


The tower of Babel remains to this
day the metaphor for the nightmare of man's inability to communicate because of language differences. Such communication problems still exist some 2500 years later. However, it is rarely a language
barrier that is responsible but rather the lack of a communication culture Communication should be lively and unforced and find its place
everywhere - from reception to
conference room. The good news:
communication can be planned!



## Meetings enable opinions to win majorities!

We spend a good half of our working life in meetings. These include informal tête-à-têtes at any location as well as the classic round table situation in a special room. So not all meetings are alike! One thing however is equally important: the sharing of information by communication! Contributing to knowledge transfer and even trust.

How a meeting is organised, presented and carried out, depends on the format. Here, we differentiate between various situations: the conference or presentation, the training session, the video-conference, the project or team meeting. Each type of meeting has different needs.

The participants: from I to We

An important factor: do I sit alone and communicate by means of technology, am I in a stimulating one-on-one situation, are we having a team meeting with up to six participants or is this a large gathering?


2 dimensions of meeting activities mobile or fix set out.

The flexibility of the facilities:

The furnishings, technical facilities and room design should provide an optimum framework for the meeting. The conference table can be movable and folding, the chairs stackable, the technical equipment modestly concealed in the table or imposingly

The media:
simple or high-tech
Pinboards or whiteboards are now a widely used standard. The widerranging the purpose and the larger the circle of participants, the more creative the means. Room management and booking systems like RoomWizard go straight to the target, while the documents produced from the interactive whiteboard contribute to the discussion. Comprehensive media controls and the latest technology make meeting rooms "intelligent" Meeting with infotainment!

The type of communication: formal or informal
The place, the selected equipment and the number of participants often dictate the pattern of communication for a planned meeting, a fixed room is selected - in the office or in the conference room. The informal or spontaneous meeting, on the other hana, needs a relaxed space, often at strategic crossing points or in a ial situation


## 6 key factors for a good meeting

There is space in the smallest room according to a well known saying. This may well be true. However, it all depends what you need space for... media technology, lighting, acoustics, air conditioning, furnishings and equipment are elements that shape a room and only provide optimum conditions for communication when properly coordinated with one another.

## ysex

## Technology integration

Meeting areas are technical terrain: the Infrastructure for information and communications technology must be available and accessible, presentation equipment such as projectors need standing and projection surfaces.

## *

## Air conditioning

The meeting area should have a comfortable room temperature o about $21^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$. This is important for concentration and performance.

Fluctuating temperatures cause stress. Oxygen content and humidity are as important.


Lighting
Uniform room lighting - dimmable for presentation purposes - is essential Daylight (direct sunlight) must also be controllable to avoid disturbing glare and reflections.

## 

## Furniture

Ergonomics are an important "partici pant" in successful meetings. As is also the efficient use of floor area With folding and stacking furniture that can serve multiple functions, you gain space, save costs and reduce the floor area required

## $C)$ <br> Acoustics

In planned communication areas, the private acoustic sphere is key Important here is the correct selection and placing of sound absorbing and sound reflecting surfaces


## Surfaces/Materials

Dress your communication room appropriately: warm colours are suitable for creative areas, neutral and uniform tones create a peaceful atmosphere for relatively formal occasions.

Meeting areas for all occasions


Each kind of meeting has its own requirements. However, meetings are also living entities that do not follow strict lines. Often, one meeting situation, such as, for example, a training session, develops into another, possibly informal, that continues, nevertheless at the same place.


Multimedia makes data faster, the world smaller and discussions more impersonal. Perhaps this is why face to face communication is taking on such great importance it inspires creativity!


Work situations, founded on Teams
or face-to-face discussions are
on the advance: up to $\mathbf{8 0 \%}$ of all
discussions take place between
pairs. Active promoting this situation
can have a whole host of positive
effects - from motivation because
personal contact makes work more fun
to team development. Such factors,
in the end, add value to the business.

Wherein lies the secret? Actually, its under your nose. Those in-between and reception areas in the office are just made for chance meetings and spontaneous interaction but too little used. Nevertheless, it is often here

## that the best innovations are born

 and not in the research and development departments. To use them better, is to consciously allow, plan for and promote communication. B Free Lounge from Steelcase is the first range of furniture that is at its best precisely at these places where people and ideas come together


Studies on working in pairs read like a bestseller: it produces the most creative and successful results; the information content of such informal discussions is in the region of $70 \%$. Office structures that provide the framework for unplanned meetings with others without disturbing the rhythm of work and concentration enable important \& valuable knowledge to circulate within the business.


Thinking out of the box, the invitation to be creative - that should be seen in the furniture! Ripple rocks.



Surroundings and technical facilities the success factors

Detailed discussions work well in a fixed framework. As a rule, this is a conference room. This is where the technical equipment used for intensive discussions - including those with multiple participants - should always be available.




Formal round table meetings are also a sign of a strong communications
culture. The space available, its appearance, acoustics and equipment must
be right. This is why practical and usable conference rooms should
always be bespoke solutions! Nothing should stand in the way of lively debate within the team. This improves
collaboration increases identification with the task and the organisation, allows information to flow and raises productivity




All situations shown here have one thing in common: free combination. This should be equally available in open and closed conference rooms. It makes them multi-purpose, from classical conference to training session.



Clever products that can be put to use with no great effort reduce the costs for conference rooms because they increase the rate of use.

Anything that can be wheeled, folded, combined, stacked and stored without problem contributes to the multiplicity of uses - for meetings, conferences project work or training sessions. Be convinced!

eastside
-
FLIPTOP2

wERNDL \#1
COMMUNICATOR2


Some meetings have their own needs for example the video conference. On the world datahighway, the office no longer has a fixed address. Instead, picture and sound signals





Wernal \#1

Think

astside

## 

Westside


B Free Lounge


Ripple


Bix


Sidewalk


