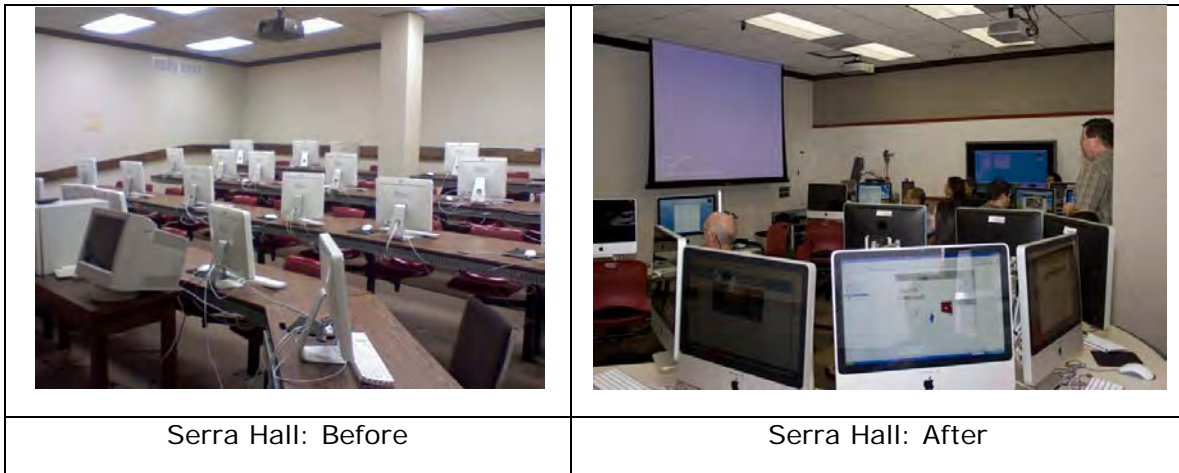


## Serra 155 Active Learning Classroom

The ILSD Committee has been observing and exploring innovative learning spaces and their impact on learning and teaching for two years. We have been thoughtfully considering ways to improve our approach to building spaces that would effectively enhance learning and teaching. Serra 155 marks our first effort.

The purpose of the Serra 155 proposal was twofold: firstly, we hoped to renovate a classroom that was not properly in use considering the shortage of teaching space, and secondly we wanted to build an inviting and encouraging space where faculty could try out innovative technology in a safe environment. In the hopes of sparking interest in the placement of innovative spaces incorporating bright and intelligent design across campus, we set off on our mission to build Serra Hall 155.

### About the Active Learning Classroom



Far from the humble classroom it once was, suitable only to the Socratic method of teaching, Serra 155 is now capable of hosting a myriad of learning methods, most notably, collaborative learning. The activities and lesson types are limitless. While the success of any technology integration is dependant upon its pedagogical usage rather than on the technology itself, it is informative to have the Serra 155 technology listed here.

Technology	Possible Use(s)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Furniture Arrangement</li> </ul>	Collaborative Learning/Interaction
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Class-spot/Team-Spot</li> </ul>	Collaborative Learning/Interaction
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SmartBoard</li> </ul>	Interaction
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Echo 360</li> </ul>	Lecture Capture
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Barix InStreamer/Suspended Mic</li> </ul>	Podcasting

## The Process of the Serra 155 Transformation

Planning and construction swiftly started with the university design; the facilities project management, few of the vendors, and the IT professionals.

Our proposal was to remove the tiered room design with the inflexible rows of tables and their attached seating converted into a collaborative space with flexible seating, round tables to increase group work and to fit twenty-six students.

We had to scale down our ideas due to the small size of the room. However, the intent was to introduce a layout that would generate interest for replication across the campus. Not only did the physical space need to be attractive, the technology too needed to reflect the new direction in cooperative teaching and learning.

Charged with the project oversight, we began our journey meeting with our internal team to discuss the technology and networking requirements and with the vendors to discuss the selection for carpet, lighting and electricity, furniture design, and with faculty and the IT learning technology team to finally configure a space suited for faculty and students that met the budget allowance.

## Future Direction for Innovative Learning Spaces

The outcome of the project was a successful and timely completion of a space seasoned with many simple details and technologies intended to serve pedagogy and to increase collaboration. The lessons learned in the process are invaluable, as will be feedback from faculty and students who use Serra 155. Armed with our experience and feedback we will be prepared to build future spaces more effectively and efficiently.

We can improve and enhance learning and teaching practices and creative expression by building environment that provide rich yet flexible interactive experience. We can create environment that facilitates engagement, enables student work with their peers and faculty. Technology can help more efficient use of space by integrating new teaching and learning ideas building adaptable, encouraging, and multipurpose spaces.

## About The ILSD Committee

The Innovative Learning Spaces Design Committee (ILSDC) is responsible for developing and updating guidelines for the components and configuration of classrooms and campus learning spaces for the University of San Diego.

In consultation with members of the committee, ILSD provides leadership, innovative input, and coordination of learning space design for the campus. This effort will include development of a detailed set of guidelines for innovative uses of space, technology, furnishings, and other amenities that enable more effective and active learning.

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