



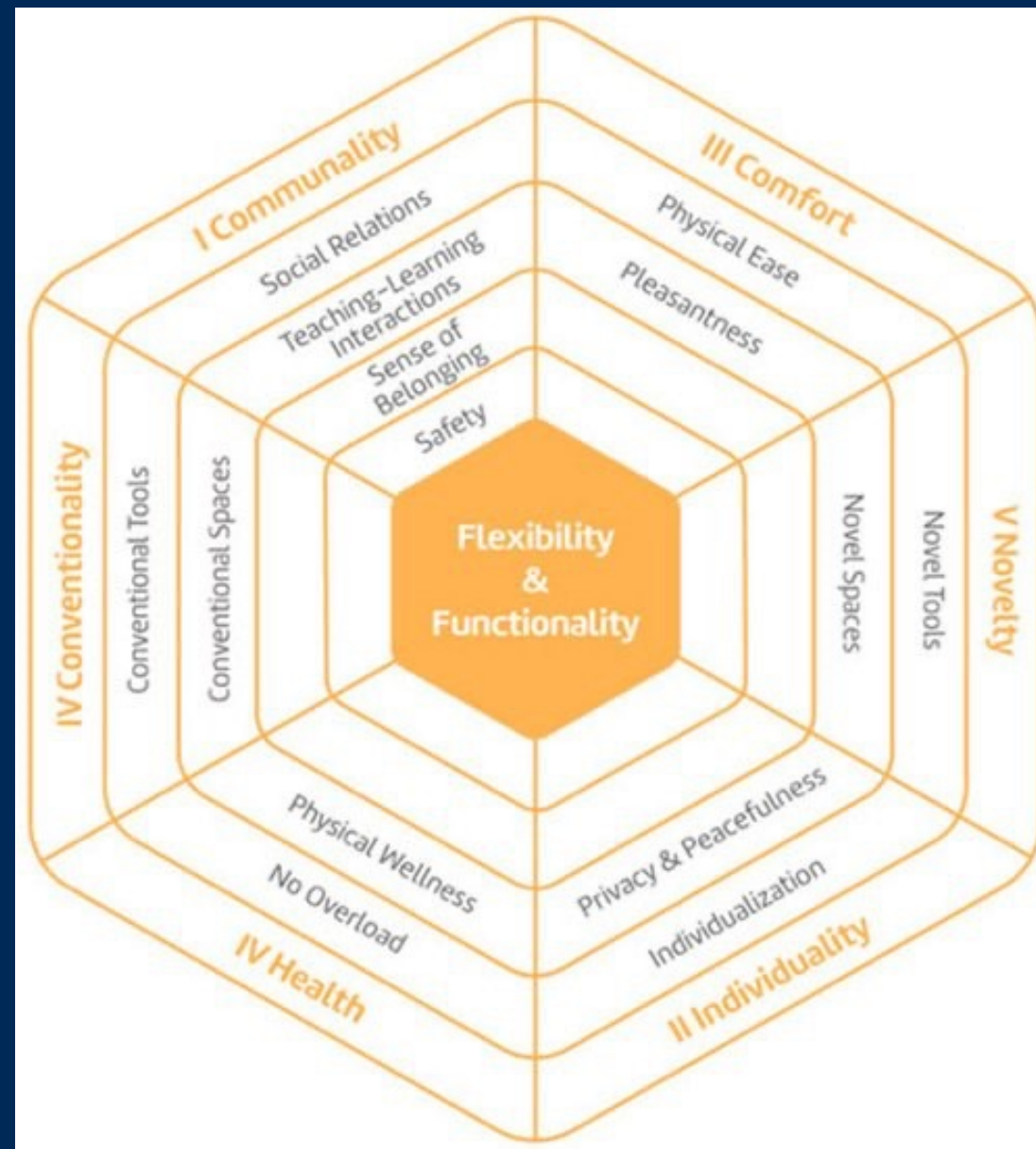
JYVÄSKYLÄN YLIOPISTO
UNIVERSITY OF JYVÄSKYLÄ

FRAMEWORK FOR CO-DESIGNING ENVIRONMENTS CONDUCIVE TO LEARNING AND WELLBEING

Tiina Mäkelä (PhD),

Innovative Learning Environments research group

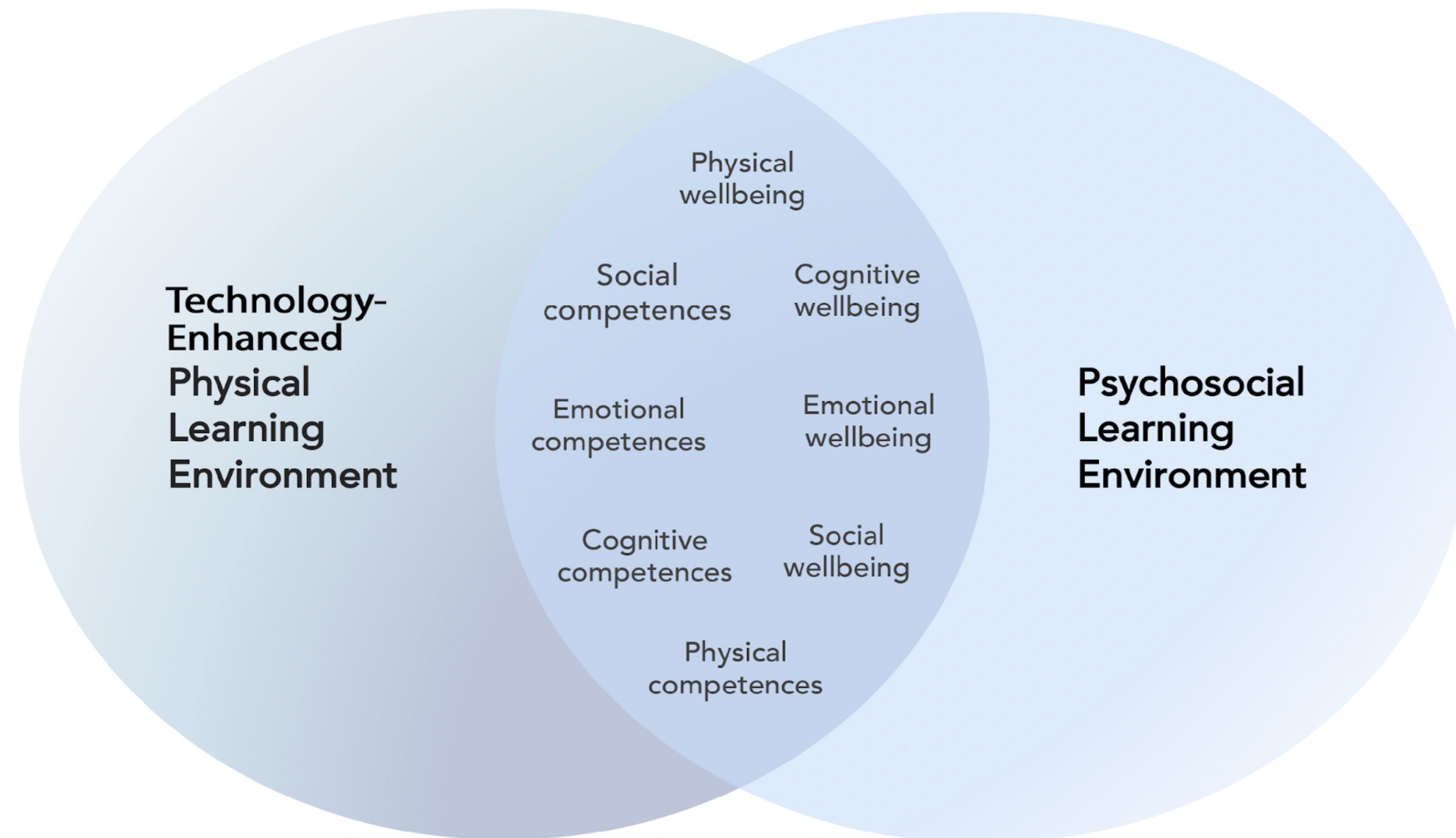
Finnish Institute for Educational Research, University of Jyväskylä



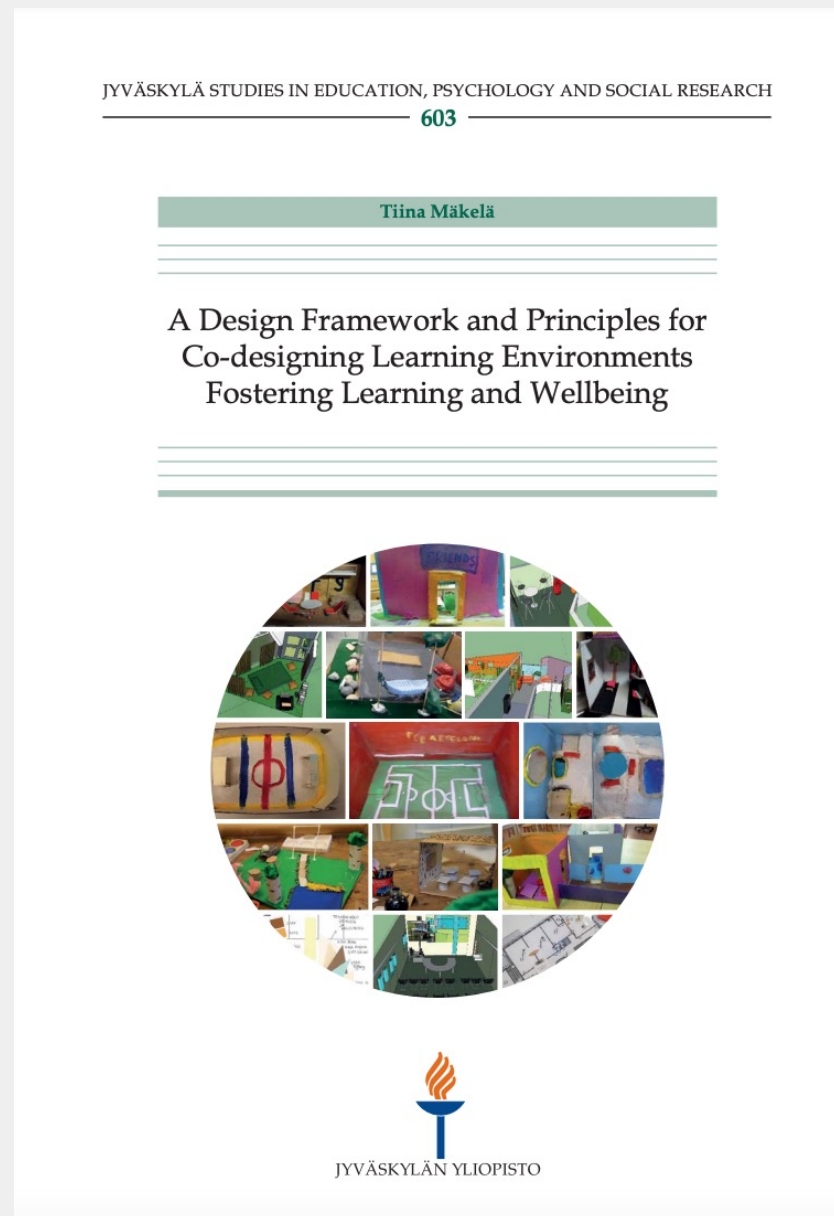
Part I: Introduction to Learning Environment Design (LED) framework
Part II: Balancing communality with individuality
Part III: Balancing comfort with health
Part IV: Balancing novelty with conventionality
Part V: Flexibility and functionality

Visualisation of the LED framework by Iconograph

Defining learning environments



The LED framework version 1



Open Access Article

Design Framework and Principles for Learning Environment Co-Design: Synthesis from Literature and Three Empirical Studies

by Tiina Mäkelä ^{1,*} and Teemu Leinonen ²

¹ Finnish Institute for Educational Research, University of Jyväskylä, P.O. Box 35, FI-40014 University of Jyväskylä, Finland

² School of Arts, Design and Architecture, Aalto University, P.O. Box 11000, FI-00076 Aalto, Finland

* Author to whom correspondence should be addressed.

Academic Editors: Pamela Woolner and Paula Cardellino

Buildings **2021**, *11*(12), 581; <https://doi.org/10.3390/buildings11120581>

Received: 13 October 2021 / Revised: 16 November 2021 / Accepted: 22 November 2021 / Published: 25 November 2021

(This article belongs to the Special Issue **Learning Environment Design and Use**)

[View Full-Text](#)

[Download PDF](#)

[Browse Figures](#)

[Citation Export](#)

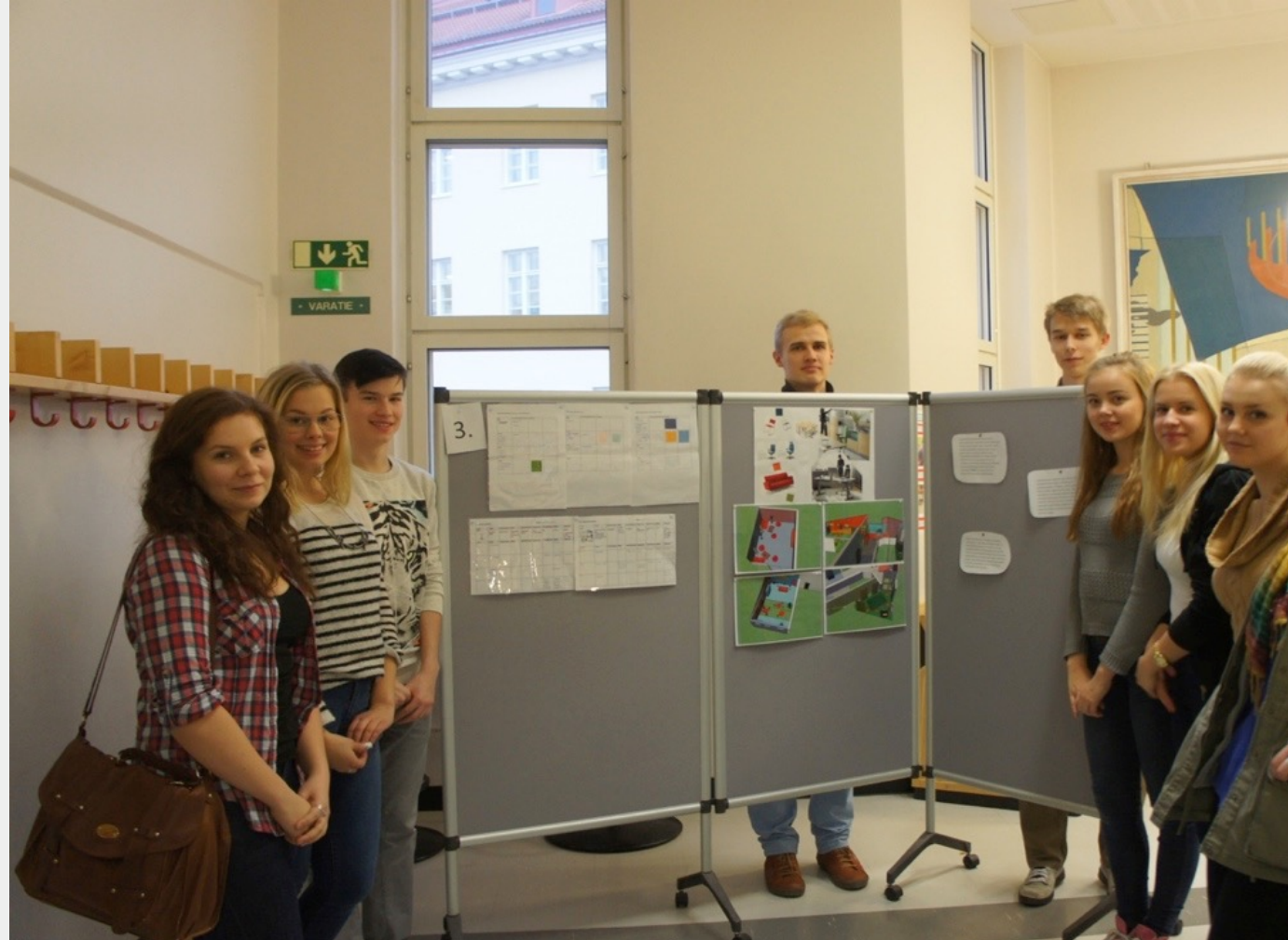
Mäkelä, T. (2018). A design framework and principles for co-designing learning environments fostering learning and wellbeing. Jyväskylä, Finland: University of Jyväskylä. Jyväskylä studies in education, psychology and social research, 603. <http://urn.fi/URN:ISBN:978-951-39-7332-2>

Mäkelä, T., & Leinonen, T. (2021). Design Framework and Principles for Learning Environment Co-Design: Synthesis from Literature and Three Empirical Studies. *Buildings*, *11*(12), 581. <http://dx.doi.org/10.3390/buildings11120581>

Learner perception:

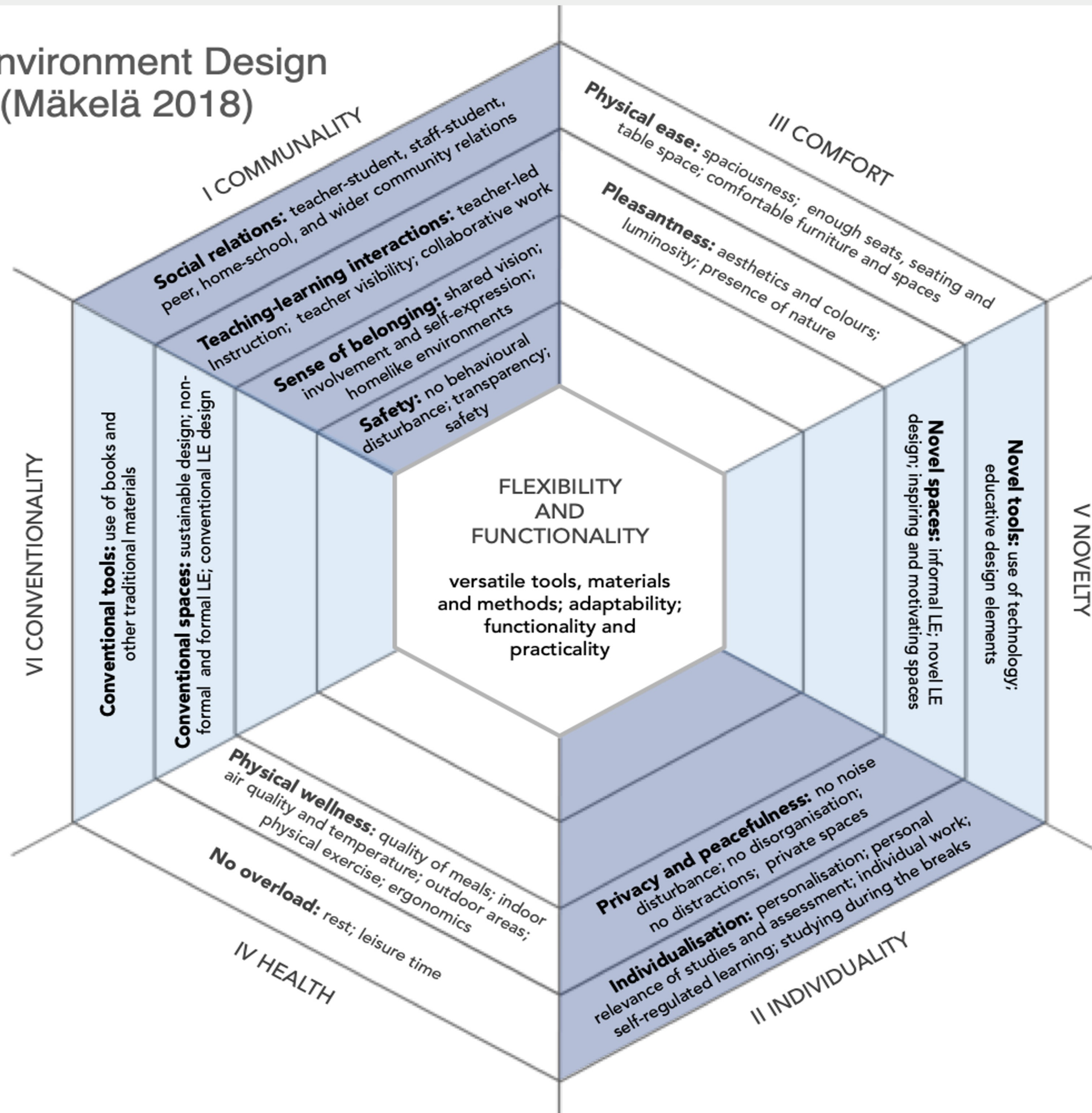
LED framework V1 was based on research literature and empirical studies involving learners' in the LE design:

- Survey collecting learners' perspectives
- Co-design workshops

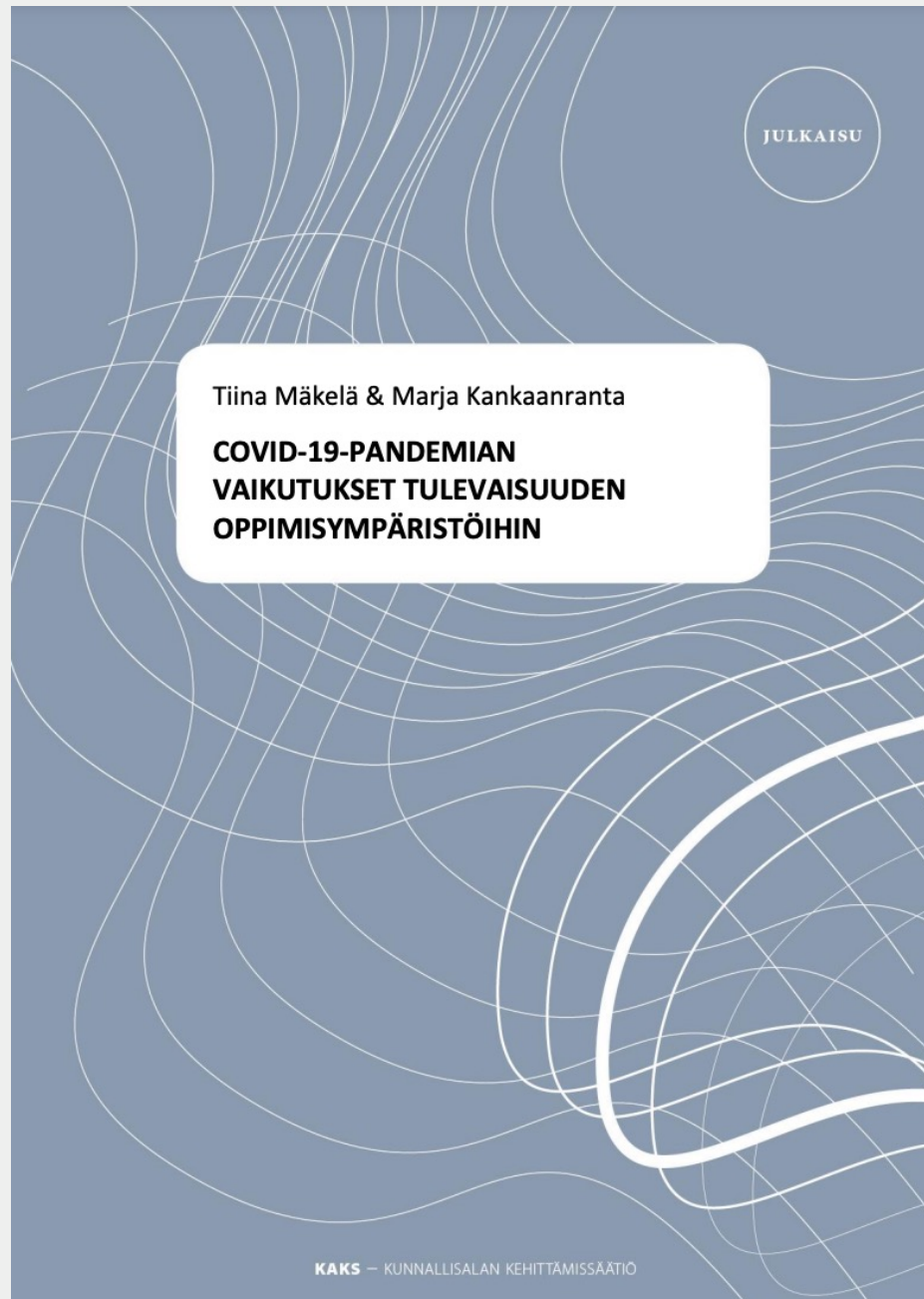




Learning Environment Design framework (Mäkelä 2018)



Need for updating the framework



- Need to consider better teachers' perspective
- Blended/hybrid LEs: combining onsite (at educational institution) and online (e.g., at home) teaching and learning
- Other LE requirements that COVID-19 pandemic brought into light.
- **Expert review:** Ten Finnish experts reviewed the framework/related questionnaire items.
 - Expertise on all educational levels from early childhood to higher education (researchers, architects, school directors, teachers, administrators, consultants)

Impacts of COVID-19 pandemic on future learning environments:

Mäkelä, T., & Kankaanranta, M. (2021). COVID-19 pandemian vaikutukset tulevaisuuden oppimisympäristöihin. Kunnallissalan kehittämssäätiön julkaisu, 42.

NOTE: Currently published only in Finnish. Finnish publication entails, however, a good list of references in English related to this topic: https://kaks.fi/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/42_covid-19-pandemian-vaikutukset-tulevaisuuden-oppimisymparistoihin.pdf

Learning environment design (LED) -survey



- Created based on the framework and its seven LE constructs, 16 subthemes and 89 characteristics fostering teaching-learning processes and wellbeing
- Both closed and open-ended questions to collect teachers' and learners' perceptions of
 - (a) the importance of each LE characteristic (Likert scale 1-5),
 - (b) how well they are considered in their actual LE (Likert scale 1-5), and
 - (c) how they could be better considered in their LEs (open-ended questions).

	1	2	3	4	5
	Täysin eri mieltä	Eri mieltä	Ei samaa eikä eri mieltä	Samaa mieltä	Täysin samaa mieltä
Opettajajohtoinen opetus on tärkeää.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Nykyinen ympäristö tukee opettajajohtoista opetusta. <i>Esim. mahdollisuudet opettajajohtoiseen opetukseen; opettajan pöytä ja liitutaulu tai sähköinen taulu luokan edessä; sopiva katseluetäisyys esitystekniikkaan; (video)luennot ilman vuorovaikutusta.</i>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>



- Currently data from
 - teachers (n = 150) representing early childhood (n = 36), primary (n = 37) and secondary (n = 77) education: *similarities and differences between educational levels*
 - high school teachers (n = 176) and students (n = 1189): *similarities and differences between teachers and students*
 - high school teachers (n = 16) before and after employing new school spaces: *experienced improvement*
- **Research-based principles for designing learning environments conducive to learning and wellbeing**

RELATED PUBLICATIONS



Mäkelä, T., & Leinonen, T. (2021). Design Framework and Principles for Learning Environment Co-Design: Synthesis from Literature and Three Empirical Studies. *Buildings* 11, (12), 581.

Mäkelä, T., & Kankaanranta, M. (2021). COVID-19 pandemian vaikutukset tulevaisuuden oppimisympäristöihin. *Kunnallissalan kehittämissäätöön julkaisu*, 42.

Mäkelä, T. (2019). Suunnitteluviitekehys ja periaatteita oppimista ja hyvinvointia edistävien oppimisympäristöjen yhteissuunnitteluun. *Oppimisen ja oppimisvaikeuksien erityislehti : NMI-bulletin*, 29 (1), 10-18.

Mäkelä, T. (2018). A Design Framework and Principles for Co-designing Learning Environments Fostering Learning and Wellbeing. *Learning by design*, 27 (Supplement: Dialogues 02), 10-11.

Mäkelä, T. (2018). A design framework and principles for co-designing learning environments fostering learning and wellbeing. Jyväskylä, Finland: University of Jyväskylä. *Jyväskylä studies in education, psychology and social research*, 603.

Mäkelä, T., Helfenstein, S., Lerkkanen, M.-K., & Poikkeus, A.-M. (2018). Student participation in learning environment improvement: analysis of a co-design project in a Finnish upper secondary school. *Learning Environments Research*, 21 (1), 19-41.

Mäkelä, T. & Helfenstein, S. (2016). Developing a Conceptual Framework for Participatory Design of Psychosocial and Physical Learning Environments. *Learning Environments Research*, 19(3), 411-440.

Mäkelä, T., Lundström, A., & Mikkonen, I. (2015). Oppimistilojen yhteissuunnittelua: opiskelijat aktiivisina osallistujina. (Co-designing learning spaces: Students as active participants) In S. Nenonen, S. Kärnä, J.-M. Junnonen, S. Tähtinen, & N. Sandström (Eds.), *Oppiva kampus: how to co-create campus?* (pp. 272-287). Tampere, Finland: Suomen Yliopistokiinteistöt.

Mäkelä, T., Kankaanranta, M., & Gallagher, C. (2014). "Involving students in the redesigning of learning environments conducive to learning and wellbeing", *Proceedings of the 6th Annual Architectural Research Symposium in Finland*, 23.-25.10.2014, Oulu, 268-281.

Mäkelä, T., Kankaanranta, M. & Helfenstein, S. (2014). Considering Learners' Perceptions in Designing Effective 21st Century Learning Environments for Basic Education in Finland. *The International Journal of Educational Organization and Leadership*, 20 (3), 1-13.



tiina.m.makela@jyu.fi

<https://www.jyu.fi/it/en/research/research-areas/cognitive-science-and-educational-technology/ile>



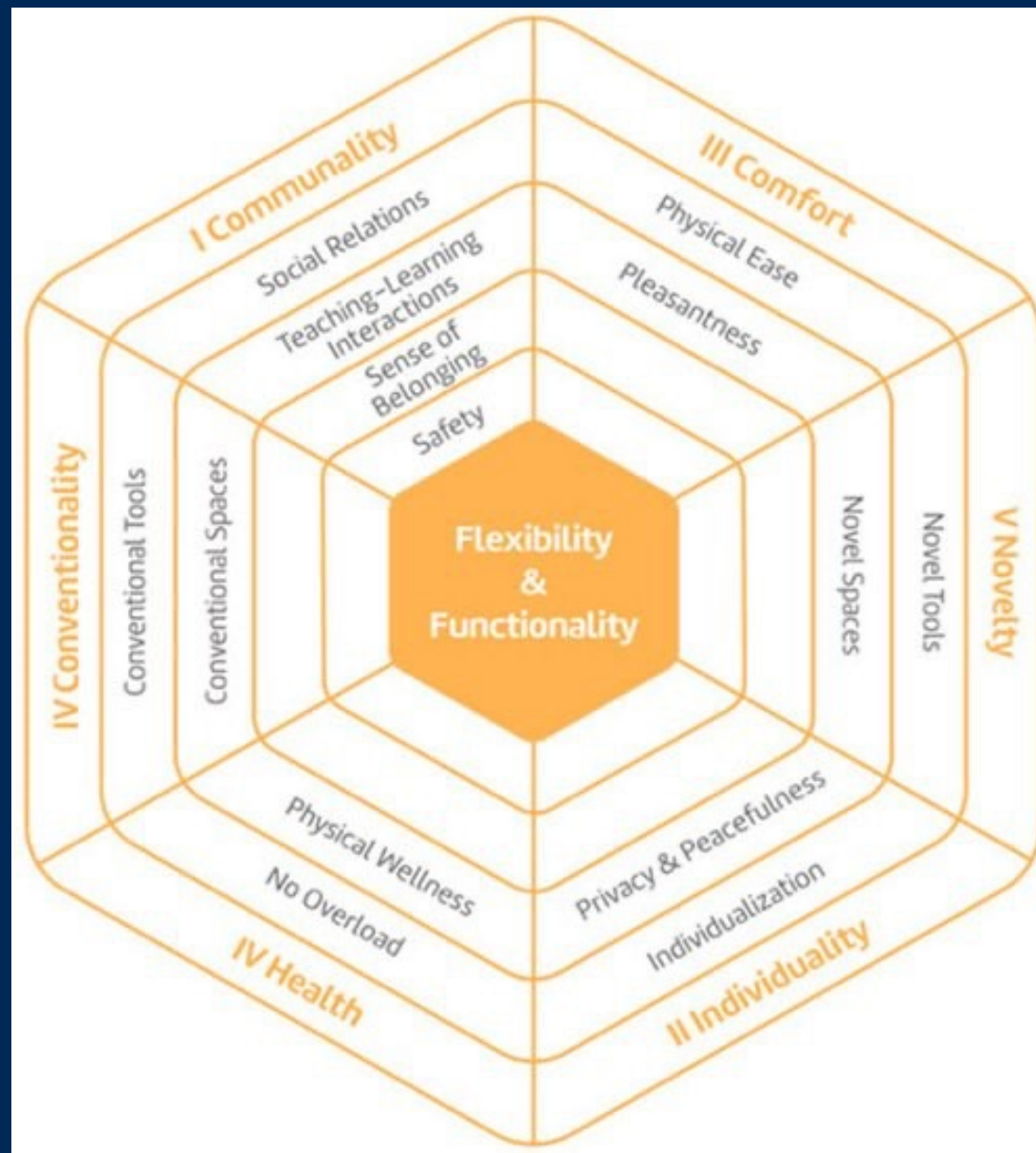
JYVÄSKYLÄN YLIOPISTO
UNIVERSITY OF JYVÄSKYLÄ

FRAMEWORK FOR CO-DESIGNING ENVIRONMENTS CONDUCIVE TO LEARNING AND WELLBEING

Tiina Mäkelä (PhD),

Innovative Learning Environments research group

Finnish Institute for Educational Research, University of Jyväskylä



Part I: Introduction to Learning Environment Design (LED) framework

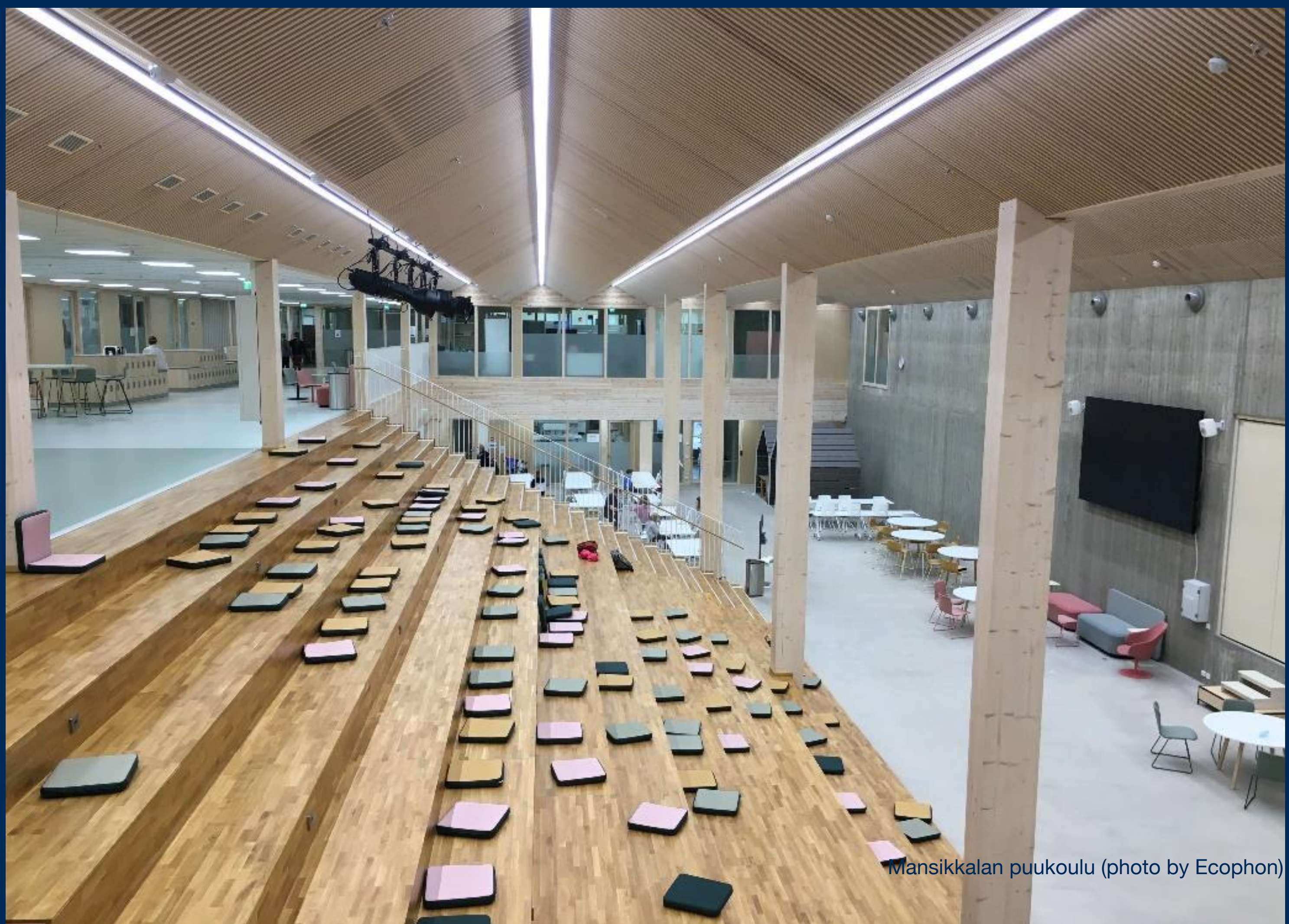
Part II: Balancing communality with individuality

Part III: Balancing comfort with health

Part IV: Balancing novelty with conventionality

Part V: Flexibility and functionality

Visualisation of the LED framework by Iconograph



Mansikkalan puukoulu (photo by Ecophon)



I COMMUNALITY (A) TEACHING-LEARNING INTERACTION

”Versatile possibilities and spaces for collaboration”

I.1 Teacher-led instruction

I.2 Teacher visibility

I.3 Learner-centredness

I.4 Collaboration between teachers

I.5 Collaboration between teachers and support personnel

I.6 Learner collaboration

I.7 Transversal project-based learning



I.6 Learner collaboration & I.7 Transversal project-based learning:

Laboratory tables in the classroom; group working areas inside and outside the classroom

I.2 Teacher visibility: Glass walls, wide sliding doors





I COMMUNALITY

"Spaces for encounters, participation and self-expression"



(B) SOCIAL RELATIONS

- I.8 Teacher-learner relations
- I.9 Peer relations (teachers)
- I.10 Peer relations (learners)
- I.11 Teacher-staff relations
- I.12 Learner-staff relations
- I.13 Teacher-management relations
- I.14 Learner-management relations
- I.15 Home-school relations
- I.16 Wider community relations

(C) SENSE OF BELONGING

- I.17 Shared vision
- I.18 Involvement and self-expression (teachers)
- I.19 Involvement and self-expression (learners)
- I.20 Homelike environment



I COMMUNALITY (D) SAFETY

“Confidential atmosphere and easy monitoring, but not necessarily glass walls”

I.21 No behavioural disturbance

I.22 Transparency

I.23 Psychosocial safety

I.24 Physical safety

I.25 Safe distance





I INDIVIDUALITY (A) INDIVIDUALISATION

"Possibilities and spaces for personalised, self-regulated and individual work"



- II.1 Personalised learning
- II.2 Personal relevance of teaching
- II.3 Personal relevance of studies
- II.4 Personally relevant assessment
- II.5 Self-regulated learning
- II.6 Individual work (teachers)
- II.7 Individual work (learners)
- II.8 Studying during breaks

I INDIVIDUALITY (B) PRIVACY AND PEACEFULNESS



”Good soundproofing and private spaces”

II.9 No noise disturbance

II.10 No disorganisation

II.11 No distractions

II.12 Privacy (teachers)

II.13 Privacy (learners)





tiina.m.makela@jyu.fi

<https://www.jyu.fi/it/en/research/research-areas/cognitive-science-and-educational-technology/ile>



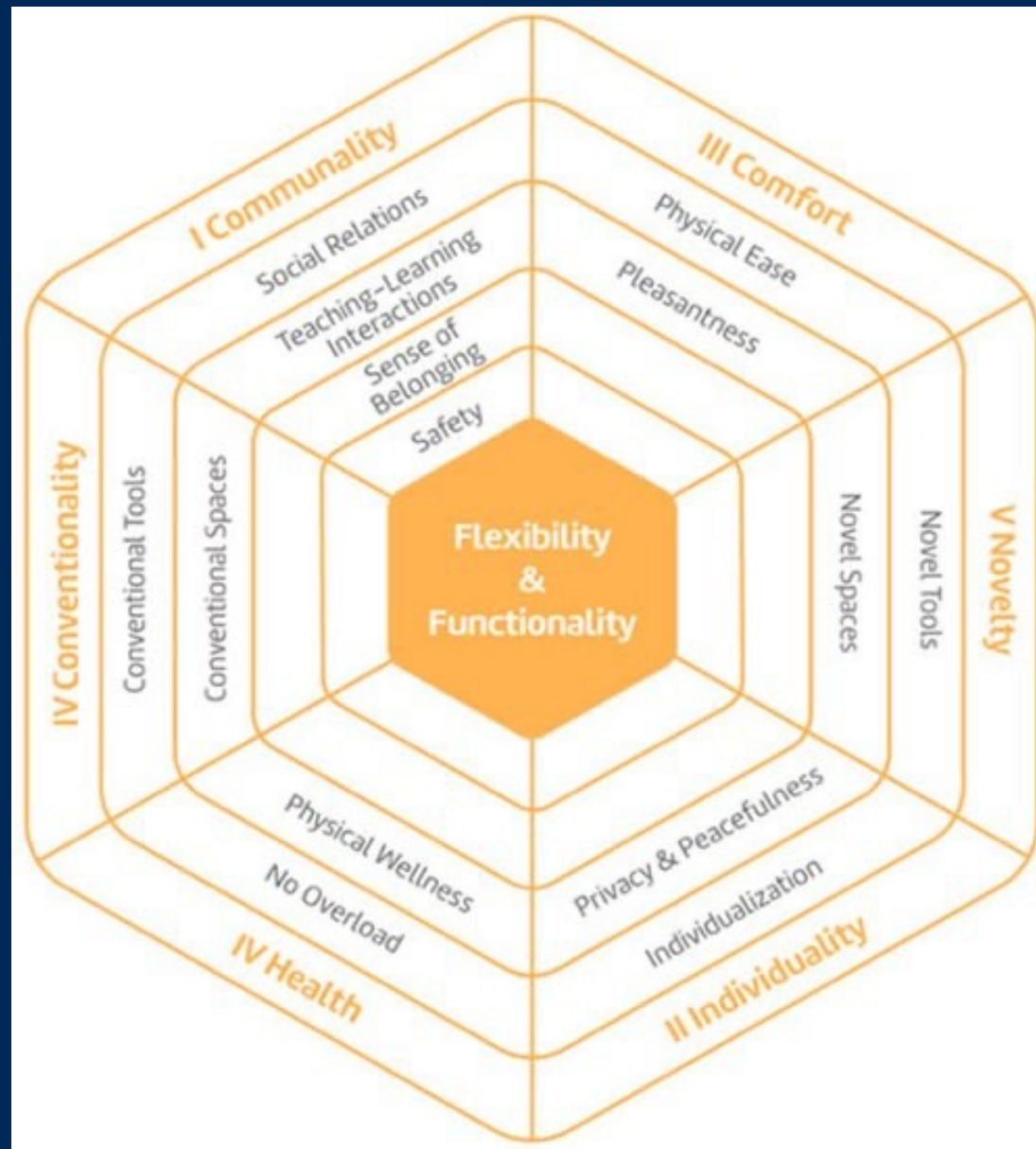
JYVÄSKYLÄN YLIOPISTO
UNIVERSITY OF JYVÄSKYLÄ

FRAMEWORK FOR CO-DESIGNING ENVIRONMENTS CONDUCIVE TO LEARNING AND WELLBEING

Tiina Mäkelä (PhD),

Innovative Learning Environments research group

Finnish Institute for Educational Research, University of Jyväskylä



Part I: Introduction to Learning Environment Design (LED) framework

Part II: Balancing communality with individuality

Part III: Balancing comfort with health

Part IV: Balancing novelty with conventionality

Part V: Flexibility and functionality

Visualisation of the LED framework by Iconograph



III COMFORT (A) PHYSICAL EASE

"Enough space and comfortable furniture"

III.1 Spaciousness

III.2 Enough seating space

III.3 Enough table space

III.4 Enough seats

III.5 Enough tables

III.6 Comfortable furniture

III.7 Comfortable spaces





III COMFORT (B) PLEASANTNESS

”Aesthetic interior design, colours, luminosity and presence of nature”

III.8 Aesthetics

III.9 Colours

III.10 Calming colours

III.11 Inspiring and motivating colours

III.12 Luminosity

III.13 Presence of nature







IV HEALTH (A) PHYSICAL WELLNESS

”Good indoor air, ergonomics and possibilities for physical exercise”

IV.1 Quality of meals

IV.2 Indoor air quality

IV.3 Indoor air temperature not too hot

IV.4 Indoor air temperature not too cold

IV.5 Cleanliness and hygiene

IV.6 Health care possibilities

IV.7 Ergonomics

IV.8 Physical exercise (indoors)

IV.9 Physical exercise (outdoors)





IV HEALTH (B) NO OVERLOAD

”Rest, leisure time and outdoor activities”

IV.10 Rest (teachers)

IV.11 Rest (learners)

IV.12 Leisure time

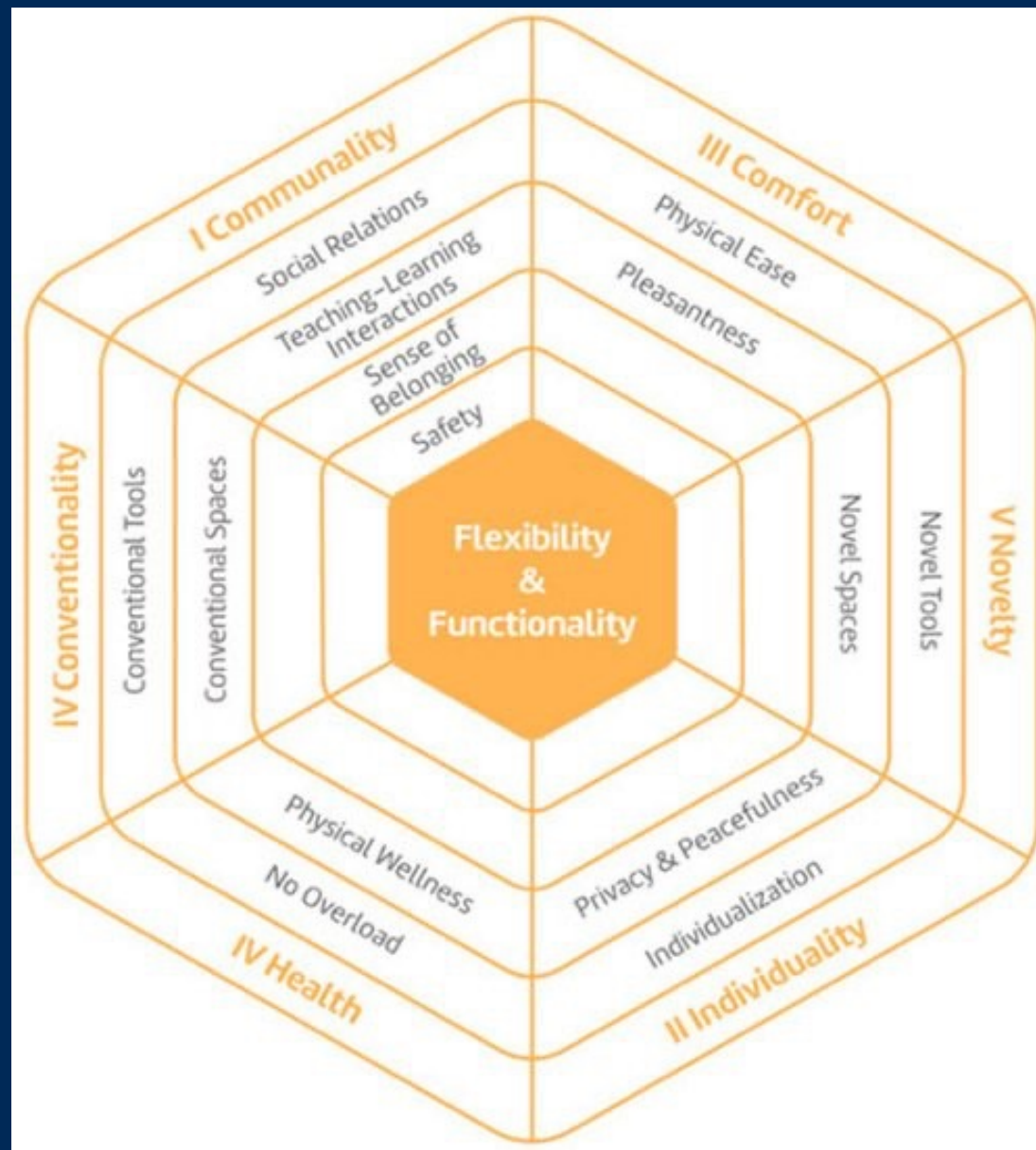
IV.13 Good outdoor activity areas





tiina.m.makela@jyu.fi

<https://www.jyu.fi/it/en/research/research-areas/cognitive-science-and-educational-technology/ile>



Part I: Introduction to Learning Environment Design (LED) framework

Part II: Balancing communality with individuality

Part III: Balancing comfort with health

Part IV: Balancing novelty with conventionality

Part V: Flexibility and functionality

Visualisation of the LED framework by Iconograph



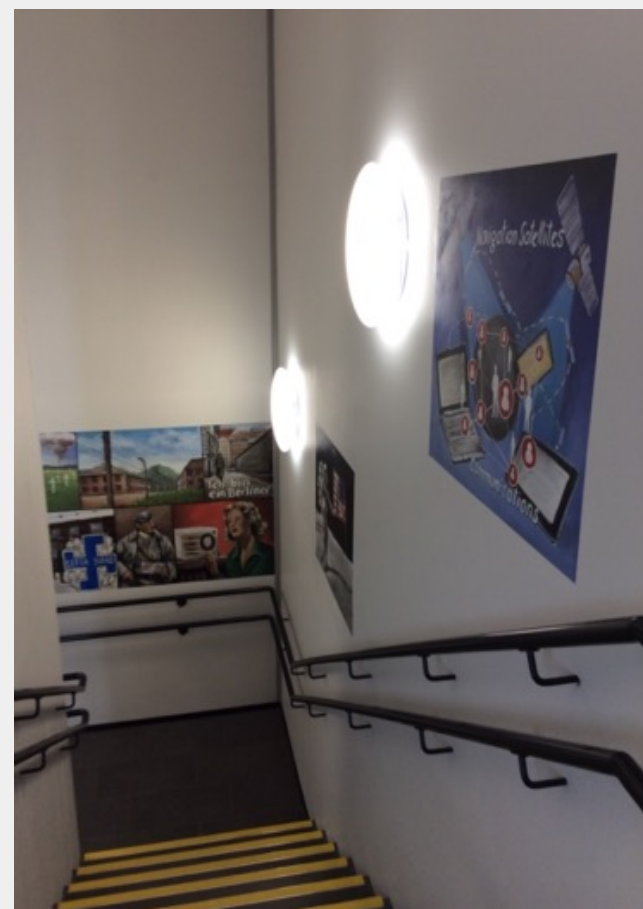
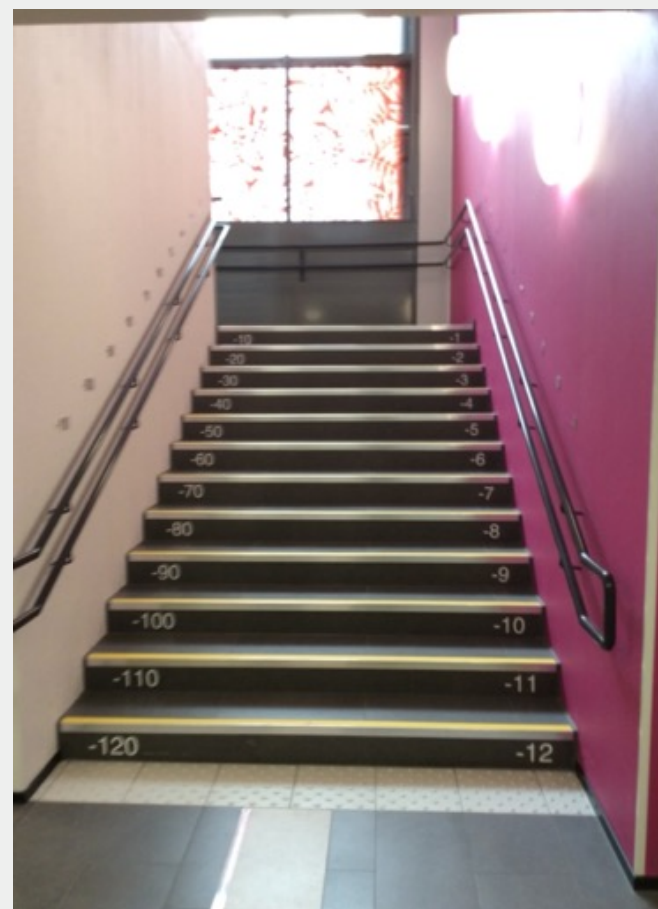
V NOVELTY (A) NOVEL TOOLS

"Technology as a part of everyday work"

V.1 Use of technology
(hardware/devices)

V.2 Use of technology
(software/programs)

V.3 Educational design elements



V NOVELTY (B) NOVEL SPACES



"Inspiring but not too open environments"



- V.4 Informal learning environments
- V.5 Outdoor learning
- V.6 Novel design
- V.7 Open learning environments
- V.8 Inspiring and motivating spaces



VI CONVENTIONALITY (A) CONVENTIONAL TOOLS

"Paper books and other traditional materials are important"



VI.1 Use of books

VI.2 Use of other traditional materials and tools



VI CONVENTIONALITY (B) CONVENTIONAL SPACES

“There should be room for traditional school design”



VI.3 Formal learning environments

VI.4 Conventional design

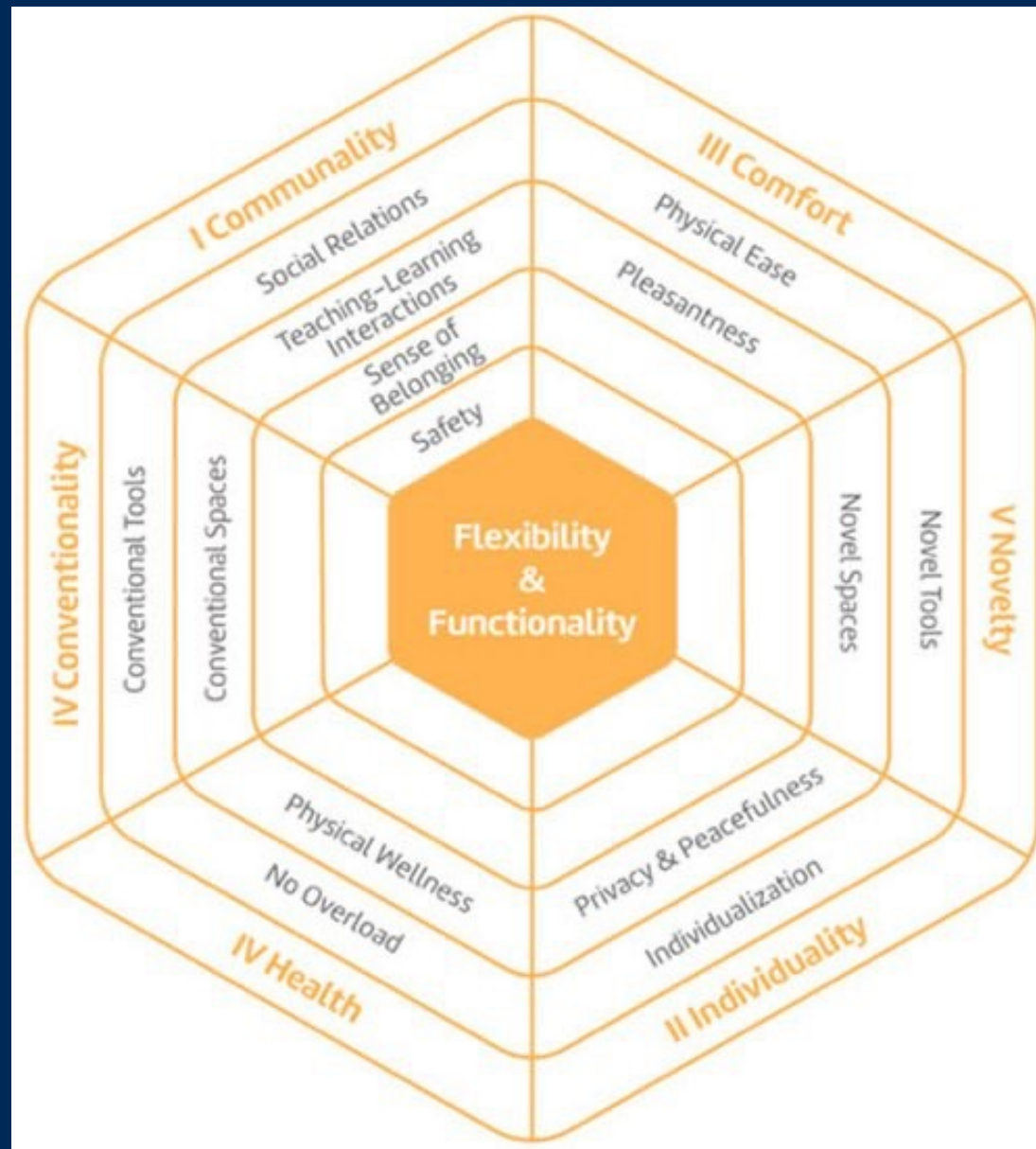
VI.5 Non-formal learning environments

VI.6 Sustainable design



tiina.m.makela@jyu.fi

<https://www.jyu.fi/it/en/research/research-areas/cognitive-science-and-educational-technology/ile>



Part I: Introduction to Learning Environment Design (LED) framework

Part II: Balancing communality with individuality

Part III: Balancing comfort with health

Part IV: Balancing novelty with conventionality

Part V: Flexibility and functionality

Visualisation of the LED framework by Iconograph



VII FLEXIBILITY AND FUNCTIONALITY (A) VERSATILITY

“Versatile methods, tools, space and ease of flexibility”

VII.1 Versatile methods

VII.2 Versatile use of tools and materials

VII.3 Versatile spaces

VII.4 Versatile decoration and furniture

VII.5 Adaptability and modifiability



VII FLEXIBILITY AND FUNCTIONALITY (B) EASE OF USE



”Functioning technology and spaces”

VII.6 Functionality and practicality

VII.7 Accessibility

VII.8 Ease of movement

VII.9 User support (physical spaces)

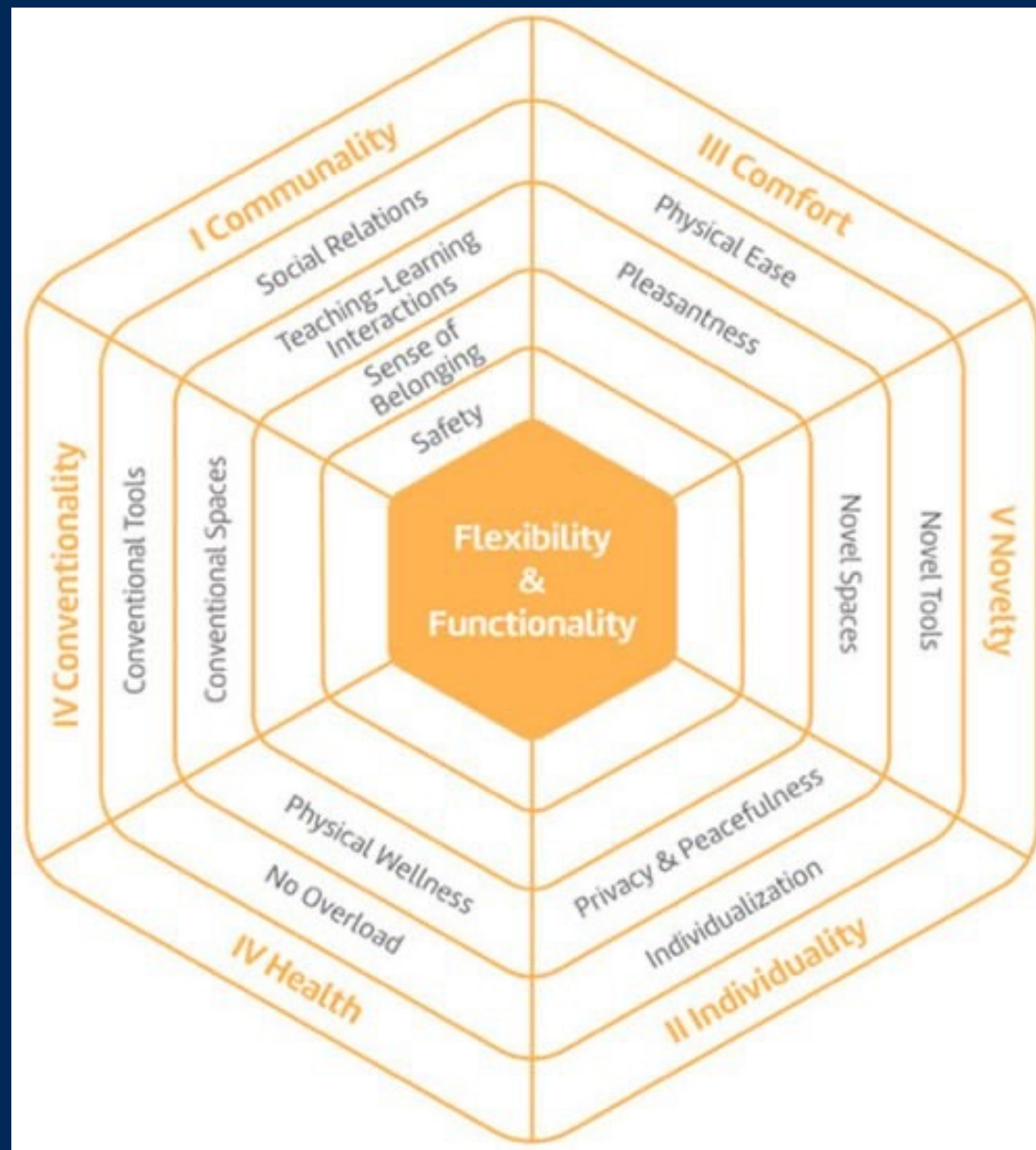
VII.10 Technological support

VII.11 Functionality of the technological infrastructure





Hiukkavaara school (photo by Ecophon)



Part I: Introduction to Learning Environment Design (LED) framework
 Part II: Balancing communality with individuality
 Part III: Balancing comfort with health
 Part IV: Balancing novelty with conventionality
 Part V: Flexibility and functionality

Visualisation of the LED framework by Iconograph



THANK YOU!

tiina.m.makela@jyu.fi

<https://www.jyu.fi/it/en/research/research-areas/cognitive-science-and-educational-technology/ile>