

Final Work of Master:**Designing flexible learning spaces for a positive impact: the cork castles system**

MBDesign: Master's Degree in Advanced Studies in Design: Contemporary Design

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Abstract

Educating children is about providing them with the knowledge, skills and values that we consider they will need when they grow up and become active participants of the "real world". This Thesis explores how design can be used to create a positive impact on learning environments to make the learning experience of children pleasant and adapted to the latest pedagogical needs.

First, research on design's role in creating a positive impact, learning spaces and playfulness has been conducted; followed by the design proposal of Castelletts de Suro, a modular open-ended system of cork blocks that invites children to create their own learning spaces.

The outcome of this project proves that Castelletts de Suro (the cork castle system) has the potential to facilitate the adaptation of current learning spaces to the ever-evolving pedagogy that requires flexibility and contingency, is a source of fun, imagination and creativity for children and promotes collaboration and empathy. Therefore, this Thesis is an example of how design can improve existing learning environments.

Key Words: Education, Children, Learning Spaces, Design For Education, Design for a Positive Impact