

teknioncase study

CLIENT	DESIGNER	DEALER	PRODUCTS FEATURED
Bergmann Associates	Bergmann Associates	Genesee Office Interiors, Inc.	<div>Expansion Caseloads and Training Tables</div> <div>District Storage</div> <div>Leverage Panel Systems</div> <div>Projek Task and Guest Chairs</div> <div>Variable Stacking Guest Chairs and Barstools</div> <div>Thesis Counter-Height Tables</div> <div>dna Laptop Tables</div> <div>Fractals Seating</div> <div>Zone Stools</div> <div>Spectrum Sofas</div> <div>Cover Seating</div> <div>Infinito Sofas</div> <div>upStage Bookcase/Dividers</div> <div>Masalla Tables</div> <div>Ability Tables</div> <div>Envita Side Table</div> <div>hiSpace Height-Adjustable Tables</div> <div>Audience Credenza</div>

the project

A highly regarded national multi-service architectural and engineering design firm, Bergmann Associates has been serving commercial, institutional, governmental, educational, and retail clients across the country for more than 35 years. Headquartered in Rochester, New York, the firm employs more than 400 architects, engineers, planners, interior designers, landscape architects, programmers, developers, surveyors, 3D design specialists and administrative personnel in 12 offices in the U.S.

Despite the 1990s economic decline that began to hit the Rust Belt, including Rochester, Bergmann has always been committed to maintaining its presence in the downtown area. So when the 180 employees in its Rochester headquarters outgrew their existing office, the firm took a leading role in the city’s current resurgence by relocating to the newly remodeled Tower280 in the heart of the downtown area. “It’s on the former site of Midtown Plaza, which was the first downtown indoor mall in the U.S.,” says Bergmann interior designer Suzanne Lefebvre. “Fortunately, it has been redeveloped as a live-work-play environment to attract and retain a population that not only works, but also lives downtown.” And with the timing of the development aligning with their plans to make a move, Bergmann jumped at the opportunity to remain a historical anchor in the city by becoming the first commercial tenant in the new facility.

Bergmann occupies 60,000 square feet on one full floor of the building. The office was designed by its own in-house team. This allowed the firm to not only respond to the multifaceted needs of its various employees, but also to distinguish itself as leader in its field to its clients with spaces that underscore its progressive and forward-thinking approach to design and engineering. With a diverse set of professionals spanning several generations—from Millennials to Boomers—all with different workspace requirements, the designers wanted to create a space that would “be modern and inspiring to both new and old employees while showcasing our design skills and talent,” says Lefebvre. “The overall concept of the space revolved around the idea of ‘agility’ and making sure all of the employees could work in the way that best suits their work needs at any given time,” she explains. “We also wanted to create more of a social aspect in our work environment.”

Ultimately, the new space was designed to allow opportunities for choice and autonomy within an array of work areas. There are spaces offering access to technology and natural light, including areas that enable points of connection and spontaneous collaboration, as well as spaces for focused concentration. Since Bergmann was also aiming for LEED silver certification with this project, specifying furniture that would meet key environmental criteria was essential.



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the response

Teknion collaborated with Bergmann's designers to offer a wide range of products to suit their new workplace needs. "The ability to come up with thoughtful solutions that would respond to their design objectives as well as their budget and short timeframe set Teknion apart in the bidding process and enabled the company to participate in almost every aspect of the overall design," says Teknion's regional manager Matt Skinner. "The fact that we could seamlessly provide products that would enable them to achieve LEED status without increasing costs was an added plus," he adds.

The spatial components of the workspace include 168 open workstations with eight different typical footprints to address different work requirements; ten enclosed offices; meeting spaces including six conference rooms, four huddle rooms, and a training room; five phone booths for privacy; collaborative areas with high- and low-top tables; lounges with soft seating; and a "Think Tank," where groups can come together to prepare for proposals, strategize, and work with the other regional offices via video conferencing. At the heart of these work areas is a "work cafe," which has become the centerpiece of the office and gives the employees, clients, and guests a collective place in which to eat, have casual meetings, or just take a break from their day. "It is flanked by two glass conference rooms that can open up and become part of the work cafe for larger gatherings or be used separately as enclosed conference spaces for private meetings," says Lefebvre. The flexible seating in the work cafe area, including Ability tables from Teknion, enable the space to function effectively for either use.

In the workstation areas, a mix of Teknion components enable the spaces to function effectively for different footprints with varying storage elements, while remaining flexible for collaborations. "The biggest challenge was designing and customizing eight different workstation typicals that facilitated the unique work of each department, yet cohesively worked within the design," says Lefebvre. "Our dealer and Teknion were able to advise the best solution to maximize our budget by guiding us on where we would benefit with timeless pieces and gain the best flexibility to stretch our dollar."

Among the elements that were mixed and matched to create the spaces are 42-inch Leverage white metal panels topped with 15-inch add-on panels upholstered with Teknion's Rationale fabric to create enclosures that respond to the client's 57" height requirements. "Teknion wasn't on the original bid because it doesn't offer panels in the 57" height specified by the client for the workstation panels," says Marj Cunningham, owner of Genesee Office Interiors, the dealer on the project. "But we figured if we could combine a 42" panel with a 15" add-on, we could meet the spec without specials—and the client liked the metal panels for their aesthetics, ease of maintenance and low cost," she adds, noting that the ability to meet the design criteria and stay on budget resulted in being awarded this part of the project. "The low panel systems with seated privacy offer daylight to the employees while giving each person enough space and storage for their work," says Lefebvre. "The individual workstation size went down slightly, but what was gained were more flexible spaces



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and areas where shared creativity, problem solving, and private focused work can now take place.” Other Teknion products fitting out the workstations include Leverage work surfaces, District open overhead storage, Ledger mobile pedestals—some topped with cushions to double as guest seating—and Expansion mobile tables that can be used as a worksurface or moved around to function as a meeting table.

In addition, Teknion’s Expansion caseworks with tack boards and Walnut Cathedral Grain laminate surfaces allow for various configurations within the ten enclosed offices. “The open-frame leg on the worksurface was important to the client because it elevates the overall design,” says Cunningham, who adds that details like the rectilinear handles and light shelf on the wall panel were extra bonuses valued by the client for contributing to both function and aesthetics. Here, as in the workstations, Projek task chairs complete the furniture package in the focused work areas, which were specified with sustainability in mind. “The project is attempting LEED certification, so furniture and materials were required to be FSC-certified, low VOC, and have recycled content,” says Lefebvre. “A major plus was that Teknion’s manufacturing was within our region and under the 500-mile radius to our office.”

To support impromptu meetings outside the enclosed offices and in halls near the workstations, standing-height tables made with Teknion’s Expansion tops and District legs (or legs reused from Bergmann’s original furnishings) combined with its Zone stools to enable quick conversations nearby and encourage healthy sit-to-stand movement throughout the day. “We also had to keep in mind that we had to offer working areas for our regional offices and staff consultants when they came to our headquarters,” says Lefebvre. “At any time, our office can go from 180 to 210 people in a day, so we needed to provide visitor stations and areas in the collaborative spaces where people can touchdown and plug in quickly.” Teknion’s Thesis tables in the open circulation spaces between workstation areas as well as Teknion’s Ledger lateral storage towers topped with Expansion laminate tops serve the same function. “We’ve found that standing meetings go much faster,” adds Lefebvre.

Further supporting the designers’ ergonomic and sit-to-stand objectives throughout are Teknion’s Variable chairs with flexible backs in the training room, along with Expansion mobile training tables that can be ganged and reconfigured in different formats for various uses. And in work areas where sit-to-stand workspaces were required, the team relied on Teknion’s hiSpace products to address the client’s needs. “Teknion’s hiSpace height-adjustable tables were placed in workstations where employees have a doctor’s prescription for sit/stand working—they were chosen for the price point and because they allowed for all the finishes to match within the workstations,” says Cunningham. “During the selection phase, we reviewed the various sit/stand options available—and the hiSpace also allows the monitor and paperwork to all rise together allowing for best function,” she adds. “For the as-needed change-outs going forward, we will remove the existing 24"x60" or 24"x66" worksurface and one pair of corner brackets and put the new hiSpace in its place.”



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A broad range of Teknion's Studio TK products were also used throughout to give the space the most style bang for the buck in the reception lobby and various breakout areas and client spaces. "By having such a large mix of Teknion furniture we were able to leverage our budget and offer flexible workstations and collaborative spaces while having Studio TK pieces in our lobby and lounge areas," says Lefebvre. In the lobby, for example, Cover chairs, upholstered in a red COM fabric, are paired with a Masalla table and Spectrum sofa, upholstered in Luum's Line Language fabric, to create a seating area with inviting, residential appeal. In a breakout area in the workspace, on the other hand, a pair of Infinito sofas, upholstered in two tones of Luum felt fabric, are set off by an upStage bookshelf, which doubles as a space divider and adds a splash of style with components made of red and pecan laminate. Similarly in other breakout spaces, cocoon-like high- and low-back Fractals chairs provide touches of privacy and a place for an impromptu chat. Other design-savvy elements include an Audience credenza, with an upscale look and optional hidden waste bin in a glass-enclosed conference room and an

Envita glass-top side table in an executive suite. And in a marketing room, where presentations are made to clients, a collection of standard and custom DNA sofas and an ottoman combined with a few DNA laptop tables and an Expansion credenza beneath wall-mounted television screens, to provide comfort and function with style and flair.

Since Bergmann moved into its new space, the offices are working as planned and employee productivity and satisfaction has been elevated to a new level. "As any project, we had changes that we had to make up until the installation weeks and our dealer was able to take our requests without any struggle and offered quick turnaround on the solutions so we lost no time and money and on move-in day the employees were ready to walk in and go to work," says Lefebvre. "This is really a change in culture from where the employees came from," says Cunningham. "And to walk through with an installer after it was complete and see the furnishings work as they were intended was really fun."



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products

EXPANSION TRAINING AND CONFERENCE TABLES, AND CASEGOODS

Available in several table shapes with various support options, Expansion tables can be equipped with an integrated wire management system that delivers power and data to the table surface, enabling them to function in dedicated conference or training rooms or in informal gathering spaces. The distinctive Expansion line of price-competitive laminate casegoods is suited to a broad range of freestanding applications and diverse office plans and offers a uniform product platform that projects an image of quality and simplifies planning with a consistent aesthetic. An extensive choice of styles and materials makes it easy to design office suites tailored to budget requirements.

LEVERAGE PANELS AND WORKSURFACES

Easy to customize with varying levels of features, the panels allow for 120-degree planning to expand layout capabilities, while achieving a crisp, clean look at an affordable price. Panels connect off-module for optimal use of space and inventory.

DISTRICT PANELS AND STORAGE

Combining the attributes of classic midcentury furniture with the functionality of systems to make efficient use of smaller footprints, District panels provide a light, floating presence and compact dimensions with the use of natural veneers, glass, painted wood construction and anodized aluminum that reflect midcentury inspirations and bring the look and feel of furniture to the open plan. The pedestals and overhead storage can be specified open—without drawer or door fronts.

THESIS TABLES

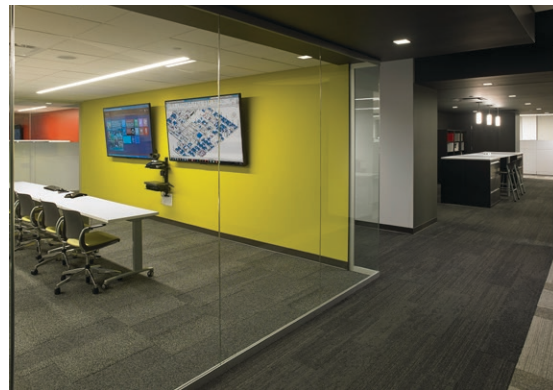
Designed to address today's evolving learning trends by being highly configurable and complementary to most any space, Thesis tables can be used to create collaborative spaces for group or conversational applications, or pulled apart for independent work. They are also available with a large range of accessories to help facilitate new work styles and technologies.

PROJEK TASK AND GUEST CHAIRS

Ideal for shared workspaces, the task chairs are made with a lumbar frame with chair backs that can adapt to individual body shapes, providing superior back support.

VARIABLE STACKING GUEST CHAIRS AND BARSTOOLS

The Variable Stacking Guest Chair and Barstool are ideal for multipurpose applications and spaces, including cafeterias, auditoriums, lecture and training rooms, meeting rooms and offices. The Variable Bar- and Counter-Height Stacking Stools provide a modern way for people to work as well as to relax and socialize at a competitive price value. Designed by Alessandro Piretti, Variable is ideal for informal spaces where reconfiguration is encouraged and durability and style are key.



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LEDGER STORAGE

These storage products stand alone or integrate with workstation systems and furniture. Available preconfigured or as custom build-ups that reconfigure in 1.6 inch-high increments, the Ledger storage elements in this project were topped with laminate to allow for standing meetings in the workstation areas.

STUDIO TK FRACTALS SEATING

Adding form and function to hoteling and small meeting areas, Fractals seating supports mobile workers and groups of team-based workers in open and collaborative environments with a modular program that enables a new level of planning. Designed by Jeffrey Bernett and Nicholas Dodziuk for Studio TK, some of the Fractals seating in this setting features a higher back that creates a degree of privacy. And it was upholstered with different fabrics in various patterns and colorways from Teknion's sister textile division, Luum, and unifies the color scheme throughout.

ABILITY FREESTANDING TABLES

Designed to function independently or within panel-based environments, mobile Ability tables can be moved or reconfigured as required to support individual tasks and group processes.

MASALLA TABLES

Based on the concept of flexibility, this collection of occasional tables relies on simple modules to enable users to create an almost unlimited number of personalized configurations in a range of colors.

DNA SOFAS AND LAPTOP TABLES

This collection of modular sofas and tables was designed to expand the functional repertoire of furniture in lounge areas of contemporary offices, which often double as space for collaborative work with requirements for flexibility and easy access to power and communications.

ZONE STOOLS

A classic stacking stool, the form-fitting Zone stool is simple, practical and comfortable. Light in weight, it provides excellent support with a smoothly contoured seat and back that conforms to the body's natural shape, plus the front edge prevents contact pressure on backs of knees and thighs.

SPECTRUM SOFA

Designed by Jeffrey Bernett and Nicholas Dodziuk for Studio TK, the Spectrum lounge series meets traditional office needs while covering new ground in planning, problem-solving and aesthetics with sofas



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that divide space and define zones with the ability to run for an infinite span. The end armrests support the use of tablets and laptops, while loose armrests flip to reveal a hard surface for writing or work tools.

COVER SEATING

Designed by Claesson Koivisto Rune, the Cover lounge collection—is inspired by classically tailored garments worn in a layered style—is versatile enough to harmonize with a variety of office settings. The comfortable upholstered chairs bring a sense of light-scale functionality and style that enable them to function well for quick meetings and conferencing in lounge or meeting environments or for individual reflection in a private nook. It can be configured as a swivel chair, 4-leg chair, settee, 3-seat sofa and ottoman, with a privacy high-back version available on the settee and both chair models.

INFINITO SOFAS

Designed by Toan Nguyen with an intentional, rigid exterior and a soft, relaxed interior, Infinito brings the comforts of home into the office. Based on a square modularity, it can generate many different configurations and combinations, involving all four directions and interacting with the surrounding architectural spaces. The low height and compact proportions favor conviviality and interaction among users. Additionally, the flexible orientation of the cluster arrangements offers a level of privacy.

UPSTAGE BOOKCASES/DIVIDERS

A design concept that elevates the lexicon of modern office furniture,

upStage brings a new topography to today’s office. Based on a simple platform or “stage,” upStage frees users from the constraints of a benching frame or panel, allowing them to build along a horizontal or vertical plane to create layered work surfaces and multi-story volumes with components that can be mixed, stacked and moved around.

ENVITA

An elegant synthesis of European and North American approaches to furniture design, Envita tables, created by Mario Ruiz for Studio TK, explore furniture forms that are influenced by the culture of the designer’s native Spain as well as the legacy of midcentury American architecture and design with clean lines, a lightness of scale and neat proportions connected to the design achievements of the last century.

HISPACE

This height-adjustable table provides each user individual control of their work and movement. A wide product scope allows sit/stand height adjustability to be easily integrated into bench planning environments.

AUDIENCE

Audience Boardroom Storage, comprising credenzas, hospitality carts and A/V carts, are designed to elegantly house technology and waste bins, and comes in a selection of configurations, pull styles and finishes—from veneer to laminate—to vary the aesthetic and price point while maintaining a consistent look.

