

Frequently Asked Questions

Why do we focus on tools, processes and environments?

MG Taylor invents, designs, develops and delivers tools, processes and environments that facilitate individuals and organizations in their transition to a knowledge-based world. While tools, processes, and environments are each important in their own right, we have found that it is only in combination that the true genius of an organization can be released time and time again. The processes and tools that we have developed over the past 22 years cannot be successfully applied without the accompanying innovative physical environment that removes many of the blocks that stymie and attenuate other group process techniques.



What do we mean by Group Geniussm?

Group Genius is the ability of a group to work iteratively and collaboratively to consistently seek, model and put into place higher order solutions. Time compression, systemic workflow, dynamic and real-time feedback, individual and collective creativity are core features of group genius.

What do we mean when we talk about "higher order solutions?"

Higher order solutions emerge out of collaborative design and transform thoughts so that solutions are recognized from within a fuller, richer, go forward perspective. This kind of solution comes from within -- as part of a self-organizing system, rather than as a mandate from outside the system.

Higher order solutions emerge as an individual or group releases their own assumptions and things that hold them back, freeing them to move forth with speed and confidence.

Higher order solutions emerge from complex sets of prob-

lems in such a way that one solution solves many individual problems.

What is a DesignShop® event?

DesignShop events are designed to help organiza-

tions and communities deal systemically, strategically and quickly with very complex problems and situations. They bring together a diverse group of stakeholders who all feel they have something to gain or lose from solving this problem. DesignShop events facilitate diverse, fragmented, often antagonistic groups to discover and use their Group Genius so that everyone leaves with ownership, responsibility, and accountability. This process is designed to condense the time in which a team moves from idea to implementation by an order of magnitude. Participants are not managed; rather, a rigorous management of the environment, process and use of tools regulates collaboration, creates space for dynamic design and provides feedback from and to all participants.



What is the model for knowledge transfer and how does MG Taylor's system scale?

For the past 22 years, the mission of MG Taylor has been to listen, learn, develop, test and transfer our system and method. Always, our mission has been to transfer what we are learning to the organizations with which we are working. The formal transfer of the MG Taylor way of working begins with the creation of a NavCenter, custom designed workshops, manuals, and license agreements (see article entitled What is a Navigation Center?).

The MG Taylor organization is structured to provide maximum capability during the process of transfer. We have a core team of only 15 people, but a network of knowledge workers numbering in the hundreds. This flexibility provides us with the ability to scale as needed. Over a period of two years, we helped Cap Gemini Ernst & Young create a network of 24 licensed environments, along with the network of knowledge workers needed to generate millions of dollars in immediate fees and an order of magnitude value in follow-on work.



Is it true that MG Taylor has a patent?

Yes. On September 18, 2001, the United States Patent and Trademark Office issued Matt and Gail Taylor patent number 6,292,830. Their work began in the 1960s with the desire to create and test a system and method for addressing the paradoxes and problems associated with the knowledge economy and transition to it. The system and method of the present invention creates a unified experience of work that scales from individual thought processes to the building and using of a global system of commerce. Described in several levels of recursion, the system and method of the present invention integrate, into a single system and method, several discrete sub-systems and methods that comprise a myriad of formerly disintegrated tools and processes conducted across contradictory and non-collaborative environments.

What industries have used MG Taylor services?

Aerospace, Automotive, Cosmetics, Financial, Food & Beverage, Government, Healthcare, Insurance, Management Consulting, Media & Entertainment, Pharmaceuticals, High Technology, Utilities & Energy, Startup Organizations

Have the MG Taylor methods and results been reported in the media?

Yes, you can learn more about MG Taylor methods and history in these publications:

Books:

Managing Interactively, by Mary E. Boone, McGraw Hill, 2001.

Work Naked: Eight Essential Principles for Peak Performance in the Virtual Workplace, by Cynthia C. Froggatt, Wiley, 2001.

Cybermeeting: How to Link People and Technology in Your Organization, by James L. Creighton and James W. R. Adams, AMACOM, 1997.

Leaping the Abyss: Putting Group Genius to Work, by Chris Peterson and Gayle Pergamit, knOwhere Press, 1997.

Articles:

Seagate's Three-Day Revolution, by Philip Siekman, *Fortune*, February 19, 2001.

Collaborative Forecasting, by Kristin K. Nauth, *Knowledge Management Magazine*, April 1999.

Montessori for Adults, by Marcella Bernhard, *Palo Alto Weekly*, July 28, 1999.

Group Genius, by Paul Roberts, *Fast Company*, Oct/Nov 1997.

ReWorking the Workplace: Keys to Sustained Peak Performance, by Gail and Matt Taylor, *Mobius Magazine*, December 1993.

