

CASE STUDY- LORETO CRUCI

CHALLENGING THE TRADITIONAL NOTION OF A CLASSROOM

“The success of Cruci’s design intent is very evident. The learning spaces created in Cruci are in high demand. Both teachers and the students love being there. The classrooms and the adjoining break out areas provide an atmosphere for learning that invites genuine collaboration where collective thinking can easily be made visible”. says Cheryl Hamilton, Principal at Loreto.

The Vision

Loreto College’s new Cruci building sets a leading example for future proofed, flexible education design.

Designed by Thomson Adsett, the building opened in October 2014 as a new year-level facility which will eventually be expanded to form a performing arts theatre.

Cruci maximises the available campus area on a highly constrained rock face site and offers a variety of multipurpose spaces that overlap teaching, learning & performance functionalities with the form of the building derived through the creation of different sized informal/break out spaces on the upper two levels

A collaborative vision between Thomson Adsett, Loreto & Inspiration Office ensured a range of furniture solutions from Steelcase

Education would allow for easy change of layout & facilitate flexible & collaborative learning environments that constructively challenge the preconceived notion of a classroom.

AN INSPIRATION OFFICE STUDY Featuring THOMSON ADSETT

Loreto College Coorparoo, Qld Australia

The project was constructed on a very constrained site. As such, the agility & flexibility of the spaces needed to be maximized in order to create the best opportunities for learning.

Cruci constructively challenges convention on multiple fronts. Learning spaces needed to be inspirational and not restricted to an indoor classroom. Loreto required spaces & places to foster relationships, collaboration, creation & engagement.



“Learning spaces need to be inspirational & not restricted to an indoor classroom”

says Graham Legerton, Group Director of Design & Education Communities, Thomson Adsett

“The key drivers from a furniture perspective were the need to create agile and flexible learning settings. The formality of the teaching spaces varies on different levels and the furniture’s ability to accommodate a range of different configurations has greatly assisted the provision of a range of learning settings. This agility is extended externally through the use of mobile palettes with writable surfaces”.

says Graham Legerton, Group Director of Design & Education Communities, Thomson Adsett



Classroom Report: Writable surfaces & wireless technology enable student ‘thinking’ to be displayed.

“The spaces were designed to reflect everyone’s commitment towards collaboration & active learning. Every seat needs to be the best seat in the house”

Reuben Woodbury, Inspiration Office
(Steelcase Education)

AREAS WHERE STUDENTS WANTS TO LINGER

Loreto’s Library offers an environment where students meet, collaborate, talk, group, regroup and it all happens naturally because this space helps create a community.

“Offering students and teachers spaces that could be

“It is essential that the teachers and students enjoy the environment. The spaces created have an affinity with Loreto’s values”

Cheryl Hamilton – Loreto College

personalized & easily reconfigured for different modes of learning was important. The spaces were designed to reflect everyone’s commitment towards collaborative & active learning. Every seat needs to be the best seat in the house”

says Reuben Woodbury, Inspiration Office/Steelcase Education



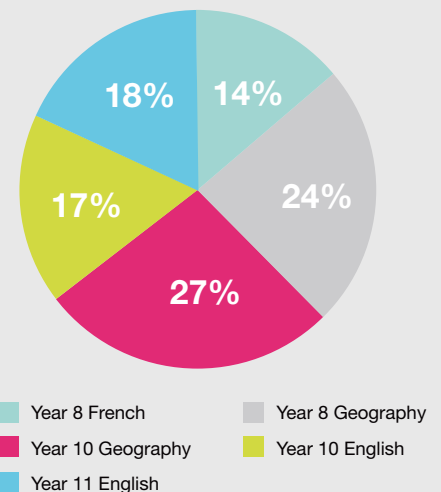
Classroom Report:
“I’ve never seen so many girls enjoying the library space during recess.”
says Cheryl Hamilton, Principal

As part of the collaborative partnership between Loreto, Thomson Adsett & Inspiration Office, trial Verb spaces were set up in an old classroom and the Steelcase Node solution was installed in the college library. After 6 weeks a Steelcase Post Occupancy Evaluation was conducted involving 98 students & 3 teachers to measure the effect of the furniture

solutions on student engagement.

Data (overleaf) concluded that there was a measurable increase in many student factors. On the basis of this endorsement from students and teachers the leadership team proceeded to furnish the entire Cruci building with a range of Steelcase solutions

Factor	Standard Classroom		New Classroom		% who rated New Higher	Difference (New-Old)	
	Adequate or better ¹	Exceptional ²	Adequate or better	Exceptional		Mean	Median
SOLUTIONS							
Collaboration*	76%	5%	96%	37%	73%	1.1	1
Focus	85%	14%	85%	19%	40%	0.2	0
Active involvement*	73%	6%	94%	36%	71%	1.1	1
Opportunity to engage*	74%	9%	94%	29%	66%	0.9	1
Repeated exposure to material through multiple means*	79%	8%	94%	38%	67%	1.0	1
In-class feedback*	84%	9%	91%	21%	43%	0.4	0
Real-life scenarios*	72%	5%	88%	28%	51%	0.7	1
Ability to engage ways of learning best	81%	11%	89%	26%	45%	0.4	0
Physical movement*	71%	8%	92%	46%	67%	1.2	1
Stimulation*	77%	11%	95%	24%	50%	0.7	0.5
Feeling comfortable to participate*	72%	10%	93%	41%	58%	1.1	1
Creation of enriching experience*	79%	17%	91%	32%	50%	0.6	0.5



The results from this AL-POE study in the Spring of 2014 at Loreto College illustrate that the new solutions within the learning environment made a positive impact on student engagement factors.

From the student perspective, the new classroom contributed to an increase in student engagement, ability to achieve a higher grade, motivation to attend class and be creative.

The comment section offered a deeper understanding of the new active learning environments. Students spoke to how they felt the new environment was more exciting, better for group work, collaboration, interaction with others, comfortable and ‘great’.

For more Information

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