Personalized Learning Environments

Architectural Considerations for Supporting Personalized Learning

Primordial Metaphors for Learning

Types of Interaction, Instruction, Study

Watering Hole   **Mountain Top**   **Sandpit**   **Cave**   **Campfire**

Watering Hole

Exchange ideas and cross pollinate

Mountain Top

Celebrate and sharing your learning

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Sandpit

Play, prototype, and experiment

Cave

Private reflection, thought, exploration

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Campfire
Share stories, exchange ideas, brainstorm

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Organizing Space

Learning Studios

Breakout Area
Soft Seating

Active Zone
Entry, storage, project work

Flex Space
Seminar, quite individual work, collaborative, or presentation.

Electrical power, wired and wireless connections turn soft seating areas into high powered work spaces.
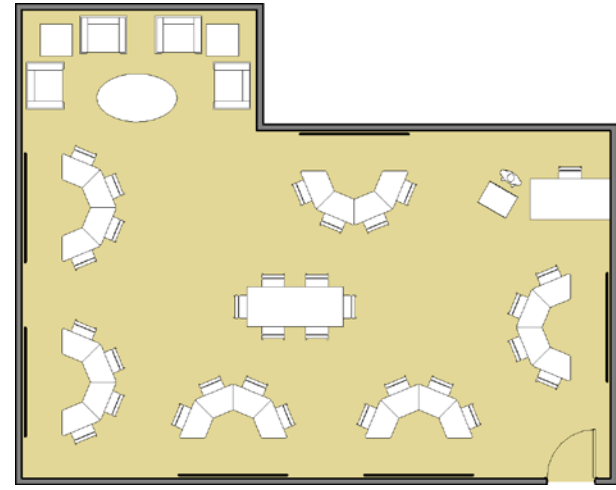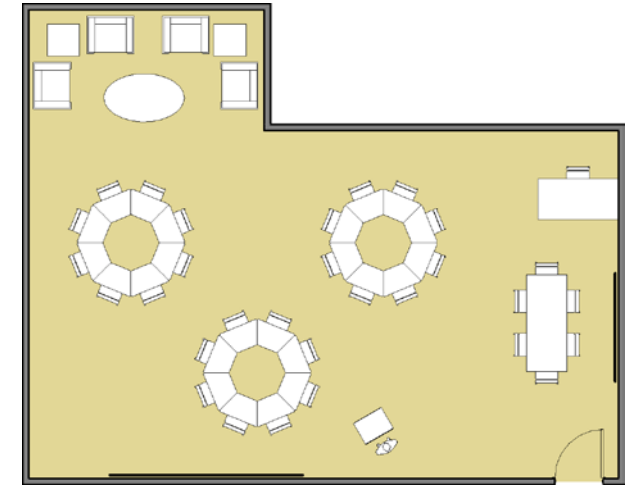
Movable seating allows learners to modify their environment.
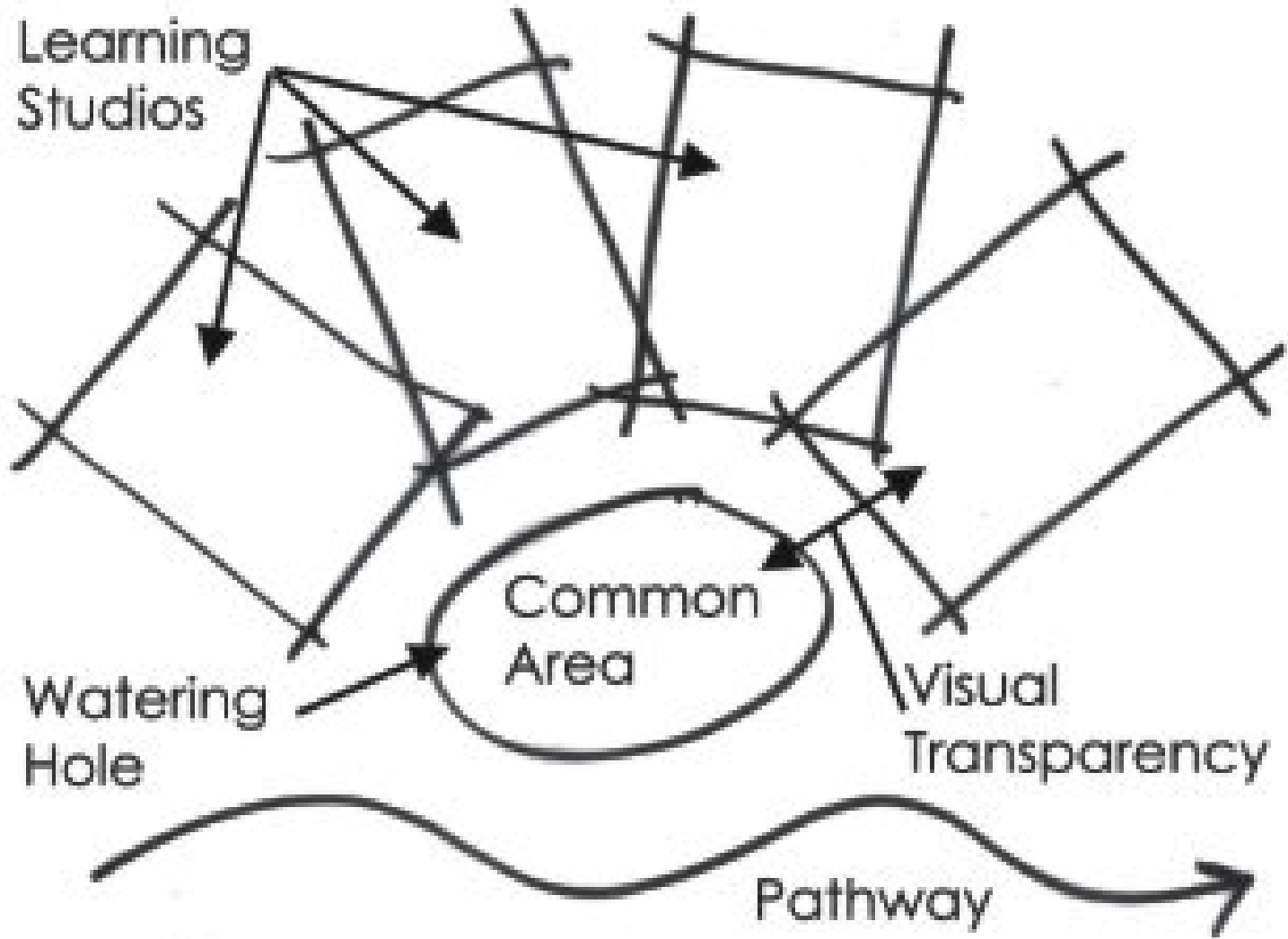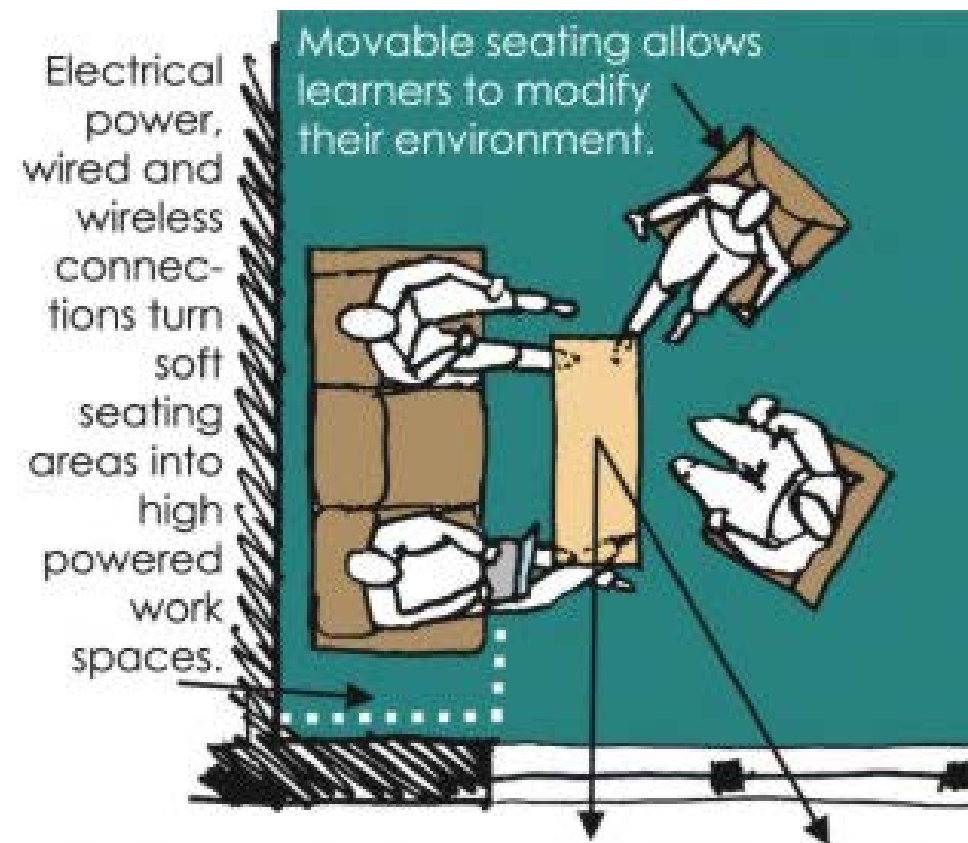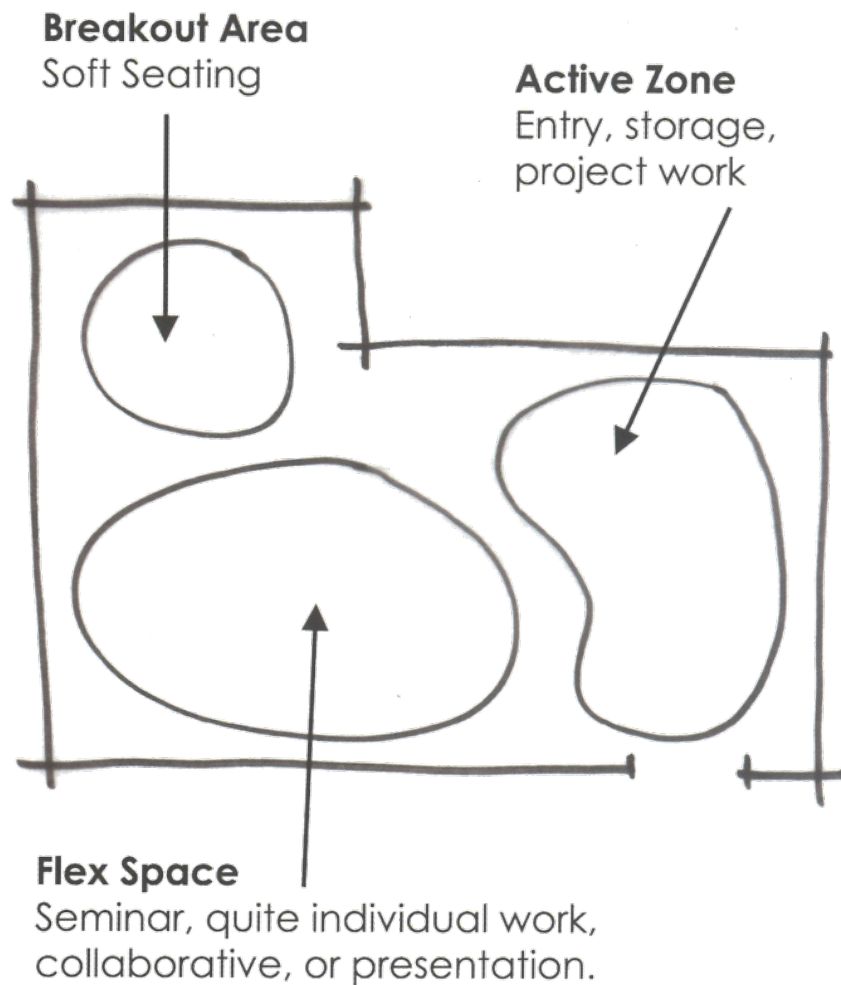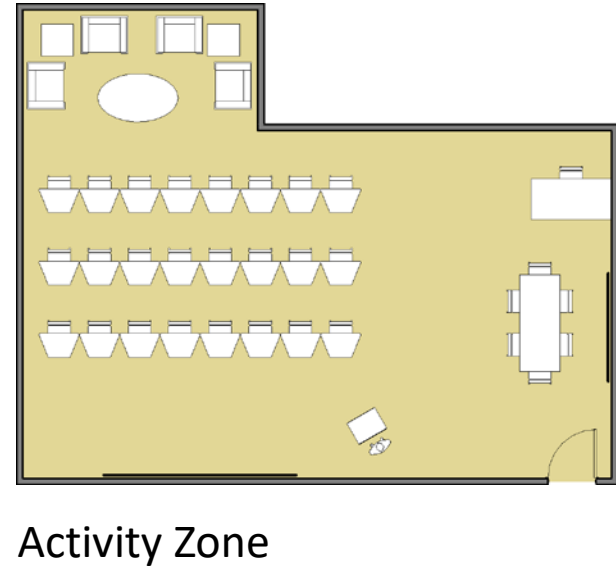
Vistas to the city, community activities or nature foster broad-based rather than narrowly referenced thinking.

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Learning Studios

Breakout Area

Flex Space

Activity Zone
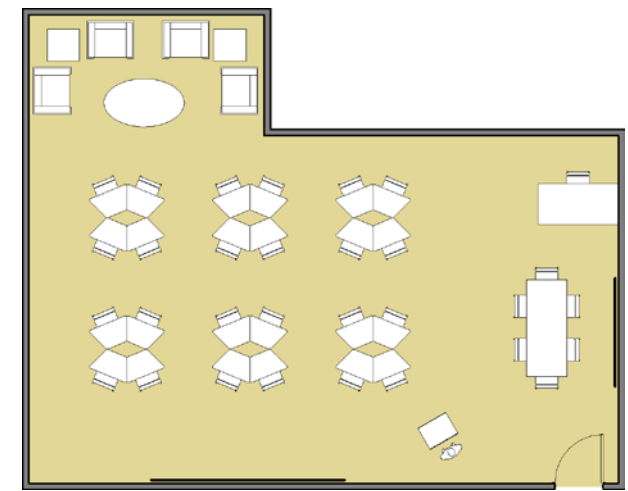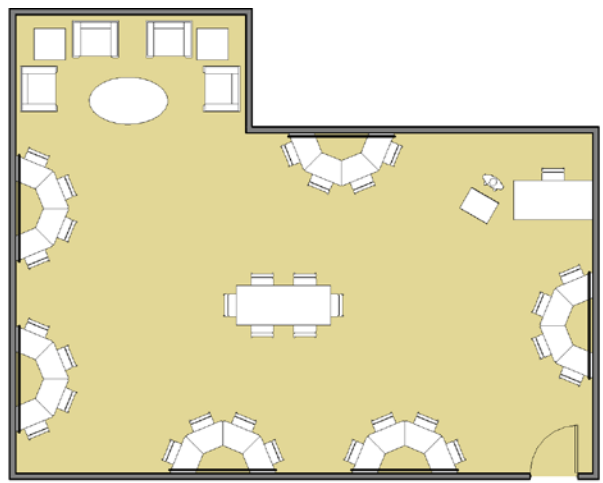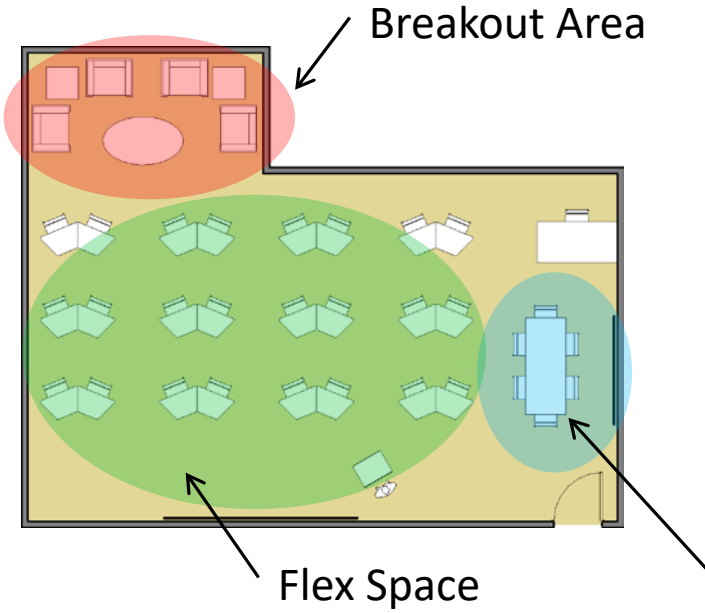
900 SF space – 24 Students – Same Furniture

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Learning Studios

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Common Area / Collaboration Space

Activity, flexibility, visibility, expanded classroom

Learning Corridors
Maximize utilization of all spaces

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Learning Corridors
Maximize utilization of all spaces

Furniture: Tables

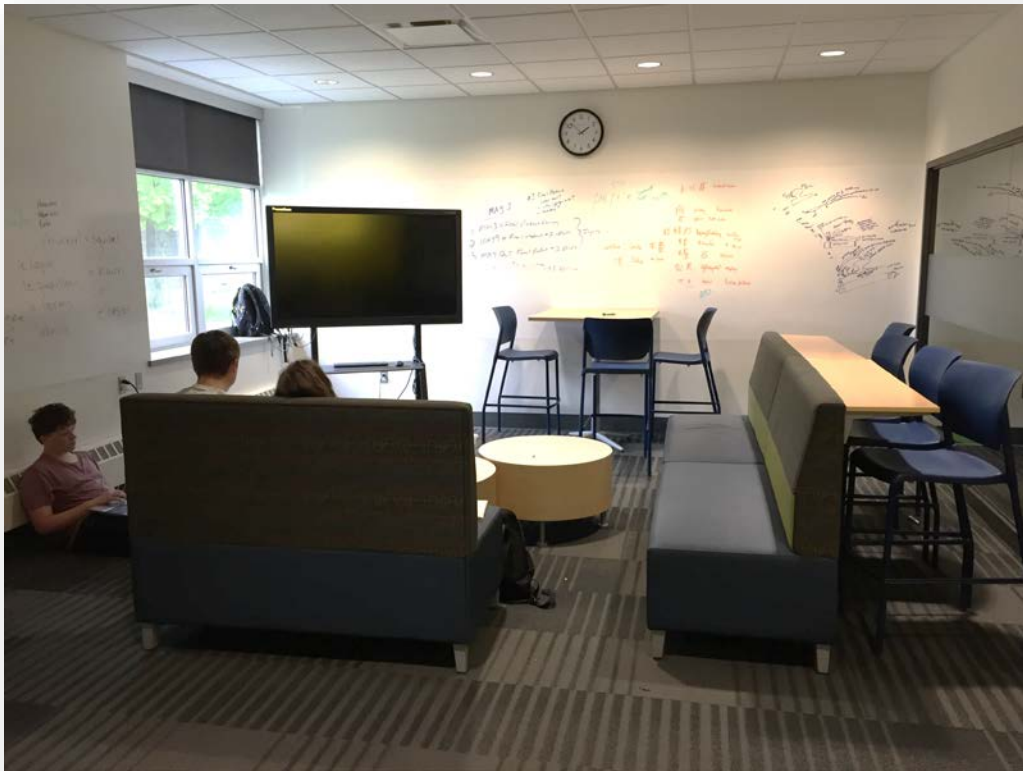**Clustering, screening, shapes**

Furniture: Tables

Reconfigurable, interaction, group work

Furniture: Seating

Comfort, configuration, versatility, height, floor surface, movement

Technology
Shift from labs to portable/wireless, BYOD

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Technology
Presentation, class engagement, power
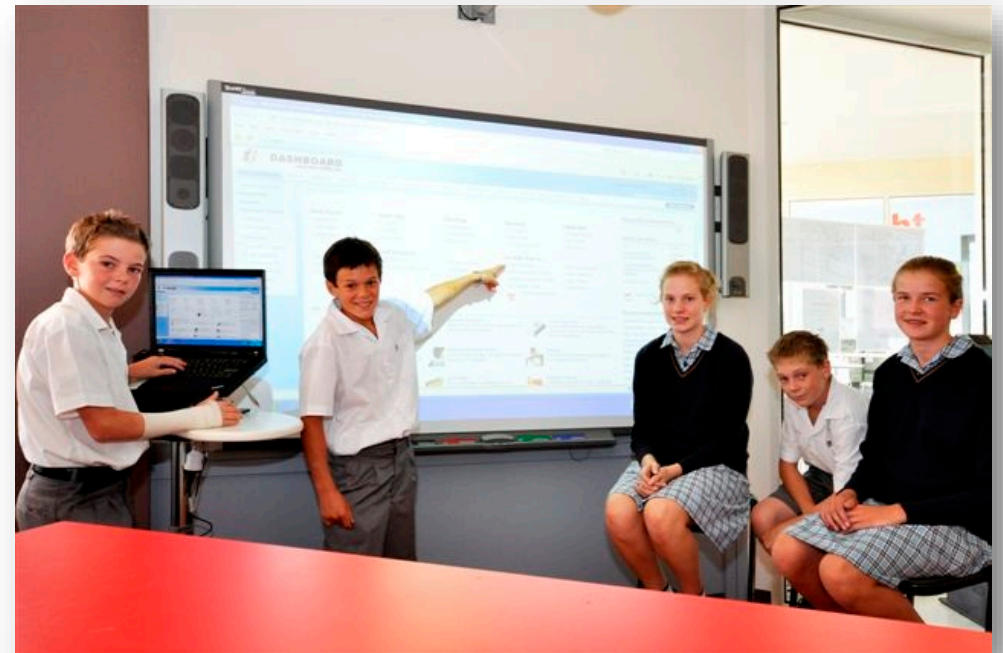
Walls: Folding Partitions / Barn Doors

Transparency, Openness, Use

Walls: Openness

Visual distraction, expansion of classroom

Walls: Enhanced Functionality

Integrated storage, writing / presentation surfaces

Walls: Storage

Integrated storage, writing / presentation surfaces

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Acoustics
Individual / Group Privacy, Sound Control, Surfaces

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Lighting
Daylight, Glare

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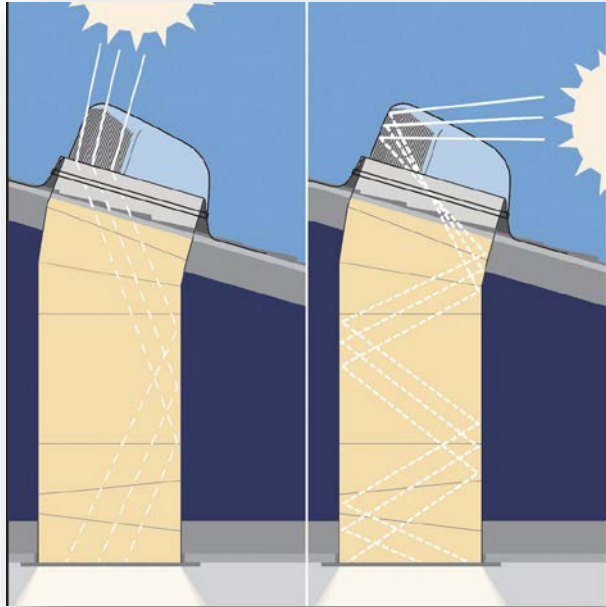
Remodeling for Personalized Learning

- Judicious removal of walls
- Enlarging / combining existing classrooms
- Replace with:
  - Drywall
  - Glass
  - Movable walls
  - No walls

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Remodeling for Personalized Learning

- Storage
  - Consider removing most storage from classroom areas
  - Create shared storage space in close proximity to classrooms
  - If storage is in the classroom, look to create multipurpose functionality (i.e. writing surfaces or tack surfaces on face)
  - Movable storage units
  - Consider high density storage
  - Eliminate countertops
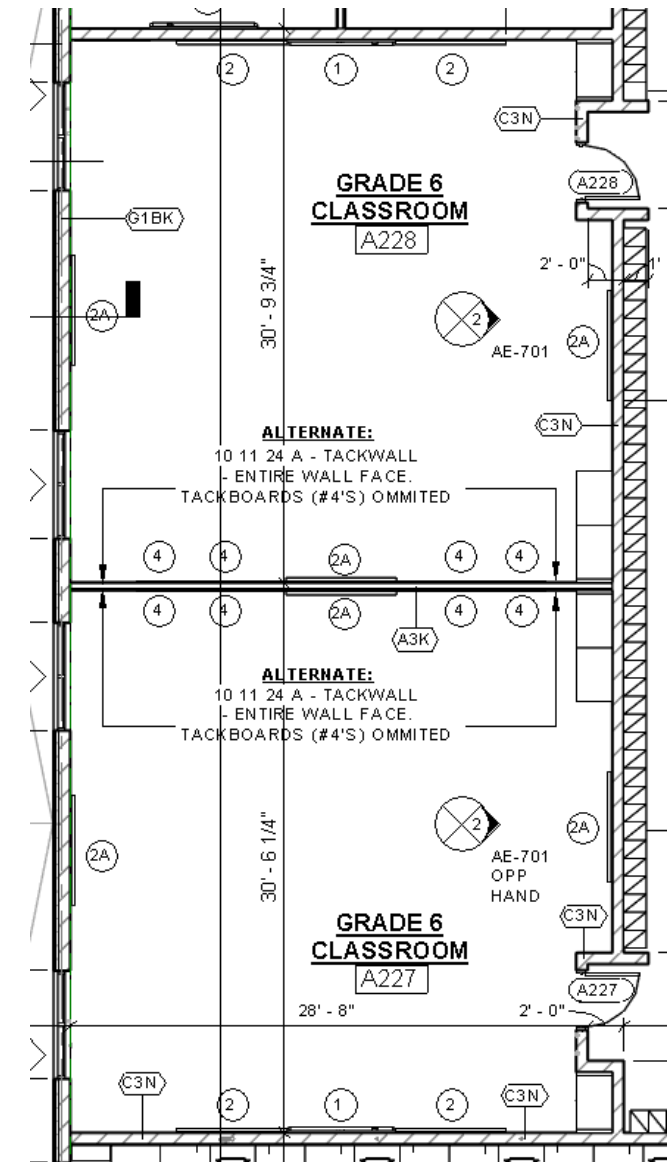
Remodeling for Personalized Learning

- Walls
  - Free up wall space
  - Avoid overuse of built-in casework
    - Strategically use full height casework to create learning areas
  - Functionality
    - Tackable
    - Writeable
    - Video display
    - Vision (supervision)
    - Height
  - Area expansion/division
  - Consider ability of students to divide into groups and have wall space to utilize
  - Wall construction

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Remodeling for Personalized Learning

- Physical Characteristics
  - Acoustics
    - Ceiling heights
    - Baffles
    - Furniture
    - Floor/Wall treatments
    - White noise
    - Strategic sound transmission reduction
  - Lighting
    - Daylight
    - Direct/Indirect
    - Task
    - Glare
    - Temperature

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Remodeling for Personalized Learning

- Student Learning
  - Types of Interaction
    - Watering Hole
    - Mountain Top
    - Sandpit
    - Cave
    - Campfire
  - Varied floor surfaces & heights
  - Break out zones
  - Eliminate clutter
  - Learning corridors
  - Varied seating heights / styles

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