

COMPREHENSIVE EDUCATIONAL SPACE PLANNING

A full suite of space services from vision to occupancy.



01

Quick Look

Total time: 6-24 months

Contact time: Varies according to project requirements

Delivery: Face to face or online

Workshops: 5+

Deliverables: 5 - 10

Contact:

info@newlearningenvironments.com

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Overview

A comprehensive educational space planning process is considered best practice and is scalable for building projects of all sizes. NLE can serve the learning community directly as the client, or work via the appointed architect. The process takes an existing community or, in the case of a new school, a representative group, from the visioning phase through to occupancy with an emphasis on collaboration and co-creation. The process is designed to be mutually beneficial, building spatial literacy in all participants in parallel with excellent design outcomes. The project scope is developed in phases to coincide with key design phases from concept, schematic, design development and pre- and post-occupancy. The services offered in each of the phases can be tailored to suit the project needs, timeline and budget. A detailed project process is included overleaf.

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Requirements

This list is comprehensive for informative purposes and may change according to project need and context.

- Time allocation for staff, student and parent survey completion.
- 1 hr leadership briefing workshop
- 1 x 2-4 hr staff visioning workshop
- Staff and student focus groups (timing varies depending on project context)
- Review and endorsement of visioning and translational documentation
- Schematic Design Staff and Student Focus Groups (timing varies depending on project context)
- 1-2 hr Furniture Workshop
- Pre-Occupancy Workshop (optional)
- Project reference group meetings/design workshops as per standard consultation process
- Design team workshops as required
- Progress presentations and information sessions as needed

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Deliverables

1. Educational Space Planning Principles
2. Educational Specification/Model/Brief
3. Pedagogically aligned schedule of areas (optional)
4. Affinities and adjacencies diagrams (optional)
5. Interim Translational Brief
6. Layouts (optional)
7. Timetabling Study (optional)
8. Furniture and Technology Brief
9. Full Translational Brief
10. Pre-occupancy Strategy (optional)

The New Learning Environments team has worked with MGS Architects on several recent projects, including master plans for the University of Canberra and Monash University, and the new Year 7&8 Building at Xavier College. The team's deep expertise in pedagogy and space, augmented by Ana's architectural experience and Emma's history as a teacher, has enriched our work, ensuring our projects challenge convention while supporting future pedagogies. Ana and Emma are fantastic listeners, able to draw together disparate views adroitly, aligning stakeholders throughout the process. Working with NLE on projects of different scales and across the secondary and tertiary sectors has shown us the deep value of their work. Their contemporary pedagogical thinking is at the heart of our projects and resonates through the physical design. We look forward to collaborating with the NLE team again in the future.

*Elliet Spring
Director, MGS Architects*



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Co-creating learning environments from vision to occupancy.

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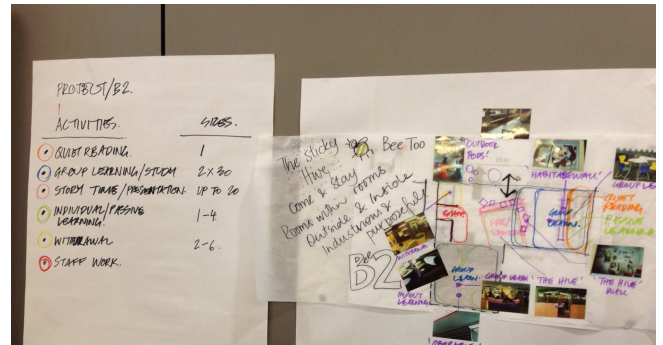
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Process

Consultation and Collaborative Design Processes

- Documentation audits to ensure strategic alignment and up to date research
- Use of the Learning Environments Analysis Tool (LEAT) – an online survey designed to gather input from staff, parents, and students.
- Visioning workshops and focus groups (this will happen several times with the same and different stakeholders as the project requires)
- Educational Space Planning Principles that capture consultation findings and possible spatial implications.

Briefing

Consultation findings are formally documented for endorsement in an Educational Brief/Specification /Model including:

- Project and Site Context
- Consultation Process
- Expanded educational space planning principles with evidence informed rationale
- Objectives relating to well-being, inclusion, library, specialist spaces, technology and outdoor learning.
- Preliminary spatial implications

Space Guidelines & Area Schedules

NLE can translate rigid area schedules more suited to cellular learning space arrangements into contemporary schedules of accommodation that are directly aligned with the learning objectives of the school. The schedule uses language that is familiar to educators and contributes to the spatial literacy of all stakeholders.

Design Review

Once a vision is established, NLE works with the design team to ensure the planning is aligned with the educational vision. This helps to ensure that the learning community sees well developed spatial ideas using methods of communication that is accessible and familiar to educators.

Timetable Modelling

As the design takes shape NLE is able to produce timetable models to test the proposed range, type and amount of spaces for their ability to meet, but not exceed, the requirements of the facility, with a focus on efficiency.

Furniture Briefing

Furniture and learning settings choices are crucial to the functioning of the spaces. The NLE collaborative process defines the required attributes of the settings and furniture to enable them to support the intended pedagogical activities. A Furniture Brief is provided to document the feedback and inform subsequent choices.

Translational Resources

Translational documentation provides critical resources for learning communities. They demonstrate how the planning will support the desired educational objectives and explore the spatial affordances. Translational Resources include Translational Briefs, Pedagogy Space Maps, Educational Overlays and Brochures that serve as guides to the space for different user groups.

And...

A comprehensive scope may also include:

- Professional learning and recruitment strategies
- The development of prototype spaces – [learn more here](#)
- Post-occupancy evaluations – [learn more here](#)

