

Case Study



Leading Post-Secondary Institution, Toronto Canada

Higher education spaces need to work harder than ever. They need to flex and multi-function to meet the emerging demands of mobile students and staff, shrinking real estate and new learning styles. This institution's talented group of designers and project managers have embraced this new reality to create a learning landscape that both engages and inspires.

Products:

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

Shared Perspectives

Spread over four campuses, this post-secondary institution plays a critical role in shaping the future of Canadian society in the fields of arts, business, community service, health technology and skilled trades. The vision for shaping the nearly two million square feet of space where students, staff and faculty interact is held in the capable hands of a young group of designers, some of whom are graduates of Sheridan College. Having grown from within the spaces they are now designing, they bring with them an understanding of what it takes to create spaces that inspire and engage.

Making Spaces Work Harder

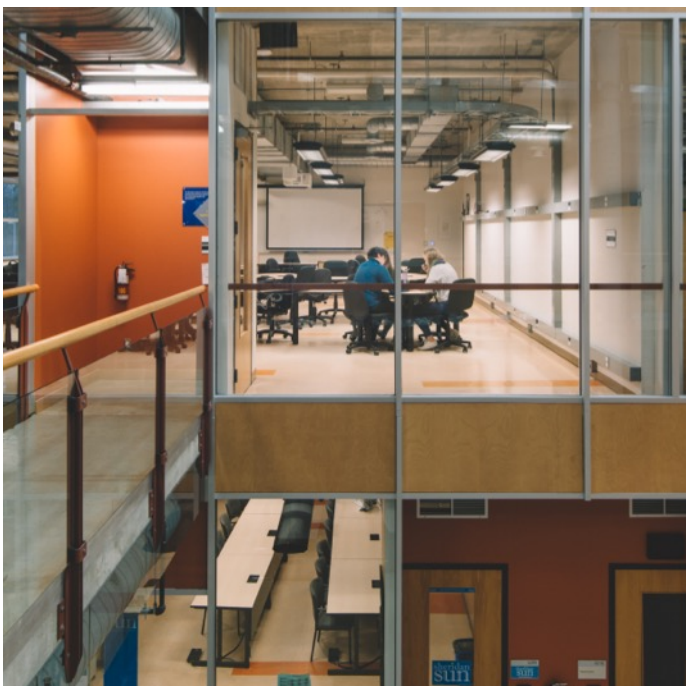
Project Manager Nathan Case explains there is a lot involved in the design, planning and specification of Sheridan spaces. Thanks to tablets and laptops, today's students and staff can learn and work anywhere. They are mobile and they are very busy. "People want a more comfortable, laid back environment. Our students have more to learn in less time. We need to give students the ability to eat, drink and do homework, all in one space."

Case explains “the demand on design, planning and execution of Sheridan spaces requires a multi-disciplinary team of creative problem solvers to address the needs of students, faculty, staff as well as environmental challenges and goals set out by the college. With a strong interconnection between Sheridan’s many campuses, the pressure is on the infrastructure and spaces to accommodate the needs of students, staff and faculty to learn and work while mobile.”

As the college continues to offer more services and programs, “spaces are becoming a premium and the pressure on faculty to meet stricter regulations, means scheduled classes and activities within the built environment require room designs to be flexible, collaborative and engaging.” The college’s Facility Planning group recognizes the reality of these challenges and the opportunity to design new spaces that align with the Sheridan Vision. “Our spaces need to work harder. We can’t think singularly anymore,” Case explains. Dedicated spaces are fewer in number and multifunction spaces are becoming predominant. We used to have one room that would serve a single function. Now, classrooms for instance, need furniture that can reconfigure layout and function to achieve the changing demands based on occupant programs throughout any given day. Project Manager, Lucas Laurensen, agrees that the dual reality of shrinking workspaces and multi-functioning spaces extends to faculty and staff areas. “These spaces have evolved from traditional, closed-office environments to hybrid spaces that include hoteling, collaborative areas and bookable private offices to meet the diverse needs of the people who inhabit them.”

Future Proofing

On what the future will bring to their campuses, Project Manager Elyse King explains, “One thing you can count on is that things will always change and evolve in an educational atmosphere. We need to be able to plan for the future and we do this by incorporating flexibility into our designs. Global helps us with this by keeping us informed about new products and planning trends.” The very practical issue of maintenance and repair rounds out the discussion. Campus environments are famously demanding. King emphasizes “Global’s repair and maintenance programs are responsive enough to ensure product repair on site or product replacement happen quickly and simply. The next generation of educational spaces has arrived at this iconic institution and the team that helps shape it is ready for the next chapter, one space at a time.”



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