



MAYHEW'S DESIGN OF TREVARTS' NEW OFFICES AT McMASTER'S INNOVATION PARK PROVIDES AN OPEN-SPACE ENVIRONMENT THAT FOSTERS COLLABORATION AMONGST SEVERAL SMALLER COMPANIES SHARING A COMMON SPACE.

The inside word on interior design

Mayhew, a Southern Ontario interior design company with offices in Stoney Creek, validates the significance of the many trends toward a healthy, friendly workspace. Simply redesigning an office can make a critical difference in staff attitude, but it can also help attract and retain good people by providing a distinctive and superior environment.

Mayhew has found a mixed clientele in the Golden Horseshoe; among them corporate, health care, municipalities and financial services, all with distinct requirements.

"We try to understand what the business needs and do a

feasibility or exploration study to determine those needs, its culture, brand and motivation," explains Steve Cascone, V.P. of Consulting Services.

To create a budget, Cascone must first identify and understand the client's requirements, then create a budget for interior fit-out, which is designed to open plan (bare floors and walls). Design costs can be as low as \$30/sq. ft. or as much as \$80/sq. ft., depending on size and the finishes selected. The latter play a key role in pricing, says Cascone.

Paul Bradshaw, general manager of Mayhew's Golden Horseshoe office, has recently

seen more clients asking for help with existing space.

"People are adapting to the current economic situation," he says. "There is a need for collaborative space, space that will attract and retain employees."

Like Hamilton's Thier & Curran Architects, Mayhew prefers to design private offices in the interior space available, with common areas along the windows. This opens up space for natural light, another modern trend. "People want a more flexible environment with architectural solutions," notes Cascone. Workspaces can now accommodate the different work modes and various age groups working today, from baby boomers to Generations X and Y.

"Today's workspaces are highly connected and collaborative," adds Bradshaw, who notes that company leaders are both more involved and collegial these days.

Staying healthy

According to Cascone, healthy, flexible and adaptable workplaces and ergonomically sound designs are also in vogue.

"We want to create an environment people can enjoy," explains Cascone, who cites a growing movement toward a green environment. "You can't build a government building without Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) nowadays."

The private sector is under a misconception that being green is more expensive, Cascone notes. But it's not the case now since suppliers are mostly current with green products, he says.

Also green is Mayhew's SmartSpace program, which allows clients to return products instead of directing them to landfill. "There are many great products that can be refurbished," he says, "and it can be very cost-effective."

