PROJECT NAME | Confidential Corporate Client
SUBMISSION CATEGORY | Interior Architecture - Project Cost Greater Than $1 Million
PROJECT TYPE | Corporate Office/Renovation
PROJECT ADDRESS | Indianapolis, Indiana
DATE OF COMPLETION | July 2018
DESIGN STATEMENT

After nearly 25 years of working in the same tired space, a corporate company in Indianapolis was ready for an upgrade. Their headquarters – whose main structure was constructed in the early 1900s – had not seen any major renovations or remodels since 1992. While the space was well-maintained, the company knew it had to leave behind its decades-old design philosophy if it wanted to attract and retain young, talented employees.

The design team tackled the 100,000-square-foot project from a three-dimensional perspective, turning an aging office environment into an open one with an ecosystem of support spaces. They cut and removed a section of the floor, uniting the two-story office with a dramatic, central staircase. The area, known officially as One Team Portal, connects the fourth and fifth floors, allowing easy access and interaction. It accentuates the vertical floor plan and allows employees to travel between the two floors like never before. It's an open, free-flowing floor plan. To further increase collaboration and connection, exterior wall offices were removed, and the C-suite was placed in a central location. This allows natural light to flood into the entire office. Structural glass railings around One Team Portal also allow unimpeded views to the exterior windows, especially for those entering from the elevator lobby.

A sunken conversation area with customized bench seating provides a more casual setting in which to work. By incorporating a variety of workspaces – and residential-style furniture – the design team created a dynamic environment that employees are excited to come to. The space also includes social hubs, providing employees with spots to interact and hang out. As individuals venture from the social hub and into the office area, they encounter a variety of meeting spaces, focus areas, and quiet “neighborhoods.” The design team lowered ceiling heights in transitional areas, creating subconscious markers that inform individuals they are moving from one space to another. These “portals” appear in the spaces between the elevator lobby and social hub, and again between the social hub and the neighborhoods. Carpet and acoustic installations help establish each area.

The materials palette also pays homage to the Hoosier state. Flooring materials, for example, mimic aerial views of the Indiana landscape, both urban and rural. Tailored textiles were also used in conjunction with artisanal fabrics. Like the new, agile office furniture, the materials are timeless, not trendy. They provide a sense of comfort in an office that embraces “the power of choice.”
CONVERSATION PIT

By playing with different levels, the design team incorporated “spaces within a space.” On the fifth floor, a sunken conversation pit overlooks One Team Portal and defines the circulation path. The vertical height of the space also allows for uninterrupted views.
ONE TEAM PORTAL

To unite the two-story office, the design team removed the floor area between two structural bays. A wood-clad wall accentuates the two-story connection, starting at the base of the fourth floor and rising almost to the ceiling on the fifth floor.
Before the renovation, the fourth and fifth floors felt isolated from each other. Now, a new steel-structured stair with glass railings allows employees to travel between the two floors easily, and provides a visual connection to the rest of the office.
CONVERSATION AREA

Like the conservation pit on the floor above, the conservation area on the fourth floor plays with different levels. The raised platform is home to a large meeting table, which hosts informal meetings throughout the workday.
ACTIVE SOCIAL HUB

One Team Portal is flanked by two social hubs — one “quiet” and one “active.” The active social hub is visually open to the larger office space, and invites employees to be part of a conversation,
QUIET SOCIAL HUB
The quiet social hub serves as an introspective stopover for coffee and refreshments. It features a communal table and custom booths (with access to power outlets). The wood ceiling also establishes the area as a "space within a space."
A modern office environment replaces the traditional hierarchy of upper management offices-with-a-view. Now, the executive team can connect with fellow employees. Individuals also encounter increasingly quiet neighborhoods as they move away from the social hub.
FOURTH AND FIFTH FLOOR SECTIONS

Existing, large-diameter columns were exposed during the renovation. A “compress and release” method also subconsciously suggests the movement into a quieter neighborhood. Main work areas feature high ceilings, while transitional areas have lower ceiling heights.
Dynamic working spaces help attract and retain employees. By removing the ring of exterior executive offices and the 64” cubicle panels, the designer created an open office environment that allows natural light to filter through the entire space.
FOUR-PERSON ENCLAVE

Both the fourth and fifth floor are home to a number of enclaves, flexible meeting rooms that are designed to host smaller gatherings. They are adjacent to the workstations, and appear in clusters throughout the C-shaped building.
LARGE CONFERENCE ROOM

What makes the conference rooms special? Flexibility. The tables, chairs, and couches can be reconfigured to host any size of meeting, any type of meeting. The "overflow" couches also provide additional attendee seating and a cozy spot for note-taking.
CARPET LAYOUT - FIFTH FLOOR

Carpet installations help establish each area — including transitional spaces — and were designed to be timeless, not trendy. The palette weaves a tapestry of the Indiana landscape, from urban areas to patchworks of farmland.