

BUILDING MINDS

Designing Learning Spaces for Connection & Coherence

Dr. Parul Minhas



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DR PARUL MINHAS

Director of Research & Innovation at
Education Design International (EDI)



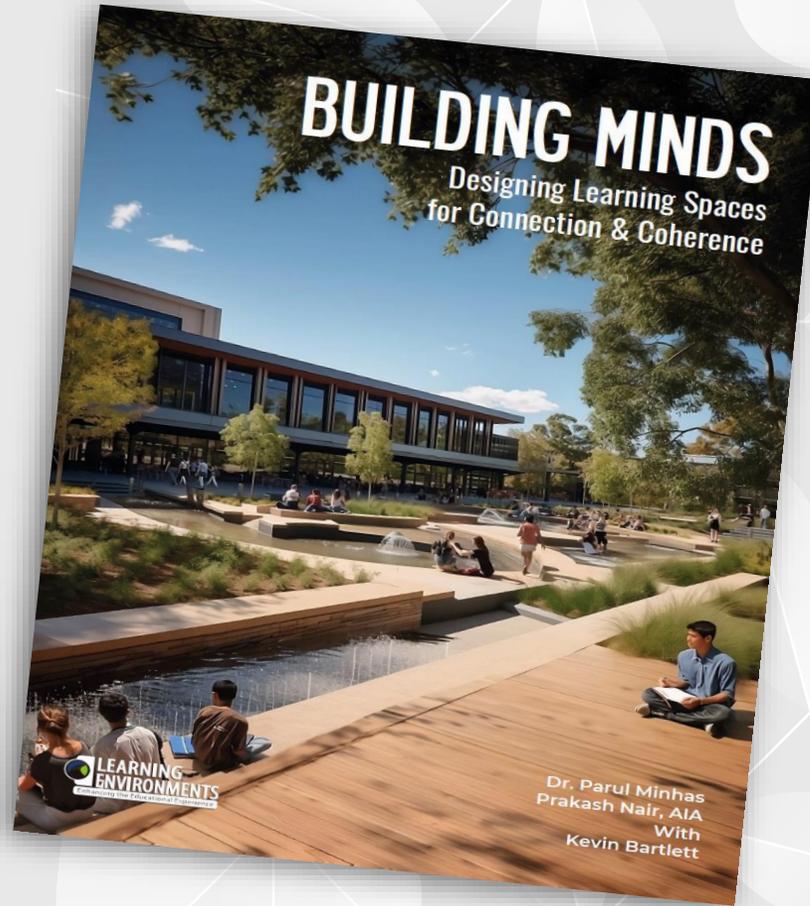
Drawing on Expertise from 59 Countries

EDI's Most Recent Publications:

Ideas Backed By Research



A NEW Language of School Design
Prakash Nair,
Dr. Parul Minhas



Building Minds
Dr. Parul Minhas
Prakash Nair
Kevin Bartlett



The journey of creating change often starts with something deeply personal.....





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THRIVING HEALTH

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THRIVING HEALTH

PHYSICAL EMOTIONAL SPIRITUAL



HAPPINESS
SUCCESS

RESILIENCE
CONFIDENCE



Cognitive Development
Academic Success

Social-emotional Health
Spiritual Health

THRIVING HEALTH



**THRIVING HEALTH AS
A FOUNDATION**

THRIVING HEALTH

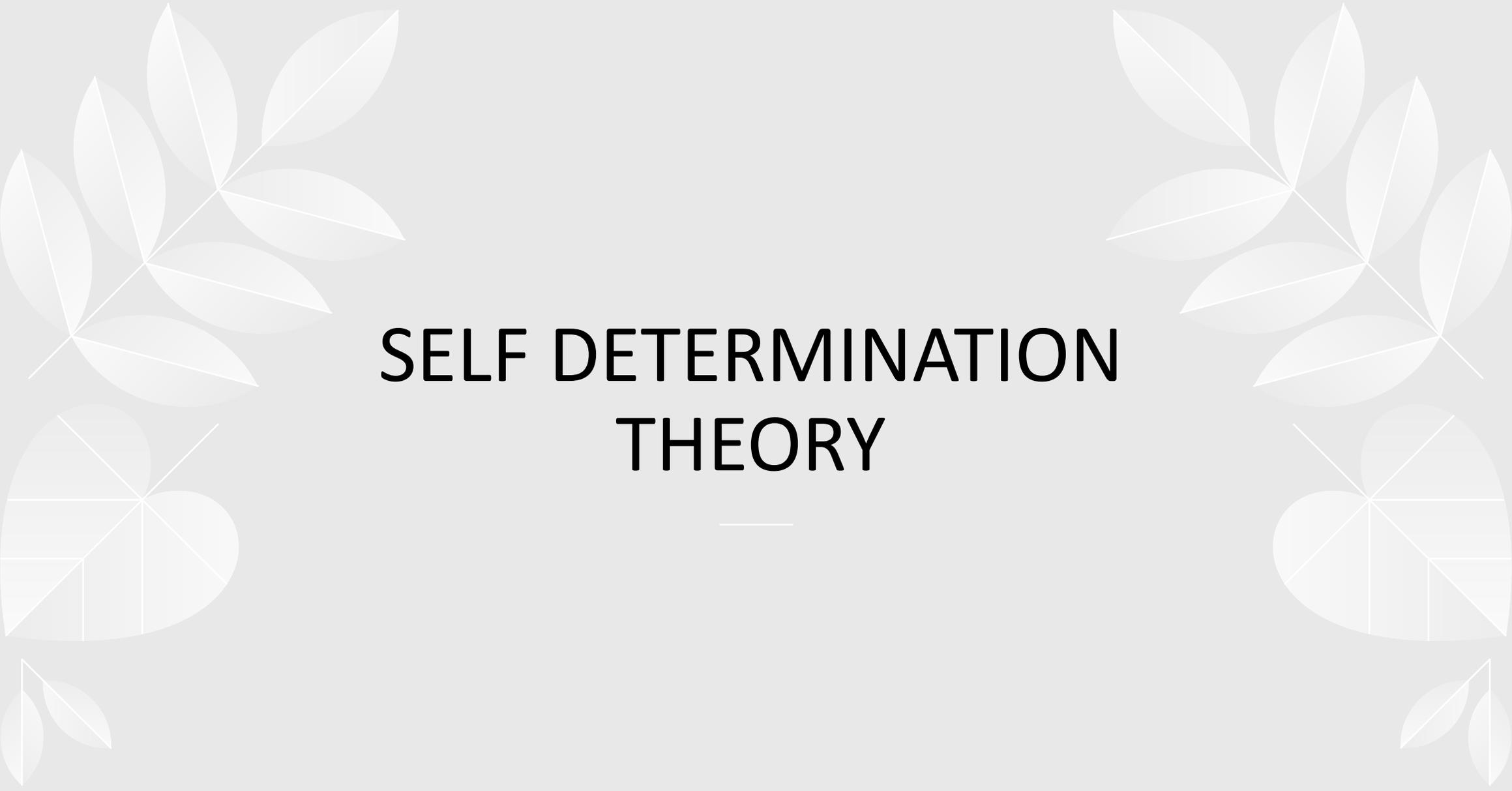
THE CATCH: YOU CAN'T BUILD THE THRIVING HEALTH UMBRELLA FOR CHILDREN



THRIVING HEALTH

BASIC PSYCHOLOGICAL NEEDS



The image features a light gray background with decorative white leaf patterns in the corners. The top-left and top-right corners contain clusters of several pointed leaves on a stem. The bottom-left and bottom-right corners contain a single large heart-shaped leaf with internal vein lines, and a small cluster of two pointed leaves below it. In the center, the text "SELF DETERMINATION THEORY" is written in a bold, black, sans-serif font, arranged in two lines. A thin white horizontal line is positioned directly below the second line of text.

SELF DETERMINATION THEORY

SELF DETERMINATION THEORY

AUTONOMY

RELATEDNESS

COMPETENCE



AUTONOMY





RELATEDNESS





COMPETENCE



SELF DETERMINATION THEORY

AUTONOMY

COMPETENCE

RELATEDNESS



AUTONOMY

WHAT, HOW, WHEN & WHERE





AUTONOMY

FOSTERING RESPONSIBILITY

SELF AWARENESS

SELF REGULATION

The image features decorative leaf patterns in the corners. On the left, there is a cluster of several pointed leaves at the top and a larger, heart-shaped leaf with internal vein lines at the bottom. On the right, there is a similar cluster of pointed leaves at the top and a heart-shaped leaf with internal vein lines at the bottom. The leaves are rendered in a light, semi-transparent white color against a light gray background.

CREATING SPACE AND TIME

FOR LEARNING INDEPENDENCE









QUIET CORNERS FOR REFLECTION



COLLABORATIVE AREAS



OUTDOOR ENVIRONMENTS



HANDS-ON LEARNING

The page features decorative white line-art graphics of leaves and branches on a light gray background. On the left side, there is a cluster of several pointed leaves at the top, a large heart-shaped leaf with internal vein patterns in the middle, and a small branch with two leaves at the bottom. On the right side, there is a similar cluster of pointed leaves at the top, a large heart-shaped leaf with internal vein patterns in the middle, and a small branch with two leaves at the bottom.

MOVEMENT MATTERS

SITTING IS THE NEW SMOKING



SELF-DIRECTED LEARNING

THE FUTURE OF EDUCATION











What does all this mean for the design of library spaces?



Libraries—The Original Spaces for Self-Directed Learning



My savior during the difficult times....

"My Place for Self-Discovery"





Why Libraries are here to stay?



Neuroscience Strategies for Designing Libraries for Thriving Health

Core Neuroscience Strategies for Library Design

1. Biophilic Design

2. Sensory Harmony

3. Movement & Spatial Diversity

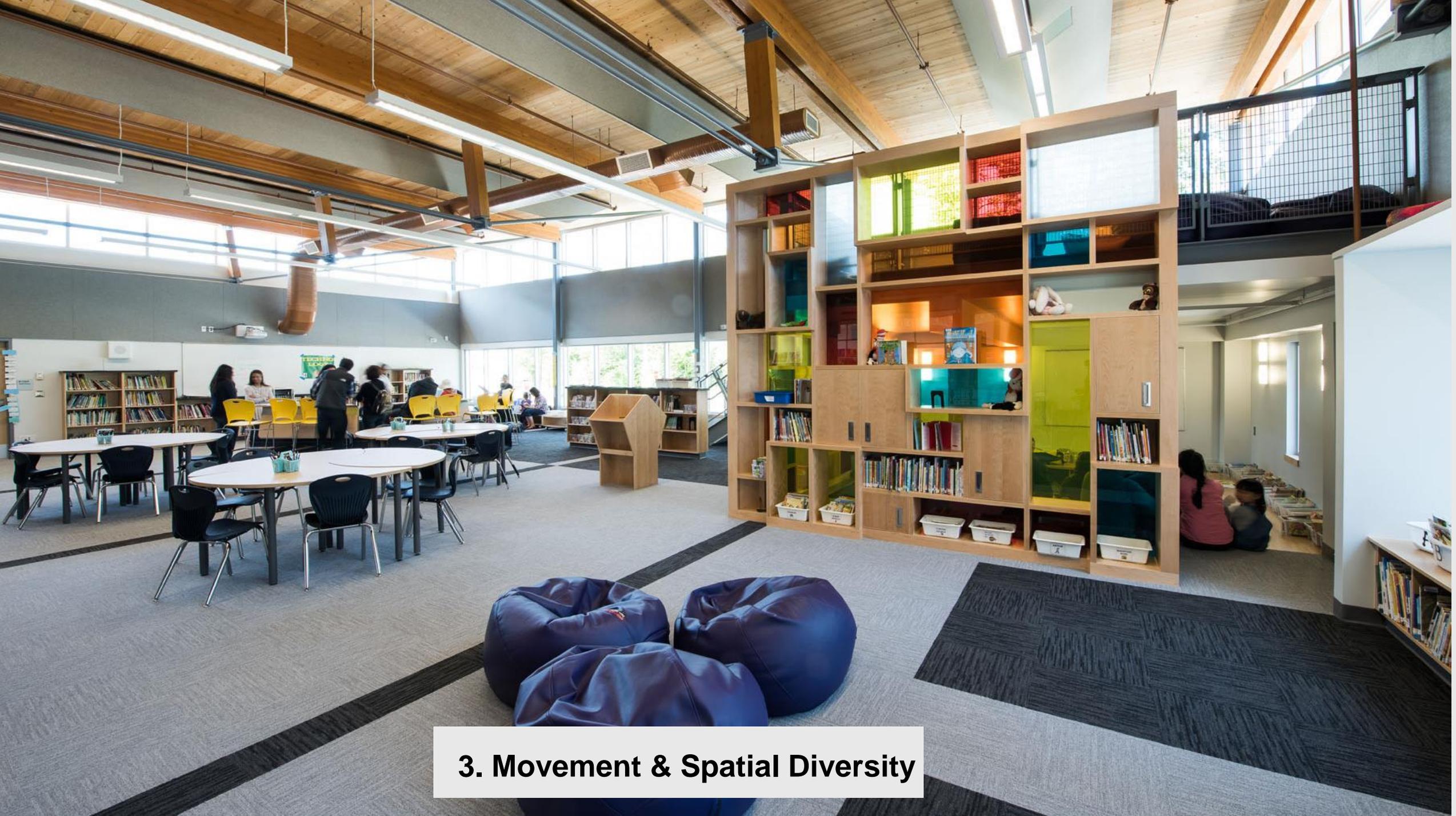
4. Cognitive Restorative Spaces



1. Biophilic Design—Connecting Libraries to Nature



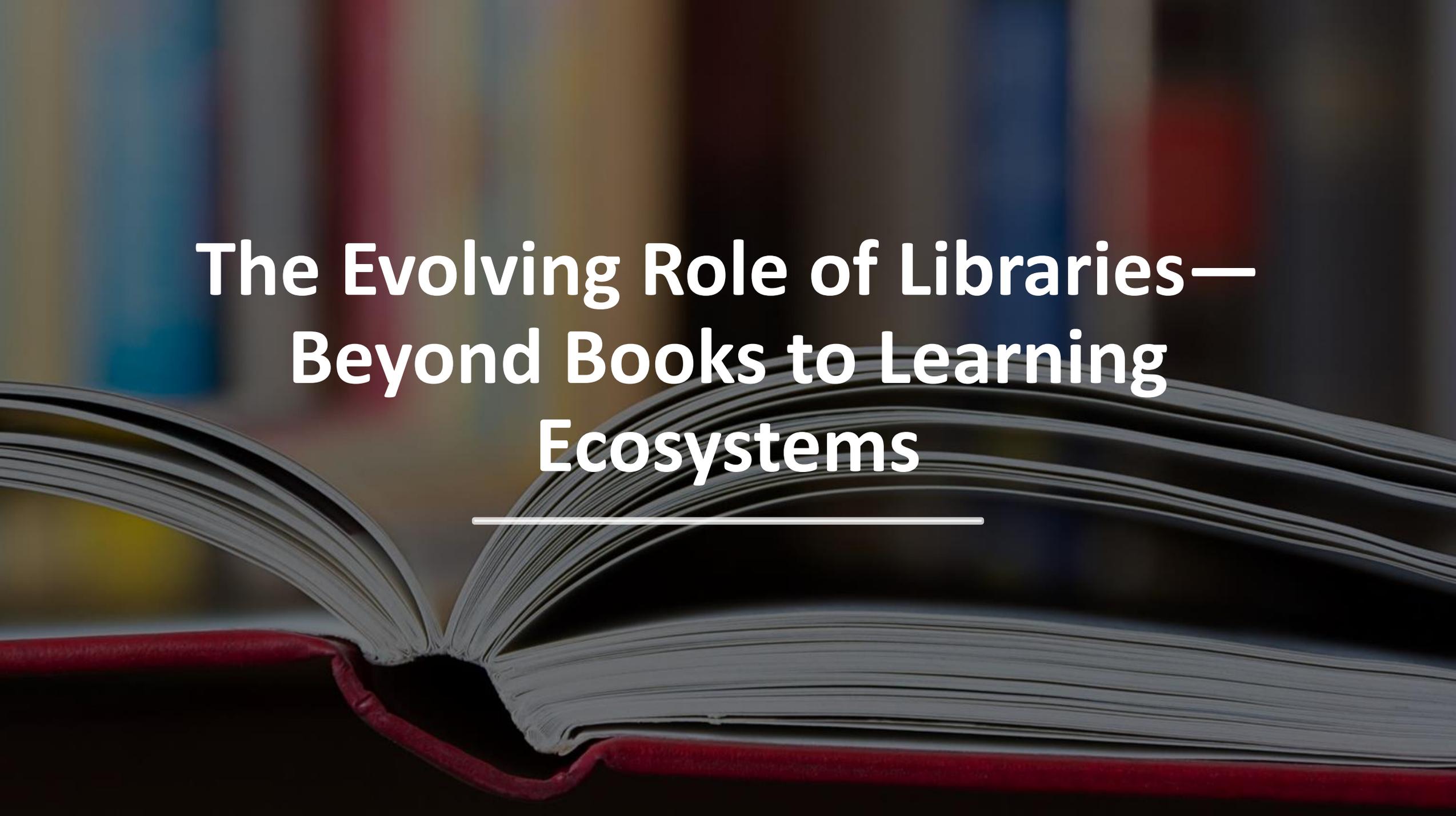
2. Sensory Harmony—Calming the Nervous System



3. Movement & Spatial Diversity



4. Cognitive Restorative Spaces



The Evolving Role of Libraries— Beyond Books to Learning Ecosystems

Tech-Free Zones for Deep Thinking

Adaptive & Intuitive Learning Layouts

Seamless Indoor-Outdoor Learning Spaces

Libraries as Hands-On Knowledge Labs

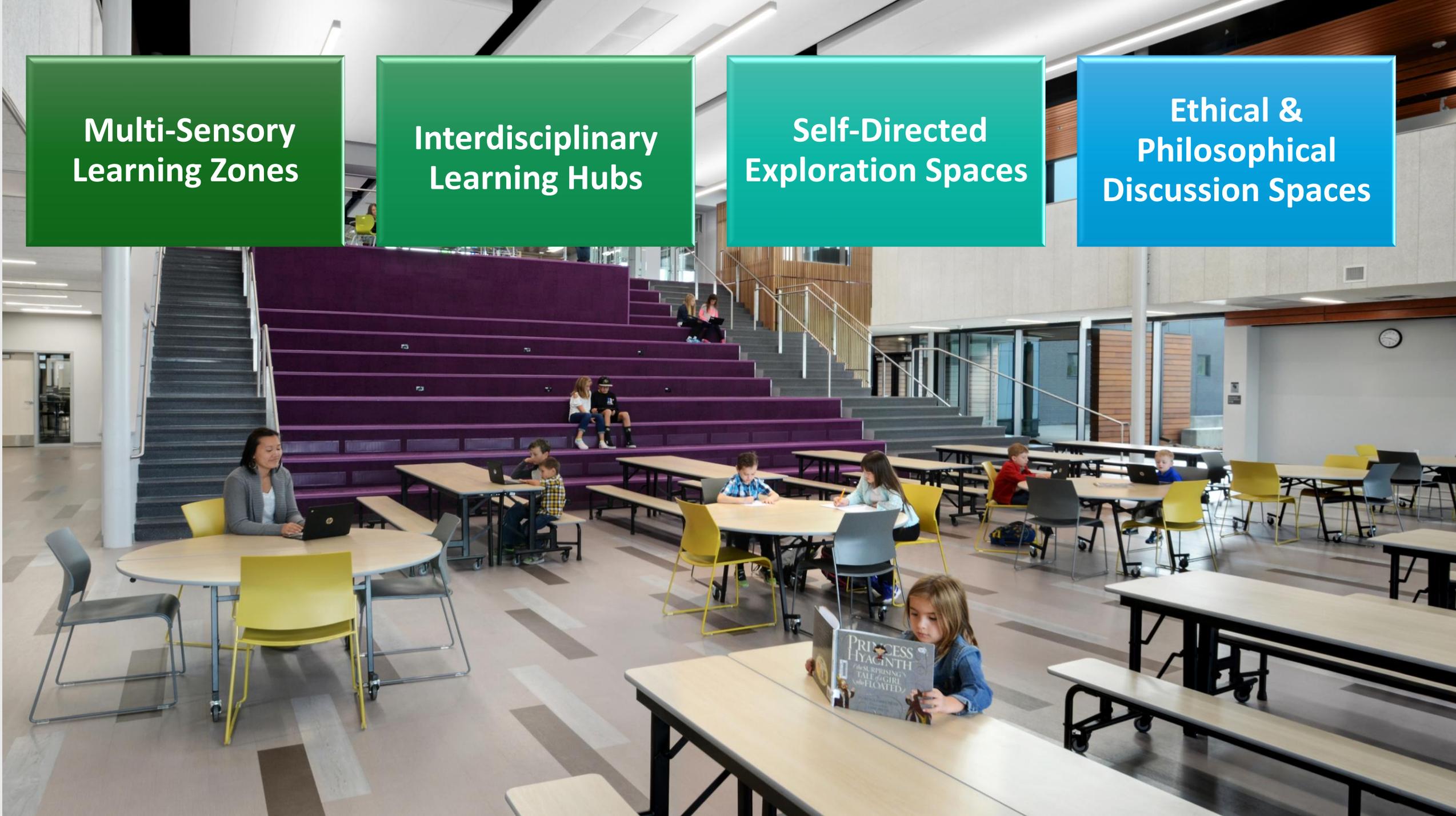


**Multi-Sensory
Learning Zones**

**Interdisciplinary
Learning Hubs**

**Self-Directed
Exploration Spaces**

**Ethical &
Philosophical
Discussion Spaces**





**“BEGIN WITH THE
END IN MIND.”**

- STEPHEN R. COVEY



THRIVING HEALTH

THOUGHTFUL DESIGN
STRONG RELATIONSHIPS
GENUINE SUPPORT



THRIVING HEALTH

THOUGHTFUL DESIGN
STRONG RELATIONSHIPS
GENUINE SUPPORT

The image features a light gray background with decorative white line-art illustrations of leaves in the corners. In the top-left and top-right corners, there are clusters of several pointed, oval-shaped leaves on thin stems. In the bottom-left and bottom-right corners, there are smaller clusters of similar leaves. In the center of the page, the text "ALL IS WELL" is written in a bold, black, sans-serif font. Below the text is a short, horizontal white line.

ALL IS WELL



Building Minds: Designing Learning Spaces for Connection & Coherence advocates for a transformative approach to education, emphasizing environments that are not merely places of learning but vibrant spaces that foster connection and engagement. Each chapter offers practical solutions grounded in interdisciplinary research to guide educators, architects, and policymakers in creating more effective, humane, and transformative learning environments.

AUTHORS



Dr. Parul Minhas is the Director of Research and Digital Innovation at Education Design International (EDI). She stands out for her pioneering work in the design of learning environments that actively promote student health and well-being. Parul is the creative force behind the design of various EDI APPS that focus on educational excellence. She collaborates with Prakash Nair on transformative research in school design. Her groundbreaking work and keynote presentations on neuroarchitecture and biophilic design have garnered worldwide attention.



Prakash Nair, AIA is a futurist, a visionary architect and the Founding President & CEO of Education Design International, a company with consultations in 58 countries on six continents. He is the recipient of many international awards including the A4LE MacConnell Award, the highest honor worldwide for school design. He has written extensively in leading international journals and is the author of three books including the landmark publication "Blueprint for Tomorrow: Redesigning Schools for Student-Centered Learning" published by Harvard Education Press.



Kevin Bartlett is the Founding Director of the Common Ground Collaborative and Director of Education at EDI. He has held leadership positions in the UK, Tanzania, Namibia, Austria, and Belgium, where he was most recently Director of the International School of Brussels from 2001-2015. Kevin is a regular author of articles on a range of topics and a keynote/workshop leader at multiple international and national conferences. He is a writer and trainer in curriculum design and leadership for learning for the Principals' Training Center. As a curriculum designer, he initiated and led the IB Primary Years Programme.



The Association for Learning Environments is a professional non-profit association whose sole mission is improving the places where children learn.



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Designing Learning Spaces for Connection & Coherence



Dr. Parul Minhas
Prakash Nair, AIA
With
Kevin Bartlett



Thank You!



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