

## **Group assignments as a strategy in multi-disciplinary teaching**

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This paper reviews the progress in developing a multi-disciplinary teaching and learning unit in the Faculty of the Built Environment at Curtin University of Technology. Designated as a special topics unit the aim of the unit is to link students from the departments of architecture and construction management on a group project assignment. It is felt that this type of innovative teaching and learning strategy will help to remove barriers that are created between the various professionals in industry. These barriers were possibly encouraged traditionally as a result of designing courses around discrete units and separate study streams. The belief is that a culture of collaborative teamwork, that students will carry with them into industry, can be encouraged by using a more rationalised approach to teaching. It was therefore decided to base the new unit on a collaborative teaching and learning strategy incorporating a problem-based learning exercise for students to undertake in groups. A survey of students was carried out to assess how the unit has contributed to developing a community of teaching and learning within the faculty.

**Keywords:** Collaborative Teaching, Cross-Disciplinary, Active Learning.