

Collaboration Plus: How to Setup & Manage the Big Room

The Big Room is not just a physical space that co-locates owners, designers and contractors to support cross-functional team collaboration. It is about breaking down the 'silo' mindset of traditional projects and enabling teams to make more effective, value based decisions.

From Transforming Design and Construction, "The Big Room is more than co-location of people; it is about collaborative behaviour and the work it produces." This half day, Level 2 presentation will introduce the mindset and purpose of the Big Room, present the benefits of using one, and review the operational and physical components necessary for successful implementation of a Big Room.

Learning Outcomes

Participants will learn how the Big Room lays the foundation for collaborative team behaviours, eliminating the siloed approach to traditional project delivery. You will learn how the physical set up of the environment contributes to better behaviours, allowing teams to perform at a high level. This presentation will provide you with the tools and understanding to set up an effective Big Room.

Course Content

From schedules to design to mock-ups, the Big Room is the single repository for project information, providing all team members with instant access in order to make informed decisions with less back and forth discussions. Effectively facilitated meetings with goal oriented agendas will help the team stay on track and focus on the current needs of the project.

Through this workshop, you will learn:

Why the Big Room supports team collaboration
How Big Rooms add value to the project
The behaviours required to support high performing teams
The metrics of the Team Health scorecard
How Big Rooms support the rapid advancement of work
The physical requirements of an effective Big Room
How to structure productive meetings

Big Rooms are designed to provide a collaborative, visual atmosphere that supports learning in a team environment. Co-location of team members enables participants to have the right discussions at the right time in order to provide flow to the implementation of the project and limit changes as a result of misinformation or miscommunication.

More than just a physical environment, the Big Room mindset sets the stage for collaborative engagement to drive value added work through the elimination of waste typically associated with project teams working in silos. Working towards the mutually agreed Conditions of Satisfaction, team members are held to a high level of accountability with respect to behaviours and commitments. Through regular use of plus/delta's and retrospectives within the Big Room environment, the project team will quickly gain the benefit of developing a continuous improvement mindset, creating additional value to the project and the owner.