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# Designing learning spaces in the digital era

## New approaches for new ways of learning

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# Talk outline

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1. Learning spaces: reasons for change?
2. Current trends in learning spaces
3. Considerations to design new learning spaces
4. The UAB case: some examples
5. Concluding remarks

# 01

Reasons for change...

# The (near) future of education

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1. Learning from everywhere
2. Replace lectures with active learning
3. New teaching roles/teaching skills
4. Formative assessment instead of high stake exams

Thoughts based on WEF document: <https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2022/02/four-trends-that-will-shape-the-future-of-higher-education/> (Feb 7 2022)

# So... Why should we rethink spaces?

Active learning: evolution from a teacher-centric space

Technology integration

Flexible environments that adapt to diverse needs and students' characteristics

Foster collaboration

Creativity and innovation spaces

New focus on well-being of students

Bridge the gap between classroom learning and the real world

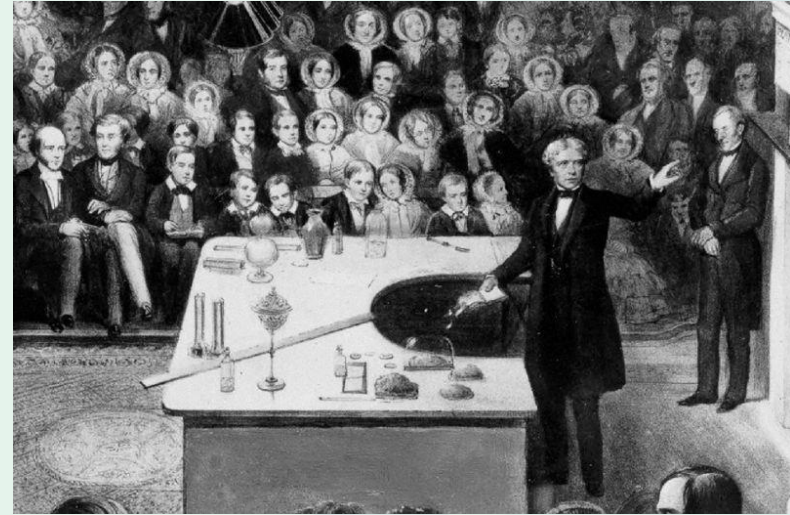


Image : Detail of a lithograph of Michael Faraday delivering a Christmas lecture at the Royal Institution

Source :

[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Faraday\\_Michael\\_Christmas\\_lecture\\_detail.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Faraday_Michael_Christmas_lecture_detail.jpg)

# 02

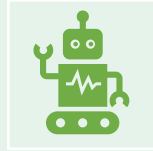
## Current trends

# Current trends on learning spaces

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**Hybrid learning spaces**



**Hyflex learning, combining hybrid and flexible.**

Participate face-to-face synchronous

Participate f2f but remotely

Participate based on asynchronous material



**Spaces created with new collaborative thoughts in mind (in particular, co-creation, open spaces)**

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# 03

## Design considerations



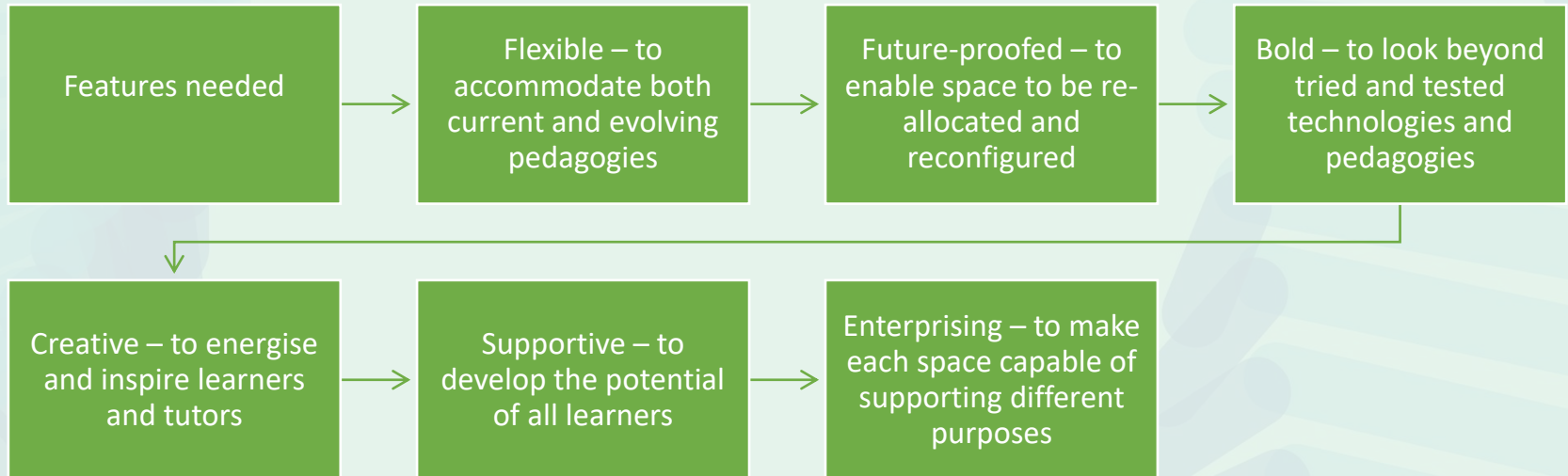
# How to design learning spaces?

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## Questions to consider:

1. What kind of learning happens in the space?
2. How can the space encourage use?
3. Are we considering a space for Isolated or collaborative learning?
4. Who disseminates knowledge?
5. Should the space encourage teacher-student relation outside the classroom?
6. How does the space enrich learning experience?

# Considering learning effectiveness



# 04

## The UAB case: some examples

# Rethinking traditional classroom spaces

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Thought to work either in pairs, small or big groups.



The floor features power outlets so that devices can be charged in various areas of the room.



Furniture has considered ergonomics and potential dynamics. (store space beneath, desk can be moved throughout the classroom, adapted for right- and left-handed students)



Interactive panels & reversible whiteboards



# Spaces fostering collaboration and innovation



Mision: to lead the conceptualization, training, and reflection of the technological transformation of society



Also considers new roles for libraries



Open to educational and experimental innovation activities, workshops, active learning, conferences



# Spaces of co-creation (OpenLabs)



Place for experimentation where users can co-create innovations



Integrate university and society.



Seven different spaces already implemented, depending on the focus (for instance, AudioLab, DigitalLab, RecicLab)



# And beyond physical spaces

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Virtualization of educational software

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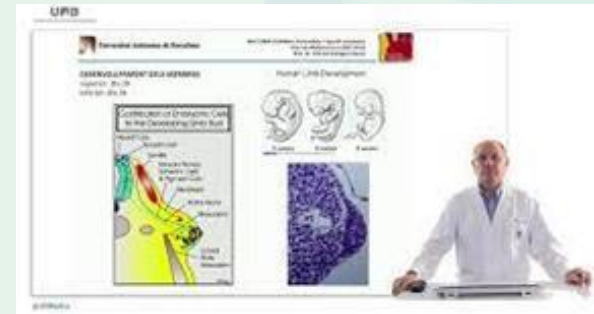
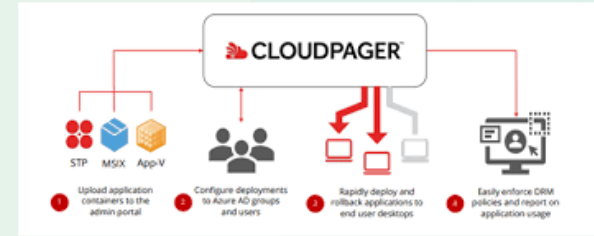
Remote labs & classrooms

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Commercial initiatives (GitHub for education, DevTools for teaching)

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Educational video production facilities



# 05

## Concluding remarks



# Concluding remarks

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- ✓ Higher education institutions should consider an evolution from classical spaces
- ✓ Reasons behind include new ways of learning, as well as the impact of technology and a closer link between HE institutions and society
- ✓ New spaces should consider potential use and applications and be future-proof
- ✓ The UAB has initiated this reflection and is currently undertaking an evolution of its learning spaces, aligned with its mission (generating and transferring knowledge) and vision (search for efficacy and innovation in teaching and research)

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Thank you!

Doubts?

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