

Case Study



York School

The York Junior and Middle Private School provides an inspiring and inclusive environment designed with the students' inherent potential in mind. A careful balance of performance and aesthetics, along with the freedom to adapt the environment to various tasks, ensures every inch of space – from classrooms and collaborative areas to focused workspaces – supports the interactions and learning styles of 21st century learners.

Products:

Flexible and responsive furniture for classrooms, common areas, offices and administrative spaces.

The York Junior and Middle School is a private school located in the heart of the city of Toronto. Within its walls you will find a community of engaged learners who embrace new challenges, dig deep, and emerge as confident citizens of the world. When the school embarked on a significant interior renovation, its primary mandate was to create an environment that would inspire students and staff to reach their full potential. That included moving beyond a traditional paradigm of a learning space to creating a more contemporary and collaborative setting. The goal was to transform this middle/upper co-ed school into an energetic and comfortable place for staff and students to connect how and where they want. "We wanted to create open, bright spaces, and we needed

furniture to reflect that modern aesthetic. The lines, textures and bright colors of the furniture complement our exposed concrete walls and large windows and add a sense of connection and openness to our common areas. What we specified feels clean but not cold," explains Ian Johns, Facilities Manager at the school.

Performance and Durability

Johns also points out that performance is just as important as aesthetics. The York School chose furniture that would meet the rigorous demands of a school environment. Their portfolio of product, that includes an array of mobile and height adjustable tables, flip-top tables, collaborative and task seating and contemporary casegoods, is durable and flexible enough to withstand moves and reconfigurations. Further, the kit-of-parts design of Global furniture enables individual parts like seat pans, armrests, casters and legs to be easily replaced on site in minimal time frames.

Flexibility and Diversity

Teachers asked for options, to allow them the freedom to configure their classrooms however they want. Johns explains, "In today's learning environment, we are no longer limited to just a chair and a desk. We need to accommodate a much broader range of needs in terms of student learning styles." Students can work and connect anywhere in these re-imagined spaces. Mobile and stackable chairs, flip-top and mobile tables ensure this flexibility. Students and teachers can organize their spaces to facilitate collaboration, quiet or heads-down focused work, or any combination inbetween within multiple spaces. Individual learning styles are supported down to the individual classroom chairs, whose backs flex and respond to comfortably accommodate each student from the more sedentary, to the most restless within a singular space. Common areas can be reconfigured to support multi-functions – from lunchroom to collaborative learning spaces to event and community spaces at night. Even the cafeteria now supports group work and socialization. In all these areas power for mobile devices and technology support is always at hand. Now, with the York School's renovation complete, John reflects the sentiment of the school body, "It worked exactly as imagined!" Exceptional praise from an exceptional school.



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