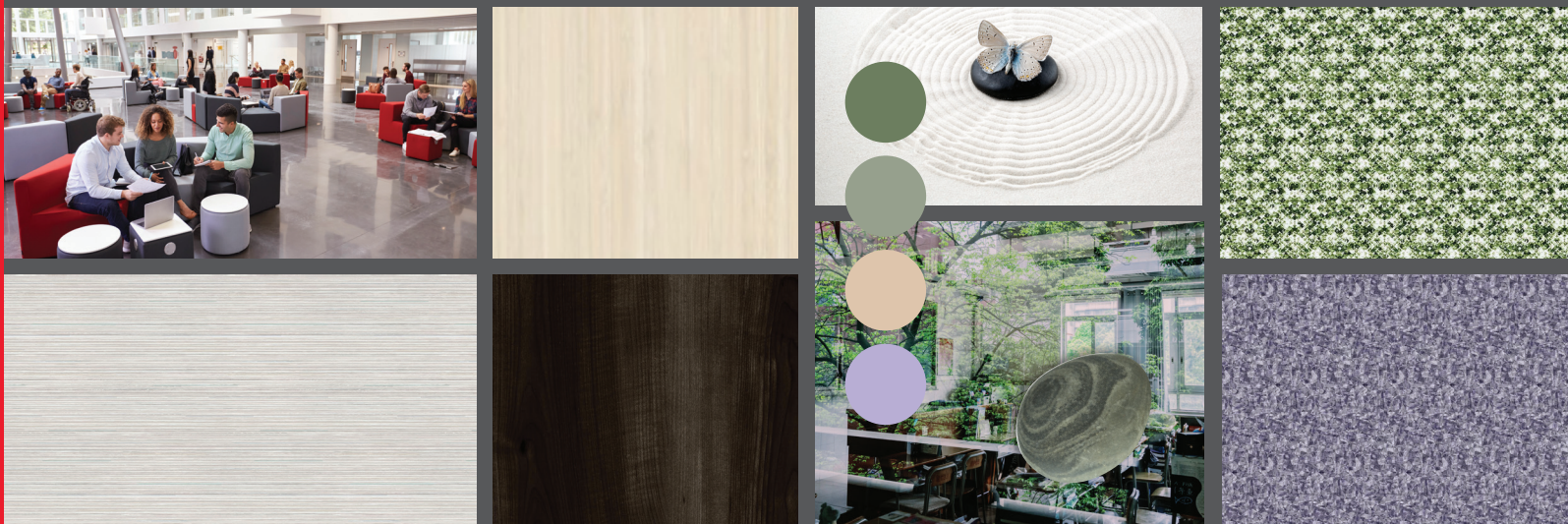


# Education Trends

Many of today's educational facilities are old and outdated. They are certainly not scaled for 21st century needs. The modern educational environment needs to focus on multi-functional spaces that foster experiential learning. Reskilling workers means educational facilities must be reinvented to accommodate creative learning with a tech future. An out-of-the-silo perspective is key to transform traditional and outdated spaces. Along those lines, two of the trends making an impact on learning environments are Comfort 101 and the Creative Lab.



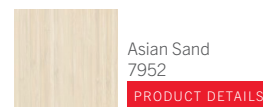
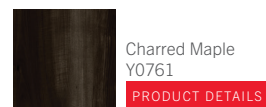
## Comfort 101

A soothing approach to educational spaces focuses on warm minimalism, quiet surfaces, and reflective spaces. As education evolves from a “one-size-fits-all” model, learning becomes more personalized, creating the need for spaces to accommodate enclave areas for small group work sessions and discussion, as well as independent learning.

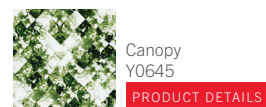
**Quiet finishes** – A heightened awareness of wellbeing impacts commercial spaces, with educational facilities transitioning to soothing and inviting spaces. Inspired by Wabi Sabi, a Japanese concept that promotes acceptance and celebration of the imperfect, quiet design finishes in commercial interiors feature meditative repeated lines and organic edges. The soft look of anodized metal in matte grey bronze has a low sheen that contributes to a sense of calm.



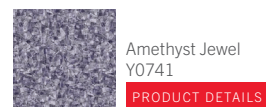
**Natural balance** – Light woods provide a calming background for comfortable learning spaces. When accented with charred wood finishes, the combination creates a contrast with a grounding balance.



**Biophilia** – Connecting through nature and organic finishes, such as Wilsonart's Canopy pattern, the design brings the natural world indoors with a feeling of light filtering through trees in a stylized way.



**Japandi** – The U.S. is becoming more globally connected and ethnically diverse, especially among younger generations. Merging Japanese and Scandinavian design aesthetics, Japandi celebrates a blend of cultures with simplicity with warmth. Wilsonart® Amethyst Jewel, with folded angles and abstract lines, is inspired by origami paper art, creates an eclectic aesthetic.





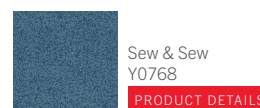
## Creative Lab

As Tech-savvy educational environments emulate startup spaces where multi-purpose zones foster concentration, creativity, invention, and collaboration. Technology is rapidly transforming the methods of teaching and learning, and design can foster the collaboration and innovation needed to help prepare students for the challenges of tomorrow.

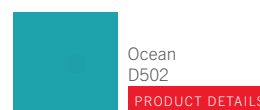
**Digitally inspired hues** – Raised with the digital inspiration from gaming and the internet, as well as the ability to be creative, today's students thrive in visually-stimulating environments. Vibrant colors inspired by digital interfaces are helping provide students with the inspiration they need to tackle new challenges.



**In touch with tech** – Digital and technology-inspired elements, like pixels, have become design motifs in modern patterns connecting the learning environment that mirrors the lifestyles of students. The do-it-yourself era of learning is fostered by spaces to build, train, and create as part of the 21st-century education landscape.



**Startup style** – Catering to next-gen entrepreneurs, maker materials like simple, plywood grains lend an easy, impromptu feeling to learning and study spaces. And workable walls made from writable materials make it easy to capture brainstorming sessions.



**The future is flexible** – Soft collaboration spaces balance out tech-heavy spaces and leave room for spontaneous study sessions. Meanwhile, repurposing existing architectural details, such as a stairwell, can pave the way for community gatherings and add flexibility to the learning environment.



Creating learning environments that embrace the technology-forward reality of students and align with their desire to reconnect and collaborate is the new charter in educational design. These trends are built on the promise of fostering curiosity, collaboration, and creativity. Wilsonart® palettes can serve as the foundation to create learning environments where students can thrive.

To order samples for any of these products, [click here](#).