places to work, gather, & learn
Workplace

18
Editorial

23
Industry News

36
Columnist: Understanding the Agreement with Your Client
by Richard N. Pollack, FAIA, FIIDA

40
Product Focus: Awash in Light
Calico Wallpaper’s Aurora collection of wallcoverings features 16 ombre washes that appear to glow from within

42
Product Focus: Take a Seat
Design firm Most Modest develops a minimal yet playful series of tables and benches for Hightower Group

44
Product Briefs

56
Lowe Campbell Ewald
Neumann/Smith Architecture | Detroit
by Jean Nayar

64
Zendesk
Design Blitz | San Francisco
by John Czarneski

70
Compulsive Productions
Matt Gibson Architecture + Design | Melbourne, Australia
by Krista Sykes

76
University of Baltimore Angelos Law Center
Behnisch Architekten | Baltimore
by JoAnn Greco

82
Designers Select: Tables and casegoods
Designers share their favorite furnishings for office environments inspired by hospitality

84
Sources

87
Ad Index

88
Installation: Situation NY: An Installation That Has Everything

volume 55 issue 9
cover: Compulsive Productions
by Matt Gibson Architecture + Design
Photo by Shannon McGrath

contractdesign.com
Rolling casters, 900-pound beds, boiling coffee, 10,000 heels, splashing chemicals.

Good thing you specified the most durable, high-quality, trusted flooring in Healthcare.

- Performance that stands up to foot traffic and heavy rolling loads.
- Tested to meet and exceed ASTM Standards and real-life situations.
- Easy maintenance options that positively influence your bottom line.
- Spaces that look beautiful year after year.

Armstrong is Healthcare’s Most Trusted Brand.
Call your rep for more details or visit www.armstrong.com/commercialflooring
INTRODUCING LIGHT PLAY
A COLLABORATION OF CARPET AND TEXTILES BY ROBERT A.M. STERN

ROBERT A.M. STERN COLLECTION

Stinson
Elevate your space with QuickStand

Rethink the modern office with The Active Workspace by Humanscale

www.humanscale.com/quickstand

Select No. 155 at ContractDesign.com/readerservice
"A designer’s vision changes to meet needs. I find tangible solutions that suit each space and its purpose. I choose Wilsonart x You because it is an easy process to use my imagery on a product I know holds up to the tough love our projects receive. Wilsonart brings my print-ready files to life, allowing our pint-sized surfaces to be patterned and primed for play."

Wilsonart x You
Entirely custom. Entirely you.
What will you create?

Wilsonart.com/WilsonartxYou
online contents

select highlights from contractdesign.com

INSIDE World Festival of Interiors Announces 2014 Winners
Winners in nine categories were chosen from a shortlist of 60 nominations from 21 countries.
contractdesign.com/inside-world-festival

White House Visitor Center Reopens After Two-Year Renovation
The White House Visitor Center has reopened to the public following a $12 million renovation by SmithGroupJJR and Gallagher & Associates.
contractdesign.com/whitewhouse

Competition Announced to Revamp New York’s Airports
New York Governor Andrew Cuomo and Vice President Joseph Biden announced a design competition to redesign New York’s airports.
contractdesign.com/airport-competition

Vitra Design Museum Showcases Alvar Aalto Retrospective
Second Nature, on view through March 1, 2015, at the German museum, highlights Aalto’s major works and furniture pieces.
contractdesign.com/alvaraalto

Luti Resigns with Change in Salone Leadership
Kartell CEO Claudio Luti has resigned as president of Salone Internazionale del Mobile di Milano and Cosmit.
contractdesign.com/luti

New York Architect Judith Edelman Dies at 91
A leading voice for female architects, Edelman was most known for designing housing, health clinics, and other buildings around New York.
contractdesign.com/judithedelman

Everyman Theatre Wins RIBA Stirling Prize 2014
Everyman Theatre in Liverpool, designed by Haworth Tompkins of London, has won the RIBA Stirling Prize.
contractdesign.com/stirling-prize

EYP Acquires WHR Architects
The firms, with 530 professionals in 15 offices, will combine their expertise in the sectors of education, healthcare, and energy.
contractdesign.com/eyp

Chinese Insurer Buys Waldorf Astoria for $1.95 billion
The Waldorf Astoria in New York is being sold by Hilton Worldwide to a Chinese insurance company, Anbang Insurance Group, for $1.95 billion.
contractdesign.com/waldorf-astoria

PERKINS+WILL
Designing for Health: Flame Retardants—Trading One Hazard for Another
Healthcare experts at Perkins+Will report on the controversy surrounding flame retardants and how to protect occupants’ health.
contractdesign.com/PW-flame-retardants

InterlockingRock® PANELS
High Quality, Glass Reinforced Gypsum Panels with steel-reinforced joints precisely interlock for seamless wall surfaces of any size.

InterlockingRock® BLOCKS
Sculptural screen wall blocks stack up to create fully dimensional, double-sided, rock walls. The block is back!

modulararts.com  206.788.4210  made in the USA
SUSTAINABILITY THROUGH INNOVATION

Tandus Centiva is honored to be the first American modular carpet manufacturer to be Cradle to Cradle Certified™ Silver (v3) for our ethos® modular carpet.

Developed in 2004, ethos backing is made from recycled postconsumer non-chlorinated polymers commonly used in windshields and other types of safety glass.

THE ULTIMATE FLOORING EXPERIENCE

Tandus | Centiva
A Terkatt Company

800.248.3081 TANDUS-CENTIVA.COM

Select No. 181 at ContractDesign.com/readerservice
Distinctly American. Uniquely Crossville.


Melding warm to cool earth tones with authentic-stone graining and subtle crystalline sparkle, Crossville’s volcanically inspired Basalt tile collection flows effortlessly from floor to wall to countertop to façade. Dynamite for high-impact applications demanding the superior strength and resilience of Porcelain Stone®, each versatile shade comes in a range of sizes to add instant-yet-understated drama to commercial and residential spaces.

American-made from recycled content and Green Square-certified, Basalt is a naturally striking choice for your next sustainable design.

Ignite inspiration with the Basalt Porcelain Stone Collection—only from Crossville®

Basalt
Porcelain Stone®

See and Share.

CrossvilleInc.com
Questions: 931-456-3136

Select No. 143 at ContractDesign.com/readerservice
FIND HISTORY IN YOUR TEXTBOOK, NOT ON YOUR FLOOR.

Forget about the damage students can do to floors. Carpets made of Antron® fiber can have 65% better soil resistance and can have two times better texture retention than carpets of the leading competitive nylon*. Our carpet fiber will help keep your space looking newer, longer.

Visit antron.net/carpets to view styles of carpet made with Antron® fiber.

THE  PRINTING  INK  INCIDENT  2002

PIZZA DELIVERY. TO THE FLOOR. 2011

THE  SODA SHAKE SURPRISE  2006

antron.

*Results based on testing of carpets of comparable construction, style and color © 2014 INVISTA. All Rights Reserved. Antron and the Antron family of marks and logos are trademarks of INVISTA.

Select No. 170 at ContractDesign.com/readerservice
REFRESH
...Your Palette & Your World

ECONYL®
BRAND BY AQUAFIL
...the world's most sustainable carpet fiber.

• 100% recycled content
• Created from harvested fishnets and carpeting*
• Goal of 100% post-consumer waste

Envision it and let us create your fiber to your specific color and density needs. Our continuous filament process offers premium abrasion resistance.

*In 2014 we will produce 20,000 tons of regenerated caprolactam which Aquafil will transform into first quality yarn.

econyl.com
Select No. 203 at ContractDesign.com/readerservice
Inception

Achieving a sense of movement in both horizontal and vertical directions, the 18" x 36" planks of Inception resonate with chromatic highlights amongst neutral backdrops.
TECTUS®
the adjustable concealed door hinge.
The hinge that is not limited to low-traffic applications.
When you think of LVT, think of EarthWerks® Luxury Vinyl flooring. Expect to find everything from one source. Glue-down, Clic, Grouted, Loose lay. The look of wood and natural stone in an array of textures and colors. A to Z the EZ way.

For information regarding our extensive line of sustainable vinyl flooring, please call 800-275-7943, or visit us online at www.earthwerks.com

Select No. 12 at ContractDesign.com/readerservice
Flexibility with Acoustical Control

Visit modernfold.com or call 800.869.9685 for more information on Modernfold’s industry leading Acousti-Seal® Encore® 56 STC operable partitions as well as other space division products by Modernfold.

Select No. 119 at ContractDesign.com/readerservice
An Expanded Editorial Advisory Board to Address the Industry's Future

In everything that we do—no matter how skilled or talented we might be—our success relies on people. That is, people with which to connect and share knowledge across disciplines. The people with whom one connects to are vitally important, whether they are direct connections along one's career path, or contacts within the industry overall. It is, indeed, who you know, and we thrive on connecting with connectors!

In that spirit, I am excited to announce that Contract has expanded its editorial advisory board with 23 new members across the country. A handful of the new board members are highlighted on page 23, and look to page 12 for the full list of all board members. The additional members are the design vanguard in workplace, healthcare, hospitality, retail, and education interiors, as well as real estate decision makers. As Contract celebrates 55 years as a publication, I will rely on their knowledge and expertise, and, together, this group represents a top tier of influence in the profession.

New board members include true leaders, such as Contract's 2013 Designer of the Year Joey Shimoda, FAIA, IDA, president of Shimoda Design Group in Los Angeles; Anne-Marie Gianoudis, IDA, a designer at Gresham, Smith and Partners in Birmingham, Alabama, who is a vice president on the IDA international board of directors; and Annie Chu, AIA, IDA, a principal at Chu+Gooding Architects in Los Angeles who was a recent past chair of the national AIA Interior Architecture Knowledge Community.

Designers at the forefront of workplace interiors joining the board include Mary E. Bledsoe, IDA, a principal at lauckgroup in Austin, Texas; Anne Cunningham, Assoc. AIA, IDA, a principal at NBBJ in Seattle; Bill Lyons, Assoc. AIA, a principal at Gensler in Minneapolis; Melissa Price, who is director of facilities and business offices at Quicken Loans and also CEO of dPOP in Detroit; Jennifer Wagner, IDA, vice president at HKS in Houston; and Sascha Wagner, IDA, president of Huntsman Architectural Group in San Francisco.

Healthcare design is important to Contract and its readers. Our October issue annually showcases the latest across the continuum of healthcare interiors with the winners of the Healthcare Environment Awards. Healthcare leaders added to the board are Suzen Heeley, executive director of design + construction at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in New York; Saliba Kokaly, vice president of facilities at Swedish Covenant Hospital in Chicago; and Jocelyn Stroupe, IDA, ASID, director of healthcare interiors at Cannon Design in Chicago.

Retail design experts added to the board are Ray Ehscheid, Affiliate IDA, senior vice president of store design and merchandising at Bank of America in New York; and Alex Shapleigh, design principal at Callison in Seattle. And education design champions new to the board are Sean O’Donnell, AIA, principal at Perkins Eastman in Washington, D.C., and Steve Wiesenthal, FAIA, senior associate vice president and university architect at University of Chicago.

In the hospitality sector, new advisory board members include Todd-Avery Lenahan, principal of TAL Studio in Las Vegas; Barry Richards, principal at Rockwell Group in New York; and Vince Stroop, principal at Stonehill + Taylor Architects in New York.

Last but not least, Contract recognizes that real estate and project management professionals are key players in our industry, serving as the conduit to make great projects happen. New board additions in this sector are Roy Abernathy, AIA, Allied ASID, senior managing director of workplace strategy and analytics at Savills-Studley in Miami and Atlanta; Sean Black, managing director at Jones Lang LaSalle in New York; Bob Chodos, executive vice president and principal at Colliers International in Chicago; and Peter Ferzan, principal at Turner Townsend Ferzan Robbins LLC in New York.

After reading those names, you will realize what is unique about our editorial advisory board. Rather than solely interior designers focused on only one sector, we have a healthy, diverse mix of architects and interior designers from firms large and small, and real estate and facilities professionals as well. All are thought leaders shaping the future of the commercial interior architecture and design industry.

The expanded board met at the annual Contract Design Forum earlier this month in Aspen, Colorado, and you can look for coverage of the event on contractdesign.com in coming weeks. Welcome and congratulations to all of our new editorial advisory board members! I am pleased to have each of them associated with the Contract brand.

Sincerely,

John Czarnecki, Assoc. AIA, Hon. IDA
Editor in Chief
We believe in the power of new beginnings. Universal Fibers™ transforms post-consumer carpet fiber destined for US landfills into clean fluff that when recycled with nylon 6,6 creates Refresh™, an exceptional solution-dyed yarn with 30% recycled content. Available in 284 brilliant colors and weights as light as 600 denier, Refresh™ delivers superior performance with less fiber and a smaller carbon footprint.

No landfills. No fiber waste. No water. No excess weight. Together, we truly create more with less.

Refresh™ is new life.
ERG Collection

visit us online to see our complete line of furniture solutions  www.ERGinternational.com

Chairs • Tables • Banquettes • Lounges • Benches • Bar Stools

Furniture Designed to Enhance Your Environment
Select No. 58 at ContractDesign.com/readerservice
THE FEELING OF MORE WATER.
WITHOUT USING MORE WATER.

H₂OKINETIC® SHOWERS.

Smart technology and total relaxation come together in an H₂Okinetic Shower. Larger water droplets moving in a unique wave pattern provide more intense, drenching coverage that feels indulgent, even when it's water-efficient.

Watch the H₂Okinetic video at deltafaucet.com/H2Okinetic.
Contract Expands Editorial Advisory Board

Contract magazine is pleased to announce that an additional 23 new members have been added to the Contract Editorial Advisory Board. See the full list of all members of the Contract Editorial Advisory Board on page 12. The Contract Editorial Advisory Board represents a diverse group of leaders including commercial real estate professionals and designers from across the country with expertise in workplace, hospitality, healthcare, retail, and education interiors. The expanded Editorial Advisory Board met at the annual Contract Design Forum earlier this month in Aspen, Colorado.

New Members of the Contract Editorial Advisory Board
Roy Abernathy, AIA, Allied ASID, Savills-Studley
Jean Black, Jones Lang LaSalle
Mary Bledsoe, IIDA, Lauckgroup
Bob Chodos, Colliers International
Annie Chu, AIA, IIDA, Chu+Gooding Architects
Anne Cunningham, Assoc. AIA, IIDA, NBBJ
Ray Einschel, Affiliate IIDA, Bank of America
Peter Ferzan, Turner Townland Ferzan Robbins LLC
Anne-Marie Giamoudis, IIDA, Gresham Smith and Partners
Suzen Heeley, Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center
Saliba Kokaly, Swedish Covenant Hospital
Todd-Avery Lenahan, TAL Studio
Bill Lyons, Assoc. AIA, Gensler
Jean O'Donnell, AIA, Perkins Eastman
Melissa Price, Quicken Loans
Barry Richards, Rockwell Group
Alex Shapleigh, Callison
Joey Shimoda, FAIA, IIDA, Shimoda Design Group
Vince Stroop, Stonehill & Taylor Architects
Joelvin Stroupe, IIDA, ASID, Cannon Design
Jennifer Wagner, IIDA, HKS
Sascha Wagner, IIDA, Huntsman Architectural Group
Steve Wiesenthal, FAIA, University of Chicago

Contract asked four of its new board members: In the design of workplaces today, what are the biggest challenges as you design for clients with evolving needs?

"The challenge we are all faced with is how new processes, diverse demographics, and new ways of working give way to different design outcomes. The ever-evolving nature of the workplace is and remains fundamentally about optimizing our ability to create environments that support the exchange of ideas, enable reflection, and inspire innovation and creativity. Office design is as much about organizational performance as it is about the human experience. Our inherent desire to be connected to something larger than ourselves—be it our natural environment or a common purpose—impacts the importance of designing for both the mind and the senses. Emerging interdisciplinary data in the fields of neuroscience and social science is an opportunity to improve the way we design, measure and experience environments."

Anne Cunningham, Assoc. AIA, IIDA
Principal at NBBJ, Seattle

"There are two major challenges we are facing. The first is the need for private space for focused work in the open office environment with a shift away from dedicated private offices. This is happening in the context of shifting real estate priorities—increasing head count and collaboration within the same or reduced square footage. Solving for this condition is a key design challenge for most of our clients: the need to design solutions that can provide balance between collaborative spaces and areas dedicated to support focus activities. Second, as a part of the design process, we see a critical need for change management to be integrated into the workplace design process. Activity-based design solutions need change management tools to support the design solutions."

Bill Lyons, Assoc. AIA
Principal and Managing Director at Gensler, Minneapolis

"Office design is rapidly evolving as businesses become multinational entities. The global nature of business is creating unprecedented competition that has put the focus on the work environment being used to reinforce the brand identity and help with employee retention. Our clients have the need to integrate a large variety of work styles into one interior environment. The need to provide open, private, collaborative, and public work spaces along with the multigenerational and multicultural workforce means that one size no longer fits all."

Jennifer Wagner, IIDA
Vice President at HKS, Houston

"Designing for relevance through flexibility continues to be paramount in workplace design. Accommodation for individuality has to be balanced by provision for group needs, and designs have to pack a wallop of usability for multiple functions. The full menu may include: visually and acoustically secure spaces for a sensitive phone call or for the needs of a nursing mother, seating niches for spontaneous one-on-one discussions, both unconventional and formal individual and group work setups to address shifting identity and makeup of work groups. Perhaps closer to hospitality programming, today's workplace design has to offer a variety of scale, space definition, furniture, sociability, and atmosphere bolstered by a robust distributed technological field in order to address the inevitable and frequent changes for each client."

Annie Chu, AIA, IIDA
Principal at Chu+Gooding Architects, Los Angeles
BEYOND THE SURFACE.

WALLCOVERINGS • FABRICS • COATINGS • DIGITAL

If you can dream it, we can do it. With everything from bold patterns to subtle textures, our selection and service sets us apart. TRI-KES is the ultimate resource to make your vision a reality.

WSG GLOBAL NETWORK • TRI-KES, D.L. COUCH & EYKON • 800 200 8120 tri-kes.com

Select No. 46 at ContractDesign.com/readerservice
Re: Reconfigures to repurpose space.
Equity by Design Conference Examines Gender Gap in Architecture

Architecture is a notoriously grueling profession, known for slavishly long hours and wages that seem low relative to other professions, especially in early years out of school. While equal numbers of men and women are inspired to study architecture, only about 18 percent of licensed architects in the United States are women. That leaves a 32 percent gender discrepancy between graduation and licensure in the architecture profession.

To delve deep into the causes, the Missing 32% Project, a committee of the AIA San Francisco, undertook a nationwide survey this year. The resulting data informed the Equity by Design Conference, a sold-out event that drew 250 attendees in San Francisco on October 18. Among the findings from the 2,289 responses: More than one third of the women departing the profession did so within the first three years. “I think it points to the disconnect between academia and the reality of professional practice,” says architect Rosa Sheng, a senior associate at Bohlin Cywinski Jackson in San Francisco who is chair of the Missing 32% Project.

The data also suggests that women who are licensed are more likely to stay in the field. Less surprisingly, the survey also showed that women took a significant salary hit for going part-time or taking a break—and that the key “pinch point” for women was when they needed to care for young children or elderly parents. Survey results are available at themissing32percent.com.

Several conference speakers shared ideas for what the profession could do to help the gender imbalance. Jennifer Devlin-Herbert of E+D talked about her company’s support for flexible schedules, “flex Friday” (an 8.5-hour workday in return for every other Friday off), and extended time off after crunch periods. Frank Pitts of Architecture+ described a firm culture in which every person has a supporting role on other teams and hours were balanced out firm-wide to share the load. And Aidan Hughes of engineering firm Arup talked about bias in hiring and promotion. “We encourage everyone to think about their biases,” Hughes said. “It can be as simple as recognizing that we all have them.”

On the “lean in” side of the equation, the survey found that a large majority of both women and men architects were leaving money on the table by failing to negotiate compensation. One of the conference’s most popular sessions was a workshop in collaborative negotiation.

Keynote speaker Emily Grandstaff-Rice, an associate at Cambridge Seven Associates and the current president of the Boston Society of Architects, delivered an inspiring message. “Use your own voice to talk about why architecture matters,” she said. “We don’t have to go through Frank Lloyd Wright, Frank Gehry, or Howard Roark [the fictional architect in The Fountainhead]. We change people’s lives.” —LYDIA LEE
Highlights from HD Americas in Miami Beach

The trade show, which focused on the Latin American market, will become part of Design Americas in September 2015

Hospitality designers, owners, product manufacturers, and other leading industry professionals attended HD Americas in Miami Beach, Florida, in September. Produced by Emerald Expositions' Hospitality Design magazine, a sister publication of Contract, the hospitality design trade show and conference focused on the Latin American market, including the Caribbean and South and Central America.

Beyond the expo floor, attendees had opportunities to learn from speakers and panelists and to attend many networking events. Keynote speaker Arthur Casas, a Brazilian architect and founder of Studio Arthur Casas in São Paulo, discussed his life, philosophy, and work across hospitality, residential, and retail sectors and within the realm of product design.

Other panelists addressed topics including “Expanding the Brand,” which featured representatives from major hotel brands, and “Miami at the Moment,” which showcased recent work by designers in the city.

“Owners’ Roundtable,” the signature event of HD Americas, provided attendees with multiple viewpoints from owners, developers, brand executives, and decision makers who work in Latin America.

Networking opportunities at HD Americas included the Social Hub, which was an interactive area on the trade show floor for attendees to relax or watch sessions hosted by Hospitality Design magazine. HD America’s ever-popular Opening Night Party was held at the pool at the Delano South Beach.

Next year, HD Americas will be part of Design Americas, a new trade show launched by Emerald Expositions. To be held September 16–17, 2015, at the Miami Beach Convention Center, Design Americas will focus on the hospitality, contract, residential, and retail design markets. Contract will collaborate in producing this event with Hospitality Design, designretail, and K+BB, which are fellow brands of The Design Group, a division of Emerald Expositions. —MURRÉ BERNARD
Third place anywhere.
From the conventional to the casual, the Lagunitas collection adapts to changing workstyles and shifting work postures.
Solitaire Collection sofa, lounge chairs, and coffee table and side table, designed by Ini Archibong for Cumberland Furniture

American design and craftsmanship with gem-like clarity.

cumberlandfurniture.com  800.401.7877

Select No. 56 at ContractDesign.com/readerservice
START WITH SOMETHING SIMPLE AND END UP SOMEWHERE ENTIRELY UNEXPECTED

envisualizer.formica.com

Create beautiful patterns in seconds and inspire future Formica Envision™ Custom Laminate patterns. Try the Formica Envisualizer™ Design Platform today.

Select No. 123 at ContractDesign.com/readerservice
design a space where beauty and durability come together.

Showcase your style and brilliance with Sunbrella® Contract fabrics. They provide all the colors and patterns you want and the performance you need to create beautiful, welcoming environments.

sunbrellacontract.com/camden

Select No. 120 at ContractDesign.com/readerservice
coming events

NOV

- International Hotel, Motel + Restaurant Show
  November 9–11
  Jacob K. Javits Convention Center
  New York
  ihmrs.com

- Healthcare Design Conference
  November 15–16
  San Diego Convention Center
  San Diego
  hcdconference.com

DEC

- Imm Cologne
  January 19–25
  Koelnmesse
  Cologne, Germany
  imm-cologne.com

- Maison&Objet Paris
  January 23–27
  Paris Nord Villepinte
  Paris
  maison-objet.com

JAN

- Interiors Awards Breakfast
  January 30
  Cipriani
  New York
  contractdesign.com

FEB

- Cevisama
  February 9–13
  Feria Valencia
  Valencia, Spain
  cevisama.feriavalaencia.com

- Palm Springs Modernism Week
  February 12–22
  Palm Springs, California
  modernismweek.com

- BUILDEX Vancouver
  February 25–26
  Vancouver Convention Centre West
  Vancouver, Canada
  buildevxancouver.com

INDUSTRY NEWS

sunbrella®

contract

bring your designs to life.

Available through:
   Carnegie
   C.F. Stinson
   DesignTex
   HBF Textiles
   Kravet Contract
   Maharam
   Mayer Fabrics
   Pallas Textiles
   Robert Allen Contract
   Sina Pearson Textiles
   Weitzner

sunbrellacontract.com
Creating spaces where people want to be.

NATIONAL Furniture with Personality®
Select No. 18 at ContractDesign.com/readerservice

800.482.1717
Introducing Breaking Form, our new, ultramodern modular carpet collection designed in collaboration with Mac Stopa and featuring our innovative 12BY36 carpet tile construction.

Select No. 66 at ContractDesign.com/readerservice
Understanding the Agreement With Your Client
by Richard N. Pollack, FAIA, FIIDA

Your firm has won the project, and now it is time to get an agreement in place to begin your services. In California, a consumer protection law prevents an architect from working for a client without a signed agreement. While it was passed to protect residential clients and ensure that the client was aware of their financial exposure, it is a great tactic to use with commercial clients. Even if your state does not have similar legislation, it is critical to have the client understand that you are an equal in the business relationship. Designers and architects will often be so excited about getting the project that they bypass this straightforward business principle.

When trying to get the agreement signed before starting, clients will often push back, saying that it takes time for their attorney to respond to your proposed contract. Your response is to insist that you have a signed agreement. If that will take too long, then there is a need to execute a letter of intent that is prepared by you while the agreement is being negotiated. The letter of intent language makes reference to the agreement, which can help make your negotiating position stronger. The following paragraph contains sample language, but know that I am not an attorney, and any architect or designer should consult legal professionals.

This Letter of Intent will act as authorization for [architect/designer] to proceed with services in accordance with our proposed Agreement dated (date), pending receipt of the executed contract. Client agrees to reimburse [architect/designer] on the fee basis plus expenses outlined in the Agreement. Please indicate your approval for [architect/designer] to proceed by signing and returning a copy of this letter.

Again, to reinforce the point, you will want to use your own agreement language. If the Request for Proposal or your previous discussions did not make reference to the form of the client’s contract—for example, a reference to an AIA agreement—use your own agreement. As soon as you have been awarded the project, let the client know that you will be submitting a draft contract for their review.

Your firm should already have a standard agreement that has been vetted by both an attorney and your professional liability carrier. It will include all of the legal terms and conditions required by the laws in your locale, as well as language to better protect you under those laws. A typical agreement template would have all the legalese in place and allow you to simply paste in the scope of services and compensation from your proposal. Using this approach also gets a draft agreement into the client’s hands quickly.

Terms and conditions of your agreement would likely include:
• Payment Terms: How you invoice, when you invoice, penalties for late payment, and how often you adjust your hourly rates.
• Premium Time Services: When and how you charge for overtime.
• Reimbursable Expenses: What is and is not included in any markups.
• Owner’s Responsibilities: The client provides accurate information, and approval of a phase is authorization to proceed to the next phase.
• Use of Documents: You own the documents, you will provide copies to the client, and they cannot be reused without your agreement and additional compensation.
• Termination, Suspension or Abandonment: How the agreement can be terminated, and provisions for you to stop work if not paid in accordance with the payment terms.
• Limitations of Liability: Your liability is limited to a certain amount, such as your fee or a stated amount.
• Dispute Resolution: The method through which disputes would be handled, such non-binding mediation, arbitration, or another approach.

And other terms and conditions may include:
• Extent of Agreement: Stating that this is the whole agreement.
• Hazardous Materials: Noting how you would deal with any discovered asbestos or similar hazardous material.
• Successors and Assigns: Naming who is bound by the agreement and how interests are transferred.

During my years of practice and building a firm, I made a serious effort to learn as much as I could about the legal framework, including spending time with the firm’s liability insurance broker to learn about the legalese and how it is applied. An insurance broker or a representative of the insurance company can visit your firm, without cost, and teach your team about agreements, mitigating risk, and other legal issues. In my experience, an added benefit of this consultation was that my firm’s professional liability insurance premiums were reduced.

Richard N. Pollack, FAIA, FIIDA, writes a regular column for Contract on business practices in design and professional development. Pollack is the CEO of San Francisco–based Pollack Consulting, which supports firm growth and success through improved business development, winning presentation techniques, recruitment of top talent, business coaching, and ownership transition implementation. His website is richardnpollack.com.
Visualize Your Volo.

Our new Volo Movable Wall supports a wide range of privacy, possibilities, and practicality. Personalize Volo with a broad selection of materials and finishes. Explore a variety of design options for doors, bases, tiles and more. Appreciate Volo for its clean lines, friendly design, and easy installation.

Value Volo for all it offers.
design is a choice

DAVIS

davisfurniture.com  |  336.889.2009

Select No. 117 at ContractDesign.com/readerservice
Extraordinary inspiration from unexpected places.

A rusted shovel. A seashell. A charred piece of firewood. They may not seem like luxury objects, but their unique textures, patterns and colors inspired the unexpected new designs of I.D. Freedom™ Luxury Planks and Tile. This collection combines the natural with the naturally unnatural, and allows you to pair abstracts with stones and woods, and all other lines of Johnsonite® flooring. And while the inspiration can come from many places, I.D. Freedom comes only from the U.S.A. To learn more, call 1.800.899.8916 or visit tarkettusa.com/whatsyourinspiration.
Awash in Light

Calico Wallpaper’s Aurora collection of wallcoverings features 16 ombre washes that appear to glow from within.

Brooklyn-based atelier Calico Wallpaper—founded by life and work partners Rachel Mosler, who studied sculpture at the Rhode Island School of Design, and Nick Cope, who founded design/build firm Dark Green—made a splash when it launched its large-format gilded metallic marbled wallpapers in 2012. Calico Wallpapers partnered with Dieu Donné, a non-profit workspace dedicated to papermaking, to create some of the largest marbled papers available on the market, including the signature Wabi (pictured behind Mosler and Cope above), Lunaris, and Night patterns.

Calico has recently released a new collection of non-repeating wallcoverings called Aurora, comprising 16 luminescent ombre washes. The Aurora collection was inspired by the couple’s international travels, particularly the time they spent at the artist residency Villa Lena in Italy. “Nothing compares to early morning light on the horizon,” Mosler says. “We wanted to capture its ephemeral quality.”

Building upon research into the Japanese and Turkish arts of Suminagashi and Ebru that went into creating its inaugural collections, the Calico team continued to explore the art of fabric dying. Mosler creates Aurora by hand by suspending mineral pigments, such as ultramarine and indigo, in liquid and transferring them onto organic linen. The texture of the linen lends depth, and the pigments allow it to achieve a glow that appears to come from within the material.

The 16 patterns include blue-green Bayou (above right), dawn-like Ray (top left), and cerulean-tinged Tulum. Cope then uses a proprietary technology to custom prepare them for large-scale architectural applications. The Type II wallcoverings are washable and scuff resistant, and the maximum width of panels is 52 inches. —MURRYE BERNARD

calicowallpaper.com
Reader Service No. 219
5 winning products. 1 vision.
delight users
empower technology
foster agility
design for sustainability

Inscape Bench
David Parshad, Inscape Studio
Gold Award Winner

Interval
Inscape Studio
Gold Award Winner

Veil
David Parshad, Inscape Studio
Gold Award Winner

Terri tory
Formwelt Industriedesign
Gold Award Winner

Aria
Babini Labs
Silver Award Winner

inscapesolutions.com
Select No. 2 at ContractDesign.com/readerservice
Take a Seat

Design firm Most Modest develops a minimal yet playful series of tables and benches for Hightower Group

San Francisco–based Most Modest specializes in craft-inspired technology goods—such as Velvetwire’s Powerslayer, a charger for smartphones, tablets, and other devices that slices vampire power draw—so it’s no wonder that Hightower Group tapped the studio to design a series of furnishings aimed for the evolving workplace. The resulting Linden table series and Simon stacking benches are superclean but slightly whimsical, and would look equally at home in the office of a cool start-up as in the of-the-moment restaurants and hotels that their forward-thinking workforce might frequent.

The Linden table series was conceived as a new take on the traditional Parsons table, but offers the more relaxed vibe of its outdoor cousin, the picnic table. The tables are available in ash, walnut veneer, or white laminate with powder-coated metal accents in four colors: white, gray, bright blue, or yellow. Some of these metal elements are structural and allow for the tables’ long, open spans.

Linden measures 36 inches wide and 72 inches long, and it comes in four heights, including the 18-inch-high Linden Coffee table (top right), 29-inch-high Linden Dining table (above right), 36-inch-high Linden Counter (above left), and 42-inch-high Linden Standing version. Hightower also offers the Linden Bench, which measures 18 inches tall by 16 inches wide by 65 inches long and coordinates well with the dining version of the table (bottom right).

To complement the counter option within the Linden table series, Most Modest designed the Simon stacking stool (above left). Simon is available as either a low- or bar-height stool, and comes with ash or walnut wood seats or in an upholstered version. Simon’s base is metal and powder coated in the same unexpected hues as the Linden tables. —MURRYE BERNARD

hightoweraccess.com
Reader Service No. 220
We are proud to debut our suite of highly effective solutions for office interiors. Our systems are designed to benefit workspaces via increased transparency, day lighting, versatility, and efficiency. Our versatile configurations give you the options and design flexibility your project requires. With over 40 worldwide service centers, CRL ensures short lead times and rapid customization of the industry’s most comprehensive selection of architectural systems that are backed by a global network of customer and technical support.

Specify Confidently. Specify CRL.
Architectural Systems, Inc.: Manhattan Vinyl Collection
archsystems.com
The Manhattan Vinyl Collection of 100 percent luxury vinyl flooring includes five patterns inspired by New York neighborhoods: Hudson Yards, Madison Square (pictured), High Line, Battery Park, and NoLIta. Featuring a polyurethane finish, the tiles come in a range of colors, sizes, and thicknesses. Reader Service No. 221

Studio Hausen: Link Shelf
studiohausen.com
The hanging Link Shelf system was designed by Berlin-based Studio Hausen. Each set includes four ash wood shelves—one shelf measuring 47.2 inches long by 10 inches deep, and three short shelves measuring 31.5 inches long by 11 inches deep—as well as two wall-mounting triangles and three large and two small black steel hangers. This adaptable shelving system can be expanded over time. Reader Service No. 222
Aesync and Syz

Aesync, a new conference chair, and Syz, a new table series – both designed by EOOS. Use them together or individually to meet, confer, collaborate.

1 800 724 5665  keilhauer.com
Graphic Panel System
Branding
Storytelling
Landmarking
Theming
Environmental Art
Interpretive Graphics

Say it with Moxie

Fritz Hansen: Analog
fritzhansen.com
Jaime Hayón designed the Analog table, which combines three classic shapes—the square, the circle, and the oval. The table is 28.3 inches tall and comes in two sizes: 41.3 inches by 72.8 inches, and 41.3 inches by 96.5 inches. The top can be finished with white laminate, oak, or walnut veneer, and the solid wood legs can be made with black-colored oak, oak, or walnut. Reader Service No. 223

Wolf-Gordon: Overlay/Underlay Collection
wolfgordon.com
The Overlay/Underlay Collection consists of five Type II wallcoverings: Marz, Jax, Dimon, Nite, and Honeycomb (pictured). Designed by artist and product designer Kevin Walz, the geometric patterns evoke silkscreen or block printing and replicate the effect of paint seeping through canvas from the other side, creating a “dual vision.” Reader Service No. 224
Sometimes moving forward starts with eliminating steps. noraPLAN® nTx is a revolutionary new self-adhesive flooring advancement that dramatically reduces labor costs and cuts installation time in half.

- No moisture limits
- No need for pH or RH testing
- No adhesive open time
- No wait time for cleaning or traffic

Just fast, easy adhesion...It's that simple.

You can make a big difference when people listen.
Talk to us at www.nora.com/us/ntx2

Select No. 61 at ContractDesign.com/readerservice
Viccarbe: Trestle
viccarbe.com
Designed by John Pawson, Trestle is a bench suited for public spaces such as waiting areas and hallways. It features solid oak legs and the seat can be smooth or padded and upholstered with a variety of fabrics or leather. Trestle can be specified with or without a back. A single bench measures 5.9 feet long, and multiple benches can link together. Reader Service No. 225

Forms+Surfaces: Eco-Etch
forms-surfaces.com
Forms+Surfaces' four Eco-Etch patterns—Current, Dash, Glacier, and Trace—are applied to stainless steel with a photolithographic bead-blasting system that does not involve harmful acids or chemicals. The patterns can be specified for sheet goods in standard sizes and for many wall- and column-cladding applications, as well as within elevator interiors. Reader Service No. 226

CARVART: Glass Markerboards
carvart.com
CARVART's Glass Markerboards are freestanding, surface-mounted writable and washable glass boards. They are available in magnetic and non-magnetic options, and come in four standard sizes: 3- and 4-feet square, 4-by-6 feet, and 4-by-8 feet. The boards can be finished with low-profile anodized aluminum frames or come in floating and frameless options. Reader Service No. 227

Fabricoil™ interior architectural systems provide all the visual intrigue, durability and functionality of traditional woven metal fabric but at an installed cost that any project can afford. Explore a world of fabulous design possibilities with Fabricoil.

Visit fabricoil.com today or call 800.999.2645.

Salt Ultra Lounge, Scottsdale, Arizona
Fabricoil Interior Space Sculpting System
Designer: IDDI
Select No. 1 at
ContractDesign.com/readerservice
**Ligne Roset: Dualist**

*ligne-roset-usa.com*

Designed by Christian Ghion, Dualist is a low coffee table comprised of two sawn oak sections that slide apart to reveal a central storage space. The center portion is made of brushed aluminum, and the wood sections are mounted on fully extending runners. Dualist's base and legs are finished in argile lacquer. The table is 13.5 inches high and comes in two sizes: a 35.5-inch square and a 51.25" by 27.5" inch rectangle. Reader Service No. 230

---

**Lonseal: Londate**

*lonseal.com*

Londate is a resilient sheet vinyl flooring that features an Italian-inspired crosshatch pattern that echoes the textures of marble and stone. Available in seven different color options, Londate incorporates recycled content and is FloorScore-certified to ensure low levels of VOCs. Londate is coated with Topseal, a urethane finish that protects the surface and simplifies maintenance. Reader Service No. 228

---

**Made in Radio: Tetra**

*madeinratio.com*

The modular shelving system Tetra was named for the tessellated patterns of tetra fish scales as well as the concept of interlocking building blocks from the game of Tetris. The trapezoidal open units, which are made from European White Oak, can be stacked and repeated to create a range of configurations. Reader Service No. 229

---

**Taking Desks to New Heights**

Turn a desk into a standing workplace with just the touch of a button! Our new TLEL5 electric table leg system adjusts from 27" to 45". With different frame sizes to suit tops to 30" depth and up to 72" long. Weight capacity 220 pounds, three standard finishes.

*Control Panel*

**www.mockett.com • 800-523-1269**

Select No. 34 at ContractDesign.com/readerservice
Look deeper, build smarter with the U.S. Green Building Council's LEED® Green Associate credential.

USGBC.ORG/CREDSNTIALS

Select No. 190 at ContractDesign.com/readerservice
PATH TO PURCHASE FACT:

90% OF RETAIL JOURNEYS STILL END IN A RETAIL STORE, EVEN THOSE THAT BEGIN ONLINE.

#WELOVERETAIL
THE PATH TO PURCHASE
DESTINATION: BRICKS & MORTAR

SOLUTIONS & INSIGHTS FOR RETAILERS.
THE CODE CRACKED. THE PATH OPTIMIZED.

A CENTERPIECE EXHIBIT
PREMIERES MARCH 24-26, 2015
GLOBALSHOP 2015
MANDALAY BAY - LAS VEGAS

REGISTER TODAY AT GLOBALSHOP.ORG
USE PROMO CODE: CONTRACTMAG1 TO RECEIVE $10 OFF YOUR EXPO PASS

Presented by

Produced by

Sponsored by

Select No. 115 at ContractDesign.com/readerservice
Join Contract magazine as we celebrate winners of the 36th Annual Interiors Awards, a Designer of the Year, and a design Legend.

January 30, 2015
7:30 am
Cipriani, 42nd Street
NYC
Designers today are acutely aware of the influence of hospitality design in workplace interiors. Now, that does not mean slides, swings, and beanbag chairs. It’s maturing with layers of sophistication—and often is an intervention in an existing building—as seen in three featured interiors in this issue. For ad agency Lowe Campbell Ewald (page 56), a Detroit warehouse is reconceived as a cool workplace for the creative class. Zendesk’s San Francisco home (page 64) is, like the company, following the adage of less is more. And the Compulsive Productions video studio (this page and page 70) demonstrates that a small office can pack a wallop of visual interest.
LOWE CAMPBELL EWALD

Neumann/Smith Architecture's design for an ad agency's headquarters promises to transform how the firm works, as well as fuel a business resurgence in the heart of Detroit

By Jean Nayar
Photography by Justin Maconochie
The architects took advantage of a five-story atrium that had been previously carved out within the warehouse and further exposed the existing structure and building systems.
Anyone who doubts recent media buzz about Detroit’s resurgence needs to look no further than the new offices of Lowe Campbell Ewald for evidence that a turnaround is underway. Designed by Detroit-based Neumann/Smith Architecture, the premier global advertising agency’s new 122,000-square-foot headquarters creates a vibrant and energetic urban home for a segment of the creative economy.

For several decades, Lowe Campbell Ewald had occupied an office building in suburban Warren, Michigan, but management decided the timing was right to be part of the urban revolution and move back downtown, where it got its start 103 years ago. The new office is located in the former J.L. Hudson Co. building, a 1920s warehouse structure connected to the city’s Ford Field, home of the Detroit Lions football team.

Lowe Campbell Ewald’s move, with 500 employees, marks a turning point in a broader migration of creative and technology firms into the city. The influx is gradually infusing the midtown area near the bustling central business district downtown with new vitality. “Hipsters and small entrepreneurial companies are starting to move back to the city,” says Jaimelyn Neher, Neumann/Smith project architect. “The rent is cheap, so they can afford to renovate and expand. It’s like Detroit version 2.0.”

Tax benefits and other incentives from the city helped in the firm’s decision-making process, says Jari Auger, chief financial officer and chief operating officer for Lowe Campbell Ewald. “We received a personal property tax abatement, a Creative Corridor Incentive grant, and a Discretionary Business Attraction Grant, all coordinated through the Detroit Economic Growth Corporation,” she explains. The company also infused $15 million of its own funds to transform five floors of the eight-story building into a future-oriented workspace.

**Exposing good bones**

In keeping with the nature of Lowe Campbell Ewald’s business, the architects set out to design an inspiring space for this creative company. Upon seeing the building for the first time, the Lowe Campbell Ewald team fell in love with the exposed bones of the structure as well as a central atrium space that had been carved out of the building during an aborted attempt to redevelop it as a hotel. It also possessed the expansive floor plates and raw qualities the ad agency had envisioned for its new headquarters. “[Lowe Campbell Ewald] had a war room with an idea board of pinned-up images of what other firms had done [with their office interiors],” Neher says. “They knew they wanted open offices with character.”

The architects began by further exposing the building’s structural systems, clay tile, board-formed concrete, and steel deck ceilings. Original concrete floors were also ground and polished. With the shell exposed, the architects then creatively introduced recycled materials, such as wooden pallets, electrical conduits, and 500 locally salvaged wood doors, which were sliced up and reconfigured into slatted partition pods to further define the open office area and various meeting spaces.
Brass press plates featuring vintage Lowe Campbell Ewald advertisements from the 1950s through the 1980s adorn the lobby's ceiling (left). To provide secluded spaces for "ideation" sessions, two "treehouse" spaces are suspended from the atrium ceiling (top left, and above) and accessed via ship ladders.
Key Design Highlights

A 1920s warehouse in downtown Detroit, featuring a five-story central atrium, was stripped down to its bones.

Open work areas are divided with pods and partitions made from salvaged wood.

Multi-touch screens in the lobby and a 42-foot-tall LED screen in the atrium create opportunities for branding.

Breakout areas and pitch rooms—including two "treehouse" spaces suspended in the atrium—provide places for focused work.

Tectum wall and ceiling panels and an integrated white-noise system provide acoustical buffers against the office's hard surfaces.

Wooden pallets and salvaged doors were used to create slatted pods and room dividers (top and right) in the open office area. The office also includes more than 100 collaboration and conference areas (above). A four-story LED screen in the atrium (opposite) displays custom content and has tiered seating beneath.
A brand immersion area in the lobby (above) includes a series of multi-touch interactive screens. Hosu Covertible Lounge chairs designed by Patricia Urquiola for Coalesse define an informal meeting area (right).
To encourage the cross-pollination of ideas between teams in open workspaces, the architects specified flexible benching systems. Supplementing the open work areas, more than 100 hospitality inspired conference spaces accommodate groups of 4 to 16 people each. These range from small breakout areas with comfortable seating to more expansive “pitch rooms” with sophisticated high-tech equipment and plenty of pinnable and writable surfaces for presentations. Around the atrium, bleacher platform seating equipped with outlets provides a spot for casual conversations or work sessions, while two unique spaces known as “treehouses,” which are suspended in corners from the ceiling and accessed via ship’s ladders, offer secluded zones for focused “ideation” sessions.

Spaces support creativity and, in turn, the city
After the company moved into the offices early this year, the project earned several awards and both employees and clients have embraced the change. “Clients are blown away with how comfortable and functional the office is,” Auger says. “They’d rather have meetings at our building than theirs.” The new headquarters also proved to be a healthy financial move. “We’ve realized significant savings with lower real estate costs and LED lighting, reducing our footprint by a third and electricity by two thirds,” she adds. From a big-picture vantage point, however, the new headquarters is a boon not just to the company, but to the city as a whole as it sets a precedent for repurposing long-vacant buildings, highlighting notions of historic preservation and sustainability, and anchoring the creative sector’s role as a new economic engine for Detroit.
Design Blitz taps into a Danish company’s core values—Airy, Humble, Charming, Uncomplicated—for its San Francisco office
On one of the office floors, a relaxed seating area is adjacent to an open meeting room surrounded by bench seating. The building's original brick walls and pine posts and beams were left exposed.
Among tech companies, few workplaces reflect a brand’s core ethos better than Zendesk’s San Francisco headquarters. The brand’s four tenets—Airy, Humble, Charming, Uncomplicated—are physically manifest in its Market Street office by Design Blitz.

Founded in Denmark in 2002, Zendesk is a software company that provides a cloud-based customer service platform with support features designed to be simple, clean, and straightforward. Now based primarily in San Francisco, with smaller offices worldwide, Zendesk’s name itself is a reflection of its uncomplicated nature. It brands itself as a company bringing “a bit of zen to the chaotic world of customer support.”

In 2011, Zendesk moved into a building in the mid-Market neighborhood of San Francisco, which it quickly outgrew. While keeping that office, the company moved much of its operations a block away this year, into a larger home base in a restored 1909 building that had housed the Eastern Outfitting Company. Zendesk hired San Francisco firm Design Blitz, led by Seth Hanley and Melissa Wallin, to design the headquarters office for up to 450 employees on eight floors, including a basement level. The building’s exterior was renovated by Page and Turnbull, and Studio TMT completed core and shell work.

A clean, open space with no unnecessary frills
Design Blitz began with the bones of the structure, including exposed original rafters, California pine support beams, brick walls, and concrete floors, and kept interventions minimal and legible in a reductionist approach, as Hanley put it. “Every material decision was measured against the client’s branding values. There is only one accent color in the project, Zendesk green,” Hanley says. “Matching this color in each material choice, be it Corian or FilzFelt, was critical. The less color, the more impact it has in the space.”

Cutouts in the ground level’s floorplate allow for a visual connection to the level below, and a two-story wall of reindeer moss
Typical Office Floor Plan

1. Open office area
2. Meeting room
3. Office
4. Lounge
5. Pantry/kitchen
Zendesk's culture and core values—Airy, Humble, Charming, Uncomplicated—informed the overall interior.

Only one color, Zendesk green, is used to accent the otherwise simple palette of white, wood, and concrete.

A gathering space with bleacher seating is used for both company meetings and other nonprofit organization gatherings.

Open kitchens on office floors are placed near vertical circulation to encourage sociable gathering.

Bleacher seating (below two) physically and visually connects the lower level to the ground floor. The open and airy interior includes glass-fronted meeting rooms (opposite, top); communal seating (opposite, middle) near an open kitchen on one of the office floors; and relaxed, residential-like sofa seating (opposite, bottom).

Silicon Valley companies are hellbent on outdoing each other with over-the-top features, most of which are based on founders’ questionable dorm room dreams coming to life, such as the stripper poles, secret founders’ dens, slides, etcetera.

In our minds, these novelties will fade like a sad, outdated, sun-bleached fairground. So we asked Design Blitz for a clean, open space with no unnecessary frills. If anything, we wanted more of a blank slate for our own employees.

—Toke Nygaard, Chief Creative Officer of Zendesk
reinforces the Zendesk green palette. On the lower level, an open gathering area enables Zendesk to have office-wide assemblies, and bleacher seating at one end leads up the main floor. “Activating the basement and integrating this space vertically so that it functions realistically as the primary social and hospitality space required connective design moves,” Hanley says.

Connecting to the neighborhood and city is important to Zendesk and, through a community benefits agreement that the company has with the city, area nonprofits also hold meetings in the space. Toke Nygaard, chief creative officer of Zendesk, loves the connection of the lower level to the reception area above, where the reception desk doubles as a bar when needed. “The result is an airy, flexible, and easily accessible gathering space that is in constant use,” Nygaard says. “Design Blitz worked hard to understand our needs and priorities—that we wanted something different from most start-ups, that our culture is less formal, that we strive for beauty and simplicity in our products and processes.”

Nygaard went on to describe just how hands-on he and his Zendesk team were with the designers: “We used various mood boards to communicate our taste in Scandinavian and Japanese interior design and furniture, and we worked with Design Blitz to pick lighting, furniture, and details like felt and light woods and the moss wall to offset the stark, white spaces.”

**Design for flexibility and varied work**

On the ground floor near reception, Design Blitz developed custom booths for impromptu small meetings. Open kitchen areas near the entry points on other floors are gathering spaces to maximize sociability. The designers specified height-adjustable desks for all employees, and allowed for flexible configurations with a variety of pockets to break out and meet. A second-floor open room with expansive views over Market Street can be used for anything from a yoga class to employee child care to happy hour.

The company also wanted its interior to be influenced by the Danish concept of “hygge,” which is, essentially, coziness. “The Zendesk core values of Airy, Humble, Charming, and Uncomplicated are manifested through preservation of natural light and views for staff, simple-yet-honest materials like wood, preservation of existing building features including beams and brick; and clean, uncomplicated lines,” Hanley says. “The project honors the building and doesn’t try to be too clever.”

Zendesk is in stark contrast to the unencumbered exuberance of some young tech company offices. “Silicon Valley companies are hellbent on outdoing each other with over-the-top features, most of which are based on founders’ questionable dorm room dreams coming to life, such as the stripper poles, secret founders’ dens, slides, etcetera,” Nygaard says. “In our minds, these novelties will fade like a sad, outdated, sun-bleached fairground. So we asked Design Blitz for a clean, open space with no unnecessary frills. If anything, we wanted more of a blank slate for our own employees.”
Compulsive Productions

Matt Gibson Architecture + Design creates a multifaceted film production studio and coworking space in Melbourne

By Krista Sykes
Photography by Shannon McGrath
Three faceted, open-ended pods are clad in pine plywood panels and lined with light-gray acoustic felt. Each pod houses different functions: private desks, the main editing suite, and a sub-tenant editing suite.
When Matt Hopper, owner of Melbourne, Australia-based Compulsive Productions, hired Matt Gibson Architecture + Design to retrofit his film production studio, Hopper requested a space both dark and light, enclosed and connected. Working with a narrow floor plan, a tight budget, and specific functional requirements, Gibson—based in Melbourne and Sydney—transformed Hopper’s studio into a multifaceted, flexible venue. Derived from the tools of his client’s trade, Gibson’s design for Compulsive Productions offers a new model for film production studios as well as an attractive coworking solution for Melbourne creatives.

For the redesign of the two-story warehouse, which has been home to Compulsive Productions’ film studio for the past seven years, Hopper envisioned a light-filled workspace to accommodate ten people—his staff and a few freelancers—as well as dark, sound-controlled areas for film editing. Yet Hopper aspired beyond the standard editing suite that is often a cramped, inhospitable space isolated from surrounding activity. And budget dictated that the new design follow the existing 2,325-square-foot studio’s general spatial arrangement that has a first floor with storage and an open-plan second floor. Finally, Hopper wanted a dynamic, marketable space that would attract industry freelancers and generate a rich working environment. With these requirements in mind, Gibson says, “We sought to create a philosophically open, flexible, collaborative workspace, with sections that could be closed down for functionality.”

Dark and light, enclosed and connected

Inspired by Hopper’s collection of vintage cameras and studies of noir and sci-fi films, Gibson devised spaces that could be dark and closed for editing purposes, and light and open to foster an interactive, exciting environment. Visitors enter on the ground floor into a white, linear gallery, then travel up a stair to encounter the project’s main feature: three open-ended pods, comprised of aperture blade-like facets. Together, they reference the receding barrel of a camera lens and stretch along the second floor’s southern wall, leaving a path to the north and allowing light from the west windows to penetrate the warehouse’s entire depth. Outside the pods, hot desks line the north wall near the windows, while the pre-existing stair and kitchen wrap the wall toward the east.

Each pod houses a different function—private desks are closest to the windows; the main editing suite is in the middle; and a sub-tenant editing suite occupies the rear. Compulsive Productions’ new editing suites

The main editing pod (above) appears to float above the dark wood floor. Glass panels at the ends of pods (above and right) maintain visual connections with the surrounding studio space. Built-in shelves beneath the windows (opposite) serve as a library and display area.
Key Design Highlights

The contrasting themes of darkness and light guided the architect's design.

Three faceted wood pods lined in felt are detailed to meet varying programmatic needs.

Pods have distinct functions: private workspace, main editing suite, and a sub-tenant editing suite.

Red accents and furnishings throughout the spaces emphasize the Compulsive Productions brand.

The existing light wood floor was stained dark to delineate circulation and common areas.
A stair (opposite, bottom left) leads from a white-walled gallery on the ground floor to the second-floor office space. The floor of the middle pod (top)—which contains the main editing suite—is raised and carpeted to match the felt lining to improve acoustics. Linear light fixtures (left) hang above a meeting area between pods.

are open, faceted pods, not isolated boxes. With pine plywood structures lined inside with light-gray acoustic felt, the three-dimensional faceted surfaces dampen sound and provide a distinct, immersive setting. The glass-walled ends of the editing pods, which can be darkened with hemp curtains, allow connection with the surrounding studio. Plush white seating for clients and a sleek editor's desk complete these functional and stylish spaces, offering an aesthetic alternative to traditional cut-off editing suites.

The dark/light theme pervades all aspects of the interior, including the studio's finishes. On the second level, the light-colored pods appear to hover above the wood floor, which was original to the building and has been stained dark in circulation areas. A black fractal pattern, rendered in alternating matte, low-gloss, and high-sheen paints, covers the cinderblock wall above the white stair. Bronze mirrors line the opposite wall adding to the space's intrigue, while exposed ceiling trusses, painted white, provide linear emphasis within the room's 12-foot height. Horizontal bar lights float between the pods, and an opaque skylight illuminates a breakout space between the two editing suites.

Space as a reflection of brand
Throughout Compulsive Productions' studio, the color red serves as a branding device, replacing the overt use of the company name. Playful red touches appear in unexpected places—a red faucet, a red-trestled table, and red neon signs that, at night, recast the studio with a futuristic glow.

"Attention to detail makes this place a work of art, makes you feel good about the space," Hopper says. Indeed the overall effect is lighthearted yet refined, and is wholly unique to Compulsive Productions. In addition to offering novel editing suites and a collaborative work environment, the studio has become a popular venue for events from photo shoots to industry gatherings. "We wished to provide something that was dynamic and unique to this business," Gibson says, "something that was personal to the owner and his brand."
A 12-story central atrium is the focal point of the interior. Natural light filters down through the levels, which are connected by a series of angled stairs that frame views. Fenestration patterns on the building (opposite) hint at shifts in programmatic function within.
University of Baltimore

Angelos Law Center

Behnisch Architekten defies preconceptions of law school design with a building that reflects aspirations

From innovative sustainable building systems to unique programmatic organization, custom lighting, and interior furnishings, Behnisch Architekten has demonstrated how architects can comprehensively create a modern law school in the design of the John & Frances Angelos Law Center at the University of Baltimore. The building, which was one of the American Institute of Architects (AIA) COTE Top Ten projects for 2014, has captured numerous architecture and design awards since opening.

The building's three volumes each have unique fenestration to reflect the distinct programs they house: classrooms, library, and administration and faculty offices. The volumes surround the interior focal point: a light-filled, 12-story central atrium that promotes airflow and reduces the need for active heating and cooling, and contributes to the building's LEED Platinum certification.

This is the first higher education building in the U.S. designed by Behnisch Architekten, known for its high level of sustainable design. Behnisch, with offices in Stuttgart and Munich, Germany, and Boston, partnered with project architects Ayers Saint Gross of Baltimore. Located across from the city's Penn Station on a wedge-shaped slice of university-owned land that was previously a surface parking lot, the 192,000-square-foot Angelos Law Center stands out as the first large building train travelers see when they step out of the station.

"It's deceptive from the outside," says Neb Sertsu, vice president of the school's Office of Facilities Management and Capital Planning.

"People are always surprised by how large the building turns out to be—there are so many hidden aspects."

Programmatic elements wrap a central atrium

Beyond the entrance, the center's knockout feature quickly becomes apparent. "Because of the unusual shape of the site, we wound up with a rather wide floor plate," says Behnisch Architekten Principal Stefan Behnisch. "So we created an atrium all the way through the middle that effectively cuts the building in half, with every level connected by stairs and bridges."

As visitors ascend through the building, they take in views that are alternately truncated and expansive. Most of the offices and classrooms are arranged along the periphery and receive natural light from both the exterior windows as well as the atrium, which is topped with a 600-square-foot skylight. Regular building users, including 1,000-plus students and about 150 faculty and administrators, enjoy the natural light and the variety of public spaces, such as terraces with water features and sweeping city views, two cafes, and meeting areas.

The programmatic elements of the building wrap the atrium in interlocking L-shapes. Classrooms and faculty offices on the west side alternate by floor to encourage chance interaction between those populations. The second through fourth floors of the east side house the school's legal clinics, where students and faculty provide legal contract assistance.
Programmatic elements form interlocking L-shapes around the central atrium (left). The building's wide floor plates allowed the designers to devote plenty of space to circulation and provide areas for chance encounters. Behnisch Architekten partnered with Rolf Benz Furniture to design colorful, modular seating (bottom) that was specified throughout the building.
Key Design Highlights

A central atrium is naturally lit and promotes airflow while providing a place for students and faculty to interact.

The architects collaborated with several other companies to design furnishings and lighting for the building.

Pops of yellow, green, and orange are used to contrast the concrete floors, maple millwork, and many white wall surfaces.

Designated LEED Platinum, the center has sustainable building systems that include radiant water tubing, automated windows, and photo sensors for lighting.

Splashes of color, such as green linoleum floors in the classrooms (below), enliven the otherwise neutral palette. Behnisch designed work counters (bottom and opposite) and other built-in millwork.
services, and the library occupies floors 7 through 12. A common area and a 300-seat moot court are below grade but also naturally lit thanks to clerestory windows and light wells.

**Color, custom lighting, and furnishings enhance architecture**

Exposed concrete ceilings and support beams are painted banana yellow or apple green, while vivid emerald linoleum enlivens the floors of the classrooms. Together with a simple material palette of smooth maple and rough concrete, the colors stand out. "The colors play off of those in the building, bringing them down to floor level," Behnisch says. "Since we didn't have interior cladding like gypsum or wallpaper, color and lighting became even more important."

For lighting, Behnisch collaborated with Nimbus to design the OfficeAir LED lamps in the offices, but the most distinctive fixtures are the 70 or so custom-designed "butterfly" LED fixtures that dangle and sparkle throughout the atrium. Developed specifically for the building by the architects in collaboration with Austrian lighting supplier Zumtobel, they serve to "make the space a true experience," Behnisch says. "They help fill the atrium and emphasize its verticality."

Behnisch designed built-in millwork furniture for work bars and other informal work areas, and also collaborated with several companies to design and fabricate furnishings throughout the Angelos Law Center. For example, with German furniture company VS, Behnisch developed customized library carrels.

The meeting areas are outfitted with modular seating, in shades of mango, cherry, and orange sorbet, designed by Behnisch in partnership with Rolf Benz Furniture of Germany. Rolf Benz will make the seating available for contract production. "The Rolf Benz system is a highly flexible, modular system that can be configured in a variety of ways to work well in many different kinds of spaces," says Robert Matthew Noblem, a partner in Behnisch's Boston office. "The wood frames complement the wood accents in the building interiors, and the expansive fabric upholstery is an opportunity to bring strong color accents into the building."

contract
## Tables and casegoods

Designers share their favorite furnishings for office environments inspired by hospitality

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Designer</th>
<th>Product</th>
<th>Website</th>
<th>Reader Service No.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>David Ashen</td>
<td>Kristalia: Dot</td>
<td>kristalia.it</td>
<td>210</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alfred H. Gooden III</td>
<td>Haworth: Intuity</td>
<td>haworth.com</td>
<td>213</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kristine Townsend</td>
<td>Plank: Mister X Tables</td>
<td>plank.it</td>
<td>216</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Hudson Furniture: Dipped Desk</td>
<td>hudsonfurnitureinc.com</td>
<td>211</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Viccarbe: Serra</td>
<td>viccarbe.com</td>
<td>214</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>David Weeks Studio: Folha</td>
<td>davidweeksstudio.com</td>
<td>217</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>De La Espada: Trunk Tall Cabinet</td>
<td>deleespada.com</td>
<td>212</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Watson: Tonic Simple Tables</td>
<td>wastonfurniture.com</td>
<td>215</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Henge: K-Table</td>
<td>henge07.com</td>
<td>218</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**David Ashen**
Principal dash design
New York

"Dot is a modular shelving system that is based on an industrial aesthetic, but it is also very elegant in its details. It can mix well in modern or traditional environments. I especially like it in black as it reads more as an object."

**Alfred H. Gooden III**
Director
BBGM
Washington, D.C.

"This benching solution accommodates changing work styles by offering a 'kit of parts' that can be easily manipulated. For example, the blotter is rigged and weighted and can be pulled forward to serve as a keyboard tray, and the screen between stations doubles as a utility rail for accessories."

**Kristine Townsend**
Senior Designer
Spector Group
New York

"Believe it or not, it's sometimes hard to source a beautiful and simple cafe or bistro table. The clean lines and dynamic legs keep the Mister X Table looking modern yet playful."

**Haworth: Intuity**
"I appreciate both the extravagance and the simplicity of this table/desk. It has a very basic design, but the metal base makes it over the top. It's a great statement piece for a CEO's office or a conference room."

**Viccarbe: Serra**
"Serra tables, designed by Victor Carrasco for Viccarbe, feature a belt to make them easy to move around. The tables are perfect for a lounge or reception area to support the user's laptop or cup of coffee."

**Plank: Mister X Tables**
"Believe it or not, it's sometimes hard to source a beautiful and simple cafe or bistro table. The clean lines and dynamic legs keep the Mister X Table looking modern yet playful."

**David Weeks Studio: Folha**
"I'm always looking for the right side table to suit a lounge or reception area. I absolutely love these new tables from David Weeks. They're so funky!"

**Henge: K-Table**
"This table is based on the concept of a live-edge table, which has so much character, and compresses it to create a streamlined contemporary look. The resulting design achieves the perfect balance for an office environment."
STEP INSIDE DESIGN

THE ULTIMATE CONNECTOR TO THE HOSPITALITY DESIGN INDUSTRY

SAVE THE DATE

MAY 13-15, 2015

MANDALAY BAY • LAS VEGAS, NV

hdexpo.com
Lowe Campbell Ewald (page 56)


Zendesk (page 84)


Sadie Outdoor Chair

LOOK FRESH.

GRAND RAPIDS CHAIR COMPANY

www.grandrapidschair.com
Select No. 23 at ContractDesign.com/readerservice

Compulsive Productions (page 70)
who Architect and interior designer: Matt Gibson

John and Frances Angelos Law Center at the University of Baltimore (page 76)

Fantastic Furniture Fair in Guangzhou & Shanghai

China International Furniture Fair (Guangzhou) - Office Show
28th March-1st April, 2015
China Import and Export Fair Complex (Pazhou, Guangzhou)

China International Furniture Fair (Shanghai)
Sept, 2015
China Expo Complex (Hongqiao, Shanghai)

China Foreign Trade Guangzhou Exhibition General Corp. www.ciff-gz.com
To advertise in *Contract* magazine's Ideas & Information section, contact Vito Salvatore

t: 646-668-3765
email: vsalvatore@contractdesign.com
### AD INDEX

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Manufacturer</th>
<th>Reader Service No.</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3M Architectural Markets</td>
<td>106</td>
<td>87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aceray</td>
<td>87</td>
<td>86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Antron/Invista</td>
<td>170</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aquafit USA</td>
<td>203</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Armstrong World Industries</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bentley</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>4-5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOLYU</td>
<td>157</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cascade Coil Drapery</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CFTE</td>
<td>10</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coalesse</td>
<td>138</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C.R. Laurence Co, Inc.</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cumberland Furniture</td>
<td>143</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Davis Furniture Industries</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DesignTex</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Doug Mockett &amp; Co</td>
<td>180</td>
<td>86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EQI</td>
<td>123</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Formica Corp</td>
<td>115</td>
<td>52-53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grand Rapids Chair</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hardwoods Specialty Products</td>
<td>192</td>
<td>83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HBF</td>
<td>155</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HD Expo 2015</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Humanscale</td>
<td>94</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inscape Inc</td>
<td>94</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interiors Breakfast Awards</td>
<td>119</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J+J Invasion</td>
<td>197</td>
<td>87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Keilhauer</td>
<td>196</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Modernfold</td>
<td>194</td>
<td>86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ModularArts®</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ModularArts®</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Reader Service:

- Manufacturer information is located at contractdesign.com/readerservice.
- This index to advertiser page location is published for reader convenience. Every effort is made to list page numbers correctly. This listing is not part of the advertising contract, and the publisher is not liable for errors or omissions.

---

To advertise in *Contract* magazine’s Ideas & Information section, contact Vito Salvatore

- **t:** 646-668-3765
- **email:** vsalvatore@contractdesign.com

---

**SIMONSWERK**

**TECTUS®** the adjustable concealed door hinge.

**SIMONSWERK**

North America, Inc.

Phone: 262-472-9500

www.simonswerk-usa.com

---

**Operable Partitions**

Select No. 197 at ContractDesign.com/readerservice

**MODERNFOLD**

A SURMA Group Company

---

**WE ENGINEER SURFACE**

Select No. 165 at ContractDesign.com/readerservice
Not to be mistaken for the latest pick by Stefon of “Saturday Night Live” for New York’s hottest club, “Situation NY” is an installation at the Storefront for Art and Architecture in New York by Jana Winderen and Marc Fornes. But it’s easy to see how one might make that mistake: It is bulbous, neon pink, and vibrates with sound.

On view through November 21, “Situation NY” contemplates the blurry realm between the digital and physical worlds. It was conceived by Winderen, an Oslo-based artist, and Fornes, an architect and founder of the Brooklyn-based firm THEVERYMANY, winner of an American Institute of Architects New Practices New York award and the Architectural League Prize.

Fabricated by bengal.fierro, the installation comprises nearly 2,000 unique laser-cut metal pieces that have been powder coated a custom pink shade. The perforated segments are fastened together to create a lightweight, self-supporting structure with a network of tunnels and bubbles that appears to swell against Storefront’s street-level facade. As visitors explore its nooks and crannies, their movements activate sounds engineered by Winderen, and transducers connect to light sources that pulse in concert.

Visitors can access Storefront’s WorldWide Storefront project—an initiative to create alternative spaces for expression and exchange related to art and architecture—via augmented reality applications on tablets positioned throughout the installation. “Situation NY” might not be the hottest new club, but Stefon would surely approve. —MURRYE BERNARD