

## COLLABORATIVE DESIGN OF WORKPLACE WITH FUTURE LANGUAGE

Takuya Honda<sup>1</sup>, Keibun Nakagawa<sup>2</sup>, and Takashi Iba<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Keio University

Endoh 5322, Fujisawa, Kanagawa, 252-0816, Japan

e-mail: ilab-future@sfc.keio.ac.jp

<sup>2</sup>UDS Ltd.

Yoyogi 1-27-16, Shibuya, Tokyo, 151-0053, Japan

### **ABSTRACT**

This paper presents a collaborative design method of workplace with Future Language by thinking, talking, and designing the workplace where workers can work lively. Future Language is a methodology to describe the desired future vision. In this paper, we show the design process for workplace of UDS Ltd. as a case, which demonstrates that this method enables workers to realize the desired workplace by talking about desired places, sharing current problems of their workplace, and coming up with the solutions to the problems. We anticipate that this method helps various people to create language for thinking and talking about their new workplace, and realize it collaboratively by themselves.

### **INTRODUCTION**

A comfortable workplace encourages workers to deliver high performance in their work; therefore creating comfortable workplace is essential for creating new values toward our future. There are, however, few opportunities for workers to think and talk about what is the problem in their workplace and what is desired workplace for them. So, even if one of the workers thinks about the desired workplace and another workers have an idea to realize it, without any helps, their ideas cannot meet each other.

In this paper, we propose to apply the Future Language method (Iba, 2015) to design workplace, and show a case of renovation project of the office in UDS Ltd.

### **DESIGNING WORKPLACE WITH FUTURE LANGUAGE**

Future Language is a new kind of language that is composed of Future Words to talk about the desired future vision (Iba, 2015). *Future Words* are ideas that represent solutions to the problems in current situation and approaches realizing the desired vision.

To create Future Words for designing workplace, workers think and talk about what the desired

workplace is, why it is desired and how to achieve it. Through this process, it is possible to mine and share their feelings for workplace, and think about solutions with other workers. Also, with Future Words, they can find out which Future Word took form in an actual space or spatial design. Thus, by creating and using Future Language for the desired workplace collaboratively, they will realize their desired workplace.

### **CASE: DESIGNING WORKPLACE OF UDS LTD. WITH FUTURE LANGUAGE**

We here show the case of designing a new workplace for UDS Ltd. This is a Japanese company that supports community development by designing houses, offices, and hotels. Figure 1 show the former office of UDS Ltd.



Figure 1: The former office of UDS Ltd.

Future Language Workshop was held on March 2014. The workshop included 30 workers of UDS Ltd. The objective of this workshop was to describe the desired workplace and implementation ideas so that they can work creatively.

The steps of workshop are as follows: (1) Future Mining is to mine their vision and actions for the new workplace, talking about what is desired and its reason. (2) Future Writing is to describe the vision for the future as Future Words. (3) Future Dialogue is to talk about the vision for the future and how to achieve it by using Future Words.

In this workshop, 30 Future Words were created. For example, “Non-pressure café,” is one of the Future Words, which was mentioned as “We want a space where there are no pressures from our boss.” “I

want to work with a feeling that it is easy to get together like music, art, or Physical Education class.”



Figure 2: Future mining for new UDS office

After the workshop, Idea Competition was held where they brought spatial ideas and decided which idea is the best (Figure 3). As a result, more than 100 ideas on spatial design were generated. Then, they discussed those ideas and summarized to 8 keywords, the necessary condition as Design Requirements. In this step, the Future Word “Non-Pressure Café” concluded in design requirement as “Café / Kitchen.”

By using them, they planned an overall blueprint and designed it. The Future Word “Non-Pressure Café” was implemented as “Library Café.” Then, the new office was completed with DIY by UDS workers and collaboration of other professionals.

The followings are some comments from the participants collected after designing the new workplace: “Since there are catchy words like Future Words, we can imagine many spatial images,” and “Various styles of dialogue happened so I think the quantity and quality of the dialogue have improved.” As mentioned above, they can imagine and share their desired visions and problems of a workplace and ultimately have created a workplace which is suitable for the workers to work lively.

**CONCLUSION**

This paper presented a collaborative design method of workplace with Future Language. The case in this paper demonstrates that Future Language method enables for workers to mine their concerns and feelings for a workplace and the solutions to improve it. We anticipate that, by designing workplaces with Future Language, workers can design workplace where they can work lively by themselves.

**REFERENCES**

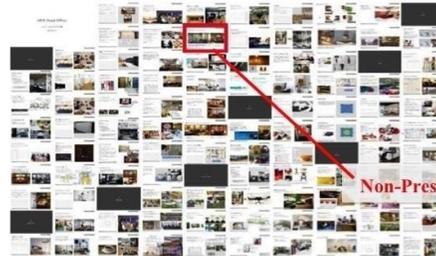
Iba, T. (2015), “Future Language: A New Design Method,” *Fifth Conference on Collaborative Innovation Networks (COINs2015)*.

**1. Future Words**

- “Between 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>” ... Create a place, which is more than a workplace and less than a café.
- “SHIFT MYSELF” ... Create an unusual space for coming up new ideas.
- “Planting seeds of talk” ... Sharing the time all workers do something.
- “Nobita’s drawer” ... There is a space workers can concentrate on working.
- “Non-Pressure Café” ... Create workspace with a feeling that it is easy to get together like music, art, or Physical Education class.
- “Select Workspace” ... Create various workspaces based on each worker’s work style.
- “Natural Deodorant” ... There are natural light, plant, perfume, wind and terrace in workplace.
- “Working Park” ... Create café where workers can get an idea and jobs by accepting diversity.

Non-Pressure Café

**2. Idea Competition**



Non-Pressure Café

**3. Design Requirement**



Café / Kitchen

**4. Planning & Design**



Library Café

**5. Completion**



Library Café Area of New UDS Office, which is derived from the future word “Non-Pressure Café”

Figure 3: Design Flow of new UDS office with their Future Language