

TERRACON: A CASE STUDY



SITUATION

In 2017, Terracon, an engineering consulting firm based in Olathe, Kan., announced the company would construct a new \$21 million corporate headquarters just south of the current location. Serving more than 140 offices in all 50 states, the headquarters would be a two-story facility with more than 65,000 square feet and space for 200 local employees.

As design discussions began in March 2017, the company wanted an open floor plan, with more natural sunlight and fewer private offices in the building. Terracon had worked with Scott Rice in the past on a build-out of its current facility and decided to engage the company once again for the new project.

SOLUTION

By moving private offices to the interior, the new design chosen by Terracon allowed more employees the ability to enjoy the large windows and natural light. As a result, Scott Rice chose shorter work stations from Steelcase's Answer family of products for a more collaborative and open work environment. The smaller workstations feature sit/stand desks along with ESI adjustable-height bases and monitor arms, giving each employee more flexibility and customization options.

Scott Rice also selected furniture for the collaborative seating as well as the unique barrel chairs with tables for the "phone booths." The "phone booths" provide Terracon employees a quiet space for conference or private calls.

The Scott Rice team completed the installation in three phases over five weeks in February and March 2018 to allow for a more seamless and less disruptive transition for employees. To keep costs down, the team was able to reduce the amount of new desk and workstation pieces needed by reusing parts from the existing workstations and supplementing with new skins.

The three phases also allowed the team to coordinate with Terracon's IT staff so that all furniture assembly and data connections would be completed over the weekend, ensuring employees could go right to work that Monday morning.

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RESULTS

From the initial meetings to the completed installation, the new headquarters opened in the spring of 2018. Employees were quick to embrace the new office layout and amenities.

"It definitely changes the environment for the team in a positive way," said Jessica Krupco, corporate administrative manager at Terracon. "It really does improve collaboration between departments, and it's elevated the work level and the discussions. The supervisors and managers are more aware of what they're doing every day and I think that makes them more appreciative of the work their team is doing."

Scott Rice also helped Terracon make the best use of the entire floor plan, which was built to accommodate future growth.

"We could have put enough cubicles in there for the people we currently have plus a few extras and then have this huge vast empty space at the end of the hallway," Krupco said. "Instead, they helped us see the way to really maximize the use of the space so that it doesn't look odd while we're growing into it."

Scott Rice also incorporated the Terracon brand into the design. The current burgundy color can be found in subtle accents throughout the space, but the team also added a nod to Terracon's past by adding pops of orange – the previous brand color – into furniture found in the staff coffee bar.

Now that the headquarters is complete, Krupco said the company fully appreciates the value Scott Rice brought to the project.

"They organized it, they planned it out, and it went very smoothly," she said. "They really provided some good advice that was very forward-thinking with a cool feel. It was definitely the right decision." ■

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