Summary of Design Options

March 28, 2018

W. P. Carey Forward Faculty Taskforce
Herberger Institute of Design
Overview

The W. P. Carey Forward Faculty Taskforce initiated a collaboration with the Herberger Institute of Design to respond to the directive of making recommendations on space design presented under the Taskforce goals. The collaboration was intended assist in addressing the needs and concerns of impacted W. P. Carey faculty to find solutions in addressing the loss of private office space and the transition to an innovative open office environment. By utilizing the expertise of others who are intimately involved and aware of the needs and requirements of academic professional, we were also able to leverage the expertise of those who could provide professional insight into the effective design of the space. The partnership involved collaboration with a small and select group of graduate students led by their faculty member, Lori Brunner, as they explored the design of this space in the course Advanced Interior Architecture, Studio II which investigates interior architecture issues, including construction, technology, programmatic and environmental challenges. W. P. Carey Faculty Taskforce members presented the problem and requirements and subsequently provided input and feedback on emerging designs throughout the process.

The following are the summaries of three separate design recommendations made by the groups who worked to address the issues. While all designs have both limitations and present uniquely attractive ideas, the groups all stressed that any of the individual designs should be taken as a holistic concept, not as designs that could be effectively picked apart and implemented in a Frankenstein-approach. Toward that end, they also have offered to provide additional assistance on an ongoing basis to ensure that any design chosen can be implemented based on feedback from the W. P. Carey executive team.

A final point to note when reviewing the designs is the inherent limitations of any design which must only consider the 4th floor space of the BA building for all the various job functions of every non-tenure track faculty member in the college. The ability to accommodate the faculty alone will require major renovation of bathrooms on the floor to meet OSHA requirements. Further, due to fire and safety codes, the maximum number of people that can be accommodated on this floor in the designs does not exceed 126 people (standing) at any given time. Given the number of non-tenure track faculty expected to use this space, as well as the need for privacy and material control, all the design teams noted that the space would not be enough to accommodate both faculty workspace and student-oriented interactions. All teams independently decided to focus on the development of a faculty workspace with a strong gatekeeper function. As such, the implementation of any of these designs leaves open the question of where faculty can meet with students for office hours or confidential discussions. We recommend that prior to the implementation of W. P. Carey Forward in the removal of faculty from private offices, there must be a plan in place that addresses the needs of ALL work functions including workspace and locations for student meetings/office hours. Thus, additional space will need to be identified for the success of W. P. Carey Forward in providing innovative and effective facilities for providing teaching excellence.
“Open Workspace” - Design Group A

Designers: Maryam Ali, Bradley Cantin, and Courtney Davis

Design Statement:

Our approach to the project was to design a workspace that inspires the WP Carey faculty to collaborate with one another in an open environment. A soft, elegant color palette, with a variety of textures and high quality durable materials, evokes a comfortable atmosphere that is home-like, yet refined. We have incorporated principles of Biophilia, as well as the academic’s love of books, to appeal to our clients.

We recognized that a variety of different work functions require a variety of different spaces, so we included quiet work areas as well as spaces for breakout sessions, huddles, conferences and private calls. Our goal was to make collaborative work possible while enhancing the faculty experience through amenities like an open kitchen, patio area, and custom storage for personal items.

This private, exclusive atmosphere will increase instances of cross-collaboration, while providing desirable amenities to new and seasoned faculty alike.

Capacity:

2 private offices
78 cube-style workspaces
40 conference table style seats
2-4 staff seats for reception and printing
“Open Workspace” Floor Plan and Inspiration Images
“Hotel Lobby” - Design Group B

Designers: Whitney Fearing and Jennifer Grysho

Design Statement:

For our design concept, we wanted to rethink what an open office could look like. We wanted to challenge the status quo in not only making a beautiful space, but making one that produced happy, healthy, productive employees. One important question we looked at was how do people like to work? When we are most productive what does our setting look like? What position is our body in? How loud or quiet is the space? Do people need desks, or would they prefer to work in an oversized comfortable chair with their feet up? We know the answers to these questions vary from person to person, but the solution was clear – this space should serve the people working in it.

For our design concept, we met the WP Carey Forward Initiative’s goals of providing an innovative open office work atmosphere applied with forward design, with the concept of creating a workplace environment that resembles a luxurious hotel lobby over a traditional cubical office space. By linking the six undergraduate programs on the fourth floor of the Business Administration building we have holistically created a place for natural collaboration instead of forced. The space is luxurious, open and welcoming; creating a space people want to come to. The furniture choices are heavy, rich, and opulent, creating a space where the academic culture is celebrated. Our patio opens into our kitchen to create a large indoor/outdoor room. The space is organized on a gradient acoustic scale from 70 decibels to 50 decibels with no assigned seating that allows people to choose where they work best for the type of work they need to accomplish. There is a small area for student/teacher interface, however much of the square footage is spent on a secure space for faculty only. The space allows for group work as well as individual work. Creating an open office that resembles a luxurious hotel lobby on a gradient decibel level floor plan was our method of solving WP Carey’s wicked design problem.

Capacity:

18 cube-style workspaces
40 conference table seats
94 table, kitchen, and lounge seats
“Hotel Lobby” Floor Plan and Inspiration Images
“Neighborhoods” - Design Group C

Designers: Dalal Altassan and Joseph Daite

Design Statement:
Our solution is to redesign the 4th floor of the WP Carey Business Administration building into a comfortable collaborative area. The new space will be a private space for faculty and employees where they can work and rest in between classes. To make it more private, limited designated spaces will be provided for students so they do not meander in the working areas. We will introduce “neighborhoods” to better help faculty work within their own departments alongside similar or allied disciplines to maintain a sense of community. Collaboration spaces throughout the new plan will be introduced to let faculty have the option to work together within their departments, or to work with their “neighbor”. Bigger kitchen area, lounge areas, and a patio to help faculty be at ease when they are working long days.

Capacity:
23 private offices
34 cube-style workspaces
16 conference table seats
88 table, kitchen, and lounge seats
“Neighborhoods” Floor Plan and Inspiration Images