



Library Design Idea Book

Steelcase

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research & insights

THE LIBRARY EVOLVES

The library's role is changing dramatically. With information available online virtually anytime, housing countless books has become of secondary importance. Today's library should be a broader and deeper resource than ever, a place where traditional and new knowledge resources converge in an ongoing process of learning, teaching and discovery. It doesn't require more real estate, but simply rethinking how library space is used.

To better understand the trends, Steelcase Education Solutions initiated a major study of libraries at 13 public and private colleges and universities across the U.S. The research revealed that the library is becoming a key location outside the classroom where constructivist pedagogy plays out as students learn to analyze information and create new information, often working in groups. This change represents a great shift for the library from a reading and storage site to a center of interactive learning.

The library's dramatic shift to a multi-dimensional, multi-use space hasn't been easy. For example, in recent decades, growing computer use led libraries to install computer stations, but their haphazard application often placed people in busy corridors with no privacy. Group work areas were often placed without intention next to individual study areas. This left quiet-seeking individuals frustrated and

teams searching for the right space and tools for effective collaboration.

Intentional design, adjacency planning and understanding intended behaviors through research result in a better approach. There is a rhythm to an individual's learning process and to pedagogical needs such as team projects.

Libraries demand a range of settings, progressing from individual needs to team solutions. Additionally, our research showed that spaces that work for solo tasks work best early in the day and then have to be flexible for other needs later on.

The library remains a key resource for learning how to find and use information efficiently, but it's also a place for peer-to-peer mentoring, small group projects and access to hardware and software.

what we heard

"We have to look at our information in the library and rethink the ways we provide it to people." – **LIBRARIAN**

"It's really hard to focus when you're in an enormous room that has noise going all over the place and you're trying to read things on a screen. Our library has a 'state-of-the-art computer area,' but the entire floor is open. Everyone who's walking to the other end of the library has to come through." – **STUDENT**



what we observed

Libraries are becoming social hubs, supporting individual connections, collaborative needs and team projects, along with event areas for community activities. The central role of computer hardware and software has resulted in a demand for more library computer labs.

Anywhere/anytime information access has lessened the need to reference books, so book stacks are being reduced and moved to less prominent locations. Librarians' roles are changing; they're instructors, technology advisors, research assistants and collaborators with community users.

1 outdated library spaces

People today suffer when outmoded spaces inadequately support the integration of the three key elements of a successful library environment: pedagogy, technology and space. For too long, we have designed for what we know: rooms arranged in static rows and columns with little flexibility for the varied informational needs relevant today. Libraries designed to support books and quiet work, without the ability to support group activities and collaborative projects. In too many cases, these environments hinder discovery rather than support.

“Libraries need to break out of the atmosphere of tradition, to escape gravity, as I call it. We need to rethink our whole attitude about the relationship between students and space, furniture, and information, and redefine what a library should be.”

– **LEE VAN ORSDEL** | *Dean of University Libraries, Grand Valley State University*



GROUP AREAS

Group areas are often placed without intention next to individual study areas. This leaves quiet-seeking individuals frustrated and groups searching for the right space and tools for effective collaboration.



LOUNGE AREAS

Lounge areas are comfortable but typically designed for a single purpose.



POWER ACCESS

Tech-wielding individuals need access to power, yet buildings typically don't provide enough outlets.



pain points

LIMITED ACCESS TO POWER

As mobile devices multiply, power needs escalate. Consequently, individuals sacrifice comfort and control for the needs of their devices.

SUPPORTING A VARIETY OF POSTURES

Changes in technology and behavior have led to new unhealthy postures that are not adequately supported by current space and seating solutions. While technology boosts productivity, it can cause discomfort that disrupts our work, our ability to concentrate and our creativity.

UNINTENTIONAL LEARNING SPACES

Group work areas are often unintentionally placed next to individual study areas, leaving quiet-seeking individuals frustrated while teams search, often fruitlessly, for collaborative spaces and tools to support group projects.



learning has evolved. has your library?

Learning is evolving, becoming more personalized, active and user-directed. More than ever, individuals need simple and effective ways to connect and collaborate.

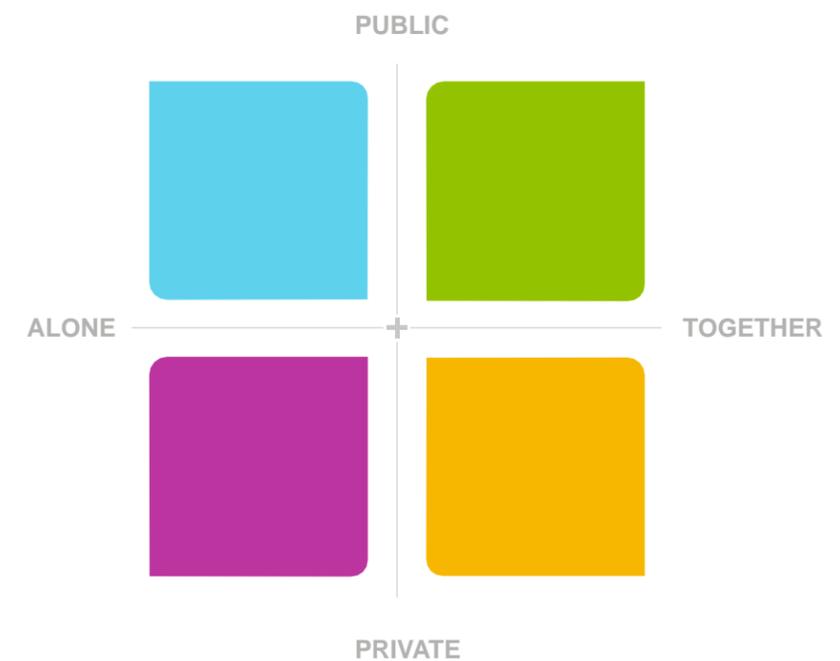
media:scape® collaborative settings seamlessly integrate technology, furniture and space to bring people together for greater communication and collaboration, and more powerful learning experiences.

PLANNING YOUR LIBRARY

planning your library

Most existing libraries were designed and built for finding books and checking them out. As today's library transcends that limited role, four zones have emerged, each with multiple and different types of activities. Across these zones, new library spaces must support collaboration and group work, private study space, computing equipment and content-creation tools. Each quadrant represents a set of behaviors that should be intentionally planned.

Whether in a new space or a renovation, adjacencies are crucial, including planning for technology in practically every setting from team, collaborative spaces to social areas to individual study spaces. Visual and acoustical privacy requires careful consideration. This palette of place demonstrates the need for these zones and can help guide building zoning.



the library ecosystem

Consider the entire library floorplan when retrofitting any settings, designing with adjacencies in mind. When planning, be sure to support each quadrant independently and holistically within the entire floor space.

PRIVATE/ALONE

Individually dedicated spaces support a range of focus and concentration areas and should consider appropriate human scale for an individual and their wellbeing. Plan for short- and long-term security of personal items and the accommodation of new worktools.

PUBLIC/ALONE

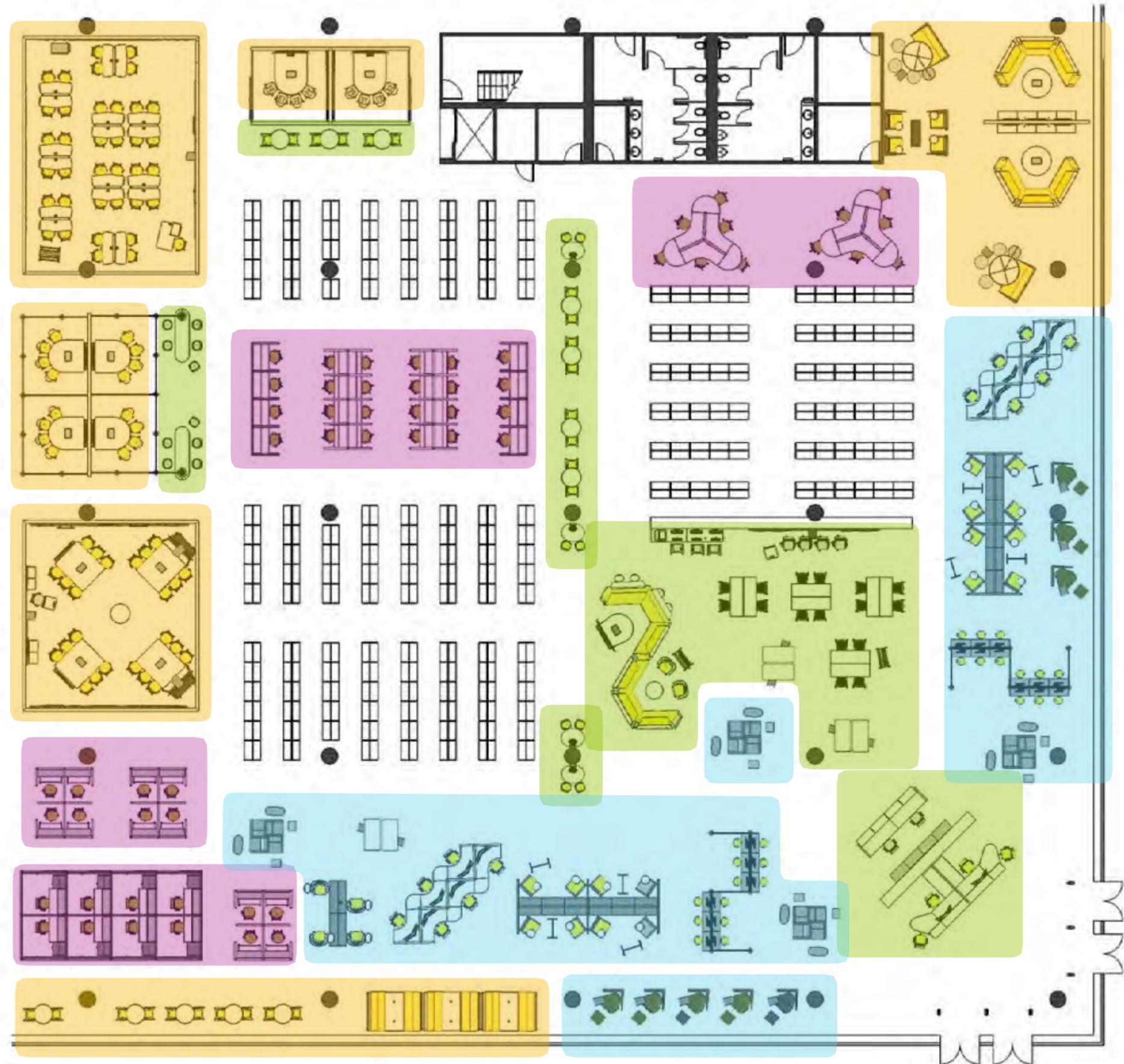
Individuals want to study in the company of others to stay socially connected while working alone in a variety of open settings. Support the need for co-existing focused work and social interactions, allowing settings to switch from individual to dyads and triads. Offer highly flexible and self-customizable furnishings and tools while supporting postural changes for short- and long-term use.

PUBLIC/TOGETHER

Support the demand for large, scheduled functions with multi-purpose, highly adaptable gathering places. Recognize the increased need for just-in-time technical support for questions, support and maintenance. Support different group sizes and postures.

PRIVATE/TOGETHER

Technology-rich library classrooms should accommodate multiple uses such as active learning, computing and distance learning with fluid transitions. Support multiple meeting modes – inform, evaluate and co-create – for small to large groups.



key elements

Creating a multi-use library that equally supports and incorporates pedagogy, technology and space requires balancing a number of needs and key elements.



VISUAL / ACOUSTICAL PRIVACY

Private study is still very prevalent in the library. With the increase in collaborative projects, areas that provide privacy and minimize distraction are essential to the library ecosystem.



TECHNOLOGY INTEGRATION

As mobile devices multiply, power needs escalate. Technology must be seamlessly integrated in order to support the library's evolving role as a multi-use space.



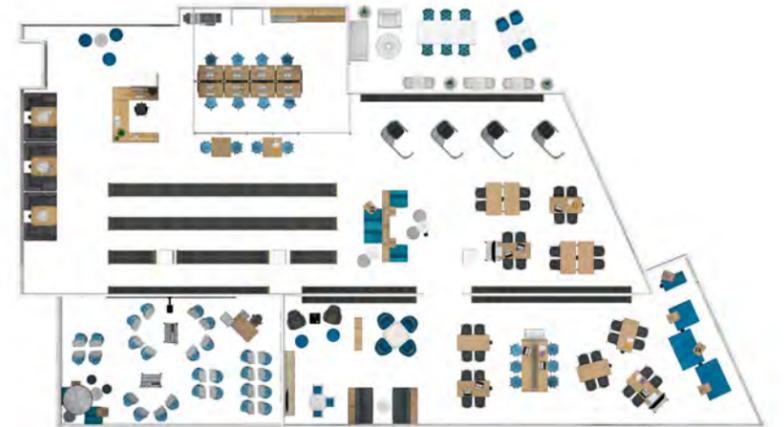
FLEXIBLE FURNITURE

Spaces with furniture that's mobile, reconfigurable, and in a variety of sizes and shapes optimizes space while supporting changes in posture, collaborative and individual work.



small floorplan

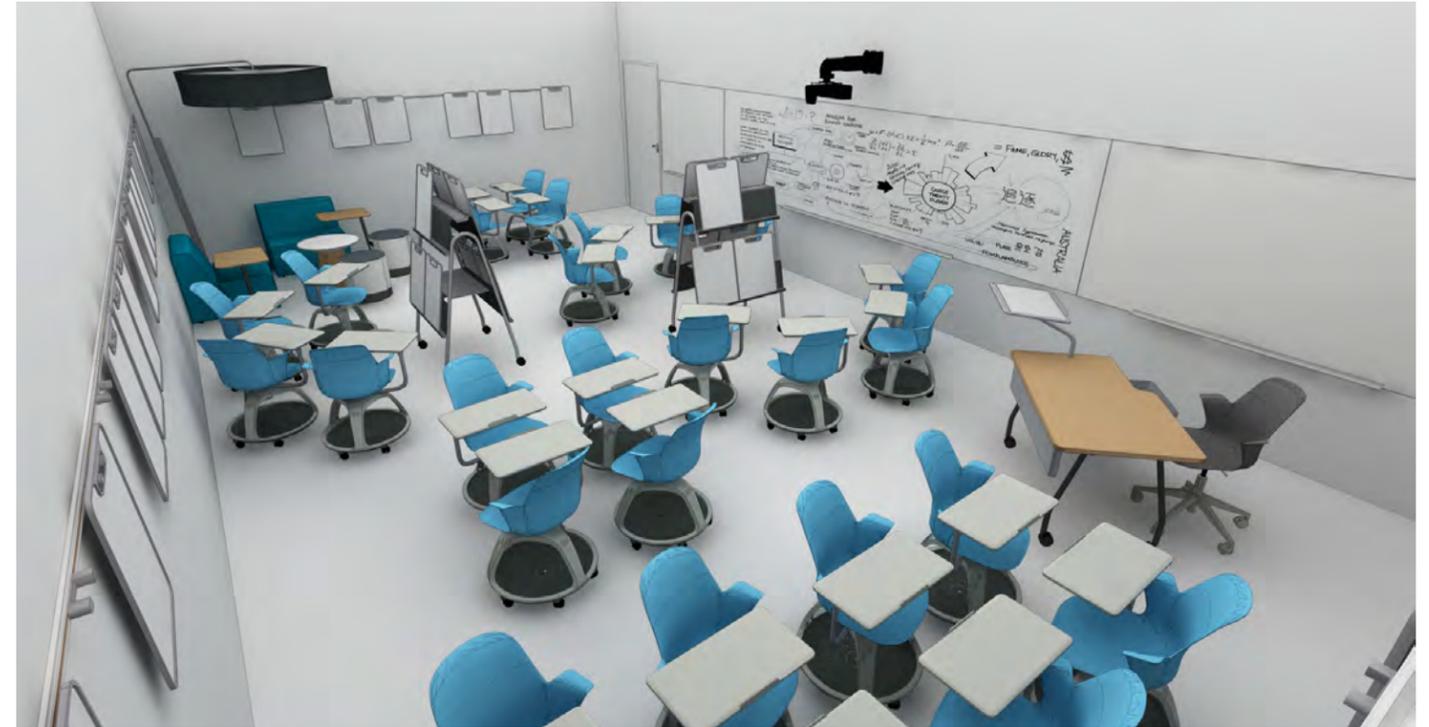
2,500 SQUARE FEET*

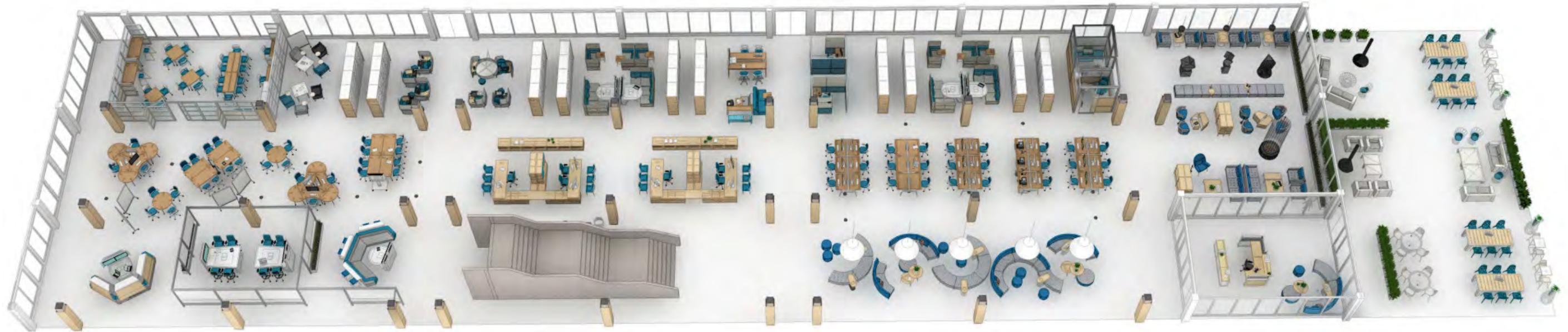


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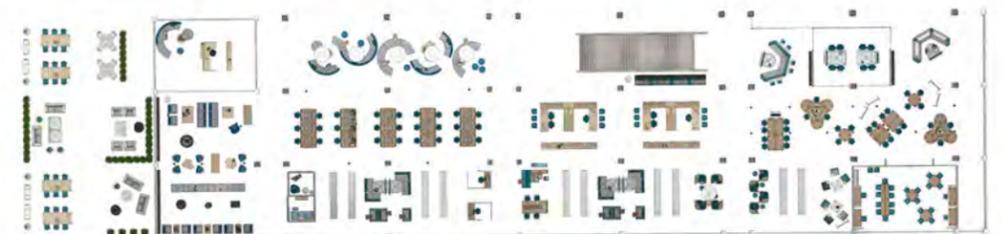
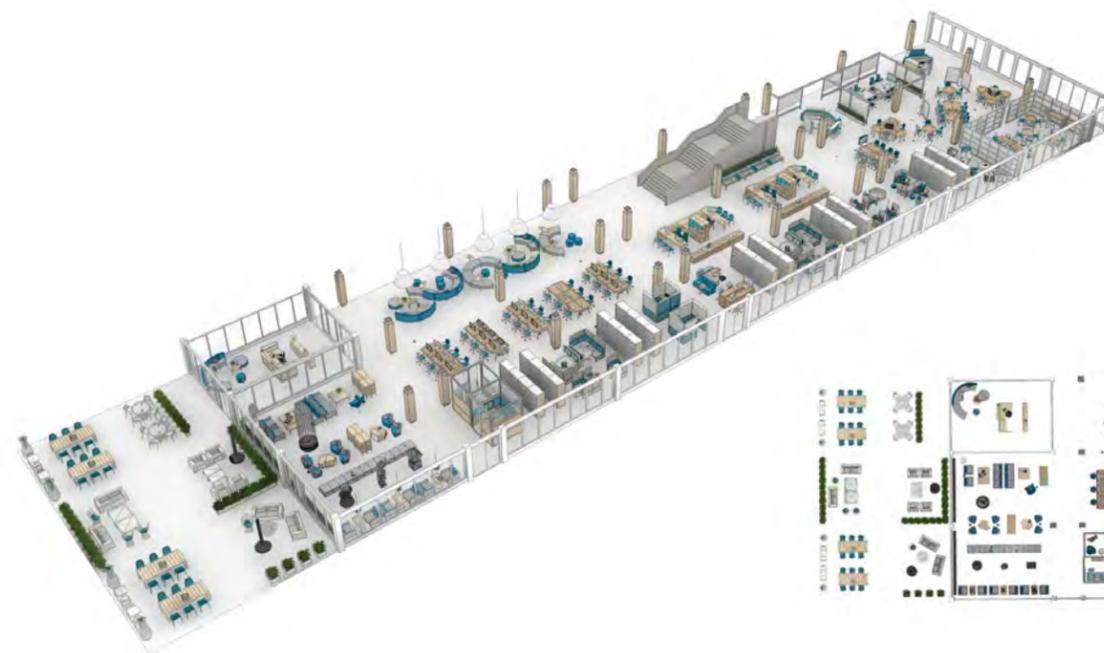
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medium floorplan

15,000 SQUARE FEET*



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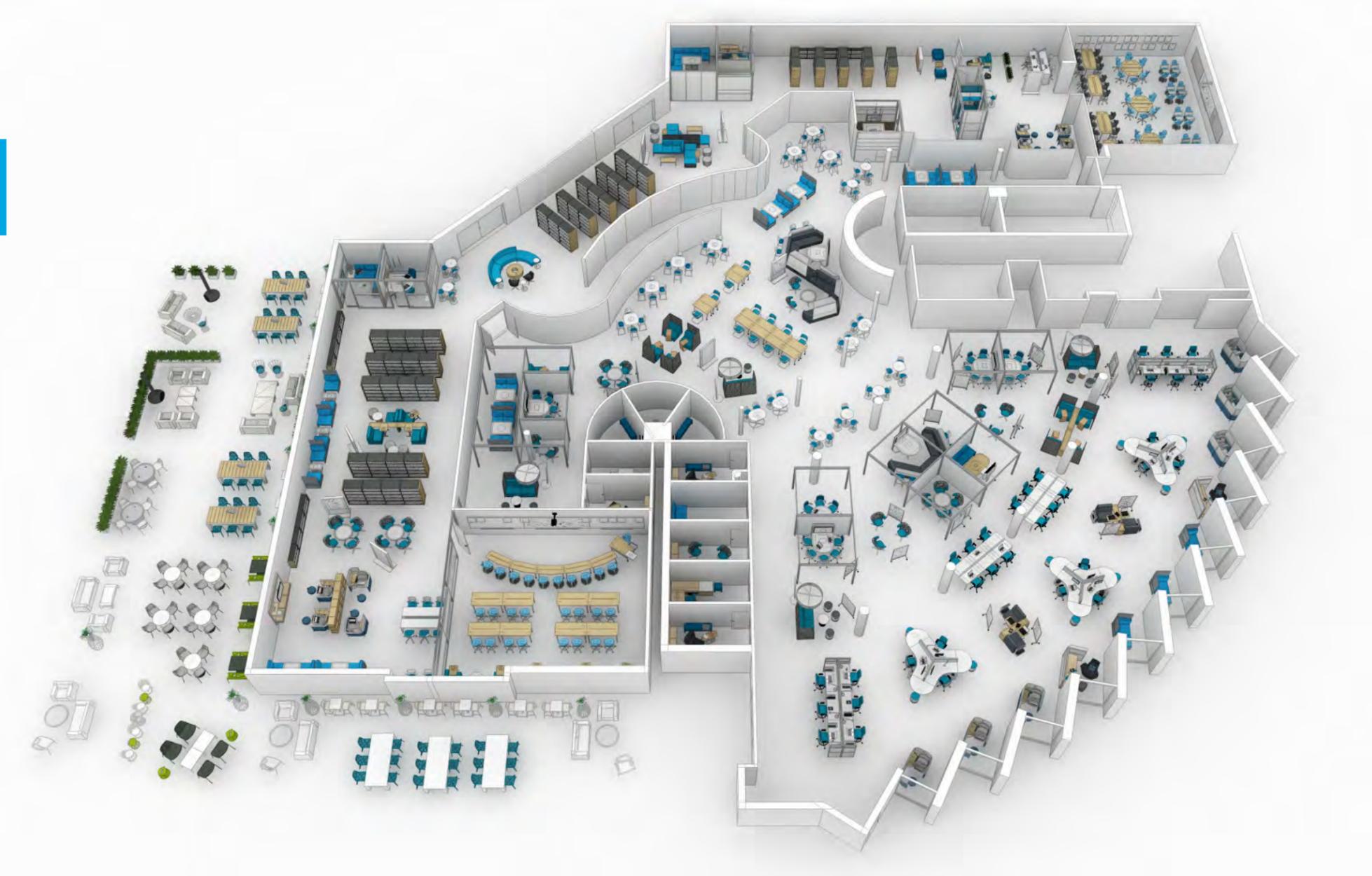


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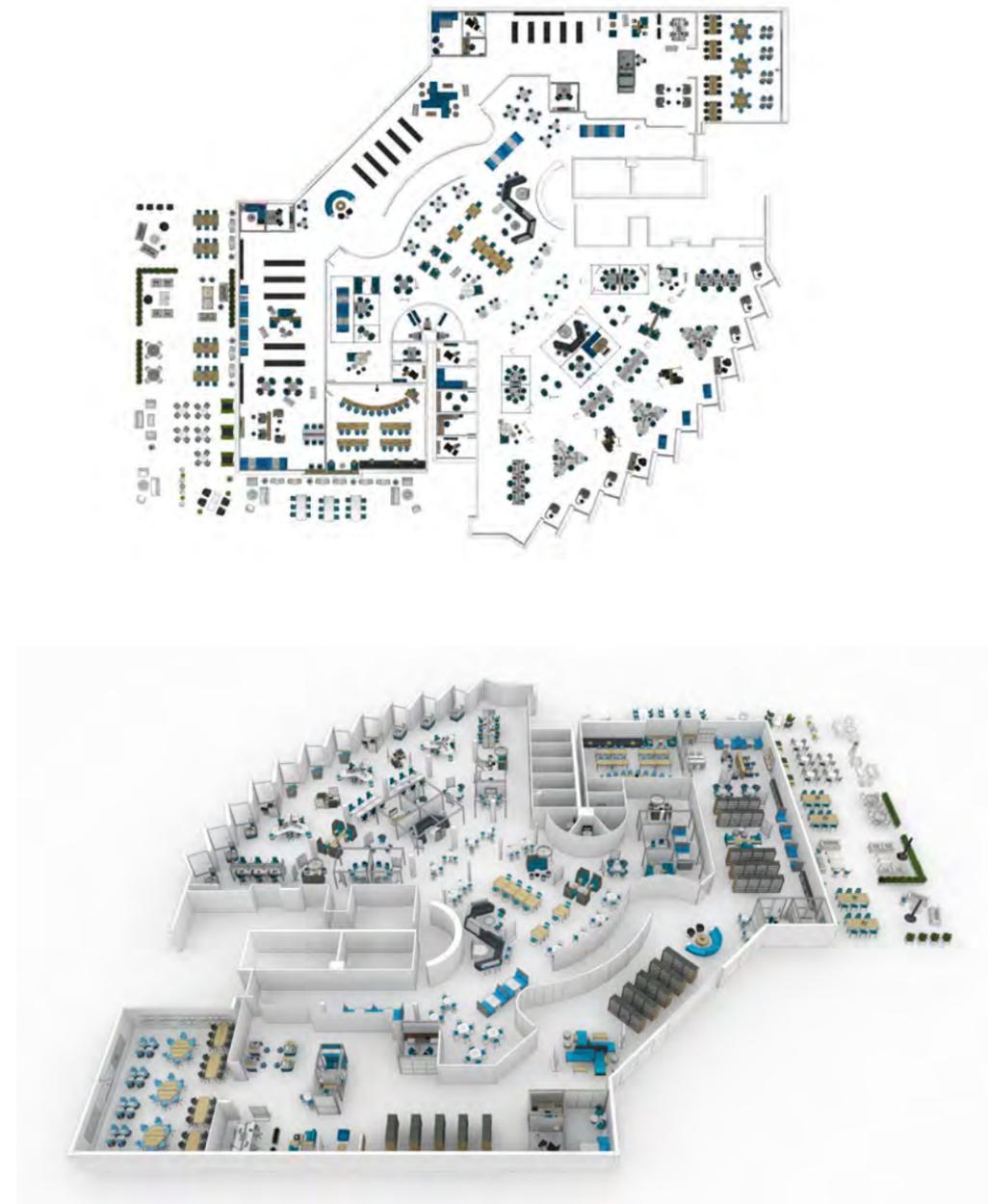
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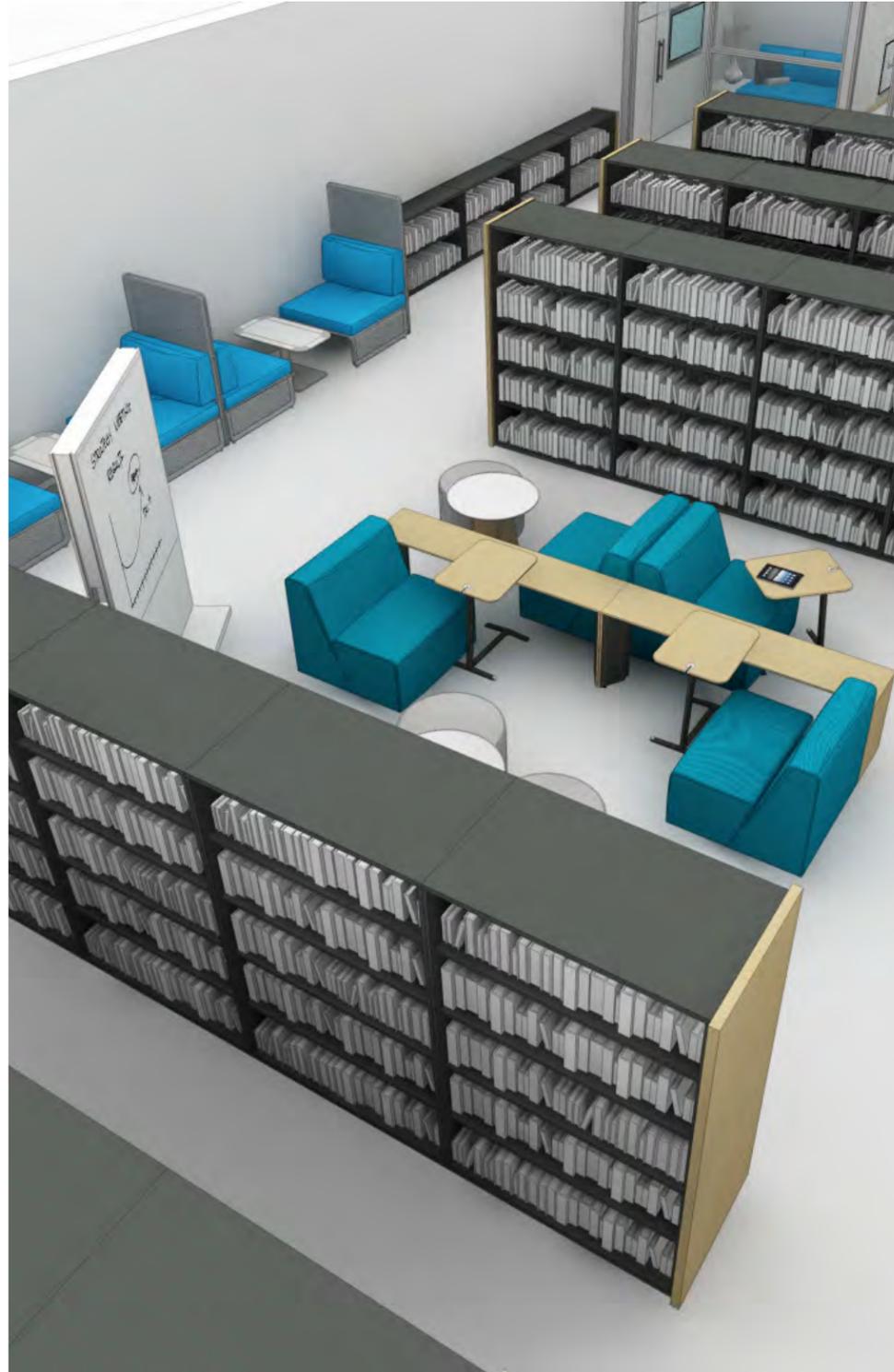


large floorplan

25,000 SQUARE FEET*



3





NEIGHBORHOOD VIEW | LARGE

3





ZONE: PRIVATE/ALONE

4

3D VIEW



PLAN VIEW



3D VIEW



PLAN VIEW



3D VIEW



PLAN VIEW



3D VIEW



PLAN VIEW





ZONE: PRIVATE/ALONE

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3D VIEW



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ZONE: PRIVATE/ALONE

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3D VIEW



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3D VIEW



PLAN VIEW





ZONE: PRIVATE/ALONE

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3D VIEW



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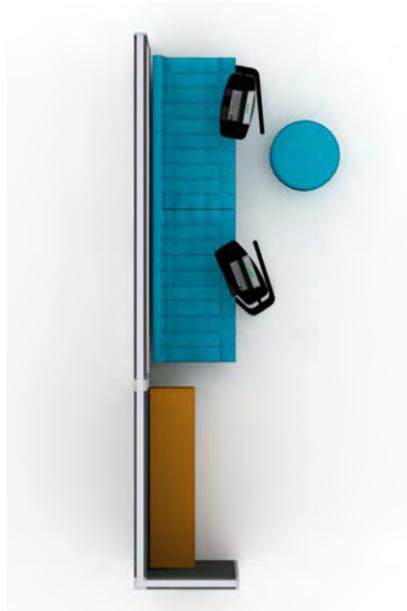
ZONE: PUBLIC/ALONE

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3D VIEW



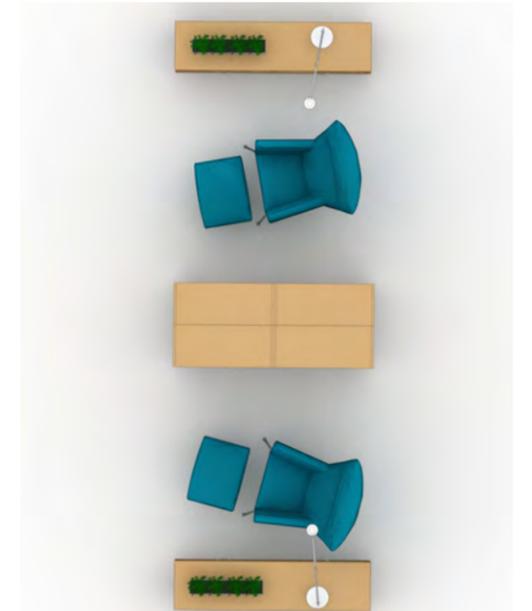
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3D VIEW



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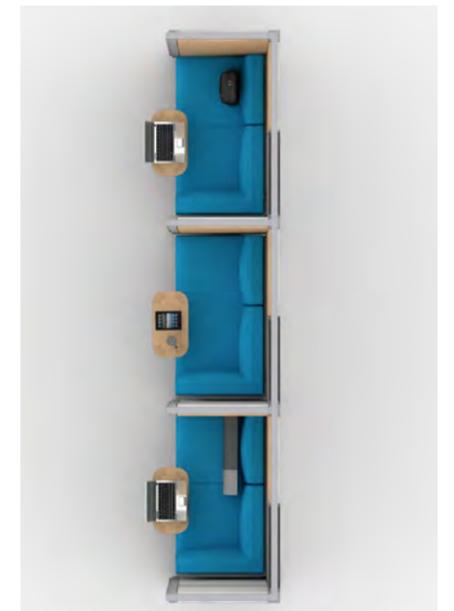
PLAN VIEW



3D VIEW



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ZONE: PUBLIC/ALONE

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3D VIEW



PLAN VIEW



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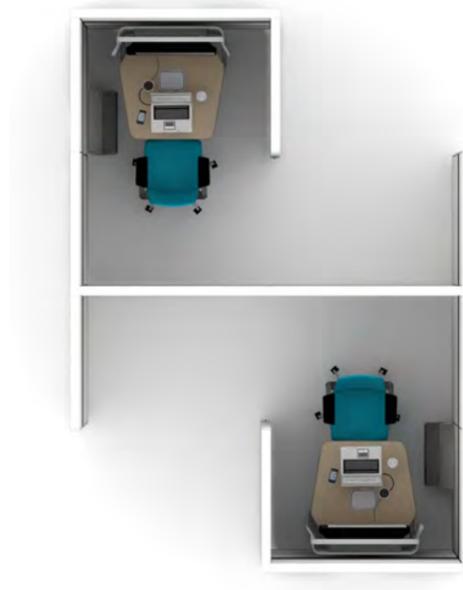
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ZONE: PUBLIC/ALONE

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3D VIEW



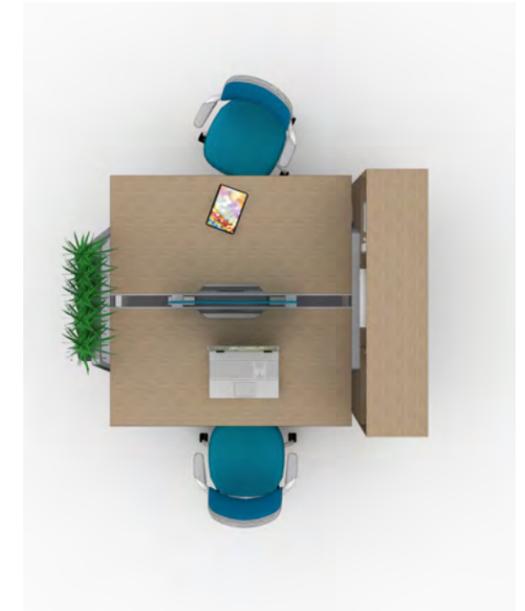
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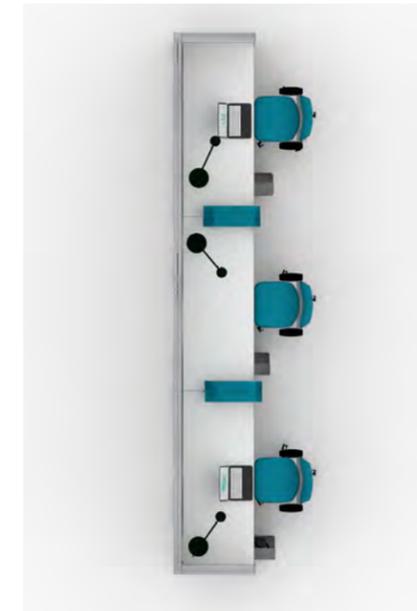
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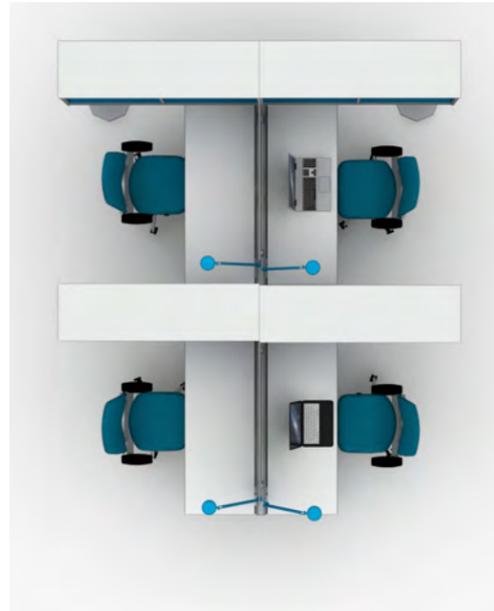
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3D VIEW



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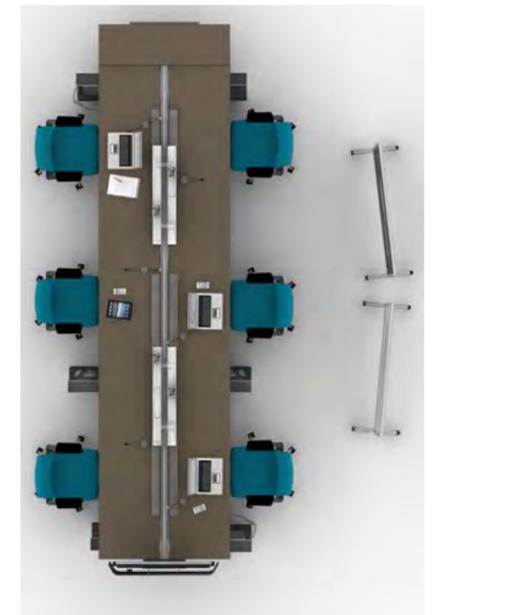
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PLAN VIEW





ZONE: PUBLIC/TOGETHER

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3D VIEW



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ZONE: PUBLIC/TOGETHER

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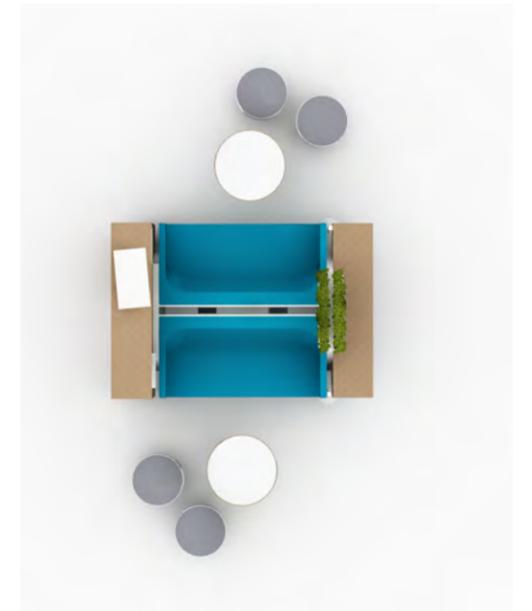
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ZONE: PUBLIC/TOGETHER

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3D VIEW



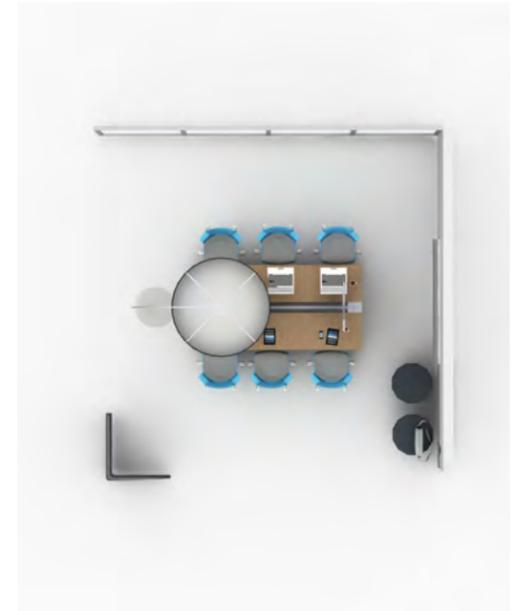
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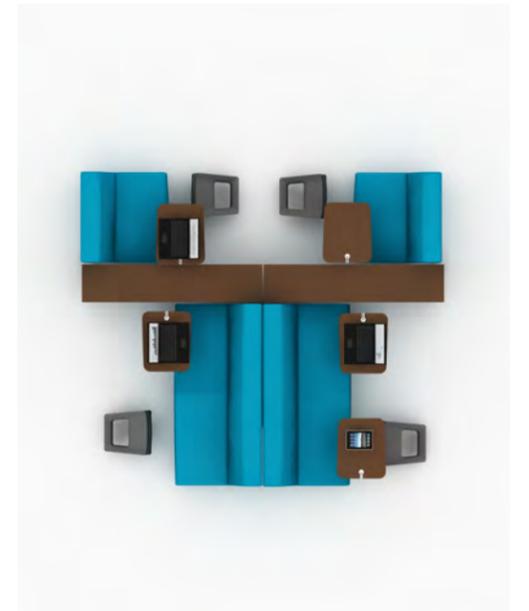
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ZONE: PUBLIC/TOGETHER

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3D VIEW



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ZONE: PUBLIC/TOGETHER

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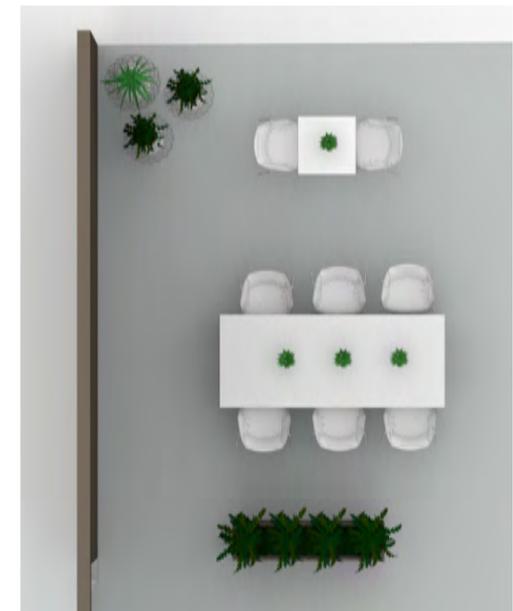
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ZONE: PRIVATE/TOGETHER

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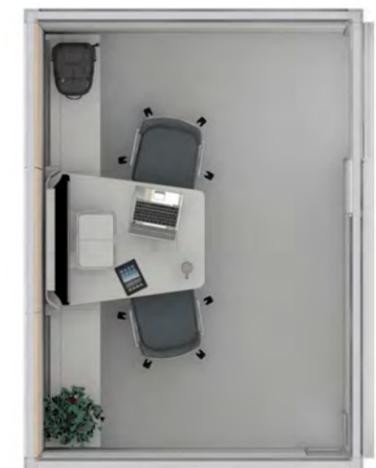
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ZONE: PRIVATE/TOGETHER

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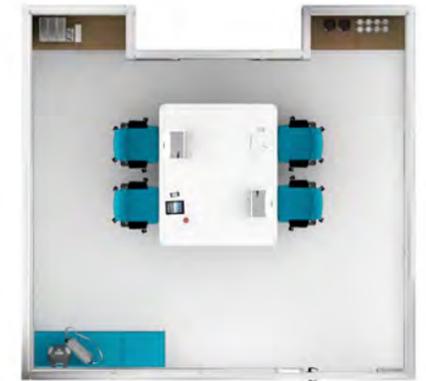
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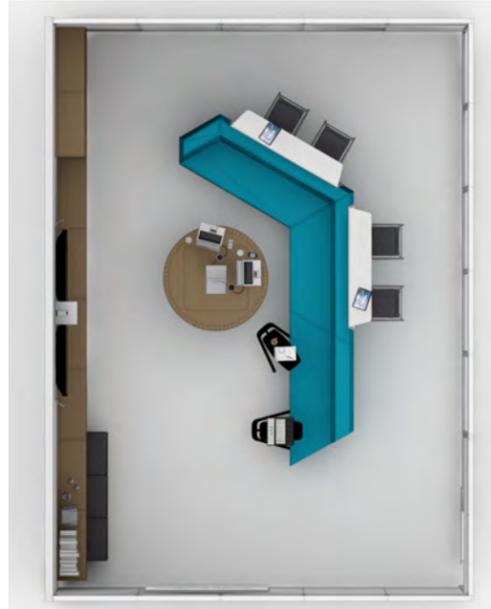
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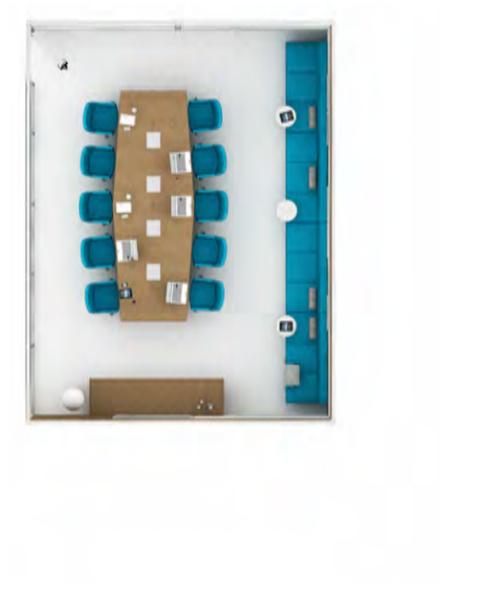
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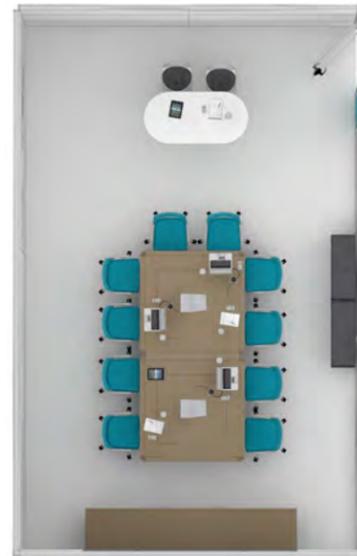
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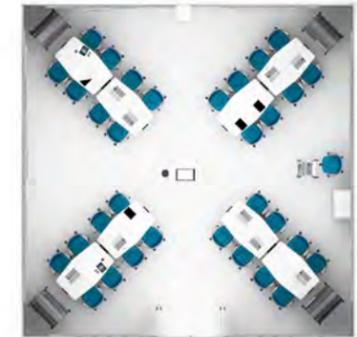
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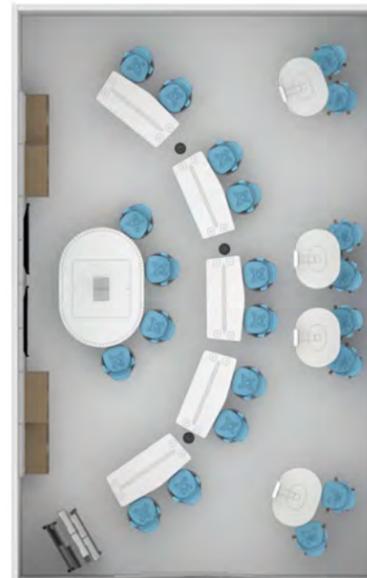
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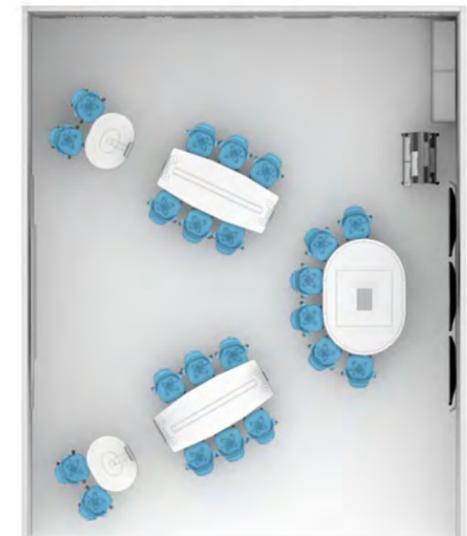
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3D VIEW



PLAN VIEW



ADMINISTRATIVE SPACES

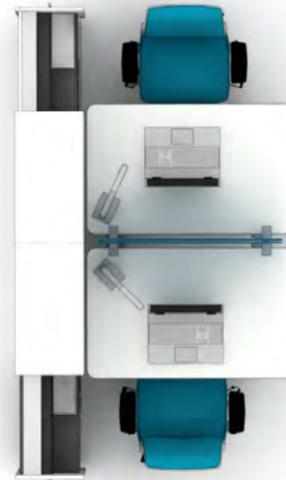
Ongoing Steelcase research has found that workplaces can influence how people feel about their organization and their job, which affects their engagement level. Workplaces designed to offer employees more choices about where and how they work can positively impact engagement and productivity.

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3D VIEW



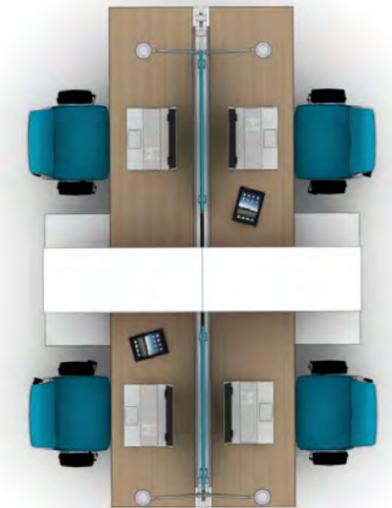
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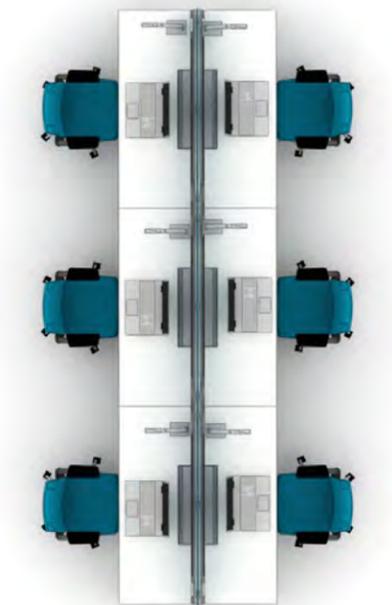
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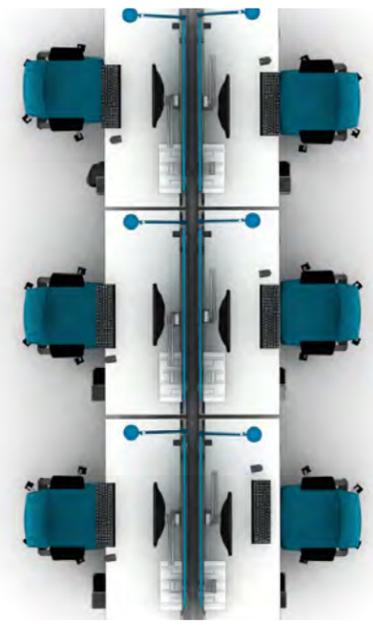
ADMINISTRATIVE SPACES

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3D VIEW



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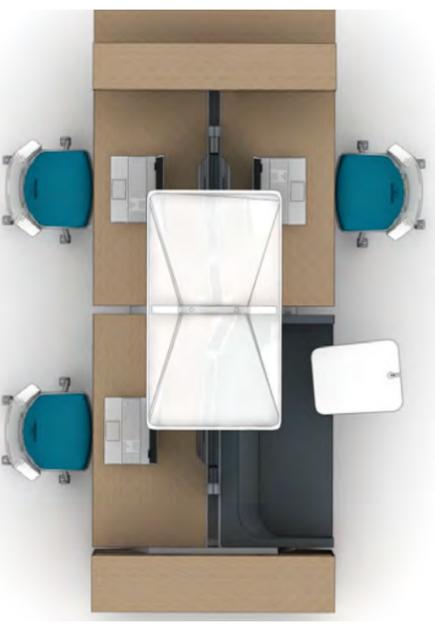
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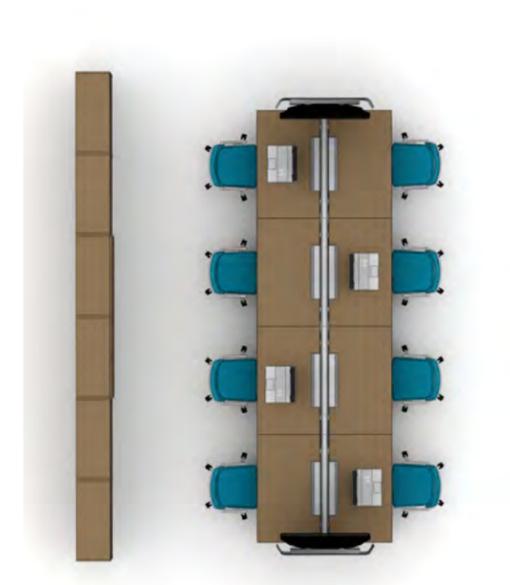
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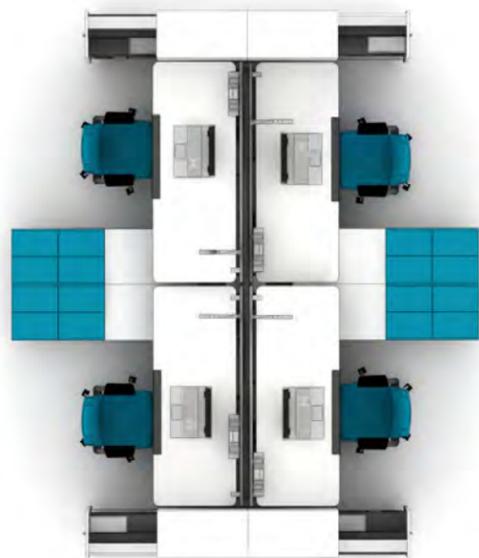
ADMINISTRATIVE SPACES

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3D VIEW



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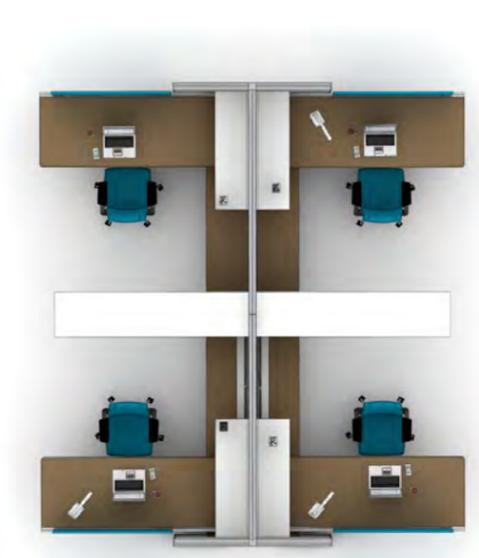
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ADMINISTRATIVE SPACES

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3D VIEW



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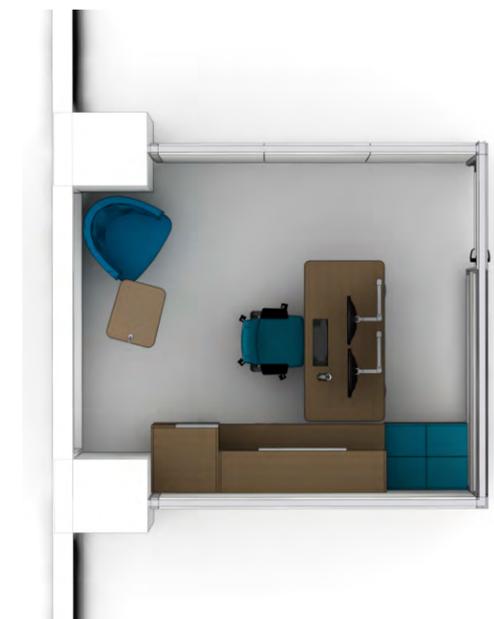
PLAN VIEW



3D VIEW



PLAN VIEW





designed to be good for your body and good for your brain.

Introducing the Brody™ WorkLounge.

PRODUCT HIGHLIGHTS | BRODY

product highlights

BRODY™ WORKLOUNGE

DESIGNED FOR YOUR BODY.

Providing high-performance comfort and support, the Brody WorkLounge features patented LiveLumbar™ technology—bringing thoughtful ergonomic design to the lounge posture. The adjustable, personal worksurface holds technology at eye level, reducing neck and shoulder strain.

DESIGNED FOR YOUR BRAIN.

Our attention has limited capacity. Like any other organ, the brain takes energy to function. The harder we try to ignore distractions, the harder our brains have to work to filter what's important and what's not.

DESIGNED FOR WORK.

The Brody WorkLounge creates a comfortable micro-environment by thoughtfully integrating power, ergonomic comfort, personal storage and optional lighting—so students can focus their attention, get into flow and get work done.



product highlights

V.I.A. ARCHITECTURAL SOLUTIONS

VERTICAL. INTELLIGENT. ARCHITECTURE.

V.I.A. not only defines space, but redefines the role vertical real estate plays in today's workplace. V.I.A. augments human interaction by providing true acoustical privacy and hosting technology. It provides a sense of permanence with the speed and design flexibility of a relocatable wall, allowing the creation of a range of applications.



PALETTE OF PLACE.

V.I.A. creates an environment of interrelated settings that allow people to choose where to work – with the right amount of sensory stimulation, physical support and technology tools appropriate for the work they're doing at that time. Workplaces designed for an interconnected world offer the right blend of spaces and solutions to support the way people work today... and tomorrow.

AUGMENT COLLABORATION

Intelligent rooms keeps distributed teams aligned and connected, leveraging both analog and digital information to foster collaboration. V.I.A. elegantly hosts technology to create portals between physical and virtual worlds. V.I.A. can provide true acoustical privacy for collaborative teams, as well as for individuals in adjacent spaces.

AUGMENT PRIVACY.

Dynamic, collaborative team spaces can be adjacent to focused workspaces without creating noise disturbances. To support workers with true acoustical privacy, V.I.A. is engineered with a unique acoustical intelligence: all frames and skins are manufactured with full acoustical seals.



product highlights

THREAD | ULTRA THIN POWER DISTRIBUTION

FINALLY. POWER MADE SIMPLE.

Thread™ simplifies power distribution, providing power to the devices we use and the spaces where we learn.

ULTRA THIN.

Active learning demands active spaces. Thread's ultra thin design lays underneath the carpet. At a height of just 3/16", Thread's power track seamlessly integrates into a space, empowering active learning.

ULTRA SIMPLE.

Thread's simple kit of parts provides power to any space – whether in a university or library – allowing under-utilized real estate to work harder.

ULTRA FAST.

Installing Thread is as easy as laying carpet, with modularity that makes it easy to reconfigure. Power can easily be added to new construction or retrofitted into existing spaces.





product highlights

MEDIA:SCAPE®

media:scape merges furniture and technology to help people collaborate, co-create and share ideas more effectively. media:scape boosts collaboration across the table or around the globe – by transforming classrooms, libraries or social spaces, connecting people and allowing them to share information seamlessly.

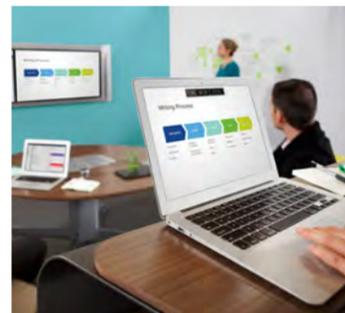
MEDIA:SCAPE GOES MINI AND MOBILE

Take the collaborative, content-sharing power of media:scape wherever it's needed. From desktop discussions in faculty offices to student brainstorming sessions, even as on-demand support for group learning spaces, media:scape mini and mobile go wherever people need to connect.



OPEN. CONNECT. SHARE

Open the media well, connect a PUCK to a digital device, and press the PUCK to share content instantly. The user experience is simple and quick—and the same in every media:scape setting.



PHYSICAL PUCK

media:scape's wired PUCK glows when connected to a digital device. Simply press the PUCK to share content on-screen.

VIRTUAL PUCK

The Virtual PUCK app works with any Windows or Mac device. Use it alone or in combination with other physical and Virtual PUCKS.

MINI

Portable media:scape transforms a small enclave, private office or project room into a collaborative setting. Supports up to four people.

MOBILE

Media:scape mobile is ideal for high-use spaces such as libraries, project rooms and other shared spaces. Available with high-definition videoconferencing support.

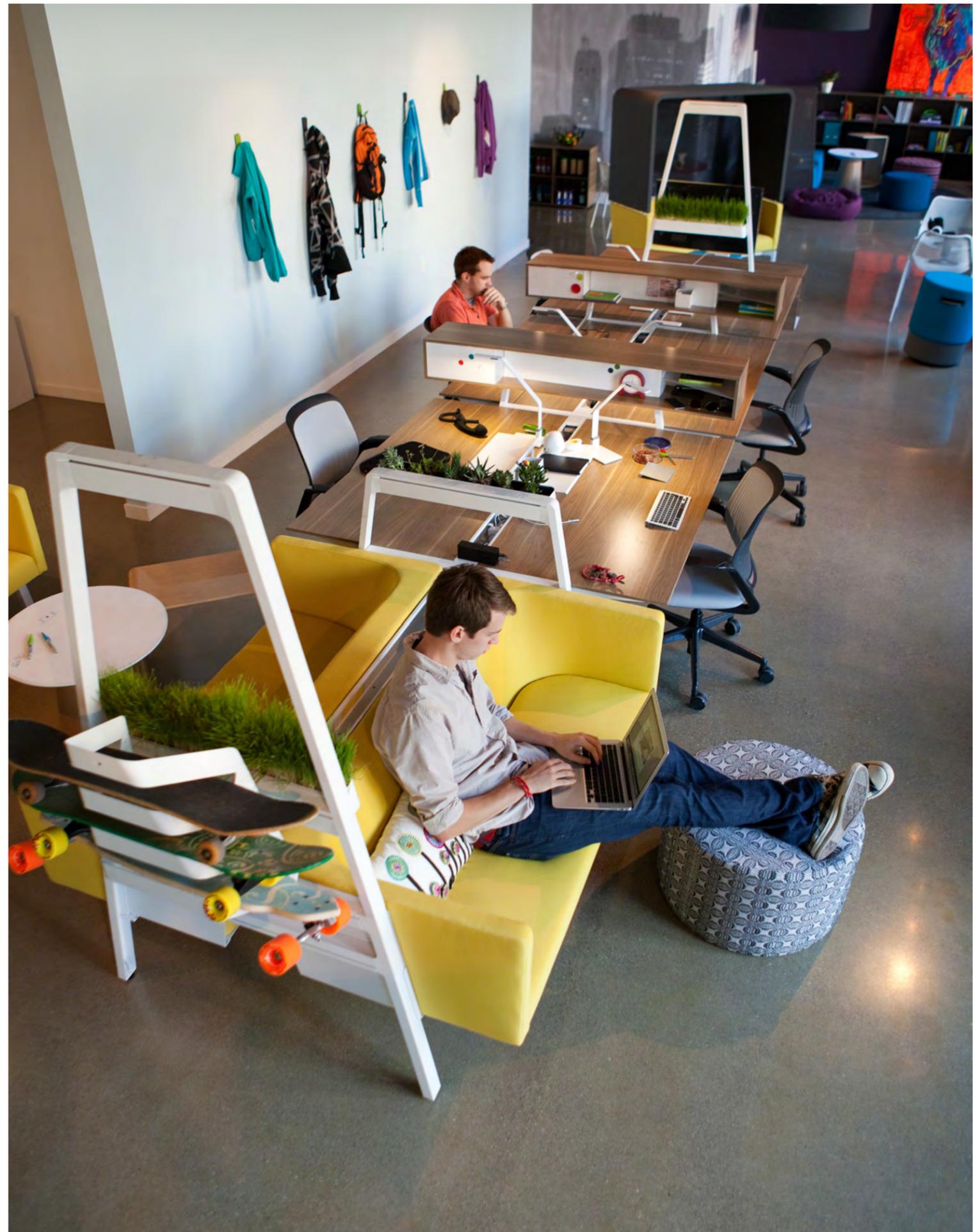
product highlights

TURNSTONE®

We don't need research to tell us that your best days happen when you have the flexibility to work in ways that best support your needs and give your creativity room to stretch. Campfire allows for endless configurations ranging from group lounge spaces to individualized areas designed for high focus.

Mobile technology is pushing the bounds of both office and classroom, giving us more options than ever before when it comes to where and how we work. So we plug in at coffee shops and camp out at home, seeking comfort in our favorite places. We think we can work anywhere, but we've quickly learned that "anywhere" doesn't always work and often results in compromises.

That's why we created **Campfire additions**. With a place to put your feet up, pile up and power up, Campfire additions support the changing ways we work.



product highlights

LOGY HEIGHT-ADJUSTABLE TABLE

WORKPLACE WELLBEING: A GLOBAL CHALLENGE

Maintaining wellbeing in the workplace is a challenge. Workers are experiencing neck and back pain, resulting in lack of energy and focus, along with other negative effects of sedentary workstyles. With an increasingly mobile workforce, employees are sharing desk more frequently, exposing workers to millions of microbes on office worksurfaces.

This negative effect on workers' physiology and biology can lead to increased absenteeism, decreased productivity, chronic disability and a decline in organizational performance.

A desk that supports the physical wellbeing of each individual also supports the wellbeing of the business, making it a key asset to any organization.



PROGRAMMABLE USER INTERFACE

Adjust the worksurface to any height or to one of four programmed heights, including a comfortable standing collaboration height.



INTUITIVE USER INTERFACE

Press a flush-mount button to adjust the worksurface height anywhere from seated to standing height. Available with or without antimicrobial treatment.

ENCOURAGING HEALTHY POSTURES.

Adults spend 50%-70% of their time sitting, which can lead to significant decline in overall physiological health. With this in mind, Ology's intuitive design encourages posture change throughout the day. Two user interface options enable individuals to quietly change positions without disruption of individual or library workflows.

5 **designtex**

A recognized innovator, we are known for our rigorous and dedicated approach to research and development of textiles and wallcoverings with reduced environmental impact. Our ongoing efforts toward greater sustainability inform every product in our catalog. By sharing our insights through open patents and leadership within standard-setting industry organizations we aim to benefit the industry as a whole.

We offer an evolving catalog of over 8,000 materials. They are specified by designers for corporations, government and private institutions, education, retail, hospitality and healthcare environments, as well as entertainment and sporting arenas in the United States and around the world.

DESIGNTEX BESPOKE

Our Bespoke staff of artists, craftspeople and technologists work with you from concept to installation from our Design Studio in Portland. In a process that is collaborative and flexible, your ideas, graphics, logos and imagery are artfully merged with our design, sourcing printing and fabrication expertise. The results, beautiful and engaging, help create one-of-a-kind environments for everything from a single, small space to a Fortune 500 branding program.

IMAGE PORTFOLIO

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CREATION

At Designtex, developing textiles and wallcoverings is as much an art as a science. An understanding and sensitivity to color in our lives and environment informs all our products.

TECHNOLOGY

Our Portland, Maine manufacturing facility produces digitally imaged materials, including wallcoverings, textiles and window films as products and for custom applications.

SUSTAINABILITY

Environmental responsibility is fundamental to our business. Precision, is one of the first upholstery textiles in the industry to achieve gold level certification under the Facts Sustainability Ecolabel.

INNOVATION

Designtex is a leader in material innovation; we're committed to solving problems through material and environmental sciences and manufacturing.

COLLABORATION

Working with various practitioners, Designtex Plus serves as a creative incubator to explore new patterns and materials.



case study:

GRAND VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY

With its evolving role as a multi-use space, the library is now being rethought and reorganized. See how Grand Valley State University and Steelcase completely re-imagined the library experience.

Steelcase researchers initiated a major study of libraries at private and public colleges and universities across the U.S. What they discovered were major shifts in how the library is being used and a many opportunities to better leverage space, new technologies, and pedagogies for a new generation of users.

GO DEEPER

See the Mary Idema Pew Library on [YouTube.com/SteelcaseTV](https://www.youtube.com/SteelcaseTV).





how steelcase can help.

PLANNING IDEAS

Get inspired by our growing collection of space planning ideas and applications. Browse, save, and download these for use in your space planning application.

Visit <http://www.steelcase.com/resources/space-planning-ideas/> for more information.

RESOURCES + TOOLS

Steelcase researchers have studied libraries all across the U.S to bring you the latest research and insights to help you optimize your space. For more resources & tools, please visit <http://www.steelcase.com/discover/information/education/library-design/>



visit the steelcase showroom.

Steelcase worklife centers are more than just showrooms. They are designed as destinations and illustrate our belief that the workplace needs to provide users choice and control over where and how they work.

This ecosystem of interconnected and interdependent spaces is designed to support the physical, cognitive and emotional wellbeing of workers. Ultimately, they are designed to illustrate how space can amplify the performance of individuals, teams and enterprises.

We refer to that as the power of place. We look forward to seeing you.

Love how you work.®