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HOK's Kay Sargent Takes a Different Path



Details that Set Spaces Apart

The best offices don't shoehorn employees into a cookie-cutter design. They embrace what makes their organizations special. Creating an office that encourages people in it to thrive starts with understanding what you value about your space. A successful design will honor the features and concepts you value.

In open office layouts, one of the most valuable concepts is a feeling of privacy and security, notes Brent Arnold, interior project designer for Perkins and Will. A design that doesn't address those needs is likely to generate complaints.

"This can be resolved by breaking up open workstations into neighborhoods," Arnold explains. "Instead of just one large open floor plate with desks, it is broken up with either hard walled spaces or lounge furniture to make sure all employees feel comforted."

These offices – all created in existing buildings – feature creative solutions that make the office a destination, not simply a place to work. ➤



NELSON Worldwide recently renovated the Old Chicago Main Post Office building, built in 1921, to house the new headquarters of Ferrara Candy Co. "The most unique characteristic of the space is the dynamic café," says Nicole Zack, AIA, senior designer for NELSON Worldwide. "In the morning, the space doubles as a bustling coffee bar and informal meeting area and transforms into a happy hour or event space after hours. The firm also incorporated a custom designed light fixture out of the company's candy pan equipment."

IMAGE COURTESY OF FARM KID STUDIO