

Waste Connections of Canada: Setting the standard for connection, collaboration and community



Photography: Patrick St-Arnaud Design Firm: SDI Design

North America's foremost waste collection, transfer and recycling company creates an office that welcomes its employees and supports them in doing their best work.

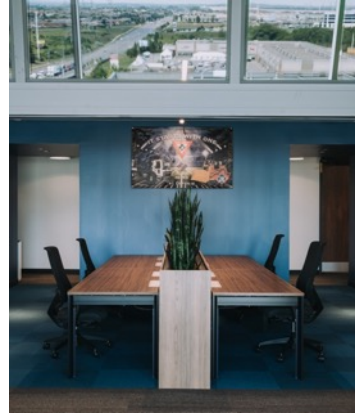
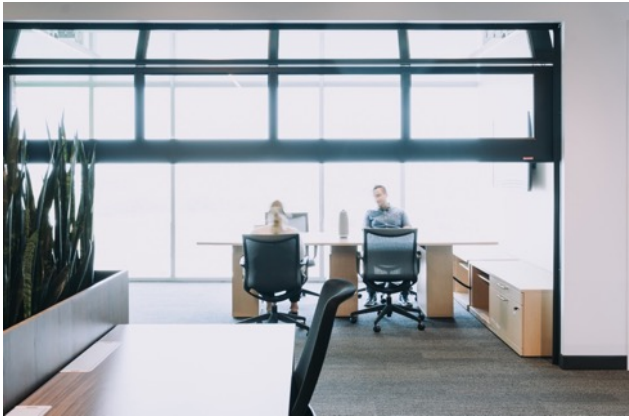
Waste Connections of Canada is the premier provider of solid waste collection, transfer, recycling and disposal services, along with recycling and resource recovery across the US and Canada. Reflecting on the experience they wanted to create within their newly opened Toronto office, Dan Pio, President, explains, "We wanted our space to reflect our core values safety, integrity, customer service and being a great place to work."

Empowering Employees

To deliver on the company's People First philosophy, the team at SDI Design created a space that supports connection and collaboration, focus and retreat.

Pio expands, "Our space empowers our employees by providing them with choice to work the way they want. A tool of productivity through happiness and collaboration – a place where our employees want to come to. At Waste Connections of Canada we believe that together, we're better." Casual meeting and lounge areas, including at sixth floor outdoor balcony, a café, and the addition of more formal meeting and training rooms, provide a variety of ways for employees to engage with each other.

Joanne Chan, Principal at SDI Design explains, "Through these zones, the furniture provides cues for how to work within them. If you have a lot of white boards and soft seating – the room is telling the user, 'This is a space to be creative' – in a formal meeting room with acoustic walls and embedded technology with audio, that indicates a room for more formal discussion." These common areas complement sit-stand workstations that feature low partitions to foster communication.



Supporting employee comfort in every space is key, explains Chan “If you’re not comfortable in your chair, or if you haven’t planned the space appropriately so that everyone who walks by can stare at you because you have no privacy then the space isn’t working.”

Capturing the Spirit of the Company

Beyond the visual narrative of the space, each piece of furniture complements the playful combination of natural and industrial elements integrated throughout. The timeless, modern lines of the furniture finished in muted colors, complement the polished concrete floor and exposed ceiling details. Above the furniture, the design team then added a layer of romance and materiality via a wood ceiling sculpture reminiscent of a metal crusher, along with atmospheric lighting that softens and contours the space. The centerpiece of the space, a fully operational and authentic industrial garage

door, connects the large meeting area filled with flexible meeting tables to the workstations. Chan says, “It also performs the symbolic and whimsical function of bringing the core activity of the company, picking up the waste at the back door of its customers, into the heart of the office. As Waste Connections of Canada approaches its 25-year anniversary, Pio is proud of how far the company has come. He concludes, “We’ve worked hard and played even harder along the way. We wanted this space to be a celebration of our people, and we’ve achieved that and then some. I can’t wait for what the next 25 years will bring.”

FEATURED PRODUCTS

Citi Square lounge seating, Drift seating, Solar task seating
Accord conference seating, Spyker stacking seating,
Bakhita stacking seating, Swap tables, Bridges benching,
Boulevard workstations



