SCHOOL DESIGN LAB SUPPORTS AMBITIOUS SYSTEM LEADERS & EDUCATORS TO REIMAGINE & REDESIGN SCHOOL
The world as we know it is changing. Big shifts in politics, the economy and technology are shaping our lives in ways that we mostly can’t predict or control. The very nature of work, family and community are beginning to look and feel very different.

The world has changed, but most schools haven’t. Over the last 10 years, we’ve learned that school designs can make or break innovations in education. New and innovative designs for teaching and learning all too often fail without a new and innovative school design to go with it.
REIMAGINE
REDESIGN
REINVENT
School Design Lab was set up by Innovation Unit to support ambitious system leaders and educators to build the capacity of schools to reinvent themselves over and over again.
A HOLISTIC APPROACH

VISION AND PURPOSE

WIDER SYSTEM ENGAGEMENT
Strategic partnerships, Other education institutions, Employers, Parents & community

OUTCOME FRAMEWORKS

LEARNING
Pedagogy, Assessment, Curriculum

PEOPLE SYSTEMS
Relationships, Leadership, Professional learning, Culture

INFRASTRUCTURE
Technology, Time, Space
A VISION FOR THRIVING WORK

Thriving societies of tomorrow need thriving youth people today.

For young people to thrive they need:

- The right condition for well being.
- Opportunities to develop as people and citizens
- Agency that is built on both knowledge and skills.
WE ARE COMMITTED TO CHANGE THAT IS:

- FUTURE-FOCUSED AND REAL-WORLD
- EMPATHETIC AND LEARNER-CENTERED
- PROBLEM AND ENQUIRY-BASED
- BIASED TOWARDS ACTION
- MULTI-DISCIPLINARY
WE PULL TOGETHER A WEALTH OF EXPERIENCE AND INSIGHT FROM ACROSS THE WORLD:

GLOBAL EXEMPLARS OF EXTRAORDINARY SCHOOLING AND LEARNING

AN IN-DEPTH DATASET OF DESIGN PRINCIPLES AND FEATURES OF EXTRAORDINARY SCHOOLS

DESIGN, LEARNING AND CHANGE EXPERTISE

GLOBAL RELATIONSHIPS
WHAT CAN SCHOOL DESIGN LAB DO FOR YOU?

01
the SCHOOL DESIGN INSTITUTE

02
the NEW SCHOOL DESIGN STUDIO

03
the RE-DESIGN COLLABORATIVE
A 5-day professional learning sprint that builds the school design capabilities of school teams. Each participating School Design Team will build the capabilities to

- gather user and organisational insights;
- rigorously design and test new approaches to schooling and learning; and
- grow and spread innovative, high-impact practice.

Design sprints are personalised for each school, providing the opportunity to put into practice the learning directly into their school and community.
DESIGNING THE NEXT GENERATION OF EXTRAORDINARY SCHOOLS IN AUSTRALIA.

WHAT

A rigorous design process to learn about, design and test innovative new designs for school. Departments or school systems will engage with an initial research phase, focused on School Builds. Working with Executive School Design Teams, they will then engage in three phases of work:

• ‘Phase 1’ - Explore what the future is likely to hold for your young people, be inspired by pathfinder schools and leading practice from across the globe and uncover the expectations and aspirations of your young people and other school stakeholders.
• ‘Phase 2’ - Develop Design Briefs for new and innovative approaches to schooling and learning bespoke to your context, rapid testing through paper/desktop-prototyping and rigorous testing through a day-long community-based Stakeholder Lab.
• ‘Phase 3’ - Develop a final vision statement and School Design Blueprint, supported by an implementation, learning and sustainability strategy.
A year-long experience within a Community of Practice which supports existing schools to learn about, design and test innovative new designs for schooling and learning. Pathfinder schools who represent leading/exemplar practice will provide support to new members, alongside IU’s School Design Lab team. Members will convene once per term at a Symposium of Extraordinary Learning. Members will be able to request bespoke support from our School Design Suite throughout the year.
Existing schools
THE INSTITUTE

New schools
DESIGN STUDIO

A thriving network
SCHOOL DESIGN COLLABORATIVE
Innovation Unit has a depth of experience in working with ambitious schools and systems to reimagine learning.
We provided school design support to Rising Academies - an ambitious new network of affordable, high quality and innovative schools in Sierra Leone. In preparation for the opening of their first school, our experts designed the schools’ pedagogy, curriculum development plan and schedule.
We have been working with School 21 in London since before its opening in 2012. It is an outstanding school where students, “achieve remarkable standards of work and demonstrate knowledge and skills at levels beyond those expected of their age group” (Ofsted 2014). We supported the design and establishment of their project-based learning offer, and are currently working on the design of their 21st century sixth form.
As partner for the New York City Department of Education innovation zone, we worked with school leaders to design new school models that delivered personalised learning. Innovation Unit experts facilitated the workshops and supported the development of a network of school leaders and design partners.
In collaboration with the Association of Independent Schools of New South Wales (AISNSW) we have led a multi-year program to develop effective next practice pedagogy for high potential learners. Together we supported Communities of Practice to embark on a design-led, robust process of disciplined innovation, resulting in the prototyping and evaluation of 15 new practices.
Innovation Unit
New solutions for thriving societies