



e-Bulletin of the Working Group on Innovative Learning Spaces (WG ILS)

Welcome to the 8th issue of the e-Bulletin of the WG!

These e-Bulletins intend to update you on the latest learning space plans, designs and developments at PolyU – and we are happy to receive your feedback and suggestions.

◆ **Upgrading of General Classrooms and Communal Learning Spaces**

Following the upgrading of the three TU lecture theatres (TU101, 103 and 201) in 2015 and four lecture theatres (N001, N002, N003 and TU107) in Semester 1, 2016/17, the following rooms became available since the last bulletin.

The following rooms were ready for use from Semester 2, 2016/2017

W208

W208/209 were combined into a large interactive room with a seating capacity of 78. The refurbished room is now more modern, vibrant and user-friendly with a new lectern, increased number of projection screens and wall-mounted whiteboards.



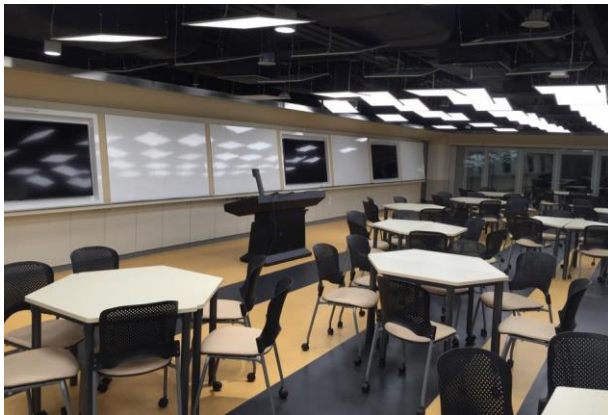
U208

Similar to W208, U208 was refitted into a modern and high adaptability classroom with a capacity of 38.



N 1/F classrooms

N 1/F classrooms were transformed from traditional teaching rooms into modern and technology-enhanced rooms to facilitate interactive and student-centered learning. Multiple monitors were installed at the front of the rooms for better visibility. Different monitors can be used to show information from different sources (e.g., lecturer's computer, students' computer/phone, visualizer) to meet current teaching/learning needs. The rooms are now brighter, more spacious and adaptable to different class sizes with the use of movable glass partitions to separate the three classrooms. N101, N102 and N103 can accommodate a class size of 48, 90 and 90 respectively.



N102



N103

BC402 and BC404

The Technology Enhanced Interactive Classrooms (BC411/12) and the small adjacent room (BC410) were reconfigured into two larger and brighter regular-shaped classrooms – BC402 and BC404. The rooms feature upgraded IT/AV facilities, new lectern design, flexible furniture and more writing surfaces for interactive learning. A glass wall is used for BC404 to make the room brighter. The seating capacity is 78 for BC402 and 40 for BC404 in interactive mode.



BC402



BC404

Open Learning Spaces on BC 4/F

BC415/16 were repurposed into a communal and informal learning space for students. The area is furnished with long tables and study cubicles supported with electrical sockets which are designed to facilitate students' informal learning activities.



The ZONE on BC 4/F

The experimental prototype space, the ZONE, has been relocated from Z105/106 to the revitalized BC4/F. The MoCow multi-media collaborative learning stations have also been moved to the new space. A video capture suite, which is next to the ZONE on BC4/F is now under renovation and will soon be open for use.



Rooms to be Upgraded in 2017/2018

- BC 2/F and 3/F will be renovated in 2017.
- CD 3/F, CF 3/F, EF 3/F, DE 3/F and DE 4/F are scheduled to be renovated in 2018.

◆ **Orientation Sessions of the Newly Renovated Classrooms**

An orientation session jointly organized by EDC and ITS was held on 23 September 2016 for teachers who were assigned to teach in the newly renovated classrooms in Semester 1, 2016/2017. The orientation session was conducted in the refurbished lecture theatre TU201 and attended by 10 teaching staff. The second round of hands-on workshops was held on 9 and 11 January 2017 in W208, which was attended by nine teachers each. A simulation video has been produced to share experiences on how to use the new

technology to engage students in interactive classes. The video will be made available to all staff soon.

◆ **Survey on Learning Spaces at PolyU**

A user survey was conducted in November 2016 on campus to collect views from teachers and students on existing general learning spaces and facilities. A total of 94 staff surveys and 934 student surveys was received. The findings reveal that teachers liked the classrooms in Z, Y and R Cores the most whereas students favored V322, TU201 and Z209. Of the renovated rooms, N and TU lecture theatres and QR611 were well-received by the students, and teachers liked the lighting and sound system of the TU rooms. Consistent views were received from teachers and students on the rooms disliked. In particular, they disliked rooms in BC and CD for the reasons of general environment, layout and furniture. The results support our renovation plan for BC and CD rooms in 2017 and 2018.

◆ **Upcoming Work of the WG**

Continuation of Orientation Sessions of the Newly Renovated Classrooms

Orientation sessions will continue to run for teachers to familiarize them with the new features in the revamped classrooms. The teachers who will be teaching in the newly renovated classrooms will be invited to join the orientation session prior to the commencement of each new semester. More details to follow.

Preparation of Learning Spaces Design Standards

The WG will discuss and prepare design standards for different types of learning spaces. The standards will cover issues such as space/student capacity, colour, comfort, lighting, and furniture, all of which will help guide and provide reference for the future learning spaces development at PolyU.

Identifying Open/Communal Spaces on Campus

We are looking for open/communal spaces in main campus of PolyU. **Please let us know if you find such potential spots for creating more informal learning spaces around campus. Our students have little in the way of suitable places to go between and after classes to discuss assignments, read and prepare materials for classes, work on team projects, and review their notes – so this is an important issue that we need to address.**

We look forward to receiving your feedback and suggestions for improving our learning spaces.

Please send comments and questions to Ms Ophelia Wong, WG Project Assistant, Room 1402, Li Ka Shing Tower, PolyU or e-mail <ophelia.y.wong@polyu.edu.hk>