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KI
1330 Bellevue Street
P.O. Box 8100
Green Bay, WI 54308-8100
1-800-424-2432
www.ki.com

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The Avanté Center at Harper College provides a state-of-the-art facility for programs in science, health and emerging technology.

“They wanted to make a statement to the community and to the public,” says Michael Lundeen, Legat Project Manager.

Barbara Burnette, HOK Senior Interior Designer says, “KI and AGI’s more progressive offering of furniture styles, and the ease of selecting special, more high-tech finishes allowed us the opportunity to integrate the furniture seamlessly into the interior and architectural concepts.”

Thea Keshavarzi, Harper College Director of Purchasing agrees, “It’s a whole experience, a whole feeling of being immersed in technology.”

Keshavarzi adds, “It was easy to coordinate all the fabrics and finishes so it looks like a unified project.”

A concourse connects the three buildings of the Avanté Center. A Trek mobile reception desk moves wherever needed within the facility. The cafe features Xylon seating and DataLink Multipurpose tables. Lounges feature Relax seating and Lola oversized ottomans.

“Student niches were carved out wherever there was room,” says Keshavarzi. “These areas get very high usage. The students really treat them with respect.”

Legat Designer Brenda Nessler adds, “The Relax chairs are very comfortable and sturdy so the students won’t destroy them.”



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Product List

AGI Lola™ Ottomans
AGI Relax™ Chairs
All Terrain® Tables
DataLink® Multipurpose Tables
DataLink® Training Tables
Flexible WorkSpace® Panel System
Genesis® Desking
Piretti 2000® Task Seating
Torsion® Stack Chairs
Torsion on the Go® Chairs
Trek® Tables
University™ Seating
WireWorks® Panel System
Xylon® Chairs

Project Participants

Client: William Rainey Harper College
Architect of Record: Legat Architects
Design Architect: HOK
Interior Design: HOK and Legat Architects

Within the Emerging Technologies Building is the Mega Lab. It combines a central computer lab surrounded by a collaborative lab and classrooms.

"The collaborative lab was designed for groups of students working on specific projects," says Keshavarzi. "The classrooms off the Mega Lab are concentrated into curriculum areas."

"When we needed a specially designed CPU storage for the A+ lab, where students disassemble and reassemble computers, KI came through," she adds.

Nessler says, "The WireWorks aperture tiles used in the Mega Lab came out nicely." Keshavarzi agrees, "I remember seeing the WireWorks panels in the showroom and thinking this is it."



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Classrooms feature a variety of KI furniture: fixed seating, mobile furniture, tablet arm chairs, tables and loose seating.

Keshavarzi says, "Classrooms have various furniture styles, all of which can be arranged very easily to accommodate various teaching styles."

Burnette adds, "KI mobile products allow for progressive teaching methods and unique classroom functions. The ability to customize helped us solve problems of allowing future flexibility."

"The instructors really want the furniture to be flexible," says Lundeen.

According to Keshavarzi, "The lecture hall furniture complements and enhances the technology aspects and is still very comfortable. It was designed for greater comfort with longer swing arms." She adds, "It's very sophisticated."

"The look of the entire facility flows," Keshavarzi says. "KI furniture fits into nursing labs, computer labs, the cafe and food service area, lecture halls, classrooms and student areas."

According to Burnette, "The public spaces really pushed the envelope. The students are absolutely loving, using and embracing these areas."

Nessler says, "The furnishings are really upbeat, contemporary and high tech. KI is known for its quality college furniture."



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