

teknion case study

CLIENT

Academia del Perpetuo Socorro
Miramar, San Juan, Puerto Rico

DESIGNER

Margarita Torres Camara,
Academia del Perpetuo Socorro

DEALER

Marlen Diaz, Integrated Design Solutions

PRODUCTS FEATURED

Thesis Learning & Library Tables
CLUBtalk Interactive Hub
Optos Low Profile Wall System
Variable Multi-Purpose Seating

the project

In the modern school, the library is no longer a sanctuary reserved for bound books and students quietly engaged in reading and writing. Today's libraries include areas designed for intensive study, but they also provide spaces where students can gather to talk and learn from one another, to share ideas and work on projects and even collaborate with students and teachers at a distance via technology.

Academia del Perpetuo Socorro is a private college preparatory school founded in 1921 by the Redemptorist Fathers and School Sisters of Notre Dame. In October of 2014, the school inaugurated a 3,000-square-foot (279 m²) Digital Learning Center for its young scholars, converting the traditional library to a 21st century facility designed to provide individual study areas, as well as spaces designed for participatory learning styles and co-construction of knowledge from a variety of sources. The Digital Learning Center offers abundant print and digital resources alike, together with high-tech tools that include interactive whiteboards, computers and state-of-the-art multi-media equipment. Wireless internet access exists in every corner and from every seat.

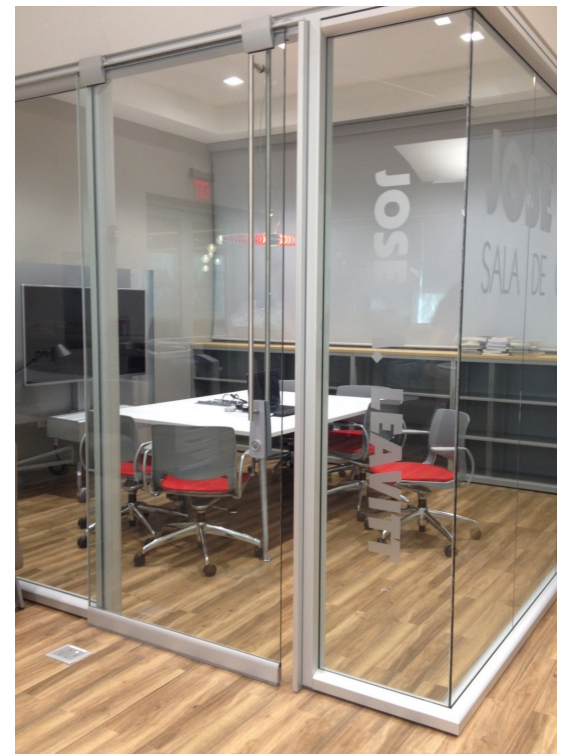
To transform a traditional library into a multi-faceted Digital Learning Center, designer and project manager Margarita Torres Camara recognized the need to equip the facility with technology-driven furniture that could adapt to a variety of learning scenarios. Interior design, space planning and furniture must work in concert to enable the facility to be used as a small auditorium, a collaborative classroom and an open space for meetings or presentations. Simple, adaptable furniture that could easily be moved about was imperative.

"The Digital Learning Center is an engaging and very flexible space in which students and faculty access and exchange information using the web, various databases and videoconferencing," notes Camara. "We have incorporated innovative furniture systems from Teknion to support our academic community's diverse instructional methods and activities."

the teknion response

"Teknion provides an array of appropriate furniture options under one brand, adds Camara. "The simple, quiet elegance of Teknion furniture invites students and teachers to visit the Digital Learning Center—and remain for longer periods of time. And the furniture pieces work beautifully together in a way that allows the Center to create a space that is visually and functionally integrated."

Upon entering the Digital Learning Center, students encounter touch-screen monitors that replace the traditional card catalog. Just beyond, two adjacent rooms were created using the Optos Low Profile glass wall system to divide space and create acoustic privacy, while maintaining a sense of openness and offering a view of greenery splashed with sunlight that creates a stimulating connection to nature. Teknion CLUBtalk interactive hubs were installed in each of these rooms, providing access to the Internet along with the ability to project text and images on to a large shared screen as students work together on projects. Comfortable Variable Multi-Purpose Work Chairs can easily be pulled up to the table and accommodate changes in the number of participants, or moved around to create seating for small discussion groups.



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A central circulation desk stores 20 laptops, which students may borrow while working at a table or seated on lounge furniture at the perimeter of the Center—a relaxed option for exploring the Internet or typing a book report. Thesis Learning and Library Tables in different sizes and shapes are variously configured to provide diverse study spaces, while proper illumination and power/data access support every student using the Center. An open area furnished with linked Thesis tables and Variable chairs functions as a space for individual work or as a classroom or mini-auditorium.

Teknion provided the architect with a selection of finishes that enhances the look and feel of the Center. A neutral grey, combined with light maple surfaces and vivid accents of red upholstery applied to the seat of Variable Guest Chairs and Swivel Work Chairs, animates and balances the space, creating a setting conducive to an alert, yet focused, state of mind. The natural illumination encountered upon entering the Center highlights the warm finishes of the furniture and the floor, counteracting the cool, hard surfaces of metal elements and screens.

“We visualized a space where state-of-the-art technology would merge seamlessly with modern furniture, creating an environment where young students and faculty members alike could create, conduct research and collaborate,” Camara adds, “While printed books still play a critical role, digital technologies offer new pathways to learning and acquiring knowledge. The new Center accomplishes all this and more thanks to the assistance of Teknion and its dealer, Integrated Design Solutions.”

products

THESIS LEARNING & LIBRARY TABLES

Designed to address the multiple ways in which students learn and interact in today's schools and colleges, Thesis™ learning tables and library tables can be linked to create spaces for group work or pulled apart for independent heads-down study. A wide range of accessories—including carrel dividers and central screens—enhance versatility, providing variable degrees of privacy. Power/data cubes or grommets are integrated into the design of Thesis tables to facilitate the use of technology.

CLUBTALK INTERACTIVE HUB

Integrating people, technology and furniture, CLUBtalk™ consists of a cart, table and technology that provide electronic interconnectivity among meeting participants. In a single, simple mobile unit, CLUBtalk enables people to send data from a laptop or other mobile device to a large, shared display that provides real-time visibility to those present or at a distance.

OPTOS LOW PROFILE WALL SYSTEM

A glass wall system featuring a minimal structure, Optos® Low Profile presents a refined, seamless look through a continuous run of glass. Leveling ranges adjust to accommodate variations in floor and ceiling surfaces, thereby adapting to the building structure. Optos Low Profile integrates with Altos architectural walls to provide space division across the office landscape.

VARIABLE MULTI-PURPOSE SEATING

Designed by Alessandro Piretti, the Variable® collection of seating includes a Swivel Work Chair, Swivel Stool, Conference Chair, Stacking Guest Chair, Bar- and Counter-Height Stacking Stools, and HybrED Education Chair. Variable seating is functional, durable and stylish—ideal for application in the corporate office, educational settings, retail, hospitality, healthcare and recreational markets.

