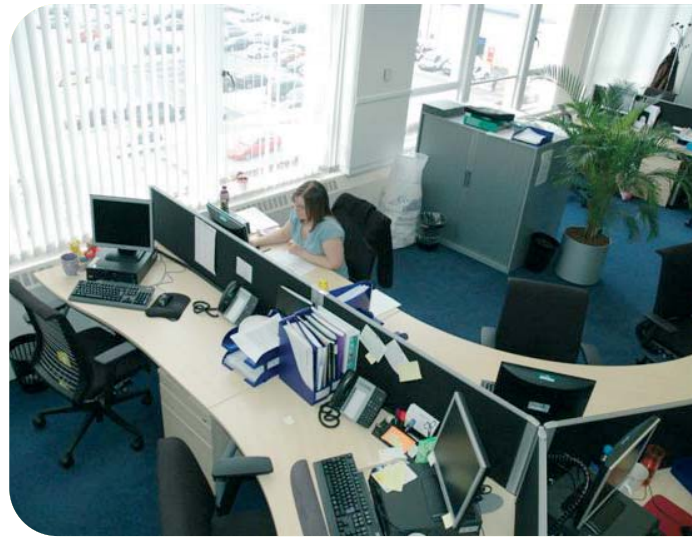


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Client: Oxford County Council Product: Synergy

What looked like a perfectly good commercial opportunity to supply a Local Authority – Oxfordshire County Council – with new furniture for their relocation project, turned – as expected – into a number of challenges; all around logistics, staff aspirations and expectations, and the all important clever bit – how to make people meet buildings with the best possible outcome. OCC, as the major local employer, is transferring key support services to a shared services centre. It is relocating 400 key personnel from various city centre offices into an out of town open plan office.

The major challenges for any organisation on this path are culture change & the change management process. OCC needed to ensure that the relocated personnel bought into the move, clearly understood and positively looked forward to the change. Their new operational space needed to deliver measurable benefits, an improved environment which would support increased levels of productivity, high levels of staff morale and organisational image. All had to be designed and delivered to the tightest of budgets, tough timescales just before Christmas and with the least disruption to their processes. Playing cavalry on this occasion were Roc Office Furniture who, having successfully secured the product supply, then began work.

Roc were able to construct a tailored services and supply solution for OCC, working closely with them every step of the way and handling everything from initial concept through to final handover. This included space planning and design, production of detailed CAD drawings, program planning and project management, Health & Safety documentation, method statements and installation. The whole environment was designed to drive down the cost of ownership and reduce both the cost and pain of change and churn whilst offering adaptable and future proof qualities – Roc ensured the scheme was delivered on time to a demanding schedule. cont...



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In-depth planning of workstation arrangements, sharing components to best effect therefore reducing costs whilst maintaining an agreed measure of future-proofing, were mapped precisely to the less than forgiving perimeter power and data provision supplied by the building.

Taking this opportunity to factor in improved work models and usability, Roc provided above and below power distribution, designed to meet the needs of the widest range of job functions and thus delivering improved flexibility across the user groups in their new workspace.

Offering good ergonomics, un-handedness, desk top power access & mobile pedestals with personal and business storage, the 120 degree footprint designed from Roc's Synergy range satisfies 70% of user requirements, with the balance satisfied by an adjoining pair of wave desks forming the core cluster of 5 user stations. Work group sizes can be easily adjusted from 5 to 11 without special tools or skills. A measured degree of height adjustability has also been catered for.

The primary workstation is only one part of the solution. Other elements of equal importance – storage within user reach, seating, meeting space – formal and informal, private and collaborative – were developed and delivered to give an accessible, functional & efficient total workspace, offering a stimulating and aspiring environment to everyone throughout the working day.

In plan view, the space is extremely well used, well proportioned (space per person) and sympathetic to the overall building footprint. At eye-level, symmetrical configurations combined with visual height aesthetics, clean finishes and the 120 degree desks coupled with the waves, produce a more organic impression, virtually eliminating any feeling of regimentation whilst silently maintaining order. The overall impact is one of a simple & uncluttered, efficient, professional and contemporary business environment, aesthetically pleasing and acoustically sound.

David Lines, Deputy Programme Director and manager of the accommodation project said:

"We adopted a tough procurement process, supported by our 'in house' procurement team. After reviewing the products and services of a range of providers we chose Roc. We were looking for a good mix of quality and cost. What we did not realize so clearly was the value of good professional advice in terms of design and equipment selection. Roc provided that, helping us quantify our needs, resolving the final floor layouts and offering access to their considerable experience. They became an integral part of our project team and played a major role in helping us deliver a building that is setting new standards for our office accommodation and a project that has come in within budget."