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PI PYE INTERIORS

## Welcome to Our First Issue!

Thank you for taking time to read the first issue of Pye Interior's Design Matters. Our goal is to share interesting, relevant news that will help keep you informed of both industry trends as well as our current projects. If there is an interior design topic you would like to see covered in a future newsletter or white-paper, we welcome your ideas. If you know of other people who would like to receive the newsletter, we will be happy to add their names to our mailing list. We thank you for your interest and support.

## Higher Education Furniture Selection Goes Green

Studies show that well designed interiors can have a profound influence on educational activities. Research from the EPA indicates that improvements in air quality, lighting, and other high performance features have been shown to markedly increase productivity. A related study by ASHRAE suggests that a student's learning performance is boosted by 10-20% in a sustainable facility. The shift towards architectural and site sustainability is now driving the need for a corresponding shift in furniture selection.

With approximately 10% percent of a building project's budget devoted to furniture, fixtures, and equipment (FF&E), the impact of green design is rippling through the interiors industry. This article provides a quick overview of how to choose furniture that supports a sustainable approach with the LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Green Building Rating System.

### The Life Cycle of Furniture

Sustainability is generally defined as taking as little as possible from non-renewable resources. This definition sets up the framework for how to evaluate and choose furniture for a LEED project by evaluating the five life cycle stages of a product's development.

**Material Selection.** "What is the product made of?" What are the specific chemicals in this product? Are they safe for people and the planet? Is the material a rapidly renewable resource? By asking these questions, we hold the manufacturer accountable for decisions made during the first step of a product's development. It is important to look for products with low VOC's (volatile organic compounds) for cleaner indoor air and the elimination of carcinogens. These material selections have a direct impact on the LEED category "Indoor Environmental Quality- Low Emitting Materials."



At the University of Virginia, McIntire School of Commerce, the tables and chairs were manufactured within 500 miles of the project site and used a water-based stain and top-coat system that meets ANSI BIFMA certifications.

**Production.** How is the product made? What are the manufacturer's practices for operating a sustainable plant? Do they generate pollutants? Are their waste materials recyclable? Are recycled or regional materials used in the production process? Answers to these questions may contribute points in the categories "Material & Resources- Recycled Content & Regional Materials" and "Innovation in Design."

**Transportation.** How many miles will the product travel and how will it be packaged? The LEED rating system provides rewards for the use of products produced within 500 miles of a project, reducing the pollution created during trucking and airfreight. And since the furniture packaging has a direct impact on the amount of trash created during installation, re-useable blanket wraps or recyclable crates and boxes are preferred. Using local products in sustainable packaging can result in LEED points in the categories "Materials & Resources- Regional Materials and Construction Waste Management."

**Use.** How will the furniture be used? Selecting

## In The Works...

**Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU)** is located on two downtown campuses in Richmond, Virginia. Each campus currently has a major recreation center project underway. Pye Interiors is providing furniture and wayfinding/signage design packages for both projects, which are pursuing LEED certification. The architect is Moseley Architects.

The 67,000 square-foot addition to the **Jonah Larrick Student Center** at the MCV Campus will open in January. The project features a fitness center, gymnasium, pool, racquetball courts, flexible meeting and conference areas (which are fully wired with data, sound, projection and teleconferencing), food court style dining services, a Starbucks coffee shop, and office space.

At the Monroe Park Campus, the **Cary Street Gym** project involves the renovation and expansion of the historic City Market/Cary Street Gym building. When complete, the 177,000 square foot building will offer a state of the art Multi-Activity Center (indoor playing field for floor hockey, soccer, lacrosse, rugby and other sports), a three-lane running track, a rock climbing wall, aerobics/exercise rooms, racquetball courts, and an Aquatic Center.

Stay tuned for photos of these exciting projects in an upcoming edition of our newsletter.



Furniture Selection Goes Green



Can Design Impact Clinical Outcomes?



What's Up?



Our New Website

## ON THE BOARDS

### Higher Education

- University of Virginia, Alderman Library at Charlottesville, VA
- Virginia Commonwealth University, Jonah L. Larrick Center, Richmond, VA
- Darden School of Business at the University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA
- Virginia Commonwealth University, Monroe Park Campus Recreational Center, Richmond, VA

### Public | Municipal

- Augusta County Library, Fishersville, VA
- Culpeper Police Department, Culpeper, VA

### Healthcare | Medical

- Hand, Radiology, Spine & Injection Clinics - Fontaine Research Park, University of Virginia Health System, Charlottesville, VA
- Surgery Center of Lynchburg, Lynchburg, VA

### Corporate | Office

- Health Services Foundation Corporate Headquarters, Charlottesville, VA
- Ashbury International Corporate Offices, Charlottesville, VA

### Mixed Use

- The Gleason, Charlottesville, VA



The Think conference chairs by Steelcase have been awarded Cradle-to-Cradle certification, earning an Innovation in Design LEED point.

a quality product that is functional and durable is paramount. And depending on the use, flexibility may be a key consideration too. Overall, we want to make sure that the furniture will perform for many years and still look good, keeping it out of our landfills. The use of existing and refurbished furniture meets LEED requirements for "Materials & Resources- Resource Reuse, 30% Furniture & Furnishings."

**End-of-Use.** Recyclability is an extremely important feature when selecting sustainable

furniture. "Cradle-to-cradle" is a term used to describe a product that can be disassembled at the end of its life and the parts can be re-cycled into new products. More and more furniture is being designed with this concept in mind. Products are also being designed with labeled component parts for easy recycling. These leading edge concepts fall under the LEED category "Innovation in Design," and offer the highest potential for points earned within one category.

**Breaking it down** The furniture evaluation process may seem complicated and confusing, but there is good news. Many furniture manufacturers recognize that their sales depend on easy availability of this valuable information. Websites now provide product environmental data sheets listing LEED criteria for each chair, desk or table for sale, helping us all to make informed, sustainable choices.

Even with the economic downturn, it is possible to have a financially realistic and defensible approach to sustainability. By extending sustainable design into the interior spaces via green furniture choices, education institutions can help deliver more healthful and environmentally sound buildings.

- Linda Pye

This article includes excerpts from "Renewable Selections" written by Linda Pye for the June 2009 issue of *American School and University* magazine.

## Healthcare Can Design Impact Clinical Outcomes?

### Examining the Shift Toward Evidence Based Design

Improved physical settings can meaningfully contribute to making hospitals and clinics safer, more beneficial to healing, and better places to work. Evidence-based design (EBD) is a process where a base of knowledge gained through research is used to make informed decisions about design.

We often describe the design process as collaboration between end-users and the design team where open communication and observation of the existing space leads to new innovative



The MRI Waiting Area at the Orthopaedic Center of Central Virginia creates a soothing spa-like environment for patients coming for elective procedures.

concepts. This still applies with EBD, but now we have supporting evidence to confidently choose better design options.

Implementing EBD starts with determining design objectives, then selecting researched solutions from other facilities that meet those goals, observing the end-users current facility and lastly, combining those to create a new innovative solution unique to that client. While comfortable design solutions often translate to nothing more than a better version of the previous space, using research gathered from the facility, or from case studies, allows hospitals and design teams to discover the best solutions to meet their goals. This can mean pushing outside administrator and staff comfort zones to ensure the best results. Investing in full-scale mock-ups of these new concepts is a way to work through any 'bugs' and help staff become comfortable with the changes.

We know that good design has a positive impact on the people using the space. Quality design improves aesthetics, and also the function, flow, productivity, well-being and perceived satisfaction of the users. With a growing Baby Boomer generation that is demanding more choices, and an ever-increasing shortage of qualified nursing staff, making the right decisions when designing



Organic shapes and textures, along with nature-themed art, enhance the experience for patients and visitors.

your next hospital or clinic can be crucial.

Investment in good design leads to a facility that attracts patients, supports healing, alleviates anxiety for both the patient and visitor, and retains staff. While there is an added time cost in research, it is more than offset by the long-term benefits.

- Susan Cash

## In The Works...

Pye Interiors is providing interior design services including interior finishes, furniture and artwork selection for **UVA's Spine and Hand Center**. This project involves the co-location of two patient care centers, along with a radiology clinic, on the third floor of an existing building at Fontaine Research Park. The new Spine Center will bring practitioners from neurosurgery, orthopedics, neurology and physical therapy together into one location. The new Hand Center will bring together practitioners from orthopedics, plastic surgery, and physical therapy. The 24,500 square foot space will also include a conference room and staff lounge. The architect is Daggett + Grigg. The project is pursuing LEED silver certification and is expected to open in early 2010.

## Q: Where Have You Been?

For our debut issue of Design Matters, we asked our clients, 'Where have you been within the last year?'

**Parque Nacional Corcovado**, the pristine rainforest on the Osa Peninsula of Costa Rica's Pacific coast, just above the Panama border. The trip was the "bachelor's party" for my youngest son's wedding and consisted of a five day trek into the rainforest. We covered 35 miles in three days hiking on the beach and through the jungle then camped in tents at a remote biological research station.

- Bob Anderson of Dominion Architects

**Camping "Staycation" at the Small Country Campground** near Louisa, Virginia, a short jaunt from our home. We camped in 40 degree temperature September weather and had our pick of any campsite. Much of our time seemed like we could've been 900 miles away from our home because the setting differed so much from our Monday through Friday norm. We didn't talk about work and the marshmallow cooking discussion was as serious as we made this vacation.

- Kristine Vey of UVA Health System

### Next Issue's Question:

"What are you watching?"

Fill us in at [info@pyeinteriors.com](mailto:info@pyeinteriors.com) and watch this space.

## Our New Website

Pye Interiors Announces the Launch of New Website

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#### Functionality, Better Access to Information Enhance Client Experience

Pye Interiors is pleased to announce the release of an updated and improved website, which features the firm's new graphic identity as well as enriched functionality.

Linda Pye says "Our objectives were two-fold. From a design perspective, we wanted to reflect the firm we have become. But even more importantly, we really wanted to improve the functionality of our website for clients - websites so often get outdated, but ours has been built with the capacity for regular updates which reflect new project commissions and design solutions."

In creating the new pages of the site, the firm's underlying philosophy was to highlight important news. "We want to provide a place

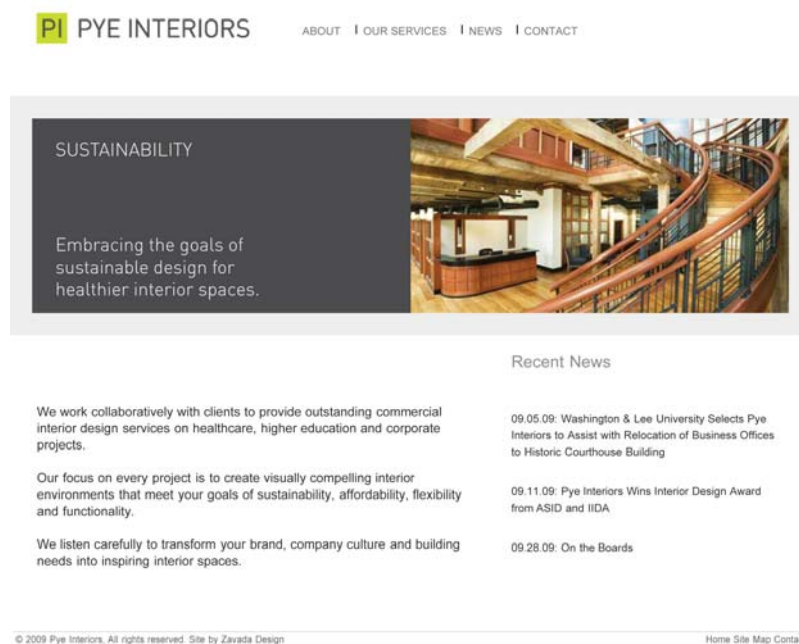
where our clients can keep abreast of trends in the interior design industry, through our free downloadable whitepapers as well as articles," says Pye. "We also designed the site to allow us

to expand into multimedia content over the next year."

The site is much cleaner and easier to navigate. It is organized with clear entry paths for our

healthcare, higher education and corporate clients. It offers expanded information about our projects and our leadership, while also providing details on some of our newer service initiatives - signage / wayfinding and sustainability.

We hope you'll stop by our new site ([www.pyeinteriors.com](http://www.pyeinteriors.com)), and tell us what you think. If you would prefer to receive our newsletter electronically, please sign up on our website.



## What's Up?

Discovering DIRT at NeoCon East



Viewing the latest interior products at the NeoCon East Convention.

We just returned from NeoCon East, the premier design exposition for commercial interiors for the mid-Atlantic region. NeoCon East is held in Baltimore, Maryland each year and attracts more than 250 exhibitors. We'd like to share a product that grabbed our attention this year.

DIRTT, or Doing It Right This Time,

manufactures architectural wall systems 'like no other.' Their system really caught our eye for its sustainability, clean lines and minimal profile. We also see how this product can be highly beneficial in corporate, higher education, and healthcare settings where change is the only constant.

How could this product benefit you? Moveable walls are more flexible, allow for quicker move-ins and are easier to reconfigure than conventional stud & drywall construction. According to DIRTT "They virtually eliminate construction waste and any future renovation waste - no demolition, dumping, procuring and re-building. The results are dramatic and meaningful for the environment and your bottom-line."

DIRTT has now opened a plant in Savannah, Georgia, putting them within the 500 mile radius required to obtain LEED's Regionally Manufactured Product point.



An innovative moveable wall system.