

Case Study



George Brown College Toronto, Canada: Designed for Tomorrow

Today's higher education spaces are expected to perform in ways we never would have imagined a decade ago. They need to integrate rapidly advancing technology and shifting learning paradigms seamlessly throughout a wide spectrum of spaces. Additionally, alumni and a large body of commuter students expect much more out of their campus environment. George Brown and Global have collaborated to go far beyond simply meeting these challenges to creating spaces that inspire everyone who uses them.

Products:

Flexible furniture for classrooms, common areas, staff and faculty offices

Tomorrow's Learning, Today

In order for colleges to compete in today's global market, "It is essential that the college provides cutting-edge spaces for its students and faculty alike," explains Nerys Rau, Director of Planning, Governance and Assessment at George Brown College. Further, with a growing number of students selecting online learning options, colleges must also determine how to effectively invest their resources into physical spaces to best meet the needs of their users.

George Brown College operates across three campuses in Toronto's downtown core, offering an array of diploma, degree and certificate-based programs that are highly sought after in today's job market. They need to create spaces that reflect the way faculty teaches and students learn, while being flexible and tough enough to endure for years to come.

Adapting for Success

Mobile technology gives us access to the world around us from everywhere, and as a result, learning can take place anywhere. Additionally, many of George Brown's students are graduates from university programs or are pursuing second careers. Subsequently they expect a lot from their learning environments. To accommodate this, George Brown installed a series of diverse learning landscapes; bright, light and airy spaces to engage students and connect them not just to each other but also to their surrounding environment and community. Primarily a commuter school, students tend to spend most of their day on campus. These spaces need to endure a full day's use while accommodating multiple activities within one area. For example, libraries have been outfitted with carrels, quiet zones, labs, eating areas and presentation rooms, all within the one larger area, ensuring a variety of experiences are provided.

Above and Beyond. End to End.

Intense demand for flexible functionality needs to be coupled with durability while providing an inspiring and engaging aesthetic. It was essential to integrate a wide variety of furniture that can be moved easily, that blends seamlessly with its environment and can withstand heavy daily use. Nerys explains, "Global provided us with a truly end-to-end experience. From the conceptual stage and design support to installation, care and ongoing maintenance beyond that, they have helped us maximize our resources and avoid the pitfalls associated with furnishing the wide range of spaces we required. Global co-created and collaborated with us to provide an exceptional space that the faculty and students are excited to take into the future."



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Nerys Rau,
Planning, Governance & Assessment