



amazing solutions: From left, Casey Leeman, 7, Jay Richmond, 7, Kian Collins and Samantha Chingono



Model making: Youngsters at Woodlands Primary School turn their hand to interior architecture and design, working with students from the University Of Lincoln to create a fun and multi-functional Atrium design. From left are, Amy Loosley, Logan Grant, 7, Sophie Hindmarsh, Amy Gripton, 9, Morgan Crowley and Olivia Smith, 6

SLIDES, hot tubs, treehouses and even a sleep zone for tired teachers.

Those were just some of the ideas put forward by pupils at Grimsby's Woodlands Primary School for vacant space within their new buildings.

Pupils welcomed 24 architecture and design students from the University Of Lincoln to thrash out ideas which will be fed into the design of the new "Atrium" building.

Each group contained pupils from each of the six school year groups, as well as a university student, and they were tasked with creating 3D models of their plans.

Kian Collins, 10, told how his group had devised a two-sided staircase, one side of which was a slide for children.

He said: "We came up with reading pods where you can read and there's some stairs and when you come down there's a slide.

"When you read sometimes you can get bored sitting in the same chair but the pods would be more fun.

"We came up with different ideas with the university students.

"It's given us a chance to be creative and use our imaginations. Everybody has had lots of ideas."

Helping out the group was interior architecture and design student Samantha Chingono, 21.

She said pupils had come up with all manner of ideas for the space. They had been urged to look to use sustainable materials.

She added: "We asked what they would like to see in the space and we decided to create a reading space with chairs that hang from the ceiling and incorporate reading materials.

"We came to the conclusion that it looks like a traffic light so we thought the reading pods should be red, amber and green. The pupils are thinking in three dimensions and considering that things need to be multi-functional."

Seven-year-old Logan Grant's group came up with a design including an indoor treehouse and disco ball.

Logan said: "I also made a slide that goes onto a soft landing."

He said there would be a party going on inside the treehouse for the children.

Pupils moved into the new school facilities in April but the Atrium space was left vacant.

The redevelopment had been funded by the Government's Priority School Building Programme for schools in deprived areas and in need of repair.

Rosie Elvin, senior architectural lecturer, said there had been an impressive array of ideas on the day.

"The day slotted in perfectly with the students' live project which we do every year. It's great for them because there's the potential to see their designs be realised," she said.

"We've been very impressed. The kids are coming up with amazing ideas and our students are interacting with them."

She said the students, who are in the second and third years of their courses, would return in January with a final design.

Sarah Forrester, assistant head teacher at Woodlands, said: "We approached the university and the students have come and facilitated the most amazing morning. The ideas are flowing and the children have been fantastic.

"The students have been so warm and welcoming and there's a lovely buzz. Hopefully we will create something very special at the end."

She added: "The school environment is one of our most powerful learning tools, and most of all, we feel an obligation to future generations of children to make this school the best it can be."

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