

Case Study

Kimball® Office



Plush Vista lounge seating and Delano tables in natural maple make students and campus visitors feel warmly welcomed.

When Michael Konopacke, Vice President of Admissions for Baker College of Owosso, Michigan saw how the campus's new Welcome and Administrative Center turned out, he couldn't have been more pleased. "The space is a perfect reflection of what Baker College stands for," Konopacke says. "It fully represents our active commitment to students and the community and provides a beautiful introduction to both the campus and the City of Owosso."

Baker College

Design Challenge

The idea of a welcome center began almost three years ago. Administrators envisioned an inviting, professional space that exemplified Baker College's stature as the largest independent college in Michigan. In 2004, following steady enrollment growth and increasing demand for office and event space, plans for the facility began to take shape in earnest.



“One of our goals was to establish a warm and inviting place for students coming to the campus for the first time. We also needed larger offices for our space-squeezed admissions and career services staff, a conference center large enough to accommodate the needs of our local businesses, a boardroom for the Regents, and the necessary technology to support these functions,” notes Konopacke.



The boardroom features Stature chairs embroidered with the Baker College logo, a custom 22-foot table with retractable power/data modules and an Evoke work wall.



Delano lounge chairs with tablet arms offer spots to fill out paperwork or just relax and take in the view.



Vista lounge seating paired with Delano tables creates an inviting first impression.



In the offices, a blend of Definition and Change, with their broad range of choices, ensures a shared aesthetic while supporting individual work styles and expressions of character. Skye task seating, as well as, Event side seating complement the space.

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The Kimball Office Solution

To balance the college’s aesthetic and functional needs for the 24,000 sq. ft. center, interior designer Amy Baranowski drew on a broad portfolio of Kimball Office products.

“The project team wanted the interior to be classic and timeless, but with a contemporary appeal,” Ms. Baranowski explains. “We chose Kimball Office furnishings for the clean, tailored lines. A natural maple finish coupled with glass and metal details and a color palette of sophisticated neutrals contributed the modern feel we desired.”

At the entrance, a Cetra reception station and matching maple tiles on the back wall create a visually inspiring first impression. Delano lounge seating with tablet arms offer spots to relax and interact.

Picking up the warm wood tones of the reception area, the VP and staff offices feature Change and Definition casegoods with P-shaped worksurfaces to support in-office conferencing between students and staff.

In the boardroom, Baranowski and Konopacke wanted to introduce the Baker College logo to help define the space, but didn’t want the graphic to be overwhelming. Their solution was to embroider it into the headrest on the Stature chairs. A custom 22-foot table with retractable power/data modules on each end and an Evoke work wall complete the setting.

Other design decisions included utilizing Traxx presentation tools and Array tables in the training room, Fundamental files and storage cabinets with Footprint surfaces in the workroom, and Interworks carrels in the testing area. Wireless technology and ceiling-mounted projectors and screens add to the overall effectiveness and efficiency of the facility.

“The response from the entire campus and our local community has been overwhelmingly positive,” notes Konopacke. “It’s extremely gratifying for the College to know that we’ve been able to impact so many people in so many ways.”



Kimball® Office. A place that works for you.



Traxx presentation tools foster collaboration and communication in meeting spaces. Array and Conference Solutions tables along with Wish and Stature seating complete the design solution. Testing carrels feature Interworks panels, Footprint worksurfaces, and Event seating.



Product specifications: Cetra®, Interworks® and Traxx® systems; Change®, Definition® and Evoke® casegoods; Footprint® worksurfaces and storage; Bingo®, Delano™, Event™, Skye®, Stature®, Vista™ and Wish™ seating; Array® and Conferencing Solutions tables; *Kimball by Design* boardroom table; and Fundamental® files and storage cabinets.

Project team: Michael Konopacke, Lisa Lynch, Baker College; Amy Baranowski, Interior Design Source; Jeff Elkins, William Jennings, Jill Bemis, American Interiors.

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