

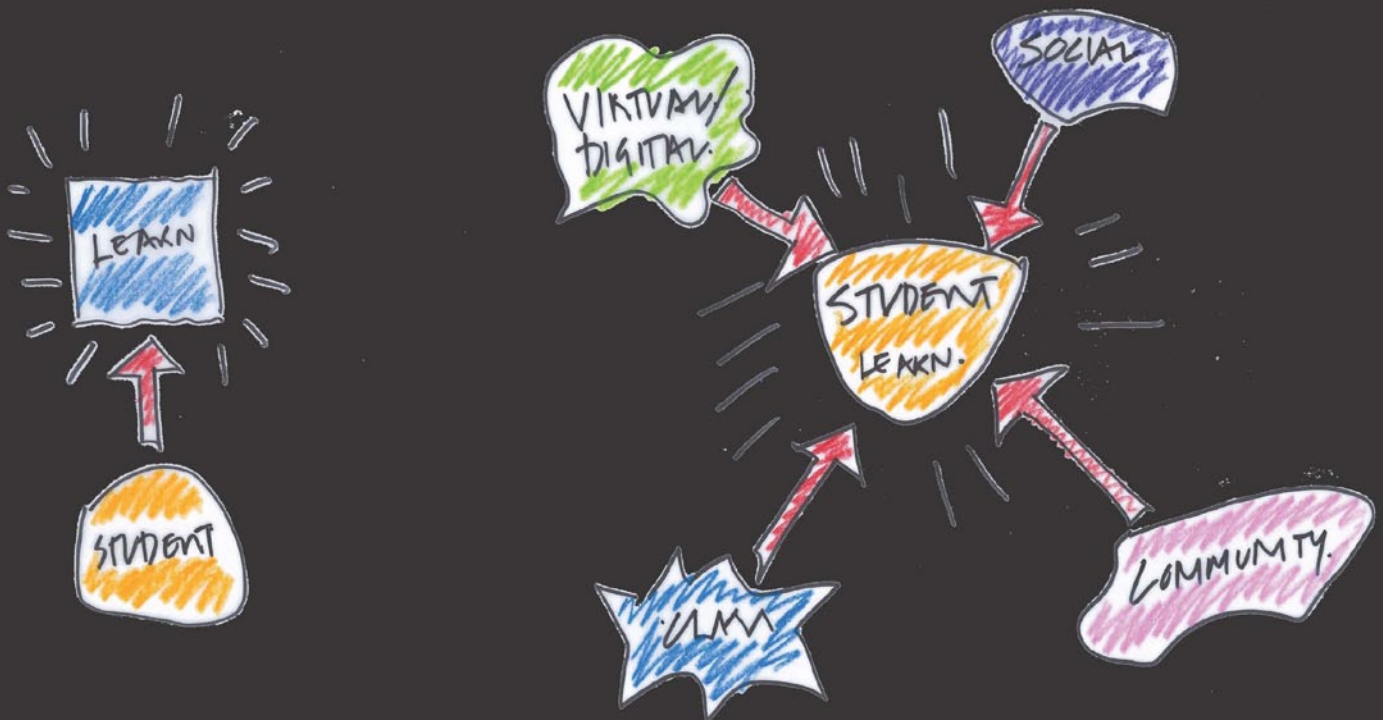
**WOODS
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PAPER**

ISSUE 1103

THE AGILE STUDENT





The Past
STATIC Learners

The Future
AGILE Learners



The Agile Student

Creating the next generation teaching, learning and research environments

Written by Georgia Singleton

Article at a glance

To imagine and conceive the new teaching, learning and research terrain a collaborative approach is needed.

What does the new learning and research environment look like?

To explore this idea we need to suspend belief in what we know and ask some questions.

- What does the next generation agile student, teacher or researcher look like?
- What does this mean pedagogically, culturally?
- What does this mean spatially?

In simple terms we need to understand the characteristics of the people, how they best learn and consequently what pedagogical and spatial shifts are required to facilitate the best teaching and learning outcomes.

Don Tapscott in his book “Grown up digital” explores how the Net Generation can be the most innovative, collaborative and productive cohort given the proper working and learning environment.

He suggests that:

**“The bottom line is this:
Understand the Net Generation and you will
understand the future.”**

Tapscott states that there are eight characteristics of the Net Generation, who can also be referred to as the Agile Student.

- 1 Prize freedom and freedom of choice.
- 2 Want to customise things, make them their own.
- 3 Natural collaborators who enjoy a conversation not a lecture.
- 4 They will scrutinise you and your organisation.
- 5 They want to have fun even at work or school.
- 6 They want integrity
- 7 Speed is normal.
- 8 Innovation is part of life.

**“THEY ARE USED
THE INTERNET AND
IT FROM A PLACE
INFORMATION TO A
SHARE**

TO CUSTOMISING
HAVE CHANGED
WHERE YOU FIND
PLACE WHERE YOU
INFORMATION.”



We have grouped these eight characteristics into four super-traits. The following describes a process to create a shift in thinking about the characteristic trait, the pedagogical and cultural shift and then a potential spatial shift in the future of learning environments.

1 Choice

CHARACTERISTIC SHIFT:

Prize freedom and freedom of choice.

PEDAGOGICAL/ CULTURAL SHIFT:

Choice of learning, teaching and research styles.

[Activity Based Learning/Researching](#)

SPATIAL SHIFT:

Diversity, a [spectrum](#) of spaces, experimental experiential and [creative](#) places. Immersive technology. Food 24/7. [Activity Based Spaces](#)

2 Customise

CHARACTERISTIC SHIFT:

They want to customise things.

PEDAGOGICAL/CULTURAL SHIFT:

They want student/researcher centred [customised learning and teaching](#) not broadcast.

SPATIAL SHIFT:

[Agile spaces](#) that can be changed easily, both informal and formal and everywhere. Spaces students, staff and researchers can have ownership over.

3 Collaborate

CHARACTERISTIC SHIFT:

Natural Collaborators.

PEDAGOGICAL / CULTURAL SHIFT:

[Conversation learning and understanding](#) not a lecture. Problem solving

SPATIAL SHIFT:

no lecture theatres, [collaborative](#) class/research spaces, maximise informal space within/out, blur the boundaries, [bump spaces](#), continuous, a network of spaces.

4 Fun and Fast

CHARACTERISTIC SHIFT:

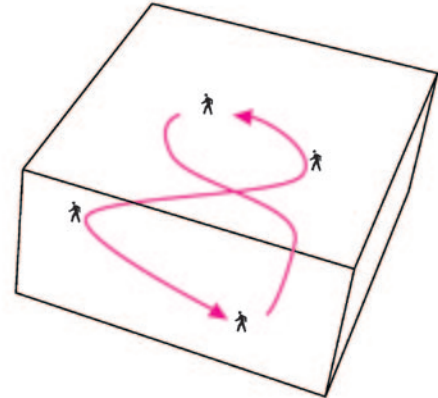
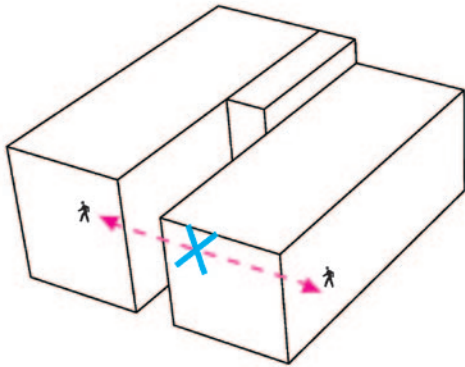
They want to have fun. Speed is normal.

PEDAGOGICAL SHIFT:

[Community of learners and researchers](#), blurring of play and learning and [instantaneous](#) feedback.

SPATIAL SHIFT:

[Playful, research neighbourhoods](#) bring [community/industry spaces](#) into the university, eating, coffee sleeping, technology immersive, spacial synergies between disciplines and people.



FIELDS=
Existing Floor Plate

- Repetitive
- Closed
- isolated
- Segregated learning space
- Mono functional approach
- Non flexible

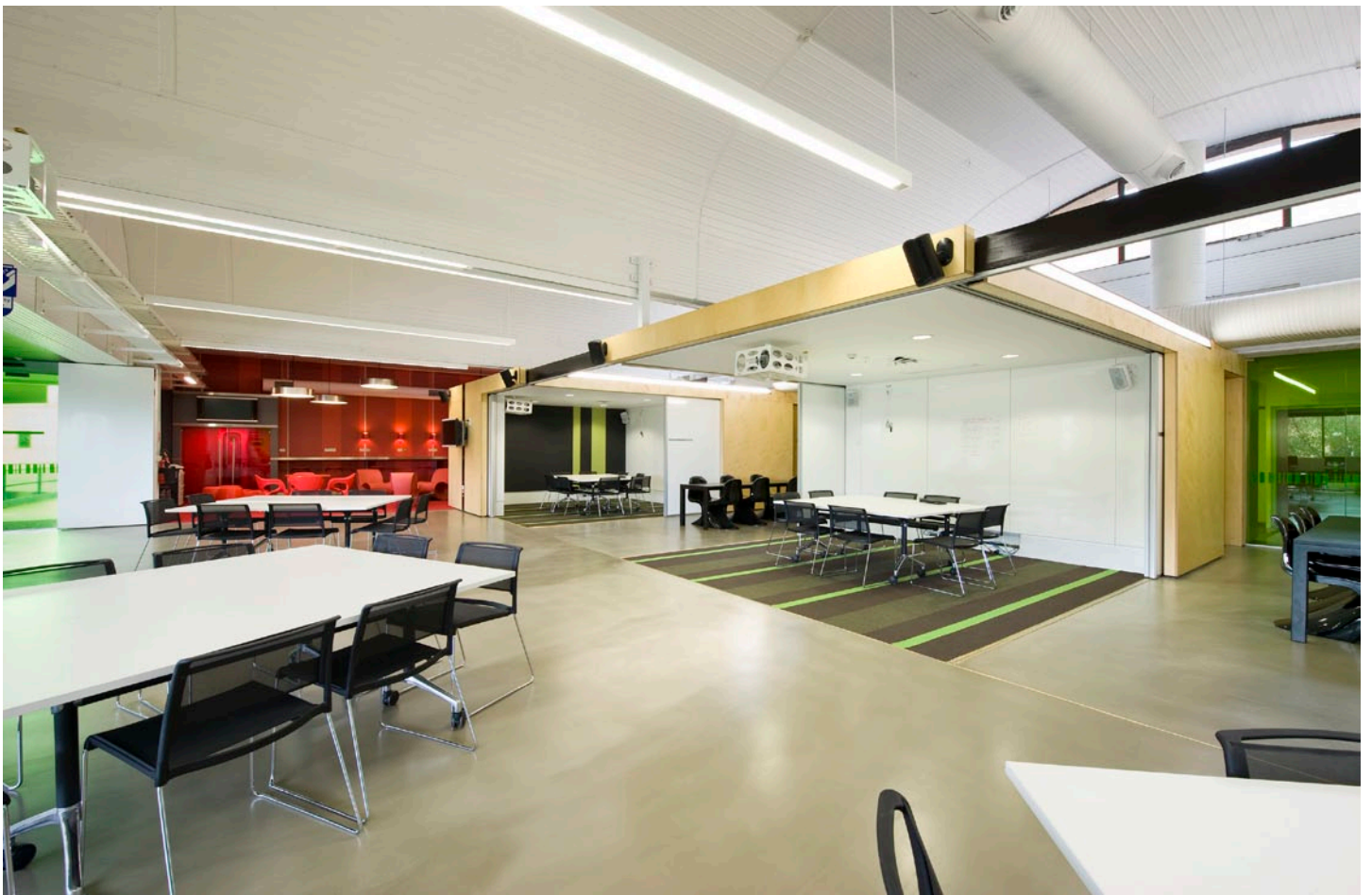
TERRAINS=
Proposed Floor Plate

- Connected
- Open
- Integrated
- Flexible floor plate
- Collaborative environment
- Learning landscape



To imagine and conceive the new teaching, learning and research terrain a collaborative approach is needed. The process should include:

- Asking a new question
- Working with the super-traits of the agile student, teacher/researcher:
[Choice, Customise Collaborate, Fast + Fun](#)
- Get the right talent to collaborate and orchestrate a solution; and
- don't be afraid of change!





References

Tapscott, D (2009) Grown up digital: How the net generation is changing your world. McGraw-Hill Professional

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