Abstract. In 2009, the UCSB Center for Spatial Studies undertook to develop a web portal to digital teaching resources (interactive activities, lesson plans, videos, etc.) concerning spatial concepts and principles for the spectrum of science, engineering and humanities fields. That goal led to outlining a long-term research and web development agenda loosely framed around the question, “what might a multidisciplinary course on spatial thinking at the undergraduate level consist of?” Answering that question completely would require meeting three objectives step-wise: first, identifying those spatial concepts and principles considered fundamental from a variety of disciplinary perspectives; second, defining a set of spatial learning objectives; and third, designing the course itself—its lecture content, exercises, and assessment instruments.

The TeachSpatial project has made substantial progress towards the first of these objectives and its web site (www.teachspatial.org) provides some tools for helping meet all three. I will discuss our several efforts at “finding the spatial”—in NSF award abstracts, in scholarly works on spatiality from multiple fields, and in K-12 teaching standards—and show how those results, embedded in the new TeachSpatial site, could enable progress in a collective effort by a fledgling community of interest.

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The objectives of the ThinkSpatial brown-bag presentations are to exchange ideas about spatial perspectives in research and teaching, to broaden communication and cooperation across disciplines among faculty and graduate students, and to encourage the sharing of tools and concepts. Please contact Don Janelle (ext 5267, janelle@spatial.ucsb.edu) to review and schedule possible discussion topics or presentations that share your disciplinary interest in spatial thinking.