



## Design Story - Enlighten

### Overview

Today a lecture room is not just a row of benches and desks facing a black board. The shape and size of each lecture room is unique to the education it is meant to impart. Teaching aids like projectors, LCD monitors and elaborate audio systems, and learning aids like tabs and laptops are an integral part of today's classroom. Each of these elements needs different lighting, acoustics, seating layouts etc.

To deal with the complex requirements of today's learning experience, we need a versatile system of classroom furniture. Enlighten is designed to be this very system.

### Design Features

Enlighten's versatility comes from three key design features

- Breaking away from a typical 'bench + desk' setup to a 'front + middle + back' modular setup. A single row of benches can be created using several middle modules between a single front and back module.
- The next step of flexibility is added by making the middle module available in different heights. This enables the same system of benches to be used in a stepped layout without compromising the comfort of the learner.
- The next feature is the hinged modesty panels. These specially hinged panels allow the system to be either laid out straight or curved depending on the shape, size and purpose of the lecture hall.

### User Benefits

Flexibility features in Enlighten make it easy to create a desired layout. But the student's experience with the product needs to be considered beyond just the layout. It was important to observe and understand how a student would approach and sit comfortably on a particular seat in any given layout. Then came up a question, "What feature can we incorporate to enhance the comfort in the user's interaction with the product?" The answer was a seemingly simple one: a folding seat.

The seat, when not in use, folds into the back panel, thus creating space for the student to walk through. This not only makes the student's path more comfortable, but also reduces the space needed to be kept between consecutive modules. The reduced spacing lets the student sit comfortably while working at the desk. Also the overall arrangement becomes more compact, allowing for more seats to be added in the hall without making it seem cramped up.

### Conclusion

Enlighten is an ingenious product which provides an elegant, modular solution to the needs of the modern day classroom. It offers flexibility in layout and efficiency in space management without compromising on seating comfort.