The Paradigm Shift in School Design

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G Nairn
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The “Third Wave” of Civilisation

Pre-Civilisation
Hunters and gatherers (tribal nomadic)
100,000 BC - NOW
WORLD POPULATION 10 million

First Civilisation
Agriculturists (pens, planting and villages)
100,000 BC - NOW
WORLD POPULATION 50 million

Second Civilisation
Industrialists (discipline, order, regularity, consistency, repetition)
1700AD - NOW
WORLD POPULATION 5 billion

Third Civilisation
Gestalists (information, communication, automation, virtual and constantly changing)
1965 - NOW
WORLD POPULATION 7 billion

Fourth Civilisation?

Gestalt

A pattern of physical, biological, or physiological phenomena so integrated as to constitute a functional unit with properties not derivable from its summary of parts.

Industrial, regular & predictable model
Gestalt, creative & provocative model
The Brave New World

- MEDIA: Mass communication
- SUSTAINABILITY: Saving nature and the planet
- MOVEMENT: High speed transport, private & public
- PRODUCTION: Automatic robotics
- VIRTUALITY: Simulation, film/computer research
- DNA: Our structure
- SPACE: Travel & understanding
- EDUCATION: Essential, complex & lifelong learning
- INFORMATION: Intensive availability
- COMMUNICATION: Ubiquitous
- RELATIONSHIPS: Increasingly diverse and unpredictable
- MEDICINE: High tech
- COEXISTENCE: Difficult but essential

Education

- The Individual: Mental & creative development, Bodily health & physical fitness
- The Family: Communication, social & physical development
- The Tribe: Sharing, celebrating & competing

How can the buildings help?
The Basic Building Blocks

Every instant in every place should be a learning experience, however, learning during childhood and youth can be enhanced in places and spaces that reinforce natural human behavior and personal development.

The Tribe
Larger gathering together

The Family
small group

The Individual
individual space

The Gathering Space
The watering hole
The campfire
The village roundhouse
The village pump
The local church
The community hall
The village common

The conference centre
The convention centre
The Olympic Games
The street cafe

PEOPLE ARE GREGARIOUS
The Gathering And Movement of Space

The Old Way
The New Way
The Street
Cafeteria/Meeting Place
Alsop’s Atrium

Small Groups and Individual Space

- “It is unnatural to group people according to age instead of interest and needs” Thornburg
- Different kinds of spaces provide choice - some transparent, some enclosed, some soft, some hard, some bright, some dark etc.
- Groups of 4-6 are potentially the most creative.
- “Creativity is society’s most valued commodity” R. Fielding

CAVES
small group withdrawal

WATERING HOLE
individual alcove
non rectilinear spaces

CAMPFIRE
small groups
stage
Interactive Learning Areas

- Creativity benefits through interactive stimulus.
- Completely new areas of research and development are occurring through combining previously separated disciplines.

A Model Of Interactive Learning

- Large floor plates
- Visual dynamics between floors
Multi Disciplinary Open Space Learning

Multiskilled facilitators, sophisticated software with accompanying kits, boomerang furniture and wireless technology.

Flexibility

To allow for short term change, the FLEXIBILITY of moving walls, rearranging furniture and using mobile specialist trolleys.
Adaptability

In the longer term, ADAPTABILITY involving rearranging internal walls to change the size and use of spaces is essential.

Learning As Play: Buildings As Playgrounds

Buildings are generally visual metaphors for their contents, activities and values.

Schools/Community Learning Centers should be intriguing, challenging, comfortable, inviting and robust with the degree of playfulness appropriate to the age group.
Ecologically Sustainable Design

CONSERVE ENERGY: AVOID WASTE
Correct relationship between buildings, site, sun and wind.
- low embodied energy
- recycle buildings and materials
- minimize heat gain/loss
- collect water & recycle
- collect solar & wind energy
- long life buildings - low maintenance

The Old & The New Paradigm
Geelong Grammar School - Glamorgan Campus

Discussion ....