

Another lab layout (more mixed or.... messed)

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The lab rooms (MP125/MP126) layout is very much complicated by a number of construction details. There are 22 pillars (12 are for support and 10 hide ventilation ducts or electric panels). The physical plant design should take into account the presence of these bulky elements which make the rooms unsuitable for a large lecture setting, since the view along or across is largely obstructed.

I propose another design, which takes into account the need for wall space (to hold electric cables, but also white/smart boards and computer screens) – please see the enclosed map.

The middle wall between rooms 125 and 126 should be knocked down, as well as the back walls. The access door should be located in the middle and it should be a double-double door (maybe a glass one, as those which separate the UG area from the lobby). The side (actual) doors should be eliminated. On each side of the entrance there will be some storage equipment cabinets (smaller equipment cabinets should be placed in each of the rooms).

The resultant space can be subdivided by using brick movable walls (in red) *and* retractable walls (dotted) mounted on rails. The use of the support pillars lines could help. There would be 5 lab rooms, with enough wall space. The blue lines show some of the possible placements of the white/smart boards in rooms A, B, D and E (on the outer walls, there are some wall spaces between the vertical windows panes). The bulky ventilation pillars can be eventually used to support computer screens or, maybe, some art work, as Dr. Kagan suggested.

Electrical cables can run along the fixed or movable brick walls. Some cables hanging from the ceiling (as those we have now) can be used in the areas of the retractable walls. By retracting the (dotted) walls, a large and unobstructed central area can be created quickly and used for a lecture/seminar.

Actual rooms 123 +124 and 127 should be freed and used for some of the non-core experiments, which are now located in 125B, 126B and 126F.

If this layout is combined with the pod table design, it could be quite flexible and meet a number of diverse requirements.

Rooms A and E can accommodate 40-50 students; in rooms B, C and D can be 30-40 students.