What does an innovative space look like?

• Look at the photos on your table and discuss with your tablemates...
  • Which do you think is the MOST innovative and creative space?
  • Which do you think is the LEAST?

• Post your photos under the MOST and LEAST headings at the front of the room

• Be prepared to share your ideas and observations later in the session
Creating Spaces to Foster Creativity & Innovation

Tricia Edwards
Head of Education
Smithsonian’s Lemelson Center
Smithsonian Institution
- 19 museums
- 9 research centers
- “Increase and diffusion of knowledge”

NMAH
- Star-Spangled Banner, Lincoln’s top hat, Ruby slippers
- Vast history of technology collections

Lemelson Center
- Research & disseminate information about invention
- Encourage inventive creativity
Vision

A world in which everyone is inventive and inspired to contribute to innovation

Mission

The Lemelson Center engages, educates, and empowers the public to participate in technological, economic, and social change
• What can we learn from the workspaces of inventors and innovators?

• How does physical space foster innovation and creativity?

• Does place matter?
Places of Invention
National Museum of American History
Hartford, CT, mid 1850s

The Bronx, 1970s

Silicon Valley, 1970s-80s

Fort Collins, CO, 2010s
Place matters.
Flexibility

Thomas Edison, Menlo Park, NJ

Elmer Gates, Chevy Chase, MD
Accessibility

John Kahl, Troy, MI

Ralph Baer, Nashua, NH

Gerald McKibben, location unknown
Tools & Materials

Chuck Popenoe, Bethesda, MD (all photos)
Solo & Collaborative Workspace

Salk Institute, San Diego, CA (both photos)
Inspiration

Saul Griffith, San Francisco, CA

Janelia Farm (Howard Hughes Medical Institute), Ashburn, VA (both photos above)
Let’s review the pictures on your tables...
Can we apply ideas and principles from inventors’ spaces to an educational environment?
Flexibility

All photos of Draper Spark!Lab (DC)
Accessibility

Clockwise from upper left: Draper Spark!Lab (DC), Spark!Lab Kansas City, Spark!Lab Kansas City, Draper Spark!Lab (DC), Draper Spark!Lab (DC)
Clockwise from upper left: Draper Spark!Lab (DC), Draper Spark!Lab (DC), Draper Spark!Lab (DC), Spark!Lab Anchorage
Solo & Collaborative Workspace

The thinking Spot

Clockwise from upper left: Spark!Lab Detroit, Spark!Lab Kansas City, Draper Spark!Lab (DC)
Inspiration

Clockwise from upper left: Draper Spark!Lab (DC), Spark!Lab Greenville, Spark!Lab Greenville, Spark!Lab Anchorage
How might these spaces be adapted?

Photo courtesy of Conrad Nutschan
• Put things on (lockable) wheels!
  *If wheels aren’t practical, use lightweight, easy-to-move furniture*
  
  *Avoid built-ins!*

• Use open/visible storage as much as possible
  *Buy lots of stackable storage bins (and a label maker)*

• Invest in a wide range of tools and materials
  *Especially low-tech supplies!*

• Ensure access to information
  *Think simple labels/signs, books, magazines, iPads (for staff)*

• Provide opportunities for “creative collisions” and “alone time”

• Include elements of inspiration
  *Try adding music, art, and/or children’s work to your space*
Questions?
Thank you!

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