Mediating Places and Spaces
Grasping the Future

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Innovations in Architecture, Education, Playful Learning and Services
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InnoPlay
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InnoArch – Places and Spaces for Learning
Department of Architecture

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InnoSchool Consortium

Research
- Helsinki University of Technology
- University of Helsinki
- University of Lapland
- Stanford University
- University of California, Santa Barbara (UCSB)

Industrial Partners
- Cramo Finland
- Elisa
- Lappset Group Ltd.
- Martela Group
- Microsoft

Municipalities
- City of Espoo
- City of Helsinki
- City of Rovaniemi

Dissemination Partners
- National Board of Education
- Finnish Forest Industries Federation

Funding
- Partners (20%)
- Tekes – Finnish Funding Agency for Technology and Innovations (80%)
InnoEdu Research Frame

Collaborative Pedagogy
- Students as knowledge creators

Teaching and Education as a lifelong continuity

Out-of-school learning contexts
- Integration to basic education

Flexible curriculum
- Redefining formal pedagogy
- Project based integrative content

Reflections on architecture and urban planning?

Source: Leena Krokfors 2008
InnoArch
Research Frame and Focus Areas

"Indoor studies"
- Workshops for children and adults
- Video monitoring and analysis
- Interviews, www questionnaire
  - Arkki/ Children's Architecture School
  - Arabia School
  - Stanford Loft

"Outdoor studies"
- Local www forums
  - Product development
  - Interviews
  - Simulation
  - Workshops
  - Kuninkaantie

Physical Environment

- Space experience - emotional -
- Usability analyses
  - Observation
  - Walk-through
  - Interviews
  - Arabia School
  - 20 schools

- Usability - functional

Belonging Participation - socio-cultural -

- Place mapping
  - Mobile positioning, GPS
  - Picture Analysis
  - Interviews
  - Arabia School
  - Muurola
  - Kuninkaantie

Place experience - emotional -

- Emotional
- Socio-cultural

Space experience - emotional -

Usability analyses

"Indoor studies"
InnoArch as a Co-developer

ARKKI workshops
for children and young people
in ages 11-18

Autum 2007

Arkki=
Architectural School for Children and Youth
InnoArch Goals

**Primary Goal:** to deepen the understanding of the interrelationship between a spatial experience and a meaningful learning process (TSL)

**Secondary Goal:** to develop a collaborative, inquiry based planning and design process for the future school

* TSL= teaching, studying learning
"Mediating Places and Spaces"

The question of the class room?
The question of the neighbourhood?
The question of the virtual space?
Mediating Places and Spaces 1
The Question of Class Room?

"Informal learning and the use of space?"
Mapping and monitoring the use of Arabia School together with InnoEdu

Class of 24 pupils
Age 10
Video observation in the class room and in the lobby for one week

Mapping events in particular places in school house; identifying themes, actions and practices;
Developing video-enabled, evidence-based research methods; archiving, analysis and representing the film (Green & Skukauskaitė 2007; Elan & Monty)
Mediating Places and Spaces 1

The Question of the Class Room?

InnoEdu Studies: Informal Episodes in Class Room

What is the connection between space and learning - evidence?
Mediating Places and Spaces 1

The Question of the Class Room?

Higher Education in Stanford:
Multinational student teams working in a collaborative space called Loft
What makes the learning experience so special?

What is the connection between space and learning - evidence?

Source: Lilli Palasto 2008
Mediating Places and Spaces 1
Post Occupancy Evaluation in 19 Finnish School Buildings

USABILITY
Evaluating building performance and looking for activity spots outside formal teaching facilities
Jukka Sulonen 2008

EXPERIENCE?
Mediating Places and Spaces 2
The Question of the Virtual Space?

SPATIAL INTENSITY
What Constitutes Experiential Space and How We Perceive It
Arvi Mäkitalo 2008

Source: Imaginary Forces 2006 / Bubbles in the wine
Augmented reality - spatial flexibility in the learning environment?

Source: Imaginary Forces 2006 / Bubbles in the wine
Asking children about their perceptions, experiences and movement in the neighbourhood

1. Mind mapping
2. Mobile mapping
3. Interview
The Question of the Neighbourhood?

Neighbourhood level environmental study by using mobile phone, GPS logger, Brieftec Binder software and GIS applications (Google Earth)

Source: Sirkku Huisko ja Reetta Hyvärinen 2008
Details…

Reetta Hyvärinen 2008
Pets and animals...
Unique hobbies and important elements of everyday life…

Reetta Hyvärinen 2008
Social gathering e.g. shopping malls…

Reetta Hyvärinen 2008
Mediating Places and Spaces 3

The Question of the Neighbourhood?

School Forum is

-a mediating virtual space between the school and the local community and

- a learning environment and publishing platform for project based TSL

5 schools, project groups in art, literature, physics, history
Sharing the School Forum with the Mesa School, Santa Barbara?

IN FINLAND
Espoo Opinmäki Learning Campus

Education: Place for 1450 students
- International School circa 470 students
- Finnish Comprehensive School circa 750 students
- Swedish Comprehensive School circa 230 students

Day care: Place for 120 children
- Day care in English: 1 group
- Day care in Finnish: 4 groups
- Day care in Swedish: 2 groups
A Learning Neighbourhood?