

Education plays a pivotal role in the growth and personal development of individuals as well as in the prosperity of countries. The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) assists governments to develop policies that deliver quality learning programmes and quality learning environments in today's rapidly-evolving knowledge society. Educational facilities are an essential component of the learning environment, and governments have a responsibility to encourage development of innovative settings that inspire and motivate learners of all ages.

The schools and universities showcased in this book are a shining tribute to the commitment at all levels to building quality educational spaces for pupils and communities. This Compendium is also a witness to innovation in design and to successful teamwork: increasingly, governments, architects, facilities managers, teachers, students, parents and communities are working together to identify how facilities can best meet the needs of their users.

Fulfilling the community's needs is only one characteristic of effective learning environments. An international jury selected the 65 institutions presented in this book on the basis of four additional criteria. How is the principle of flexibility

– necessary to accommodate an ever-increasing range of teaching and learning scenarios and technologies – incorporated into the design of the facility? How are environmentally-friendly features and materials used to create a comfortable and sustainable learning environment? How does design ensure the safety and security of its occupants? How can alternative financing mechanisms such as public-private partnerships contribute to good management and planning?

This is the third international Compendium of Exemplary Educational Facilities published by the OECD Programme on Educational Building (PEB). Through its numerous publications and events, PEB informs on how to adapt to emerging technologies, how to obtain maximum educational benefit from investment in facilities, and how to efficiently plan and manage educational infrastructure.

We would like to express our heartfelt thanks to all those who submitted projects for the Compendium. The jury received a panoply of designs, and selecting those for inclusion in this book was no easy task.

We hope that you will enjoy and find inspiration from perusing the exceptional institutions featured in this volume.



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