

The New Academic Workspace: The 'Hybrid Effect'

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Universities today require a myriad of highly flexible spaces, to accommodate the ever changing needs and demands of students, academics and professional staff. With cutting edge research spaces and teaching and learning facilities, University workspaces seem like they are trapped in a bygone era. Many campuses have attempted alternative workspace solutions such as 'open plan' and even 'Activity Based Working' (ABW) models. However these new models have never been truly accepted by academia. New pressures such as capped funding, stresses on capital budgets and a growing intolerance of low utilisation, are now demanding a serious attempt to create a more effective and efficient academic workspace.

This presentation explores the new academic workspace and how the colliding of academic ideology with workspace design is influencing and contributing to a new approach in workspace projects at Deakin. Twelve months on from presenting 'Implementing Activity Based Work Environments within a University - The Deakin Experience' at TEMC 2017, a lot has happened in the evolution of workspace. Deakin University's, newly appointed Manager of Workspace Transformation, Amanda Harris subsequently appointed Calder Consultants to assist with a collaborative and research based change management and user engagement approach rather than relying on the previous design-led methodology. They will share how a shift in academic workspace design is emerging, through the creation of the 'Hybrid Effect' at Deakin.

The presentation will share the journey of the development of the workspace planning framework, the change and engagement process with stakeholders, and the resulting holistic 'Hybrid Effect'. The 'Hybrid Effect' is a significant departure from the existing models that have been used. This approach has resulted in an innovative yet practical design and engagement solution that may finally provide a new model for academic workspace. These concepts will be further explored with the sharing of a number of case studies selected from Deakin's recent capital projects, with examples of the challenges and opportunities the University is currently facing as well as the expected benefits and the measures of success.

Case studies:

- Greenwood Park Pilot (GWP) – a professional staff workspace for three work areas – Design Review
- Building LB – refurbishment of existing building for the Deakin Business School at the Burwood Campus
- Deakin Law School building – temporary space and a new building providing workspace, moot court and mediation rooms for the Deakin Law School.