OECD Study Highlights the Impact of Building Design in Education

Requirements facing educational buildings are more varied and challenging than ever. In addition to providing a supporting and stimulating environment for the learning process, today’s schools, colleges and universities need to accommodate an increasing number of practical demands.

How do educational facilities promote teaching and learning as a result of their design? What changes are required to accommodate the proliferation of educational technology and an increase in tertiary education? How can design better facilitate lifelong education and recreation programmes or outdoor learning? What has been the impact of reduced financial resources, more intensive space utilisation and new health and safety concerns on the design of our educational establishments?

A new book from the OECD, Designs for Learning: 55 Exemplary Educational Facilities, shows how the design, use and management of selected educational buildings in 21 countries’ provide original and imaginative responses to the changing environment of teaching and learning. Chosen in recognition of their contribution to educational effectiveness by an international jury made up of people with backgrounds in architecture, education and resource allocation, the buildings in question include newly built or renovated schools, tertiary institutions (universities, colleges and other post-secondary institutions) and facilities for adult education.

Reviews of each facility are arranged within the broad themes considered by the jury: improving effectiveness through design and management; the school of the future; tertiary education; strategies for managing the educational infrastructure. Each review includes numerous colour photographs, detailed plans and descriptions. Contact addresses for the schools and architects featured are also included. The featured establishments were selected from 90 schools and universities from 21 OECD countries.

Journalists may obtain this report from the OECD Media Relations Division (requests by fax. 33 1 45 24 80 03 or news.contact@oecd.org).

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1 Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Korea, Mexico, Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, United Kingdom.

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