

Case Study



McMaster University

McMaster has built a new home for the faculties of Social Sciences and Humanities, featuring state-of-the-art technology that will change the way teaching and learning happens in the liberal arts. Global Furniture Group worked with McMaster's Architectural and Facilities team to support the 21st century facility and all its occupants including students, faculty and administration staff.

Products:

Flexible furniture for the entire office including open, closed and collaborative areas

McMaster University has gained an international reputation for the innovative educational programming offered by each of its six faculties; the DeGroot School of Business and the Faculties of Engineering, Health Sciences, Humanities, Science and Social Sciences. An integral component of delivering this innovation is to create environments that meet the demands of 21st century learning trends including mobile technology, new learning pedagogies, rising real estate costs, and more students per square foot. McMaster's response to this new reality is reflected in the opening of its new building, L.R. Wilson Hall. This new home for Social Sciences and Humanities features state-of-the-art technology that will change the way teaching and learning happens in the liberal arts.

Designing in simplicity is a complicated process

The environment within this building is open and dynamic, multi-use and flexible. Common areas serve a multiplicity of functions including space for students and staff to connect, collaborate and retreat. Both classrooms and common spaces feature mobile, modular furniture that can configure and reconfigure as the demands of the space shift – and the boundaries between these spaces blur. Taylor Roth, the designer who worked for the firm that designed Wilson Hall CS&P Architects, explains, "Having less adds complexity to a technology-driven learning environment. We now need to consider how to provide easy access power and AV solutions at sitting, bar, and standing heights. Global provided creative, clean and elegant ways for us to access power via numerous plug-in capabilities within their furniture."



Raising the bar for good design

Although McMaster was operating within a tight budget they would not compromise on quality or design. Global's ability to customize within the same budget as standard product, coupled with clean lines and simple forms that won't date, ensured McMaster was making a sound investment in the future of their space. Additionally, McMaster was able to maximize the vast range of options available within singular furniture lines, enabling them to plan a spectrum of spaces from teacher's assistant offices to the Dean's office and lots of iterations in between.

Spaces in which students and faculty thrive

Global was a critical resource in helping McMaster navigate the complexity of today's campus environments. Eric Kirsten, A+D representative for Global emphasizes, "It was much more than selling furniture. It was working with McMaster to help them determine the best ways to support its students, faculty and administrators by utilizing space in the most efficient, flexible and creative way possible." Taylor echoes this sentiment, "We would come to the Global team with a challenge we have a mix of lectures paces, meeting facilities, missed use gathering spaces. What can you suggest? How can we put that together? Then Global would do the leg work and come back with thoughtful, fresh solutions that would meet McMaster's needs within our budget." The result of this strong relationship: a world-class space where its occupants can thrive.



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