

Project Name

Bethesda Office

Project Location

Bethesda, MD

Project Category

Interior Architecture

Project Synopsis -

An opportunity to rethink how a design firm accommodates varying work styles was the result of outgrowing the firm's space. The newly renovated space is organized with comfortable collaboration in mind. The lobby is an uncluttered, airy space with concrete polished floors, 11-foot high ceilings, and a long, floating box that functions as a reception desk. Turn left or right, and you're on the main office path. This elongated spine runs from one end of the building to the other, and it isn't dedicated to anyone. On either side of the spine, rooms—big and small, formal and informal—encroach on the unclaimed zone. Throughout the studio, community work tables soften the edges between programmed spaces. That flexible, multifunctional layering of spaces happens within rooms, too. For employees, there's a casual break room with a long lunch table and views out to the city; if they want more space, well, they simply roll open the garage door and take over the conference room. Giving employees this kind of relaxed freedom was a design priority. The idea was to dedicate arguably the best space in the office—in terms of views, light, size—to the creative down time that indirectly adds to productivity. Similarly, the more directly productive spaces promote flexibility and collaboration. These design principles are achieved through careful detailing and doubling up of functions. Seats, for example, double as storage. While employees occupy a third less individual space than the old office, they have considerably more shared space.



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