

Towards the classroom of the future: new ideas and proposals

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Abstract

The Bologna process and the development of the European Space of Higher Education (ESHE) have provoked an important change in the teaching-learning process. The traditional teacher centered approach has been replaced by a student-centered approach. In this approach, the students must be actively involved in their learning process and both transversal skills (e.g. critical thinking, creativity...) and technical knowledge are considered crucial goals of the education.

New teaching approaches and new skills require new learning spaces. However, the physical space where the learning process takes place has not experienced any significant change.

Within this context, this paper presents the results of an experience carried out at the School of Civil Engineering of the Universitat Politècnica de València in Spain, where a traditional classroom is being transformed into a new inspiring space aimed to promote the acquisition of both transversal skills and technical knowledge. The new classroom has been named “aula del futuro” (classroom of the future) and it is the result of a bottom to top process where students, professors, furniture manufacturers, and university staff from different areas (maintenance, health and safety, pedagogical improvement) have been involved.

This paper will detail the main features that the classroom of the future should have as well as the conceptual design of a prototype classroom currently under construction.

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Abstract

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