

WORKSHOP

Collaborative Learning Lab

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At the Collaborative Learning Lab (collab) at the University of Teacher Education Zurich (PH Zürich), new forms of teaching and learning are being piloted and evaluated. It enables lecturers in initial and continuing education to implement a wide range of methodological and didactic approaches and to test them in a teaching context. Across an area of around 500 square metres, lecturers, continuing education participants and students have access to four new teaching and learning spaces and a social zone.

The spaces comprise a co-creation space, a design thinking room, a hybrid experimental room and a studio. The collab is located in the Leutschentower in Oerlikon, where the Zurich University of Teacher Education moved into additional premises in mid-September 2024. It complements the premises and infrastructure of the Zurich University of Teacher Education on the Europaallee campus.

The spaces were developed through a design thinking process with external support across two workshops. In the first workshop, the diverse group explored future learning at the university and the spaces required for this. In the second workshop, Lego prototypes were developed for the spaces.

The first results suggest that the spaces encourage experimentation and are perceived as highly stimulating and conducive to learning. Particular praise has been given to the lighting, the flexible and attractive furnishings, the available consumables, the technical facilities and the ease of use. The main point of criticism is the distance from the main site, which makes it difficult to use the facilities as part of training, for example.

Information about collab:

<https://phzh.ch/ueber-die-phzh/campus/collaborative-learning-lab/>

<https://learningspaces.ch/phzh-collab/>

Thomas Staub is a lecturer in media and computer science at the PHZH. His interest in learning within a digital culture has led him to explore learning spaces and their development as a far-reaching process of school development.