

Ideal Space

Mapping

- 🕒 Time required: 60 – 120 min
- ✂️ Material required: printed Ideal Space Grids (ideally cardboard/thick paper), printed Activity Cards, Senses Cards, Social Range Cards – colour transparent foil (2 colours), markers (1 colour)
- 👤 Facilitators: 2 facilitators
(1 facilitator/4 people)
- 👥 Group size: 8 ideally divided into 2 subgroups

Ideal Space Mapping will help you identify activities in various Ideal Space Models of physical or even virtual spaces. You can use it when planning one space or a whole complex of various interconnected spaces. It helps participants discuss and visualise needs regarding objects, material, environment, space flow and interconnectedness, as well as feelings and sensual attributes of the space. Through play and discussion, you can build an understanding of overlapping space and material needs of various users and their implications on identity, community or procedure and practices needed to create a Learning Community.

This tool provides:

Ideal Space Models representing ideal models of various spaces. The size of rooms is orientational as well as placement of windows and doors. Different ideal models can be combined and therefore simulate a more complex area.

L SPACE approx. 120m² (e.g. co-working, assembly halls, yards, canteen etc.)

M SPACE approx. 60 m² (e.g. specialised workshop, gallery, shared meeting rooms and corridors etc.)

S SPACE approx. 30m² (e.g. studio, seminar room, storage space etc.)

Activity Cards ⚡ representing various activities that can occur in spaces. They are indexed by Learning community-building domains, helping you to select those you want to focus a workshop on.

- 1 **LEARNING**
- 2 **PRACTICE**
- 3 **PROCEDURES**
- 4 **COMMUNITY**

This tool provides:

Senses Cards  representing various sensual experiences that can occur in a specific area or during a specific activity.

Scenario Cards representing changes that can occur in the space, influencing activities as well as sensual experiences of its users.

Social Distance Cards representing the diameter of sensual experience or space needed for certain activities. Social distance metrics measures both:

S size ○ 1 person social diameter (individual)

M size ○ 3 – 4 person social diameter
(small group)

L size ○ 6 – 8 person social diameter
(big group)

Preparation



You will need one table, markers, and the Group Package for each group.

Decide on how many groups you will have and select space types you would like to map each group can have a different space or the same one). The group should not have more than five members.

For each group, you will need, ideally, one facilitator. Brief them and be sure you are aligned on goals and the flow of an activity.

Preparation

GROUP PACKAGE

Prepare a working package for **each group separately** (envelope, small bag or box).

The package should contain:

- **Ideal Space Model:**
 - 3x S SPACE, A4
 - 2x M SPACE, A3
 - 1x L SPACE, A2
- **Senses Cards deck**
- **Social Distance Cards:** 2 colours, 3 sizes
 - S size – 20 pieces
 - M size – 14 pieces
 - L size – 8 pieces

• **Activity Cards deck:** select those areas (according to the index number) that you find important or relevant for your activity and goal. You don't have to use all of them. Have the rest by hand and use them when needed.

Prepare for yourselves separately Scenario Cards and some spare Social Distance Cards or Ideal Space Models.

Execution



Explain the goal of the activity, describe tools in the package and their usage.

Ask participants to wait for instructions and then start to unpack.

Assign each group to a specific space, give them only basic information about the room's primary function (if there is one), approximate size, and emphasise we are creating ideal space and some details are unnecessary. You can give groups the same space as well. Assign each group one facilitator. Be sure each group has its recorder as well.

STEP 1 – ACTIVITIES

Execution

Instructions:

- Place the suiting Ideal Model in the middle of the table.
- Take out the Activity Cards and place them on the table. Make sure that everyone in the group can see them.
- As a group, discuss and select which activities take place in that specific space, identify those missing, and create a new card if necessary. During a discussion, be concrete and specific. Use examples from your own experience.

“What is happening in space?”

“What do you usually do in such spaces?”

“In what form and under what occasion the activity is taking place?”

STEP 2 - ACTIVITIES SOCIAL DISTANCE

Execution

Instructions:

- Decide where the entrance to the space is on the Ideal Model.
- Take selected activities and place them on the Ideal Model. Discuss how much space we need for the activity and how different activities are overlapping, interconnected or even incompatible. Take one colour of Social Distance Cards and combine them with selected Activity Cards directly on the map. Cards may overlap.
- If needed, add more Ideal Models to the table and discuss their connection to the main Model.

“Who and why are they involved in this activity?”

“What do users need for the activity to take place (material, procedures)?”

“How much space do users need for specific activities? Are they doing it, experiencing it alone or in the group? What is the limit?”

“How many people are experiencing this activity?”

“Can you fit all the activities in one space, or do you need more spaces?”

“How are different spaces connected?”

“Do we need flexible spaces?”

STEP 3 - SENSES

Execution

Instructions:

- Clean up the table, get rid of unnecessary Activity Cards.
- Take the Senses Cards and place them on the table. Make sure that everyone in the group can see them.
- Discuss which sensual experiences are connected to activities and those that are not.
- As a group, discuss and select which Senses are prevalent in that specific space and identify missing ones. Create a new card if necessary. During a discussion, be concrete and specific.

“What do you usually feel in the selected space?”

“How do you usually experience such spaces (senses, feelings)?”

“What do you like to experience in such spaces, and what usually irritates you?”

“In what form and under what occasion the sensual experience is taking place?”

“Does it change? Under what conditions?”

STEP 4 - SENSES SOCIAL DISTANCE

Execution

Instructions:

- Take selected Senses Cards and place them on the Ideal Model. Discuss how the sensual experience is spread in space, how overlapping, interconnected or even incompatible these experiences are. Cards may overlap.
- Take the second colour of Social Distance Cards from the package and combine them with selected Senses Cards directly on the map.
- If needed, add more Ideal Models to the table and discuss their connection.

“How much space is this sensual experience taking up?”

“How much space do you usually need to feel this specific sensual experience?”

“How do we avoid certain sensual experiences, and how can we support some of them? Provide a specific experience and an example.”

“How does connection to different spaces change when sensual experience occurs? Provide a specific experience and an example.”

STEP 5 - PROCEDURES, IDENTITY & COMMUNITY: Execution

Ask people to look at the map quietly for one minute and ask them to add anything missing.

Sum up what we can see on the models and close the mapping exercise.

Open a discussion about implications on the community, identity, services, procedures, objects, needs, finances, communications, personal capacities, etc. Choose priority areas according to the participants' potential and expertise.

“What meaning or value does space bring to the stakeholder, and vice versa?”

“How are relationships anchored or reflected in the space/service organisation and processes?”

“How does space enable or disable community building? Provide a specific example from your personal experience.”

“How does learning occur in space? Provide a specific example from your personal experience.”

“What procedures do we need to implement to fulfil your ideal model? Provide a specific example from your personal experience.”

BONUS – SCENARIOS

Execution

For deeper brainstorming, use Scenario Cards of your choice. You can create new cards according to your context.

“How do activities, senses and interconnections change when (scenario)?”

“What do we miss on the model when (scenario)?”

CLOSING

Execution

Let participants briefly discuss the most important implications, novelties, lessons learned from the activity in a group or individually.

Quickly share in the group or present these outcomes to the other group.

“What are the three things you find most important as an implication for our project?”

“What are the three things you find new to you? What have you learned about the service/space?”

Tips and tricks

- Don't worry. In the beginning, the group can be confused and will have trouble to start. Help them to place first activities and ask exploratory questions. Support playful and prototyping behaviour and nudge them to change, move and combine cards. Dynamics will shift quickly when people start to touch and move cards by themselves.
- Be careful and attentive to more quiet and thinning types in the group. One or two people can quickly overpower the activity. Use facilitators superpower to include all into the discussion. E.g. you can ask everyone to choose one card and explain why they selected it, and place them on the Model. You can make this small intervention anytime during the activity.
- If you print Ideal Space Models on cardboard or thicker paper, you can reuse them for more workshops. Have always some spare for more complex areas and active and creative groups. If you are not recording the session, have a spare flipchart or A3 paper on the table, where the group can write notes and outcomes of the discussion. Avoid writing notes on the grid.

Tips and tricks

- Groups will tend to assign too many activities to one space. Help them to prioritise and come to a realistic selection. Nudge them and ask if you should not have another space - Ideal Model on the table and ask them to use more Ideal Models. Always start with one space but feel free to add more slowly.
- Formulation of your questions to the group varies according to the goal of the activity. If you use it for brainstorming and direct designing of the space, you can use more speculative questions: what could ..., what should we ... what it will look like etc. For gathering data and building a base for decision making, be more careful with these kinds of questions. Focus more on asking for participants' own experiences and examples. If there is ideation happening in the group naturally, no worries. Use your facilitators' power to double-check if this ideation is based on specific users' real experiences and needs.

Tips and tricks

- Card decks provided may not be suited for your space, service, or activity goal. Feel free to create your own cards or let participants make some. When you create them, be sure they are easy to understand, are more open-ended than specific. Participants can open discussion about the deeper specifications and build a shared vocabulary for the session. During the activity, help them to look together for those meanings and nuances based on participants personal experiences and perspectives.

References

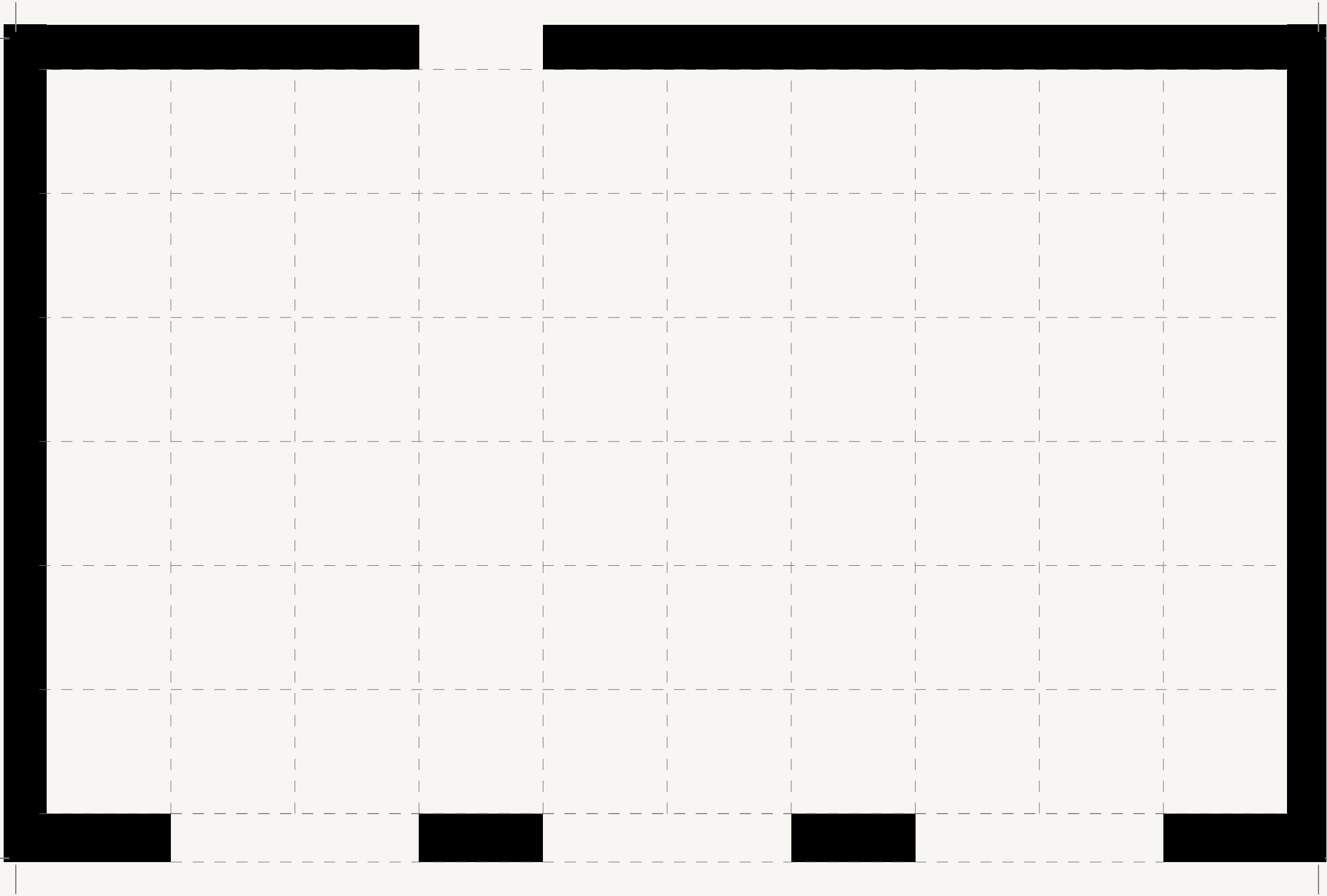
⇒ SPOLKA - Mapping the In-between

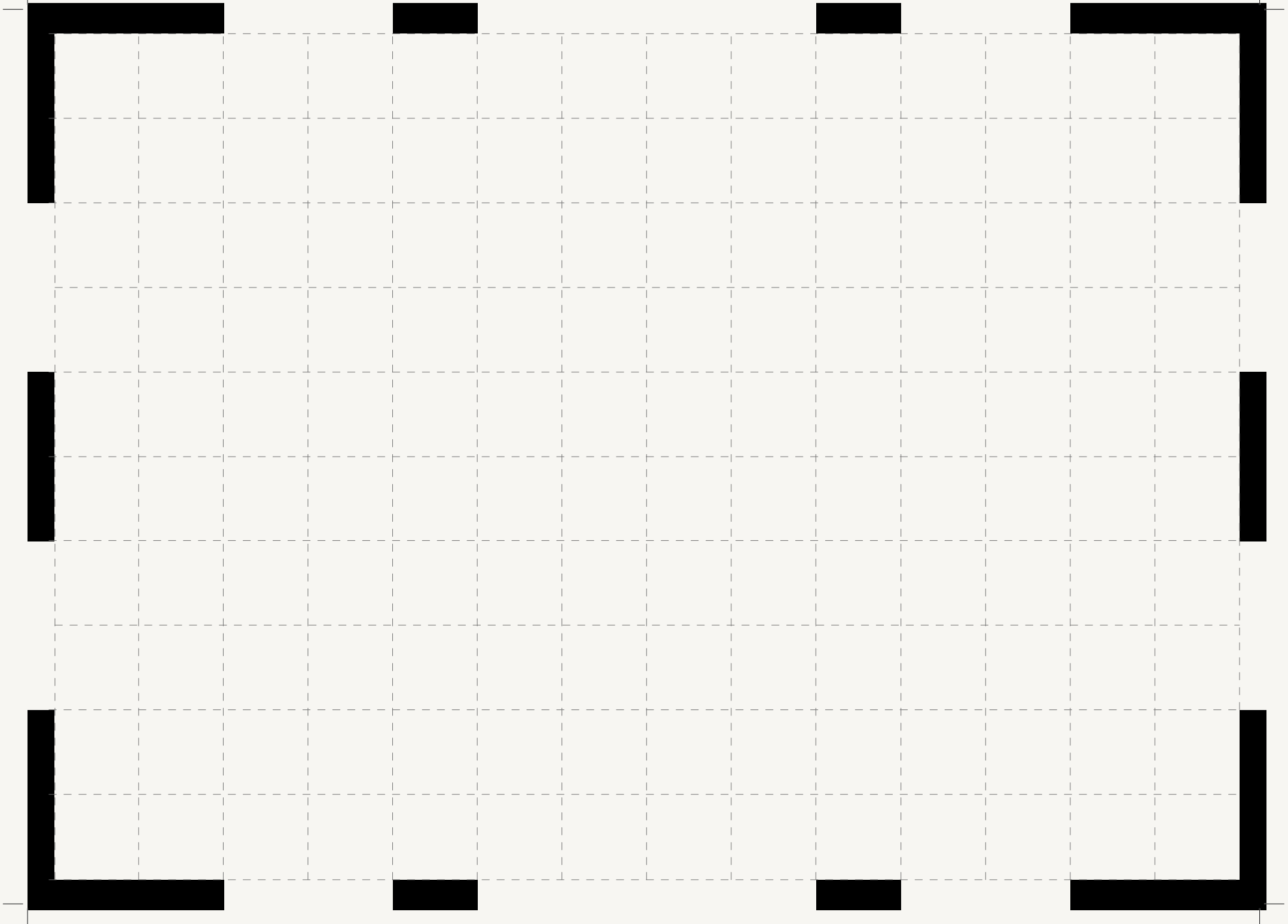
⇒ MIT - City Form Lab

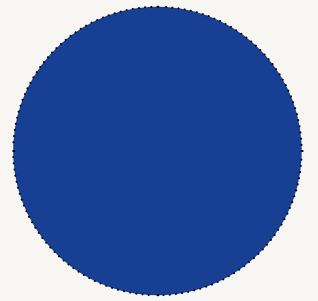
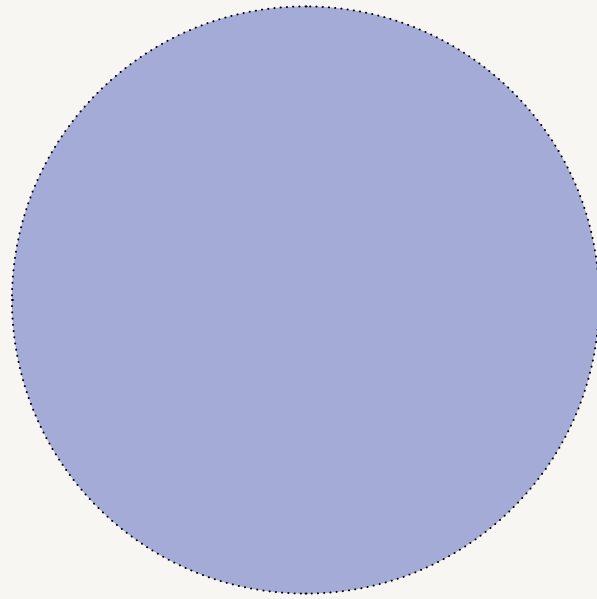
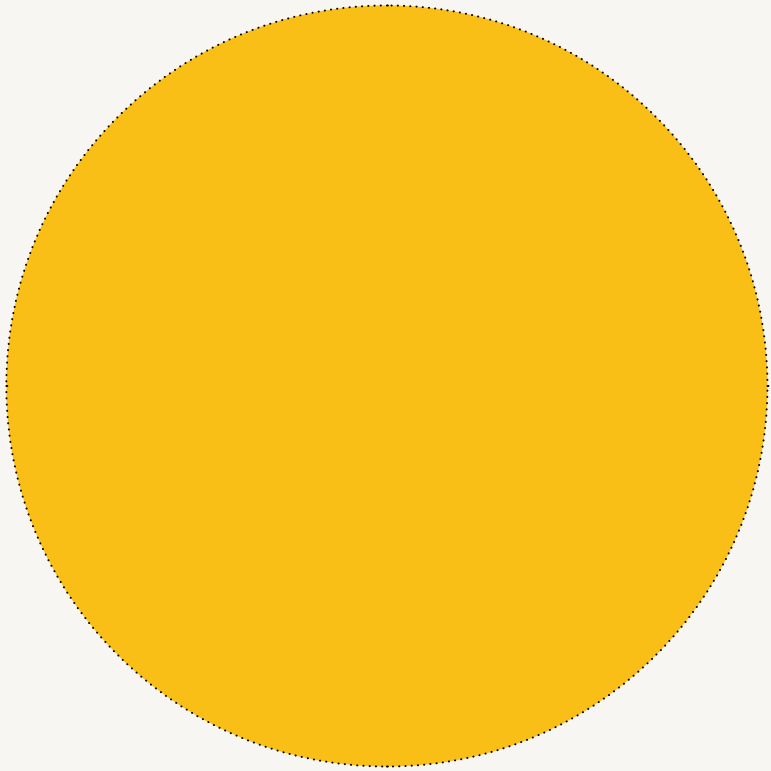
⇒ This is Not an Atlas - OrangoTango

⇒ National Geographic - Mapping the Classroom









1

WORK



2

PRODUCTION



1

LEARNING



2

HIGH VOLTAGE



1

SEMINAR



2

DIRTY WORKSHOP



1

WEBINAR



2

CLEAN WORKSHOP



1

LECTURE



2

STORE



1

WORKSHOP



3

PLANNING



1

SHARING



3

RECYCLING



1

READING



3

ORDER



1

PERFORMANCE



3

SELL



1

EXHIBITION



3

TO INFORM



2

PRINT



3

MAKE DECISIONS



2

INNOVATION



3

PRESENT



2

TEST



3

SHARE



2

MODEL



3

PR



3

NEGOTIATION



4

SPORT



3

CLEANING



4

HEALTH



3

HYGIENE



4

MEET & GREET



4

COOKING



4

REFRESHMENT



4

RITUAL



4

CEREMONY



4

PLAY



4

ENTERTAINMENT



4

SYMBOL



4

VISIT



4

PUBLIC



4

REST



5

LIGHT



5

DANGER



5

DARK



5

COMFORT



5

BAD SMELL



5

DISCOMFORT



5

FRAGRANCE



5

HELP



5

QUIET



5

NOISE



5

PRIVACY



5

WATER



5

DRY



5

DRAFT



5

ART



5

HEAT



5

WINTER



5

SECURITY

