

— THE SPACE



The space is one of three main Design Thinking pillars! An ideal Design Thinking space not only fosters your team's creativity but also enables you to work successfully in a Design Thinking mode.

But what does the perfect Design Thinking space look like? What exactly is appropriate Design Thinking furniture and what does a space need to fulfill?

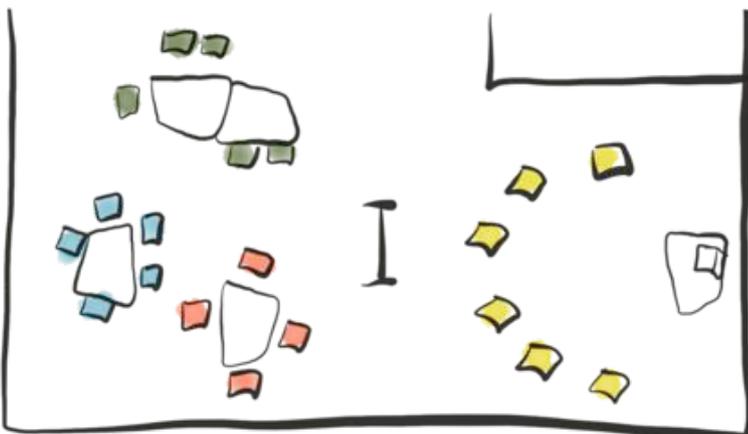
Following you will find some examples for your inspiration!



Your team can be involved in the first project to build the ideal space. Setting up the Design Thinking space together can serve as a first team building exercise and strengthens the team spirit - please stick to a fixed time limit. Try to keep in mind that simplicity and functionality is more important than style - it might even be a start to use an existing infrastructure and add some furniture and materials to fulfill some basic Design Thinking needs.

Space Division

The Design Thinking space is the central meeting point for your team during during all phases. It needs to fulfill multiple needs to support your project work: on one side it needs to be suitable for working in small groups on the other side it also needs to provide areas to meet and work with a higher number of people. Whiteboards or pinboards help you to do changes very fast - ideally all furniture is on wheels in order to be flexible to do adjustments any time according to your needs.



Preparation and Setup of the Space

Design Thinking means focussing on the needs of specific people - your target group! We recommend applying the same mindset when it comes to designing your space: a good Design Thinking space should be tailored to the preferences and requirements of your team members.

Create a flexible and inspiring work atmosphere that fosters productivity and creativity and make sure that it offers enough space to collaborate easily within the team.

Following you find some great examples how other companies designed creative spaces as well as some examples for Design Thinking furniture:



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During Design Thinking projects we typically work a lot more analog than digital. We therefore need sufficient storage space for materials to have everything on hands at any time.

Post-its are one major tool - the little sticky notes allow you to sketch ideas and easily combine similar thoughts. It is important to not use pens to write on them but rather markers such as Stabilo Pen 68, Pentel Sign Pen or Sharpie permanent marker. Documentation is mainly done via photos - using markers will help to read the texts on Post-its easily and organize follow up activities accordingly.



Great markers that we also use a lot in our own workshops to visualize posters are the Neuland markers.

© <https://de.neuland.com/markers-stifte/>

In Design Thinking, “time keeping“ is essential - the **Time-Timer** is the best tool to do so and to always keep an eye on the time. Additional suggestions on prototyping material can be found in the Download Center - Prototyping - Bill of material.



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Brilliant ideas often come very unexpected! Therefore, make sure to offer enough surfaces in your space to write on. **Whiteboards** or simple wrapping paper on the wall provide an opportunity to quickly write down ideas and to share them with the team.



In case not all team members can participate physically, **digital pinboards** can be of great value to work with a virtual team in a Design Thinking mode. Mural is just one example to extend your space digitally: <https://mural.co>

Even though the functional purpose of your space is very important, on the other side it should also be a location to **feel real good** and comfortable. Besides photos, inspirational quotes or paintings on the wall also plants, lots of daylight or lounge furniture can help you to make this space very inspirational for all project team members.



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