Imagining the Active Classroom
(A re-visioning of Serra 318)
September 23, 2:30 – 3:30
Serra 318

“I NEVER TEACH MY PUPILS, I ONLY ATTEMPT TO PROVIDE THE CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH THEY LEARN” – ALBERT EINSTEIN
Traditional Classrooms:
chalkboard/whiteboard
USD Camino Hall
Renovations, 2011

✓ more whiteboards
✓ new technology
✓ new seating
✓ new light zoning
✓ new windows (January '12)
✓ new blinds (January '12)
Flexible “Next” Classroom, Texas Wesleyan

History classroom transformed into “radically flexible room” with four themes:
1) Flexibility
2) Sensory stimulation
3) Technology support
4) “Decenteredness”

Furniture suggests informality
- mobile lectern
- mobile whiteboards
- lounge chairs
- ottoman with whiteboard top

Technology includes
- laptops
- iPods
Lounge furniture and Rubber-Tak bulletin boards for active learning and group presentations
Creative furniture arrangements for collaboration: node chairs
Creative furniture and wall-to-wall whiteboards
Low technology: the Huddleboard
Higher technology: SMART whiteboards
Active participation technology: the clicker
Alternative technology: Twitter feeds in the classroom
High technology and active learning combined
Hiperwall system

- takes feeds from a number of devices and displays them in real time on a network of display
- La Sierra's classroom features 13 46-inch HDTV displays:
- display-wall management system

A three-by-three interlaced display wall is at the front of the room.

Four other displays are scattered throughout the rest of the room.
Hiperwall with Tidebreak software in practice

No more laptop huddles around small screens.
No more passing display connection cords around.
No more scrambling for flash drives.
Putting it all together...
WHAT CONFIGURATIONS OR OPTIONS SUPPORT ACTIVE LEARNING FOR YOUR USD CLASSROOM?

✓ Lounge Chairs in a classroom or two?
✓ Flexible furniture arrangements?
✓ Decentralizing the instructor?
✓ Huddle boards?
✓ Pod chairs?
✓ Clickers?
✓ More whiteboards?
✓ More Smart whiteboards

Discussion of options:
   Sue Lowery, discussion leader

Questions answered:
   Mary Whelan, University Design
   Shahra Meshkaty, ITS