

How can we envision the (im-)possible and shape our future? This talk introduces the concept of Enabling Spaces as a framework for designing meaningful and thriving environments. Based on an understanding that innovation and generating new knowledge is an emergent phenomenon, it is necessary to provide enabling conditions (constraints as well as active interventions) for these processes to happen. We are interested in these enabling conditions that have to be in place in various dimensions: social, cognitive, emotional, technological, epistemological, architectural/physical, etc. Here, the challenge is to integrate these dimensions into a unified framework that is compatible with the culture, structures, etc. of organizational/social systems.

We have developed and tested a design process in realizing (innovation) work spaces, innovation eco-systems, etc. together with architects, designers and information technologists. In my talk, I will present a concrete Enabling Space project that is based on these theoretical foundations.