

# Student experience: A view from the ground

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# Case Study:

## The American University of Paris

- The American University of Paris distributed an online survey to the university community in 2008 to gather feedback on campus facilities and buildings.
- The survey was conducted to inform the Board of Trustees about condition of facilities, current use and user needs
- **284 students responded** (and 267 alumni)



# Results

## Question 1:

Please rank the importance you place on the following concerns:

	<b>Not important</b>	<b>Moderately Important</b>	<b>Very important</b>
Consolidating AUP into single campus	<b>52.0%</b>	33.8%	14.2%
Having a freshman dormitory	<b>70.4%</b>	17.3%	12.3%
Located in the 7 <sup>th</sup> arrondissement	22.3%	<b>40.6%</b>	37.1%
Located within the city of Paris	7.4%	17.4%	<b>75.2%</b>
Located in a single building	<b>78.7%</b>	12.8%	8.5%

# Results

## Question 2:

Please rank the importance you place on the following concerns:

	Not important	Moderately Important	Very important
“Smart” classrooms (high-tech, with projection)	7.4%	42.6%	<b>50.0%</b>
Student facilities for activities such as sports and clubs	13.5%	41.1%	45.4%
Faculty offices	16.4%	47.9%	35.7%
Meeting rooms to accommodate large groups	16.3%	46.5%	37.2%
State-of-the-art Library facilities	9.6%	33.8%	<b>56.6%</b>
State-of-the-art IT facilities	12.7%	37.1%	<b>50.2%</b>
Group study areas	12.0%	45.2%	42.8%
Small auditorium or conference spaces	13.9%	49.5%	36.7%

# Additional comments

- Open-ended questions: comments and suggestions were requested

**Question 3:** What other facility should be considered (please comment briefly, saying what and why)?

**Question 4:** If you have suggestions, questions or additional comments, please feel free to share them with us here.

# More spaces like this:



# Campus Map



# Case 2: University of Latvia

~ 22 000 students

13 faculties in 11 buildings

11 libraries

**Only** 2 of 11 faculty buildings were built as  
university buildings





# Quote from student

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*“University of Latvia has a reputation of **beyond**  
the time institution”*

# What it should be?

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Goal:

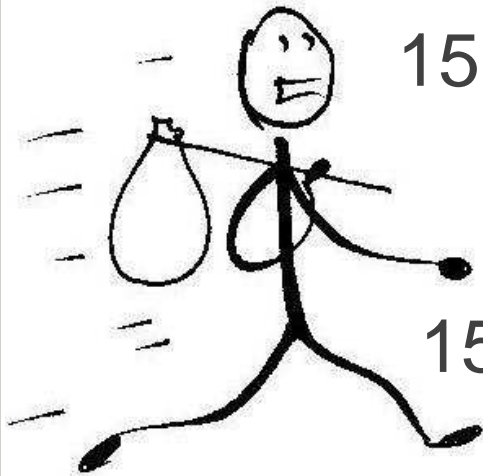
**Attractive** & welcoming environment

Reached when:

Students will choose to stay after lectures and study instead of leaving for searching their **comfort** zone

# Infrastructure location

**Compact** location of all facilities



15 ECTS in *travelling form* – to

VS.

15 ECTS in *individual studies*

# Building design

Understanding the **purpose** of building and rooms

*Classroom* type room

vs.

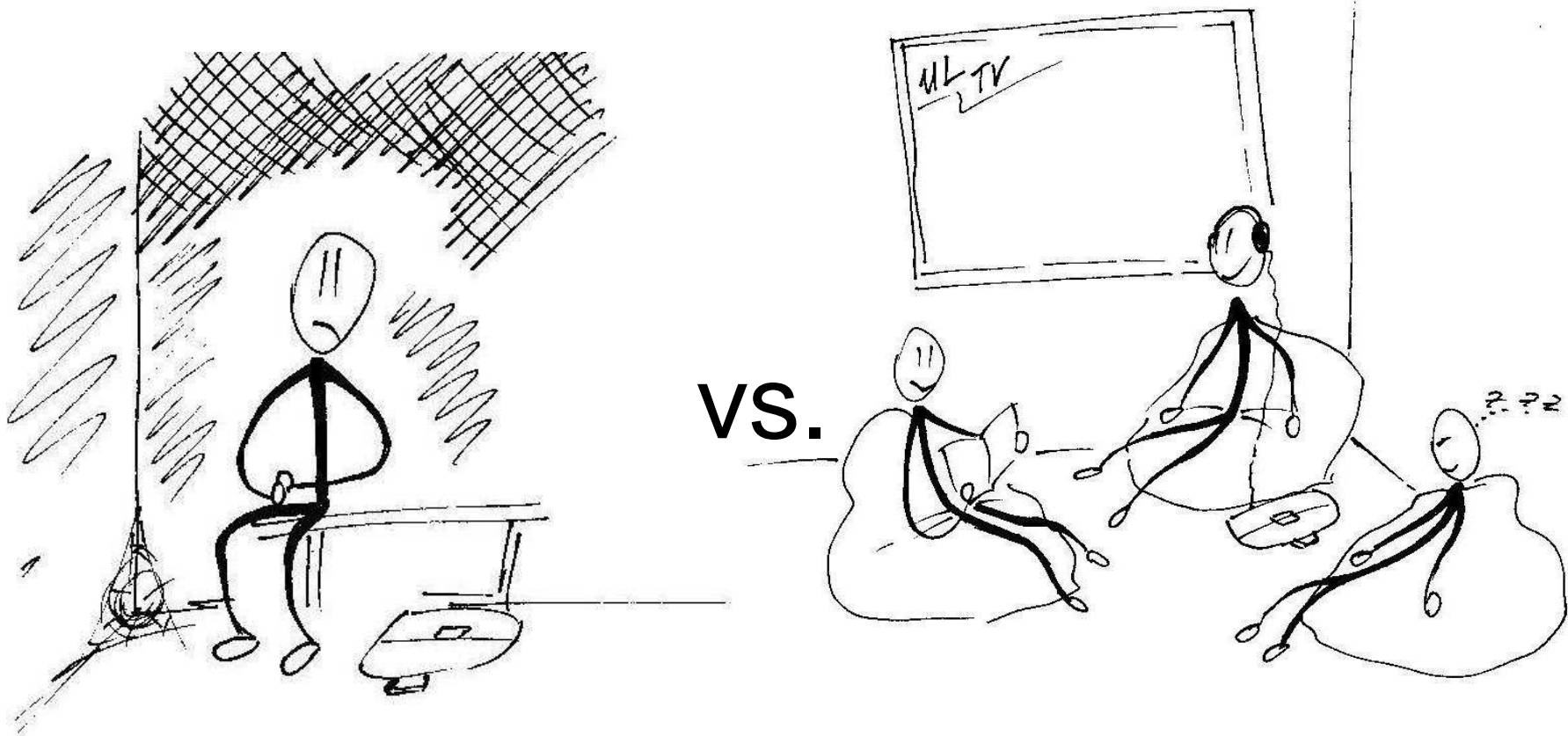
Amphitheater

workshop & seminar rooms

place for individual studies

recreation area

# Example 1



# Inside the room

21.<sup>st</sup> century interior –

effective lighting

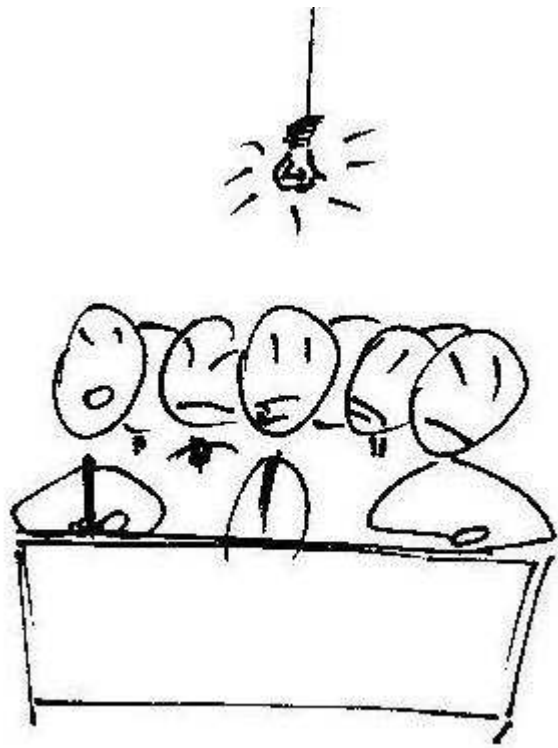
encouraging colors

ergonomic furniture

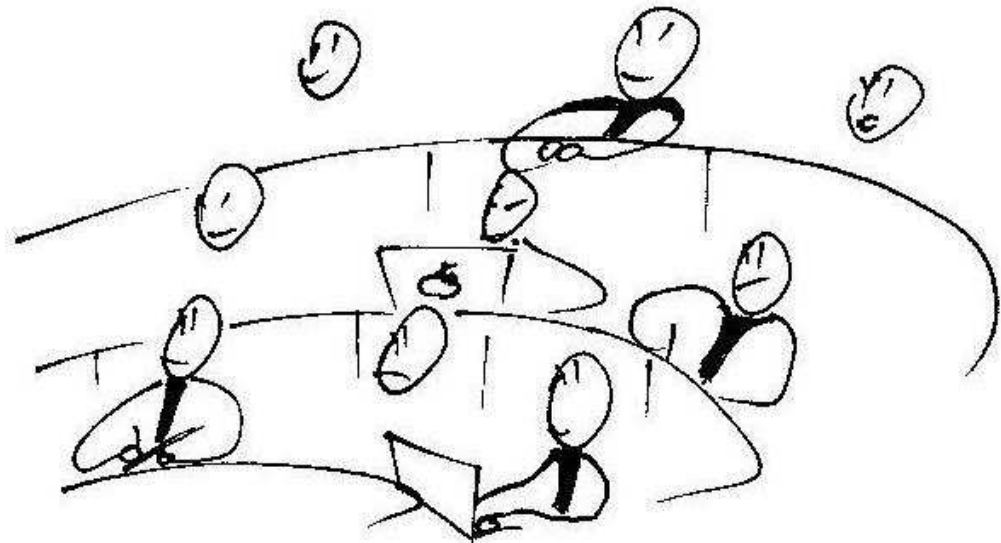
wiring for laptops

projector isn't enough.

# Example 2



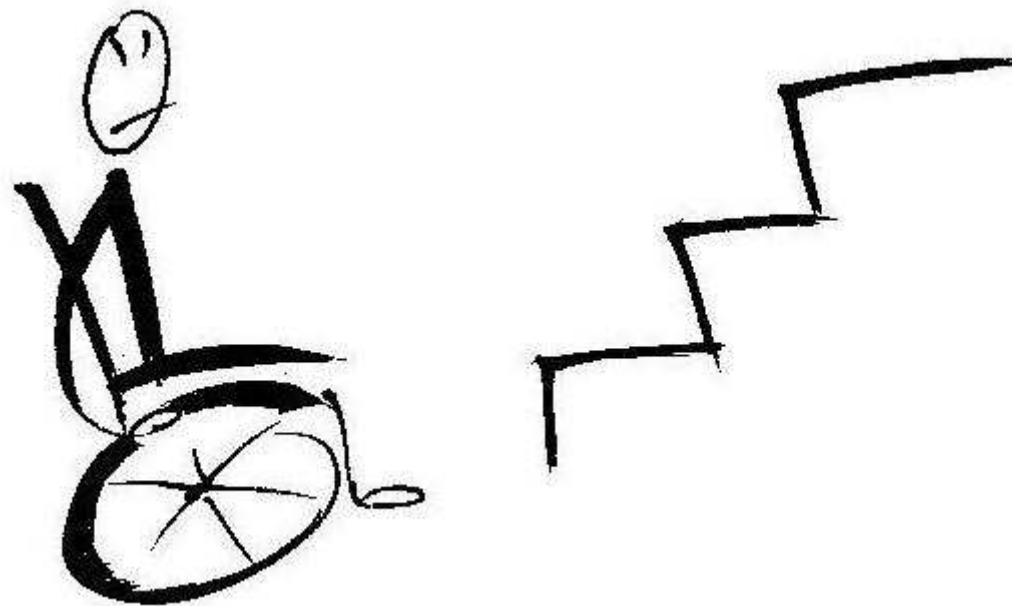
VS.





# In general

**access** for disabled people



# To sum it up:

university has to create **a feeling** that the student is **an individual** with a larger community

only then the student will fully personalize the university

and learning **environment** takes an important role into this process.

# Comparing cases

Different countries and different contexts, but **student needs** are consistent

Mix of **specified spaces** are required, as well as internal meeting and studying spaces

To gain perspective of the students -  
ask them **to change** with your seat

**Student experience:**  
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