



LAW FIRMS AND ASSOCIATIONS: ARE THEY FUTURE-READY?

USUALLY SLOW TO EMBRACE CHANGE, LAW FIRMS AND ASSOCIATIONS, HAVE BEEN MAKING HUGE POSITIVE STRIDES WITH RESPECT TO UPDATING THEIR physical space and embracing trends. Creating a future-ready workplace requires designing around four major themes: flexibility, activity-based areas, hospitality, and worker well-being. With attraction and retention more competitive than ever before, these themes have become prevalent aspects of this evolutionary transformation. The more agile, accommodating, engaging, and supportive the work environment, the more productive and effective the work.



Flexibility

One-size fits all does not apply to space plans. With every law firm and association needing a custom solution, one universal need is flexibility. A variety of easy to modify settings and adaptable pieces support the different ways people learn, work, and create. As law firms continue to lease smaller spaces while growing their respective headcount, it becomes increasingly necessary to plan in reconfigurable spaces with modular walls and furniture. One day the need may be for more office space for associates and partners but the next could entail the requirement for collaborative meeting spaces.



Activity-Based Areas

The most future-ready spaces optimize the needs of the individuals and teams alike. Dedicated spaces for focused work intermix with areas that facilitate conversation, collaboration, and social activity. In an effort to appeal to the new generation of lawyers, law firms are moving towards more flexible, activity-based work environments that allow their lawyers the flexibility to choose the kind of work space best suited to their task. Collaboration spaces are positioned in the most desirable areas i.e. the top floor, next to a roof deck, in the corners, etc.



Hospitality

A more connected workplace puts people at the center of their life-work experience. Welcoming spaces, like a good hotel or coffee shop, hinge on ambiance and social experience – important components of work. Amenities such as a coffee bar with barista, or on-site daycare are being incorporated into designs as another recruitment and attraction/retention tool. In order to get the most out of their space, associations are taking advantage of event rentals as another source of revenue. With events in mind, associations are taking more care in the finishes they select while concurrently incorporating highly desirable spaces such as roof decks, balconies, views, etc.



Well-Being

Attention to the individual experience makes for better work and healthier lifestyles. People want to be in places that make them feel good: near natural light, with access to fresh-air, and surrounded by products with adaptable ergonomic support. Law firms and associations have both embraced height-adjustable desks, full height windows, glass front offices, and ergonomic tools to support their team members.

Project profiled in photography is Nixon Peabody in Washington, DC.

Architecture by Perkins + Will

Furniture by MOI, Inc.

GET TO KNOW MOI: MOI is a leading commercial interior solutions provider that has worked with legal clients such as Willcox & Savage, Nixon Peabody, Patton Boggs, Mannatt Phelps, and Norton Rose Fulbright. We specialize in creating personalized design solutions to bring out an environment that enhances performance while staying true to the law firm's culture. We understand the many emerging trends within the legal sector today and are well versed to accommodate these desires. Our team embraces these projects from inception through and well beyond completion.