

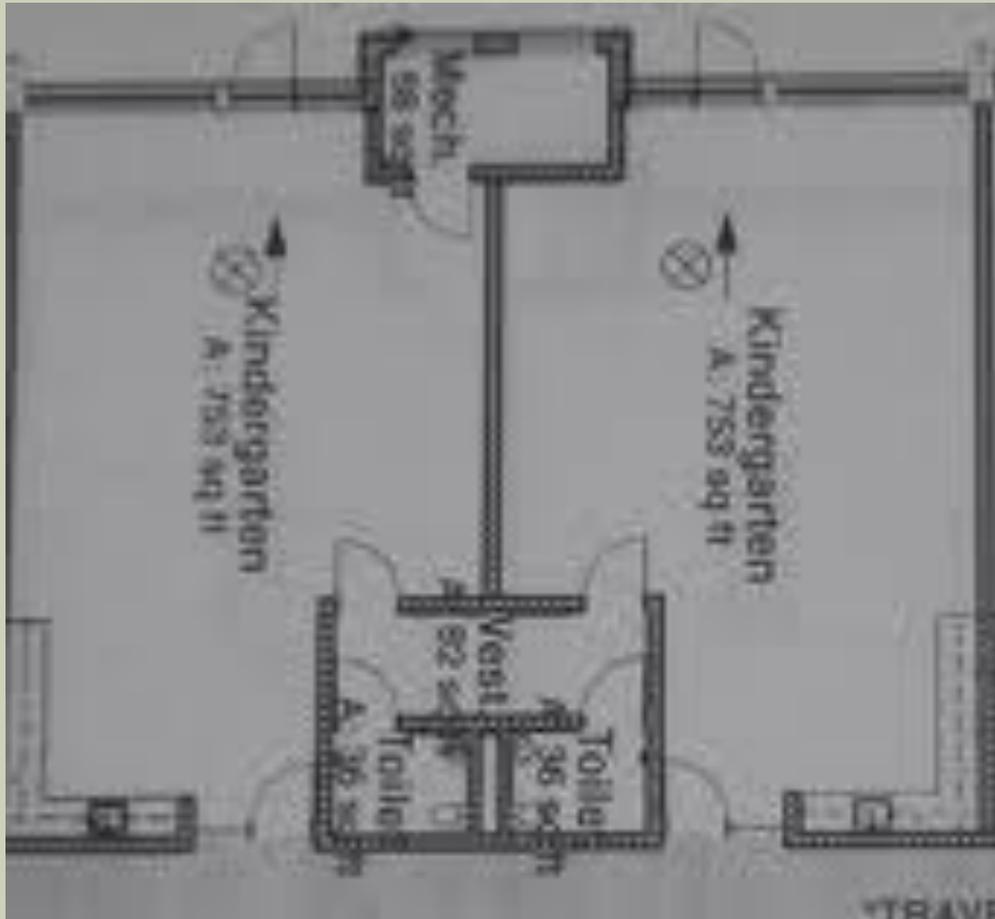
RE-THINKING OUR CLASSROOM SPACE

Answering the
question -
What if...?

WHY ARE WE AT THIS POINT?



THE PAST INFLUENCES THE PRESENT



NEEDS INFLUENCE THE FUTURE

5th Grade Exploration Studio



21ST CENTURY INVITATIONS TO...

- Collaborate
- Connect
- Choose
- Create
- Be flexible

Now assess your current space.



DRAW A SKETCH OF YOUR CLASSROOM

Referring to the list below, write a number of each element in all the places on your floor plan that you are confident the element is being experienced.

- 1. *Creating connections and a sense of belonging:*** I experience my connections to self, my classmates, my teacher, my family, the world. I see myself and my community reflected in our space.
- 2. *Keeping space flexible and materials open ended:*** I can exercise choices regarding my physical location and my learning drives the arrangement of spaces. I can move comfortably in our classroom space. I have access to materials that invite me to explore and invent.
- 3. *Provoking sensory and intellectual engagement:*** The resources in my room –toys, tools, books, tech items, natural objects- are stimulating. They invite me to touch, see, hear, taste, smell, and problem solve. I feel curious in this space.
- 4. *Making learning visible:*** I can see evidence of my own and my classmates' exploration and learning around me. Our room is a living textbook and portfolio-in-process.

Identify strengths and areas for re-thinking.

VALUES REGARDING CLASSROOM SPACE

- Have you and your team given thought to the values you want your program space and routines to communicate?
- Are there features in the room that can be expanded to accommodate more students? For instance, benches instead of single chairs or stools; learning stations where groups meet.
- How accessible is technology/media for student use, collaboration and presentation?
- Is space and furniture designed for quick and easy rearrangement and to allow for various groupings of students?
- How well do students flow from point to point in your classroom?
- Are materials easily accessible by students; can they be used throughout the day in multiple subjects?

ENVISION POSSIBILITIES

- Choose one element that could be enhanced
 1. **Creating connections and a sense of belonging.**
 2. **Keeping space flexible and materials open ended.**
 3. **Provoking sensory and intellectual engagement.**
 4. **Making learning visible.**
- Imagine how you could change your space to incorporate this element
- Sketch it
- Share

RESOURCES

- Designs for Living and Learning: Transforming Early Childhood Environments, Deb Curtis and Margie Carter
- The 2 Sisters: Gail Boushey and Joan Moser
 - Simply Beautiful : Classroom Design for Gracious Living and Learning, Gail Boushey and Joan Moser (book and DVD)
 - The Daily Café blog <http://www.choiceliteracy.com/products/item8.cfm>
 - Templates for redesigning classroom space:
<http://www.thedailycafe.com/public/department63.cfm>
- “Designing Your Classroom” articles:
<http://www.communityplaythings.com/resources/articles/designingenvironments/index.html>
- The Language of School Design, Randall Fielding and Prakash Nair
 - Design Share: A clearinghouse for school design resources
<http://www.designshare.com/>
 - Schools 2.0: Designing Tomorrows Schools
 - http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8ojBaxxdPz4&feature=player_embedded#! (long version)
 - http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1oH-BURVsGQ&feature=player_embedded#! (short version)