Metaphores

- Metaphors exist on different levels.
- On a low level through icons mapping something useful for the user. Folders, calculator, window, program etc.

- On an operation level, to execute something, e.g. "drag-and-drop", to throw away something, to start a program by "double-clicking" etc.
- On a high level to organize the whole work area on the screen. See next page.

Desktop and rooms

- The desk-top metaphor is well known. We see the computer screen as a desktop where all things available can be placed.
- The rooms metaphor is principally different.
Rooms

- The information space is divided into different rooms. In each room a specified set of work tasks can be performed. A room is defined so that all tasks of a certain work situation can be performed without leaving the “room”.
- In each room there is a work-space optimally designed for the work tasks to be performed there.
- The rooms metaphor is especially useful where it is important to have fast access to efficient computer support tools.

Room – an example

In this example, to be used in a health care environment, there are two rooms, one for reading the patient record and one for booking appointments. The room is selected in the “rooms-bar”. 

The user has selected the “patient record room”, and is working on its work-space
The user is in the room “for booking patient appointments”, and is working on its work-space