, social and cultural, in order to isolate the specific impacts of the physical environment.

Panelists include leading researchers in education, neuroscience and the design industry who will discuss their current, cutting edge research projects and point to future impacts on educational design as neuroscience uncovers the direct impact of environmental stimulus on the brain.

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3. AUTHOR BIOS

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