Education

PROJECT SPOTLIGHT

University of Tennessee – Facilities Services

Modular Casework Solutions Central to Peripheral Storage

CHALLENGE

In 2013, the University of Tennessee at Knoxville purchased a building that had been, in its heyday, a marble factory. After being stripped down to its steel skeleton, the building was redesigned, re-purposed and re-imagined as the home of the school's Facilities Services Department. The building's open design made for a livelier environment that brought people together, generating cohesion and comradery.

Decisions about storage – for personal items, printing stations, mail sorting and even samples for interior design professionals – were secondary to those concerning the building's central office area. When storage design was addressed, decided-upon solutions needed to fit smoothly and unobtrusively into the available space.

SOLUTION

Justin Dothard is a project coordinator for the department. While the department itself is responsible for the operation, maintenance and overall design of the campus, Dothard himself is charged with ensuring that what gets designed and built during individual projects adequately serves its intended purpose, adheres to the university's design aesthetic, and provides a good budgetary value.

"Because everything is so open [in this office], we wanted items to be hidden when being stored," said Dothard. *"We added interior drawers for organization and doors to the shelving facing. We also needed for our interior designer to have some binder storage. We wanted to maintain a consistent look to the place."*

The newly designed building's open environment meant that many things would be visible from any one perspective. To ensure a clean look, the university selected several products from Hamilton Casework Solutions, all added to areas on the periphery of the central work area.

- Coat Closets
- Mail Sorters
- Day-Use Lockers
- Printing Stations
- Two-Sided Rotating Binder Cabinets
- "Armoire"-type cabinets for uniform storage
- Interior Designer storage for design samples

"We had to work with the area as it existed," added Dothard. *"As such, we had only so much space, so something had to be so wide, or so high. And to ensure that it blended with the walls, we added paint that helped it all to be sort of indistinguishable."*

"I would definitely recommend Patterson Pope to anyone doing a similar project. They were always responsive and helped us achieve the look and function we were after."

Justin Dothard
Project Coordinator
University of Tennessee – Facilities Services Department

ACHIEVEMENT

Sometimes, being out of the limelight can be a good thing. There are approximately 200 people working in the new, open space. After a year's worth of "settling in," everyone is becoming comfortable with the new arrangement. Uniform office furniture has helped give the new open floorplan its character.

Behind the scenes, the casework solutions located at the sides of the space do their part with little fanfare. Student interns who might use different desks every day appreciate the day-use lockers. An interior designer relishes the organization her multi-slot storage cabinet provides. Printing stations are ordered and convenient, while the mail sorting station and coat closet in the lobby area of the building provide a welcoming feel as well as unequaled efficiency.

"For us to make everything look like we had planned it from the beginning was huge, and the available customization was a big part of that," said Dothard *"I would definitely recommend Patterson Pope to anyone doing a similar project. They were always responsive and helped us achieve the look and function we were after."*

Invisible? In a way, perhaps. Indelible? Yes. Expandable? Always