Powerful Learning Places

@Tvanderark
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“...a building has life in it to the extent that it awakens a connection to the personal, a connection to the eternal vastness which exists before me, and around and after me.” ~ Christopher Alexander, Nature of Order
Art at High Tech High Intl., San Diego
4 class pods at High Tech High, San Diego
Smart play, Thrive PS, San Diego
Rocketship: Blended Learning Pioneer
Play at Katherine Smith Elementary, San Jose
Integrated projects at Bulldog Tech, San Jose
Stations at Redwood Heights Elem., Oakland
Urban Promise Academy, Oakland
#Makerspace, Evergreen School, Shoreline, WA
Makerspace advice from Lindsey Own, Evergreen

Big room...organized for small people...with line of sight

Dedicated/visible materials/projects-in-process storage

More electrical outlets than ever

More ventilation

Comfortable-to-stand-on floor; easy to keep clean

Bright, flexible lighting

Central inviting space:

We can't keep building the same old industrial...
Centers at Roots Elem., Denver
STEM learning at DSST, Denver
Character at Grant Beacon MS, Denver
Hub at Huntley High, Chicago
Metro ECHS on OSU campus, Columbus OH
Madison-Carver Academy, Detroit
Growing advocates in remods at Chavez Schools, DC
Purposeful space at Horace Mann Elem., DC
Horace Mann, DC

Collaboration and connection

Sustainability and stewardship

Choice and invention

Listen to GettingSmart.com podcast with Liz Whisnant
KIPP Central City, NOLA
Dolores Aaron
School: NOLA
Cornwallis Academy, Maidstone UK
Active learning at Singapore American School
SPARK Schools, South Africa
In Common?
In Common?
- Common intellectual mission (focus, theme, pedagogy)
- Big ideas, blocks, & spaces
- Engaged, personalized & relevant learning
- Powerful sustained relationships
- Blended environments
- Kids show what they know
- Community connections
- Professional learning
Factors Impacting Space

Early learning

Blended learning

Online learning

Maker

Dual enrollment

Work-based learning

CTE

Community schools

New schools

-10%  -5%  0  5%  10%
Community Conversations
Support Powerful Learning
Genius loci: the spirit of place....this weatherfront of all of these qualities that meet in that place

-David Whyte
Thank you!

Continue the conversation:
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