Building a better un-bunker

Library as Place; Place as Library TCD
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New Library Extension

- On the agenda for 14 year +
- Significant development from 4,000 – 10,000 sq. m
- Seating and shelving increased greatly
- Enormous challenge to meet the needs of a wide variety of stakeholders at every stage
- Research vital
- Expert-led (?)
- Amazing opportunity for success OR.....
€20 million or €20...

Principles are the same

Lessons we learned can be applied for anyone in almost any context.
What is our role?

1. Shift in emphasis from storing and archiving resources to supporting the production of knowledge

2. Changes in how students are taught at third level...... learning by doing and creating and engaging in problem solving

3. Evolution in the way students interact with the world around them requires an evolution in the buildings and services we provide
Learning has changed
Collections
• Prepare for death of print?
• Prepare staff for death of print?!
• Increasing importance of ‘UDCs’
• Ensure access to electronic

Technology
• Facilitate Electronic Access
• Digital footfall
• Wi-Fi
• Mobile
• Beacon technology
Research & Pedagogy

- Dedicated areas
- Training rooms
- Flexibility
- Groups
- Technology as teacher
- Use space to help teach
Everybody knows what libraries need, the problem is getting it done?
Flexible spaces

Design Principles Bingo

Flexible space
Noise zones
Choice of seating
Easy circulation
Different learning styles
Flexible spaces
Environmental
POWER
Students’ needs

From this: To this:
We want our library to be...

- Alive!
- Used & Useful
- Popular
- Intuitive
- Suitable
- Flexible
- Innovative

- Learning centred
- Research conducive
- Centre of the campus
We want our library to...

• Address issues with pre-existing (1984) building
• Reflect development in libraries in the intervening years
• Deliver a building representative of our values (student-centred, flexible and innovative)
• Address needs of students, staff (internal and external) and wider stakeholders
• Use the building as a catalyst for wider change (internal and external)
More study spaces, less printed books?
Know your audience
Group Study
Respect what works...
...Old school has its place.
...Don't pre judge...
Follow your (collective) vision
You might be right!
Let things evolve
Let go
What is the impact?

- Quality Review: “a resounding success”
- Metric: Greater user satisfaction
- Metric: Physical footfall up
- Strategic: Library seen as ‘more relevant’
- Can you trust feedback?

http://uxlib.org/
Lessons

• Do not compromise
• Remember what you’re doing (and why)
• Take a risk
• Staff and students inform design
• Don't forget the staff!
The Library at the centre of everything
Thank you

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