

# Teknion Case Study

client  
Exploratorium

architect  
EHDD

dealer  
Vanguard Concept  
Offices

products featured  
District  
Marketplace  
Altos  
Expansion Training  
Tables  
Projek Task Chair  
Teknion dna  
Nami  
Vignette  
Conflux  
Filing & Storage

## The Project

Located in San Francisco, the Exploratorium is an interactive museum of science, art and human perception that opened in 1969 at the Palace of Fine Arts—a monumental structure built in 1915, which remained the museum's home until January 2013. In addition to acting as a hands-on learning center, the Exploratorium is engaged in teacher training, art and science workshops for adults and science education reform.

At any one time, the museum has over 500 hands-on exhibits on display. Exploratorium staff, primarily occupying the same building, worked in a window-less space furnished with an assortment of furniture acquired through donations, contributed by staff members and even retrieved from the sidewalks of the city.

In the spring of 2013, the Exploratorium relocated to a new \$220 million building at Pier 15 on the eastern San Francisco waterfront. The new campus encompasses 330,000 square feet in and around the Pier 15 shed and extends 800 feet over the waters of the San Francisco Bay. Six hundred exhibits live on the ground floor, indoors and out, along with a glass-enclosed observatory with panoramic views of the bay. A second floor, in the form of built-out bridges that cross the width of the building, is now home to staff offices, as well as classrooms.

## Intent/Challenge

Designing brand-new offices for Exploratorium staff presented an opportunity to provide staff—400-plus scientists, artists, educators, exhibit developers, designers and writers—with a much more effective work setting. At the same time, the move from a warren of cluttered, but familiar, rooms to an open, light-filled space outfitted with contemporary office furniture presented challenges. The new space would also be a new reality requiring personal adjustment, as a majority of staff members had a long tenure at the Exploratorium and in the Palace of Fine Arts building.

Was anyone who cared about the old Exploratorium nervous about what might be lost? After all, the museum and its exhibits are known for being eccentrically original and even “funky.” And scientists, artists and exhibit developers tend to tinker with a lot of “stuff.” While the staff looked forward to living under one roof in a congenial collaborative environment with amenities like natural light, fresh air and views, anxiety naturally arises when an organization is in flux.

## The Response

Working closely with architect EHDD, dealer Vanguard Concept Offices and the Exploratorium project team, Teknion supplied furniture throughout the museum's new offices. Planning, design and the selection of furniture products was a thoughtful process that included a lively exchange of ideas with many members of the Exploratorium staff.



# Teknion Case Study

client  
Exploratorium

architect  
EHDD

dealer  
Vanguard Concept  
Offices

products featured  
District  
Marketplace  
Altos  
Expansion Training  
Tables  
Projek Task Chair  
Teknion dna  
Nami  
Vignette  
Conflux  
Filing & Storage

The project team felt it was important to engage members of the Exploratorium staff in dialog and to solicit and respond to staff input in order to alleviate the sense that change was being imposed and to offer reassurance that the new workspace would support the unique culture and diverse activities of staff members.

Design of the Exploratorium offices provides for a variety of open workstations and shared spaces that support work-mode choices. Teknion dna, a collection of modular soft seating and tables, was selected to provide flexible arrangements of comfortable seating for casual meetings or people taking a break from their desk. Workstations were created using low-height District components, as well as Marketplace worktables, to maintain a sense of openness. Private rooms, constructed using Altos walls, were inserted into the space to provide a quiet place to make calls or have a confidential conversation.

Tailoring the design strategy to the Exploratorium's unique needs, additional Teknion products selected included Projek task chairs, Nami stacking chairs, Vignette lounge seating, Expansion Training Tables, Conflux task lighting and Teknion filing and storage components, as well as a variety of tables. The clean, contemporary aesthetic, along with the "green" qualities of Teknion products were deciding factors as the Exploratorium received LEED Platinum certification and became the largest museum to operate at net-zero energy costs. A warm, welcoming environment for an imaginative and highly creative group, Exploratorium staff has embraced the new work setting and begun to make it their own.

## PRODUCT FEATURES

### District

District® is a unique furniture system that combines the attributes of classic furniture with the functionality of systems. Offering a clean, contemporary architectural look, District includes desks, cabinets, windows and walls that feature refined materials, finishes and details and make efficient use of smaller spaces.

### Marketplace

Marketplace™ reinvents the worktable, achieving an uninterrupted and unsupported span up to 20 feet. Designed to foster creativity and collaboration, Marketplace offers a visually dramatic solution for open-plan spaces including meeting, touchdown and team areas. The worktable also accepts canopy lighting, worksurface extensions, privacy angles and screens.

### Altos®

Altos is a modular, full-height architectural wall system that can be reconfigured or relocated as an organization evolves. Simple components and reusable parts promote environmental responsibility and translate to low cost of ownership. A sleek European aesthetic harmonizes with modern building architecture and integrates with a variety of furniture products.



# Teknion Case Study

client  
Exploratorium

architect  
EHDD

dealer  
Vanguard Concept  
Offices

products featured  
District  
Marketplace  
Altos  
Expansion Training  
Tables  
Projek Task Chair  
Teknion dna  
Nami  
Vignette  
Conflux  
Filing & Storage

## Expansion Training Tables

Expansion® Training Tables is a versatile collection of mobile, multi-purpose tables ideally suited for individual or interactive group training, seminars or presentations to large and small groups. The tables are appropriate for training activities in general-use and designated training areas.

## Projek Task Chair

Designed to fit a range of people with diverse body types, Projek™ seating offers a smart, simple response to the needs of the modern workplace. Projek, designed by and sold under license from Orangebox Limited, has a clean, understated look suitable for varied office settings, while the ease and range of adjustment allow the majority of users to achieve proper support and comfort.

## Teknion dna

Teknion dna™ is a collection of modular lounge seating and tables designed to expand the functional repertoire of lounge seating. In the contemporary office, the lounge often functions as a space for collaborative work and requires furniture that provides flexibility and access to power and communications. Teknion dna is designed to support collaborative work wherever it occurs across the office.

## Nami

Nami® is a sleek, European-designed stacking chair inspired by the dynamic beauty of a cresting wave, from which its name is derived. Nami's sculpted back has a gentle, controlled flex that moves with the body to provide comfort for extended periods. Ideal for training and conference spaces, classrooms and cafeterias, accessories include a tablet arm, bookrack, dolly and ganging option.

## Vignette

Vignette™ is a classic seating and table collection with a strong architectural presence. Generous proportions and sculptural forms provide a level of comfort that lends itself to casual conferencing and suits a range of applications. Vignette is at home in formal and informal meeting spaces, private offices, reception, lobby and lounge areas.

## Conflux

Conflux™ is a comprehensive line of lighting designed by Carl Magnusson that features advanced LED technology and distributes light via a simple form appropriate to modern office environments.

## Filing & Storage

Teknion offers an all-inclusive filing and storage program comprised of multiple product lines. Each is designed to work independently, as a collection, or to integrate with other Teknion product lines to maximize storage options while providing distinctive looks, multiple applications and a range of price points.

