

2.4 LEARNING COMMONS

According to the updated architectural drawings from Architecture Design and Research Institute, South China University of Technology (SCUT), the Learning Commons is located at G/F of Block 6 and 7 and 1/F of Block 5, 6 and 7 at the Central Teaching Building.

Total area for Learning Commons at G/F:
1677 sq.m. (approx.)

Total area for Learning Commons at 1/F:
1568 sq.m. (approx.)

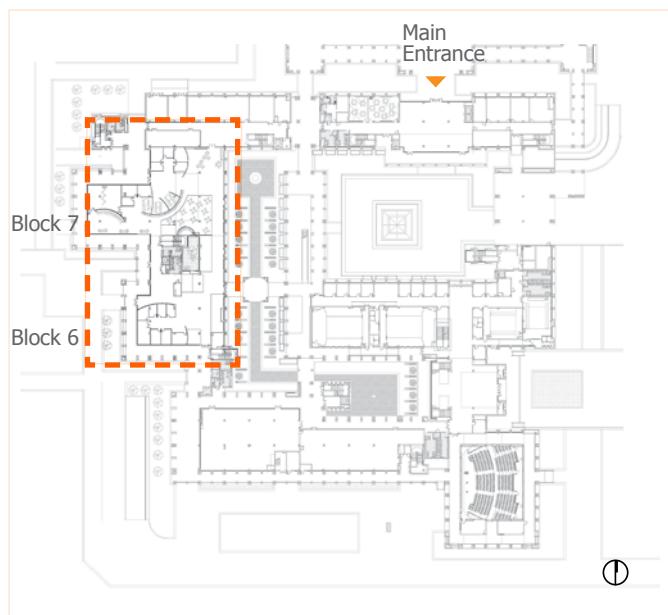


Fig. 2.46 Location Plan - Learning Commons (G/F)

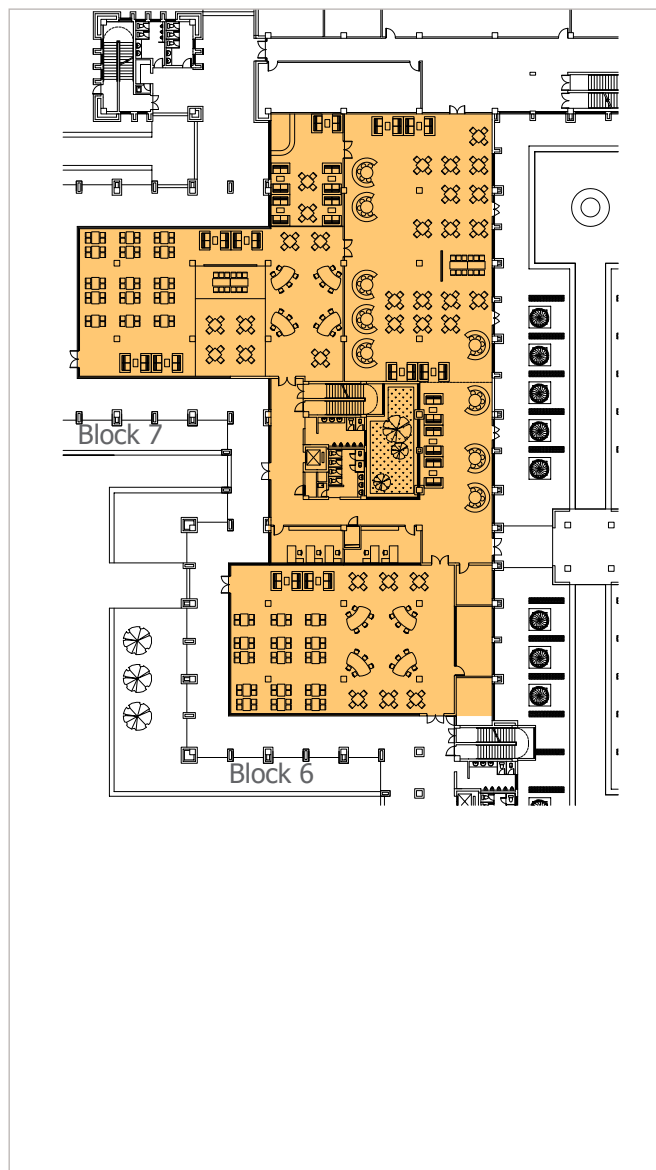


Fig. 2.47 Original layout plan of Learning Commons at Central Teaching Building, G/F

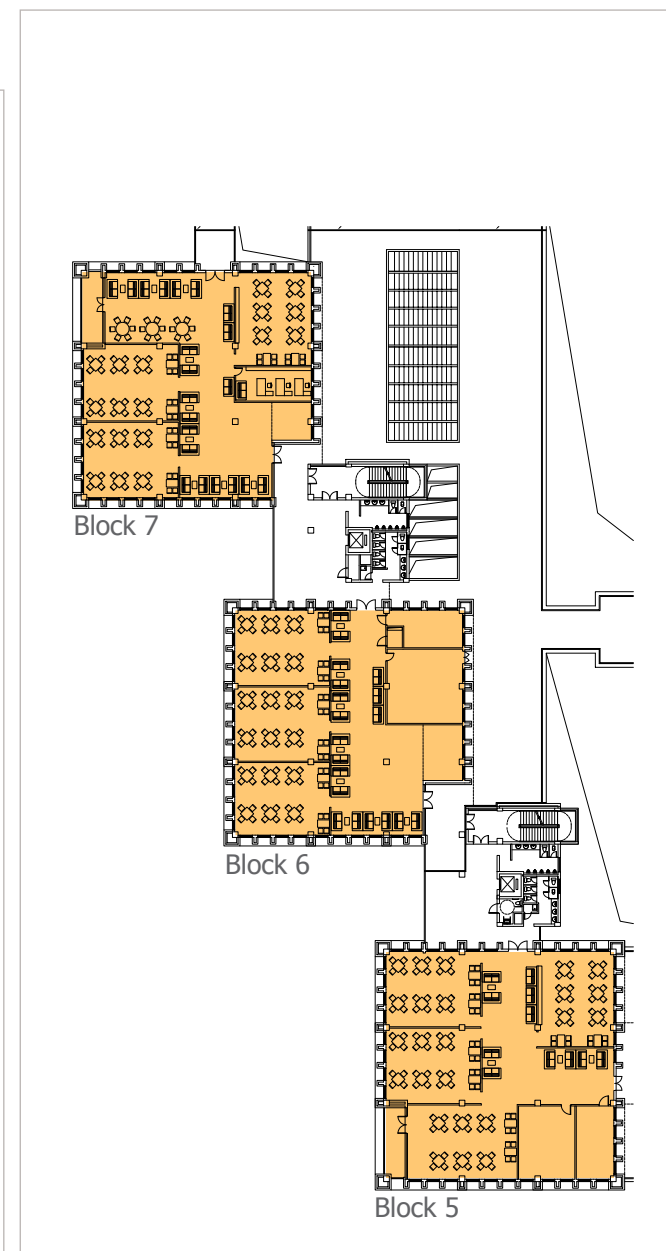


Fig. 2.48 Original layout plan of Learning Commons at Central Teaching Building, 1/F

2.4 LEARNING COMMONS

2.4.1 SETTING FOR LEARNING COMMONS

Coordination meeting with Information and Communication Technology Office (ICTO) and Campus Development and Engineering Section (CDE) was held on 30 June 2010. Requested setting for Learning Commons are summarized as follows:

G/F	Space/ Rooms	No. of users	No. of space/ rooms	Area (sq.m.)	Total area (sq.m.)
	IT – Information/ Help Desk	2-3	1	20	20
	IT – Printing Station	-	1	20	20
		10	5	19	95
		25	3	45	135
		6	10	11	110
	Open-air Study Area	6	30	11	330
	Faculties common area	20	1	200	200
	Exhibition area	-	1	50	50
	Open lounge	-	1	1000	1000
	Convenience Store	-	1	20	20
	Cafe	30	1	149	149
	Store for Cafe	-	1	15	15
	Student lockers	-	50	-	-
				Total:	2144
1/F	Space/ Rooms	No. of users	No. of space/ rooms	Area (sq.m.)	Total area (sq.m.)
	IT – Help Desk and Printing Station (Block 5)	2-3	1	20	20
	IT – Help Desk and Printing Station (Block 6)	-	1	20	20
		10	5	19	95
		25	3	45	135
		6	10	11	110
	Student lockers	6	30	11	330
				Total:	890

2.4 LEARNING COMMONS

2.4.2 SPECIAL DESIGN REQUIREMENTS

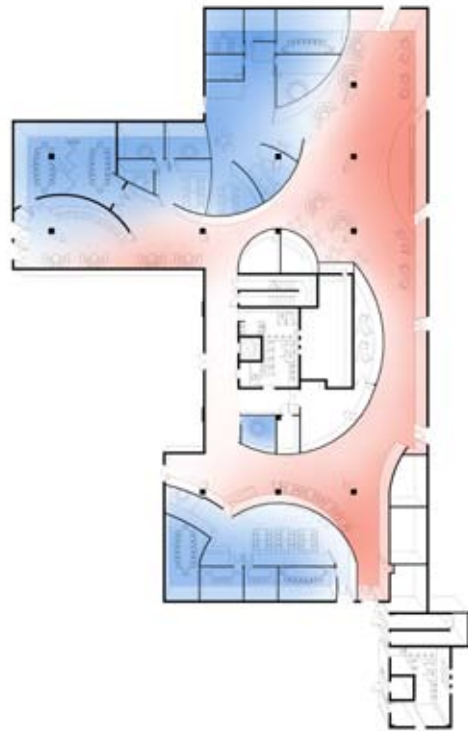
- The modern image with “Young and Energetic” for Learning Commons shall be maintained and enhanced.
- Well-furnished interior shall be adopted to decorate the interior space in order to create a comfortable and energetic atmosphere.
- The space for the Learning Commons should be as flexible as possible.
- Pocketed spaces should be arranged within the entire space. Users could have their gathering or working within the pocketed space but they can still keep in contact with the entire space or come across with other people walking through the Learning Commons.
- Café should be provided within the Learning Commons so that users can grasp a cup of coffee or tea for their stay in the Learning Commons.
- A small presentation stage should be incorporated for users to prepare and rehearse their presentation.



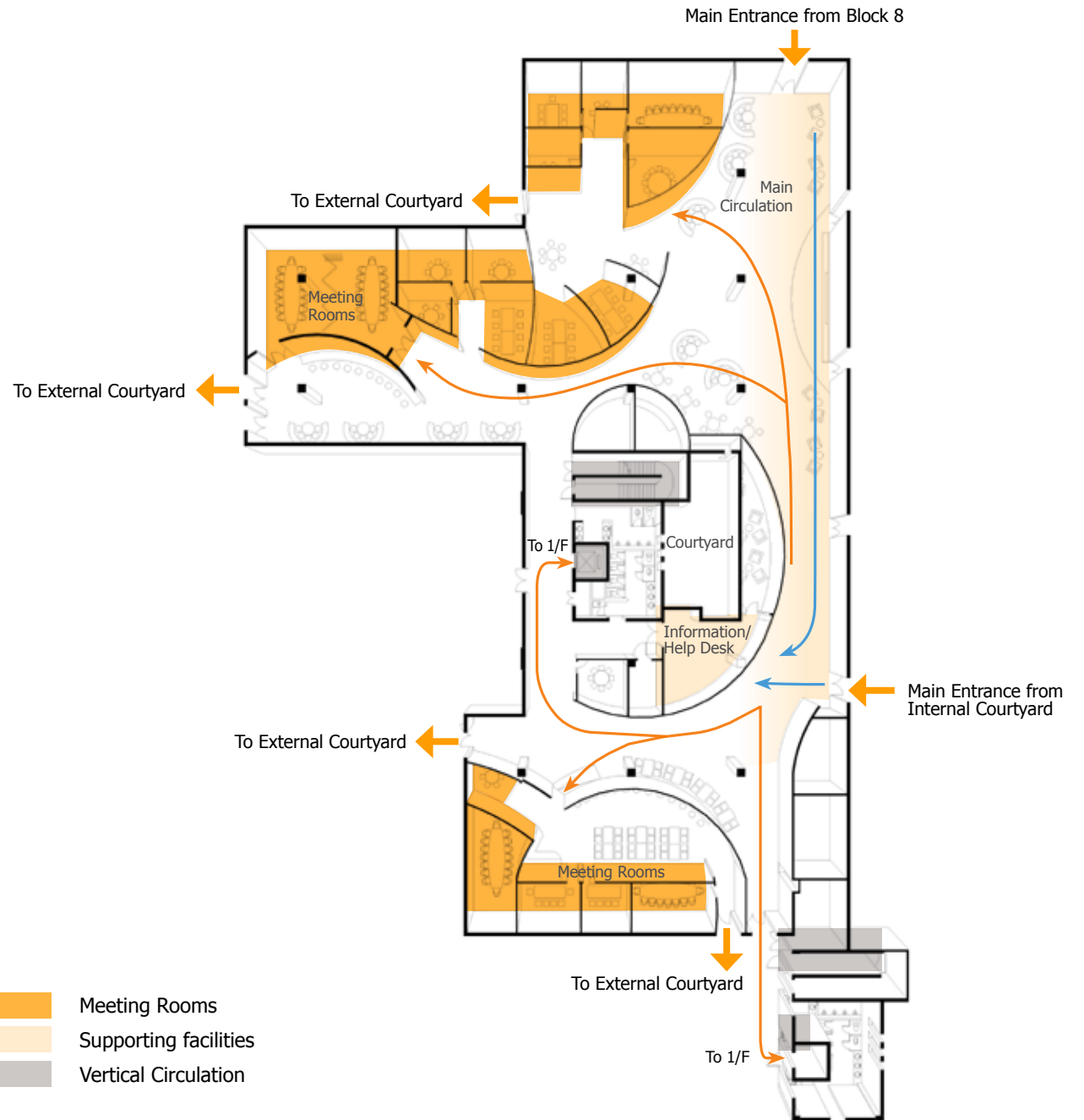
Fig. 2.49 Proposed layout plan of Learning Commons (G/F)

2.4 LEARNING COMMONS

CONSIDERATIONS FOR LEARNING COMMONS



- Active Activity Zone
- Passive Activity Zone



- Meeting Rooms
- Supporting facilities
- Vertical Circulation

Fig. 2.50 Active/ Passive Activity Zone

Fig. 2.51 Pedestrian flow

2.4 LEARNING COMMONS

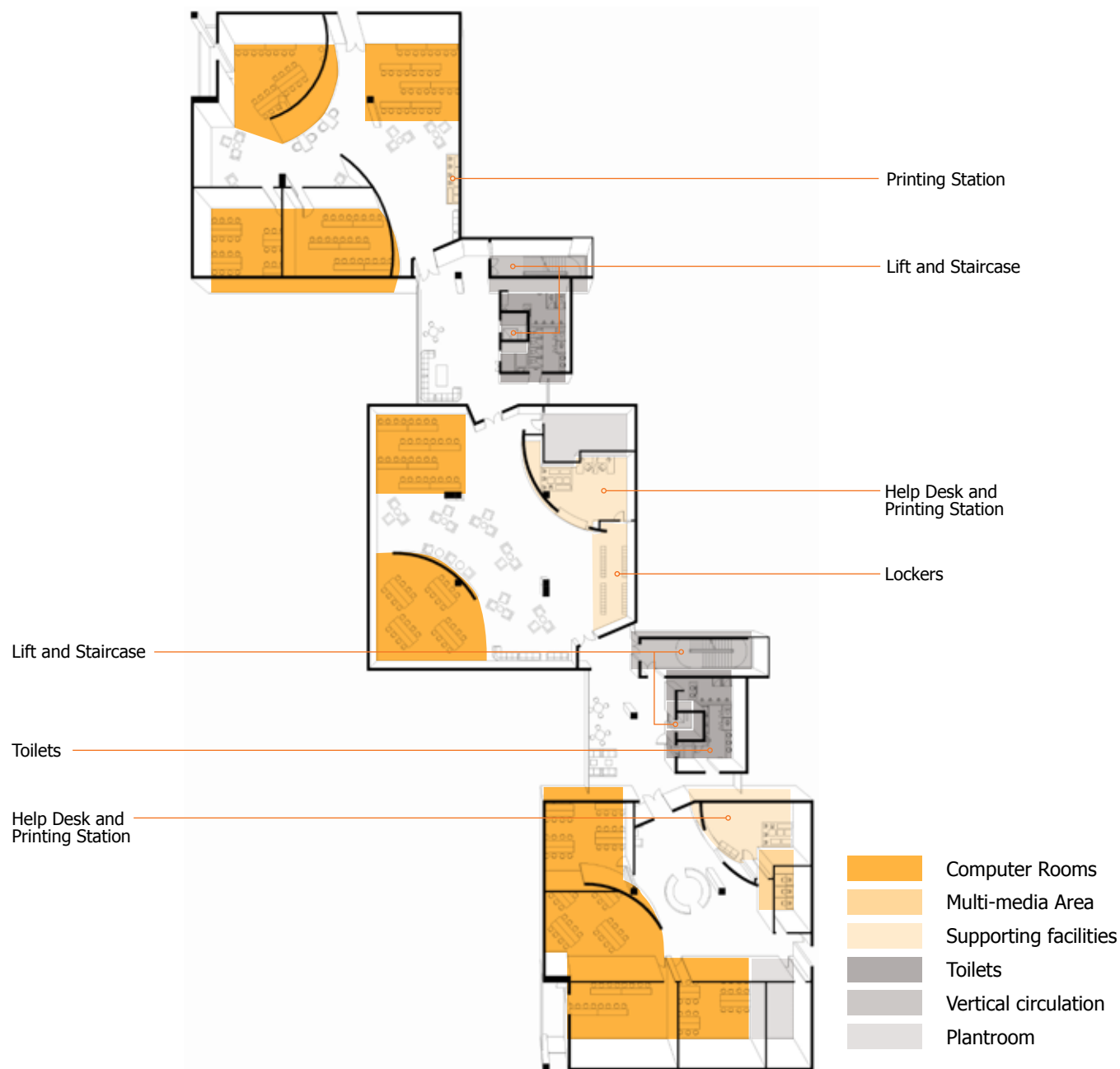


Fig. 2.52 Proposed layout plan of Learning Commons (1/F)

2.4 LEARNING COMMONS



Fig. 2.53 Help Desk



Fig. 2.54 Discussion Area



Fig. 2.55 Activity Node



Fig. 2.56 Pedestrian flow

2.4 LEARNING COMMONS

EQUIPMENT AND REQUIREMENT FOR LEARNING COMMONS

(A) Information/ Help Desk and Printing Station at G/F

- 2 to 3 workstations with computers shall be provided.
- 1 number of photocopier shall be provided.
- 4 numbers of printers shall be provided.
- 1 number of scanner shall be provided.
- 1 number of adding-value machine shall be provided.

(B) Printing Station at 1/F, Block 7

- 1 number of photocopier shall be provided.
- 4 numbers of printers shall be provided.
- 1 number of scanner shall be provided.
- 1 number of adding-value machine shall be provided.

(C) Help Desk at 1/F, Block 6

- 1 number of photocopier shall be provided.
- 4 numbers of printers shall be provided.
- 1 number of scanner shall be provided.
- 1 number of adding-value machine shall be provided.

(D) Help Desk and Printing Station at 1/F, Block 7

- Service window counter shall be provided.
- 2 to 3 workstations with computers shall be provided.
- Sofa set shall be provided.
- 1 number of photocopier shall be provided.
- 4 numbers of printers shall be provided.
- 1 number of scanner shall be provided.
- 1 number of adding-value machine shall be provided.

(E) Small and Large Meeting Rooms at G/F

- 1 number of white board shall be provided for each room.
- Table and chairs for 10 and 25 people shall be provided for Small and Large Meeting Room respectively.
- Movable partition shall be adopted between 2 numbers of Large Meeting Room for flexibility.

(F) Common Rooms at G/F

- Large TV 55" display shall be provided for each room.
- 1 number of white Board shall be provided for each room.
- Table and chairs for 6 people shall be provided for each room.

(G) Open-air Study Area at G/F

- Round table for 6 people with LCD monitor shall be provided.

(H) Computer Rooms at 1/F

- Tables with sockets and chairs for 30 people shall be provided for each room.

(I) Multi-media Room at 1/F

- The Multi-media Room shall be separated into 5 numbers of small rooms.
- 1 number of workstation with computer shall be provided for each small room.

(J) Cafe at G/F

- The internal finishes for Café area shall be in keeping with a fashionable style.
- Full set of integrated quality kitchen cabinets with stainless steel counter-top, cabinet panel doors, stainless steel sink unit and sink mixer shall be provided.
- Non-slip homogeneous tile laid to fall shall be applied.

(K) Convenience Store at G/F

- Laminated tempered glass shall be adopted for shop front window wall facing the Learning Commons.

2.4 LEARNING COMMONS

MATERIAL/ COLOR/ FINISHES/ FURNITURE

(A) Wall finishes

- Thematic color shall be adopted for different areas at Learning Commons for characteristics and identities.
- Timber or fabric wall panels shall be applied in some areas e.g. meeting rooms or discussion areas for better acoustic purpose.
- Gypsum board, mirror or back-painted glass wall panels shall be applied in most of the areas for aesthetic and creation of the atmosphere.
- Plaster and emulsion paint shall be less applied.

(B) Floor finishes

- Heavy duty anti-static carpet tiles or wall-to-wall carpet shall be adopted.
- Timber or stainless steel skirting shall be adopted.
- Vinyl tiles floor shall be adopted for Café and Convenience Store if any.

(C) Ceiling finishes

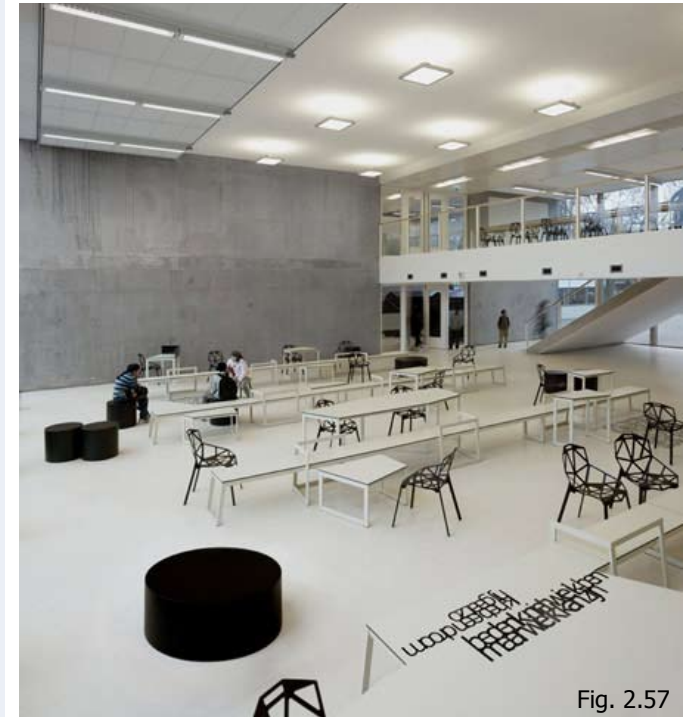
- Plaster with emulsion paint shall be adopted.
- Large quantity of gypsum or timber or metal ceiling with recessed or feature lighting shall be applied for aesthetic and acoustic purpose.

(D) Furniture

- Comfortable seating e.g. sofa and newspaper or magazine racks shall be provided for common areas.
- Wall-mounted TV displays shall be provided for university news and information updates.
- Different type of loose furniture with theme color, shape or material shall be provided for characteristics and identities.

(E) Others

- Curtain with heavy duty track shall be provided for all meeting rooms.



2.4 LEARNING COMMONS

E&M INSTALLATION REQUIREMENT

- The Learning Commons shall be fully furnished with air-conditioning system.
- As the Learning Commons will be operated 24 hours per day, separate air-conditioning system should be used for the Learning Commons from the Campus. An independent and individual control of room temperature should be provided for each room for works overnight or at weekend.
- Lighting provisions for general purpose shall be provided. Various uses such as movie showing/ projection shall be furnished with suitable lighting provisions for the meeting rooms.
- Adequate numbers of 13A sockets shall be installed along the walls.
- Adequate numbers of concealed floor-mounted sockets shall also be installed.
- Wireless internet access shall be provided for the Learning Commons.

The following equipment shall be provided for Café and Convenience Store:

- Frame and fascia board of shop signs of mirror finish stainless steel
- Cable trunking from switch room to shop units
- Fan coil unit provision (without supply and return air duct) for future connection
- Independent air-Conditioning and lighting control
- Chiller water pipe/ condensate water pipe provisions



Fig. 2.59

AUDIO AND VISUAL INSTALLATION REQUIREMENT

An integrated Audio and Visual System shall be provided to all meeting rooms at Learning Commons. The Audio and Visual System shall be on an integrated computerized monitoring and control system through the control panel in the meeting table. The design standard shall be allowed the entire system to support the venue to host lecture/ seminar for teaching purpose. The design, specification, operation and performance shall be up to relevant international standard and trade practice in the region.

- The following equipment shall be provided for general uses and special events, e.g. seminar.
- 1 number of ceiling-mounted projector and projection screen
- Wireless microphones
- Blu-ray/ CD/ DVD player and speakers
- System for video conference for one of the Large Meeting Room

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY INSTALLATION REQUIREMENT

Design requirement for the information technology installation to be further specified.

2.4 LEARNING COMMONS

2.4.3 CONCEPTS FOR LEARNING COMMONS

Learning Commons is an emerging increasingly common concept in university communities around the world. Learning Commons sometimes opens 24 hours to serve a one-stop service location where students can **study, learn, discuss, interact, and relax.**

The basic components of Learning Commons usually include reference and student workstations, collaborative learning rooms, electronic classrooms, multimedia workstations, consultation stations, writing lab and lounge.



Fig. 2.60



Fig. 2.61



Fig. 2.62



Fig. 2.63



Fig. 2.64



Fig. 2.65

2.4 LEARNING COMMONS

PHILOSOPHY OF THE LEARNING COMMONS

- Recognize the Learning Commons as a central gathering place for student study and research
- Support students in developing the cognitive and information-seeking skills necessary in a knowledge-based society
- Foster attitudes, approaches and values which promote a love of learning, an appreciation for academic integrity and life-long learning
- Promote the importance of information technology by helping students to understand and use it effectively as a learning tool

AMBIENCE OF THE LEARNING COMMONS

- Inspiring
- Gathering
- Informal
- Exchange

POTENTIAL FUNCTIONAL SPACES OF THE LEARNING COMMONS

ITs:

1. Networked multimedia PC workstation with printing and scanning facilities
2. Computer Lab
3. Language Learning Studio
4. IT helpdesk

Library:

1. Magazine and newspaper loan

Cultural:

1. Small or large group multi-function studio for rehearsal live music and media performance
2. Conference/ discussion rooms, seminar rooms
3. Gallery/ exhibition space/ market place
4. Coffee corner
5. Informal open seating



Fig. 2.66

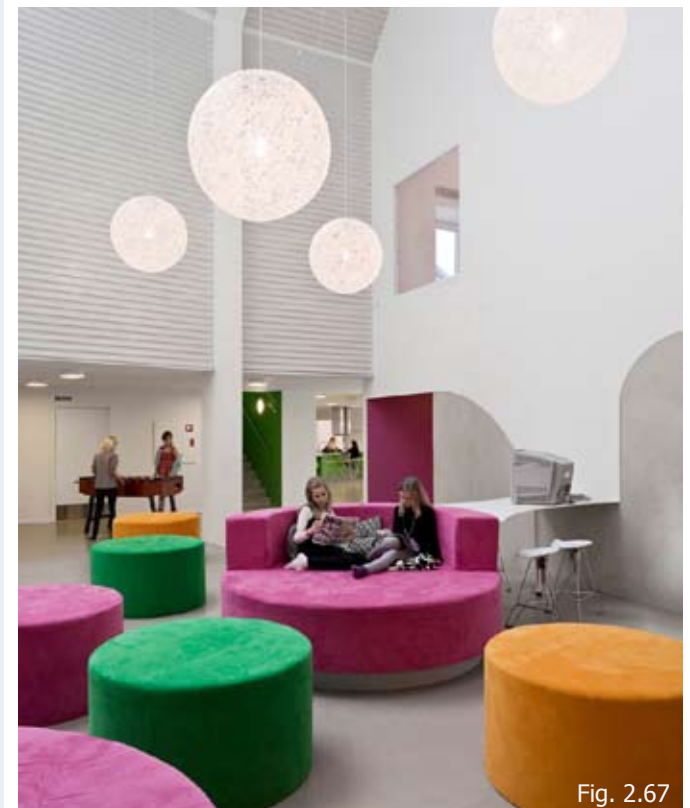


Fig. 2.67